



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

**More than 80 Fairfax County residents spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.**

## Last Call for Input

**More than 80 residents speak at General Assembly public hearing.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**“W**e’re not letting teachers do their jobs,” was the plea from Jo Neuber of Vienna

Co-chair of the organization Class Size Counts. Neuber thanked Del. Jim Lemunyon (R-67) for developing three class size bills for the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly, including HB1498. Neuber said she was in favor of putting a cap of 24 students in science labs.

Neuber was one of more than 80 Fairfax County residents who spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The General Assembly is set to convene in Richmond at noon on Jan. 11, when they will begin work on new or amended legislation for the Virginia Code.

The public hearing was the last chance local

SEE INPUT, PAGE 10

**Meg Gorham** of Alexandria spoke on behalf of the group Decoding Dyslexia Virginia. “Each teacher, year after year,” she said failed to diagnose her daughter with the learning disability dyslexia. After getting private testing, she said her daughter’s school was eager to help “but no one knew how.” Gorham encouraged the delegates to support SB759 that calls for advanced special identification of students with dyslexia. “It shouldn’t be this hard for students to get what they need,” she said.



**Vivian Perea** of Alexandria represented NoVa NORML and was pushing for legalization of marijuana for medical use. She said he’s been prescribed opioids for the extreme pain associated with her disease. “I don’t want opioids, I want a cure, and I found it in cannabis,” she said.



**Cat Clark** of Alexandria represented Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia and spoke about the in-custody death of African American inmate Natasha McKenna who was tasered several times by Sheriff’s deputies while they attempted to restrain and transport her. The Fairfax County Police Department and Sheriff’s Office “both must be complicit in Natasha McKenna’s death,” Clark said. Clark also called the recent creation of a full time police auditor and civilian review panel “smoke and mirrors.”

## Remembering Frank Medico

**Former delegate dies at 92.**

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

He died on Dec. 30 at the age of 92.

**F**ormer GAO Auditor Frank Medico never forgot his original role in public service: guardian of the public treasury as a GAO auditor. He could be counted on to ask the tough questions about whether or not the taxpayer’s dollars were being spent wisely.

His proudest moments at the federal level came when he saved the taxpayers’ money. As an example, he referred to blocking a U.S. Postal Service proposal to buy mail processing machines that were inefficient but not reported to decision makers. His report revealed the excessive cost and re-

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 5

## A Son Recalls His Father’s ‘Good Heart’

**A** Mount Vernon resident for more than 50 years, former representative to the Virginia House of Delegates Frank Medico died Dec. 30, 2016 at the age of 92.

Medico served the 44th district as a Republican for four terms, from 1982 until 1990.

He previously worked as assistant director of the U.S. General Accounting Office for two decades before retiring in 1979. In the community, Medico volunteered as co-chair of the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations.

Medico’s son Fred said an outpouring of praise in Facebook comments showed how much his father meant to his community.

“You could feel his heart when he was trying to help you,” said Fred Medico. “He did a lot of that during his life. It’s just the kind of guy he was. He had a good heart, he believed in God, was a devout Catholic.

“He was good in the spirit, good in the heart,” he continued. “That’s

what he showed in his time here, especially in his community. If they ever met him, they wouldn’t forget him. He was just that kind of fella, you could feel him.”

Medico was born in South Braintree, Mass. He is survived by his adult daughters Jane and Patricia Medico; son Fred Medico; daughter-in-law Susan Medico; four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The family welcomed friends to Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria on Jan. 8. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 9 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Alexandria, with interment scheduled to follow at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place in Memphis, TN 38105, or Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr. in Tampa, FL 33607.

— TIM PETERSON

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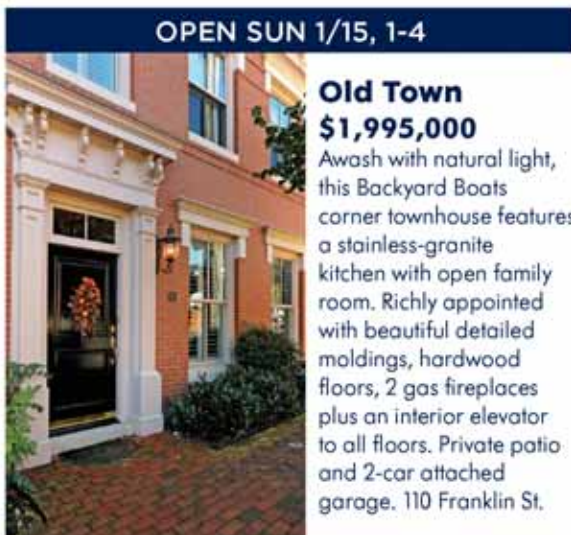


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# Predatory Loans in the Crossfire

Lawmakers conflicted about how to handle high-interest loans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**A**t this time last year, members of the General Assembly were feeling the heat about car-title lending. Public outrage was growing about the industry, which charges interest rates in excess of 300 percent in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. Lawmakers were particularly concerned that car-title lenders were evading the regulations they put in place to protect consumers by offering more than one kind of loan at their storefront locations, a move many members of the General Assembly considered a bait-and-switch operation.

Behind the scenes, car-title lenders were taking action to head off efforts to crack down on their industry.

In the week before the General Assembly session began, title lenders gave \$35,000 in campaign contributions even though the campaign for General Assembly seats had ended the previous November. Like many businesses, title lenders make a habit of making campaign contributions after the election and before the session, during which they are prohibited from giving. The donations are not reported until after the session, so following the money isn't really a possibly during the flurry of action in Richmond. "They serve a very useful purpose for the business because it reminds people right at the start of the session who their friends are," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "The coalition of people to block regulation may include some Democrats and some Republicans, and that's why they are equal opportunity givers. Some money goes to Democrats and some goes to Republicans."

Take, for example, the \$15,000 contribution LoanMax gave to the Senate Democratic Caucus the day before the session began. A few days later, the Senate Democratic leader brokered a deal that involved two of the state's leading title lenders voluntarily agreeing to stop offering multiple kinds of loans at their storefront locations. That deal ended up torpedoing all the reform bills.

"It's impossible to say that there was a quid pro quo. I mean, you just can't say that," said Quentin Kidd, a professor at Christopher Newport University. "But it is possible to say that there was an effort on LoanMax's part to gain access to elected officials so that their case could be heard."

Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw, the senior member of the Fairfax County delegation in the state Senate, is the one who negotiated the deal involving a voluntary agreement with two of the three title lenders authorized to offer consumer finance loans. LoanMax was not part of that deal, even though it had dual license authority at the time. Saslaw says LoanMax isn't the problem.

"LoanMax doesn't do that business," says Saslaw. "They don't do it in the same facility. They're the ones that called and alerted me to what was going on."

According to public documents from the State Corporation Commission, LoanMax had dual licensing authority to offer car-title loans as well as consumer finance loans at its Alexandria location on Mount Vernon Avenue in the Arlandria neighborhood.

The commission also has documents that show how many loans made last year — including what kind of loans — as well as how many automobiles the company repossessed. But regulators don't want to hand over those documents. And Saslaw isn't in the mood to answer questions about his involvement in the deal.

"They don't do it," he said when asked about LoanMax. "End of discussion."

**THE DISCUSSION ABOUT** car-title lending may not be over yet though. After Saslaw cut the deal with industry leaders, he and state Sen. Frank Wagner (R-7) sent a letter to the State Corporation Commission asking "your assistance in removing dual business authority for title, payday or open-end lending companies operating at the same location."

Regulators say they don't have authority to revoke the dual licensing without the General Assembly taking action. That means the concern lawmakers raised last year about bait-and-switch has yet to be resolved. Documents from the State Corporation Commission show that five car-title lenders currently offer open-end lines of credit, and five consumer-finance companies currently offer open-end lines of credit.

"Rather than leave it to the SCC to figure out, we're just going to put in legislation to make sure they can offer one product or the other but they can't offer both at the same location," said Wagner.

Meanwhile, the Virginia Supreme Court is considering a case that could open up a treasure trove of information about the industry — how many consumer-finance loans LoanMax makes or how many cars



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

**Back in May, LoanMax surrendered its dual licensing authority at this location in the Arlandria section of Alexandria. Until that time, the company had legal authority to offer car-title loans and consumer-finance loans, leading to concerns among many lawmakers about the possibility for a bait-and-switch operation. Five other car-title lenders currently have dual license authority to offer open-end line of credit loans, so the concern about bait-and-switch has not been resolved.**

TitleMax repossesses, for example. The lawsuit was filed by the Center for Public Integrity, which asked for documents car-title lenders filed with regulators. The Virginia State Corporation Commission sided with the industry, deciding to keep the documents secret. The case is now on its way to the Virginia Supreme Court, and state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is representing the Center for Public Integrity.

"You know the law is the law, and if the

law says you have to release the records you've got to release the records," said Surovell. "I've never heard of a court before saying I'm not going to interpret the statute. I'm just going to call up the legislature and ask them to make a decision so I don't have to make a decision."

*Michael Pope will report from Richmond for the 45-day session of the Virginia General Assembly which began Jan. 11. See [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) for updates.*

## Predatory Loans

❖ **Car-Title Loans:** Last year, two of the three biggest car-title lenders cut a deal with the Senate Democratic leader to avoid additional regulations. Part of the arrangement included state regulators withdrawing the ability of car-title lenders to offer other kinds of loans at the same location, which many lawmakers considered a bait-and-switch operation. Regulators said they didn't have the authority to do that, so lawmakers may take action to limit car-title lenders to car-title loans. The Virginia Supreme Court is also considering a case that could open up the books to show how many loans individual businesses are making and how many cars they are repossessing.

❖ **Open-End Line of Credit Loans:** These were originally created so consumers could purchase appliances from department stores, but they have now become a favorite product by former payday lenders

that don't want to deal with all the regulations lawmakers created for the industry. They are almost completely unregulated. State regulators don't track them. Lenders don't need a license to offer them. There's no limit on the interest rates they can charge. Lawmakers will be considering an effort to make these loans subject to the same restrictions as payday loans and car-title loans.

❖ **Internet Loans:** They may be technically illegal in Virginia, but that doesn't mean that businesses aren't eager to offer people who live here loans at up to 900 percent interest. Last year, a company known as OneMain persuaded Del. Terry Kilgore (R-1), chairman of the Commerce and Labor Committee, to introduce legislation legalizing internet lending. That bill failed, but more may be on the way this year.

### IN SESSION

## Gutter Politics

It doesn't take much rain to trigger Alexandria's 19th century sewage system to start dumping raw sewage into the Potomac River — about 0.03 inches, to be precise. City leaders have a long-term plan to fix the problem, but Del. **Dave**

**Albo** (R-42) says it doesn't work fast enough. "Their plan is a joke," said Albo. "It doesn't fix the problem for 20 years."

That's why Albo is moving forward with a bill that would force the city to bring its outdated sewage system into compliance by 2027. He says the aim of the legislation is

to make sure Alexandria comes into compliance with requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Clean Water act and Virginia law. Although Richmond and Lynchburg also have outdated sewer systems, Albo's bill targets the Potomac River Watershed.

"The people in Alexandria are all for the environment as long as it doesn't inconvenience them," he said. "So they are more than happy to dump raw sewage in somebody else's neighborhood."

State Sen. **Scott Surovell** (D-36) has a similar bill on the Senate side.

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**Nadine Wren 703.403.4410**



**NEW LISTING**  
**Rosemont \$615,000**  
**17 East Linden Street** Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath stone front townhouse with 3 finished levels and off street parking. Updated kitchen, wonderful 3 season porch with vaulted ceiling and skylights. Refinished hardwood floors on 2 levels, new carpet in walk-out lower level, freshly painted with new windows throughout! Blocks to 2 Metro stations, shops & restaurants in Old Town and Del Ray!  
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**NEW LISTING**  
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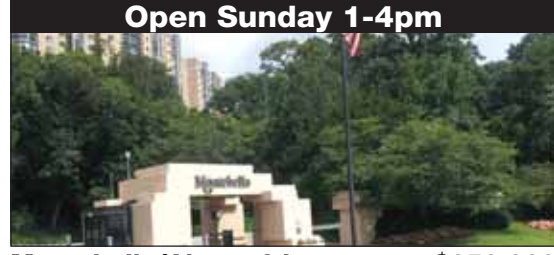
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**Alexandria \$327,000**  
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**Alexandria City/West End \$223,800**  
**200 North Pickett Street, Unit #1001** Elegant one BR/1.5BA in prestigious Hallmark building! Totally renovated with exceptional precision and exquisite details. Refined kitchen-granite & stainless, of course. HUGE BR. Front-load W/D. Large balcony-electric grills OK! Great garage+visitor parking. Pool, tennis, exercise, party room. Commuter dream-bus stop in front-easy Metro. Beatley Library, creek and park across street. Foxchase Shops including 24 hour Harris Teeter and new Aldi one block too!  
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**Open Sunday 1-4pm**  
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**Cultural Exchange**

The Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club was visited by Lion Lina Ngoma from the Lions Club of Emmasdale, Lusaka, Zambia. The two clubs are in the process of establishing a twinning agreement. The Club Twinning program allows clubs to formalize their friendship, learn about each other's culture, and exchange experiences and ideas. With Ngoma is Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club President Annette Wilson.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



# Remembering Frank Medico

FROM PAGE 1

sulted in saving hundreds of millions of dollars.

After completing a long and distinguished federal civil service career with the GAO, Medico turned his attention to local politics where he built up a constituency of voting support and won consecutive elections for Virginia delegate as a fiscal conservative Republican where virtually no one with that profile had been successful previously or since. The liberals in and around the District expressed grudging admiration of Medico's ability to "mend fences" and to connect with people from all portions of Mt Vernon's 44<sup>th</sup> district, whether it was in Gum Springs, Fort Hunt, or Wayneswood, or areas in the northern part of his swing district. Eventually, the district was gerrymandered to help Democrats but not before Medico mobilized strong support and beat back various Democratic aspirants while doing his best to mobilize legislative support for his proposals serving as a minority Republican party representative of only 15 in the House during his tenure. Eventually, he became frustrated that his ideas and legislative initiatives were not given a fair hearing and he reluctantly decided to not seek reelection to the General Assembly. It would take another decade for the political pendulum to shift to the right and the downstate Republicans would gain control of the House of Delegates which continues today.

Medico's departure from the elected political of-

## Frank Medico

**APRIL 23, 1924 - DEC. 30, 2016**

**Married to:** Vaughnita Osborne-Medico (deceased 2008)

**Children:** Fred, Jane, Patricia; daughter-in-law: Susan; four grandchildren; four great grandchildren

**52 years residence:** Mount Vernon

**U.S. Navy:** 1942-46; 50.

**Federal Career Civil Service:** GAO Auditor

**State Elected Service:** Virginia State Delegate: 44th District

**Community Service:** Co-Chair, Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations

**Education:**

BCS: Benjamin Franklin University  
Masters of Financial Administration: Columbus University  
Certificate of Completion; Graduate School; Harvard University

**Interment:** Quantico National Cemetery: Jan. 9, 2017

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frice scene did not slow his efforts to serve as a strong advocate for fiscal conservatism and advocacy on a variety of issues. Probably the biggest deterrent to his enthusiasm was the death of his wife, "Nita" Medico. When he was in office, the two formed a team and dominated the district in the '80s. For many years after his departure from elected office, he communicated with his former General Assembly colleagues and enjoyed the respect of local as well as downstate elected and appointed officials. His letters to the editor of the Mount Vernon Gazette on various issues were a regular feature until very recently.

**IN MEMORIAM**

During visits with him in the past several years, it was like attending a public hearing; small talk was at a premium. More commonly he would ask about why is this happening; who is behind this initiative; what about this issue; and so on. He took his self-styled role as the conscience of the community seriously — doing research and laboring over whatever issue he decided to take on and prepare a submission to the Gazette or send research material to a supervisor, state or federal legislator.

Medico was a devout Catholic and a regular church attendee. His devotion to his faith, his community, and his wife and family formed the bedrock of the man that his community grew to love and respect. His principled approach to his position as an elected representative was the reason he was reelected to consecutive terms. He was very proud of that support. During his 52 years in Mount Vernon, he and his wife raised two daughters and one son. In a Mount Vernon Gazette profile, Medico answered how he would like to be remembered and without hesitation he said, "As a person who loved his country and always placed our citizens' concerns and needs first, and never compromised my values and principles when deciding on a course of action that would impact the people."

He loved his community and spent more than half his adult life working to make Mount Vernon a better place to raise a family and live. The epitaph he would have liked is that he served as the conscience of the public interest and in that sense achieved a measure of permanence on his own terms.



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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$639,900**  
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**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Alex/Riverside Est. \$649,900**  
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Library/studio (32'x 12') on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replcd 2011. 1 mile to GW Pkwy. Close to Ft. Belvoir.



**Alex/Potomac Valley \$624,900**  
**8815 Vernon View Drive**

**KNOCK DOWN GORGEOUS RENOVATION** - Turning a lovely 3BR, 1.5BA Duckling into a beautiful 5BR, 3BA Swan!! New: Roof, Gutters, Windows, 3Baths, Kitchen, Flooring, Paint etc. etc... Kitchen gutted, expanded & open to Living & Dining

rooms. Beautiful Travertine flooring in Kitchen & Baths - Lovely 255 sq ft screened porch overlooks a beautiful, large, fenced bkyd. Two minutes to GW Pkwy, 10 mins to Alex - This is a 10!!!



**UNDER CONTRACT**

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# OPINION

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As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to deliver news that readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or less to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

We feature events in our weekly calendars. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) three weeks ahead of time. Email to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

After your event, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Highlighting Safety Issue

To the Editor:

The speed limit on Parkers Lane going past Walt Whitman Middle School is 35 miles per hour except when school zone signs with flashing lights signify, by activation of those lights, that the speed limit is reduced to 25 miles per hour when the school is opening and closing. Traveling toward the school from where Collingwood Road turns into Parkers Lane, there is a school zone sign just south of the intersection with Hinson Farm Road. When the lights on that sign are flashing, the speed limit is reduced to 25 miles per hour. (See accompanying photo.)

As such, cars turning left onto Parkers Lane from Hinson Farm Road are unable to view the school zone sign because it is south of the intersection. Thus, during times when the sign is flashing, cars turning left from Hinson Farm Road onto Parkers Lane are unaware that the speed limit is reduced and travel past the school at 35 miles per hour.

Several weeks ago, I visited Supervisor Storck's office and brought this issue to the attention of two of his staff members. They

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

Of course we are interested in your news tips and your questions about what is happening in your community.

We are always looking for contributing writers and photographers.

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The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF H. JAY SPIEGEL

### A school zone sign just south of the intersection with Hinson Farm Road.

assured me that they would promptly notify the Mount Vernon representative on the School Board so that either the sign can be moved to north of the intersection of Parkers Lane and Hinson Farm Road or a second sign can be erected and activated at that location.

As of this week, no action has been taken on

this serious problem. In the interest of safety for children attending Walt Whitman Middle School, perhaps this letter will accelerate the process.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



## OPINION

# Focusing on Public Safety

By SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



**O**n Wednesday, Jan. 11, the 2017 Session of the General Assembly Session will gavel in for a 45-day “short” session. I am looking forward to a very busy six weeks and would like to update you on my plans for session. I am introducing nearly 40 bills, but here are a few highlights.

First, lagging state revenues continue to limit legislative initiatives and create funding priorities. The Virginia State Police is hemorrhaging Troopers due to lagging pay and a planned two percent raise for teachers and state employees was delayed after anticipated revenues fell short. They will be a priority this year.

My number one legislative priority will be prohibiting drivers from having mobile phones in their hands while driving. Between Jan. 1 and July 1 of 2016, traffic fatalities in the United States were up by 10 percent — for the first time in 50 years. Most experts attribute this to distracted driving. Anyone driving our roads only has to look at the vehicle next to them to realize this is a problem that requires attention.

Second, I am hoping to focus on Potomac River water quality. The City of Alexandria plans to continue to discharge raw sewage into the Potomac River for an additional 20-30 years. Del. Dave Albo and myself are carrying legislation requiring the city to stop discharging raw sewage within 10 years.

Also, in my research about ongoing pollution from coal ash, I discovered that Virginia currently imports about 600 cargo containers of coal ash from China into Virginia every year. I am introducing legislation requiring investor-owned utilities to recycle at least

that much coal ash from dumps around Virginia every year so that we can start to clean up our coal ash dumps.

The Route 1 Corridor has a much higher incidence of pedestrian fatalities than any other road in Northern Virginia. I am introducing a “vulnerable user” bill which creates a lower criminality threshold and higher penalties for drivers who injure pedestrians and cyclists. Also, in an attempt to address the scourge of vehicles continuing to pass stopped vehicles on Sherwood Hall Lane, I am introducing legislation to make clear that bicycle lanes cannot be used by cars to pass other vehicles.

Once again, I am going to introduce legislation prohibiting school systems from requiring children to use electronic textbooks unless they provide them with portable computers. My bill passed the Senate last year and failed in a House Committee by one vote. Also, I am seeking to add computers to Virginia’s Start of School Sales Tax Exemption. On a \$700 computer, this would be worth a \$45 savings.

I am also introducing legislation to allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue licenses to all persons who file Virginia income tax returns and pass a driving test. In other states adopting these measures, there are fewer accidents and hit and run cases. Also, if more people file income tax returns, it could result in over \$500 million in new revenue to Virginia.

Finally, I am introducing legislation to require predatory lenders who make their loans over the internet to be licensed in the Commonwealth. Many lenders from outside Virginia or even the United States are making 200 percent plus interest loans in Virginia.

As the session progresses, I welcome your feedback. Please send me an email at [scott@scotturovell.org](mailto:scott@scotturovell.org). Also, please come visit us in Richmond. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

# Plan Promises Health Care Chaos

By GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)



**O**ver the course of a normal week, my office receives thousands of letters, emails, phone calls, and tweets from Northern Virginians. Each message is important to me, but recently one really caught my attention. It came from Liz Salter, a 29-year-old woman from Northern Virginia. Liz suffers from a rare genetic condition, Fabry Disease. Fabry Disease can cause intense pain throughout the body, kidney failure, and heart disease.

Every two weeks, Liz receives an enzyme replacement therapy to prevent her disease from progressing. Each treatment costs more than \$16,000, for a total of \$400,000 per year. Before the Affordable Care Act, someone like Liz had to worry that her insurance company would impose arbitrary annual or lifetime limits on care, consigning her to bankruptcy or worse. Before the Affordable Care Act, someone like Liz had to worry that if she ever lost her job or chose to find a new job, she could be denied coverage due to her pre-existing condition. For Liz Salter, the Affordable Care Act means peace of mind.

“When the ACA passed and included the ban on annual and lifetime limits, it was such a relief be-

cause, at 29, I could easily reach these limits. Not being able to get these treatments could have a lifelong effect on my health,” she told me. “I also was relieved that if I ever lost my job and needed to purchase insurance, I wouldn’t have to worry about being denied due to a pre-existing condition, as most insurance wouldn’t want to cover me.”

For Liz Salter and so many of our friends and neighbors, the Affordable Care Act means peace of mind when it comes to health care. Could we improve it to expand benefits to more Americans and continue to bring down the cost curve? Of course we could.

But that’s not what the Republican Majority in Congress is about to do. What they plan to do is repeal it before even introducing a plan to replace it. This reckless approach would raise the deficit, hurt Medicare, bring chaos to the health care market, and put the health insurance of millions of American families in jeopardy.

Here in Virginia, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 327,000 individuals have gained access to health care, the uninsured rate has dropped by nearly one-third, and annual and lifetime limits have been elimi-

SEE HEALTH CARE, PAGE 15

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# Organizing a Home Office

Design ideas for workspace order.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**W**hether located in a basement, spare bedroom or kitchen corner, one of the keys to creating a functional home office is organization. Local designers offer suggestions for styling a space that is both practical and aesthetically appealing.

“Start by thinking about how you would like to use your home office and plan accordingly,” said Megan Padilla, senior designer at Aidan Design. “Will it be a desk that easily con-



PHOTOS BY MORGAN HOWARTH

**This new home office by Anthony Wilder Design/Build incorporates a custom-designed cord control system.**



PHOTO BY ROBERT RADIFERA

**Storage solutions such as those in this office by Megan Padilla help make home offices aesthetically appealing.**

“Custom built-ins make a huge difference [because] you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”

— Shannon Kadwell,  
Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

verts to a homework station or craft area or a dedicated home office for the everyday telecommuter?”

Keeping office equipment out of sight will give the space a home-like feel, says Padilla. This can be accomplished by using storage solutions like printer drawers.

Practical home office organizational solutions include roll-out trays for computer accessories like printers and a wire management system above and below the desk for power cords and computer cables both on top of the desk, advises Chuck Khiel, vice

president of Fred Home Improvement, a division of Case. “Create a Bluetooth operational office space,” he said.

“Organizing all of the smaller office supplies can be accomplished with a series of coordinated containers for tools such as pencils, scissors and markers ... or within drawers,” added Padilla. “Consider a mix of drawer heights to allow ample storage for smaller desk supplies as well as your typical file folders.”

Use open shelving to allow for quick access to frequently used items and book stor-

age. “[It] can also make a smaller space feel more expansive,” said Padilla.

If a home office is in a spare bedroom, closets can be repurposed and organized to hide copy and fax machines, says Shannon Kadwell, interior designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

“Add fabric bulletin boards in prominent locations and in a complementary color for visual appeal,” she said. “Custom built-ins make a huge difference as you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”

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# Fairfax Lawmakers' Last Call for Input

FROM PAGE 1

constituents had to voice their hopes or concerns for pending or potential legislation in person without traveling to the state capital, though most lawmakers have already all but finalized their legislative agenda for the session.

Education was once again an important topic for many speakers, beginning with Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova.

"Of the \$21 million in additional state funding the county was expected to receive in FY2017, \$4.4 of that is already at risk due to the cancellation of funding for raises for teachers and other instructions personnel," Bulova said. "We must get that funding back and we must make sure that funding for those raises is included in the FY2018 budget."

Bulova and Fairfax County Public School Board vice chair Jane Strauss said the Virginia Retirement System rates were accelerated by one year last year, which increases the costs for FCPS by more than \$25 million in FY 2017.

"We ask for help in avoiding funding reductions to our local programs and services," Bulova said, "and opposing restrictions on our local revenues."

Several education advocates echoed Neuber's call to reduce class size, and Bulova's concern for competitive teacher salary levels.

Other topics with numerous speakers included legalization of marijuana for medicinal use; funding for disability services waivers; transportation and congestion reduction; funding for the court system; and the tax on toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is founder and executive director of the group Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters that provides donated feminine hygiene products to who have insufficient access to them. She urged the delegation to support the "Dignity Act," introduced by Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86), that would make toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products tax exempt.

For more information on the General Assembly, to track a bill or find out who your representative to the assembly is, visit [virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov).

**Maya Simbulan** of Fairfax is in 10th grade and is living with the effects of a traumatic brain injury. She has limited use of her right hand and her memory is disabled, she said. "Brain Injury Services gave me support and confidence to become the person I am today," said Simbulan. "I want to continue to become part of the community and a successful person."



**Helen Kelly** of Herndon is a community leader for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. "We join the Board of Supervisors and School Board in asking to fully restore the cost of competing for all teachers," she said. Kelly also said the League was hoping for the delegation to support reduction of transit congestion.



**Louise Epstein** of McLean said she's worried that future FCPS superintendents may use class size as a tool to continue balancing the budget. "Please patron the bill requiring schools to publicize class size data," she said.



**Melanie Meren** of Vienna spoke on behalf of the public schools group #IamFCPS. First, she said, "We want the broken county and state budget process fixed." Increased class sizes threaten the excellent education available in Fairfax County, said Meren. She encouraged the state leaders to "be creative" in "getting tax dollars back here."



**Frank Stephens** of Fairfax said it was his job to "put a face" on the request by several speakers that lawmakers vote against cuts to disability services waiver slots. "In my case, an unusually handsome face," Stephens said. "These services really do make a difference."



**Diane Tuininga** of Fairfax spoke on behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Tuininga said the increase in CSB services for individuals with mental or physical disabilities such as Diversion First and Crisis Intervention Team training is hastening recovery and saving lives.



**Andy Ludwig** of Falls Church said there were three groups of people with diseases or physical issues that all share the fact that "marijuana has been shown to provide therapeutic pain relief," yet the drug is still prohibited in the Commonwealth of Virginia. "Ninety percent of Virginians support it," Ludwig said. "There's no public policy we're getting more completely wrong."



**Duane Ludwig** of Falls Church followed his brother and also spoke to the delegation about legalizing marijuana. He said marijuana-related arrests were breaking up families and a large, unnecessary cost to taxpayers to continue enforcing prohibition laws, and prosecuting and incarcerating offenders.



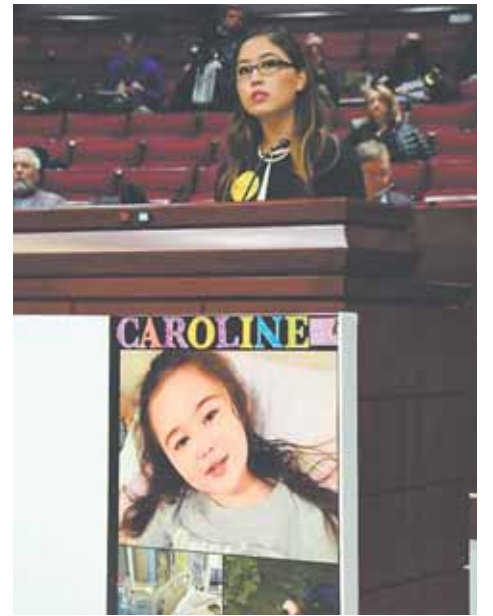
**Barry Weinstein** of Alexandria represented the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers on Jan. 7. He said there would have to be a "dramatic change" in teacher salaries in Fairfax County "to attract and retain quality teachers." "The state must share responsibility with the local school board," he said. Weinstein also asked that the Virginia Retirement System date be returned to its original statutory timeline.



**Gary Ambrose** of Vienna, chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, said individuals with disabilities need more state funding for services. He referenced an online suicide prevention program.



**Anna Jullien** of Fairfax spoke out against gerrymandering. One-hundred twenty-two incumbents were re-elected in a recent election, she said. "That's not much incentive to get out and vote," said Jullien. Advocating for non-political redistricting reform would provide "a real shot at legitimate accountability to voters," she said.



**Marta Conner** of Clifton spoke on behalf of her daughter Caroline, whose syndrome caused her to have 98 seizures last year. An Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD) waiver helps the Conner family with nursing costs. Conner urged the legislators to reject what she said was Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) proposal to reduce money to the waiver system. "You have the power to improve or even save our lives," Conner said.

**Michele Menapace** of Alexandria <<22310>> is a board member for the Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, which makes recommendations to the county about programs and resources for low-income families and individuals.



**Morgan Jamison** of Oakton is a board member for the Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, which makes recommendations to the county about programs and resources for low-income families and individuals. "Affordable housing is a particular need," she said.



**Robert Stewart** of Chantilly, representing Vienna-based Social Action Linking Together (SALT), addressed the General Assembly delegation regarding Medicaid and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Anything Goes' at Little Theatre of Alexandria

Passengers sail on a cruise liner in Cole Porter's 1930s romantic comedy.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging Cole Porter's light-hearted, romantic comedy, "Anything Goes," from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. The winner of three 2011 Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical, the play takes sail between New York and England with a colorful group of passengers aboard a cruise liner.

Wall Street broker Billy Crocker finds himself in love with socialite Hope Harcourt, who is traveling with her drab fiancé Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Before Billy knows what's happening, he is a stowaway. Luckily, the songstress Reno Sweeney and mobster Moonface Martin are there to help Billy sing and dance his way into Hope's heart.

Director/Choreographer Stefan Sittig said the plot is really no more than a slapstick excuse of a story created to help weave together some of the most beautiful Cole Porter songs ever written.

"The key is to ensure that the audience has fun, can follow the basic zany plot, can laugh at the comedy between the numbers, and can enjoy the music, the dancing (tap and otherwise), and be transported back in time to the 1930s with elegant and fun costumes, an appropriately nautical set, and beautiful lighting," he said.

Sittig is very familiar with Cole Porter as a performer, choreographer and as a director. He was in the 20th anniversary production of "Red, Hot & Cole" where the show first originated in 1978; he also choreographed two different productions of "Anything Goes" and choreographed and performed in two productions of "Kiss Me Kate."

"The key to understanding what makes 'Anything Goes' work is understanding Cole Porter. The way to understand Cole Porter is to delve as deeply as possible into his work, his background and his life. I knew



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LTA's production of "Anything Goes" will be held Jan. 14 to Feb. 4, 2017. From left are Caitlyn Goerner, Ashley Kaplan, Mara Stewart, Katie Mallory, and Elizabeth Spilsbury.

that if I could understand what made him tick, then I could guide this show into a safe port," he said.

James Maxted plays the role of Sir Evelyn Oakleigh, a British Lord returning to England with his fiancée, Miss Hope Harcourt in order to get married. "He's a slave of duty and obligation as a proper English gentleman would be. But underneath his proper exterior is a passionate fellow with a fascination for all things American, especially their idioms," he said.

He said the biggest challenges were the number of lines and the British dialect. "The largest role I have had previously was as the emcee in Prince William Little Theatre's production of 'Cabaret.' But aside from a few monologues, the emcee's dialogue is all song. Not so with this part," he said. "Another challenge was with a British dialect is that most of the audience has grown up hearing a variety of British dialects in TV and movies. So any vowels that are shaped incorrectly, poor diction, or bad intonation can cause the audience to be disconnected from the character."

He added: "There is nothing serious about this show. Our director Stefan keeps

reminding us that it isn't Chekhov or Brecht. It's pure escapism through into the wonderful world of Cole Porter's amazing music. And with all the turmoil in the world right now, people need a little escapism for a few hours."

Tori Garcia plays the role of Hope Harcourt, who is reserved when she's around her fiancée and mother, and flirtatious and fun and allows herself to "let loose" when she's with Billy. "It's fun to bring her character to life from the script to the stage," she said.

She said one of the challenges was the difference in age. "As the youngest, I was worried about developing relationships within the cast. However, I found myself so comfortable with all of my scene partners and cast-mates. This is one of the most inclusive and friendly groups I've ever worked with in theatre, and I'm loving the rehearsal process so far," she said.

Actress Mara Stewart plays the role of Reno Sweeney, a former evangelist turned nightclub singer. "She is a confident extrovert who is always ready to put on a show. She is a loyal and kindhearted friend and her attraction to Evelyn takes her by

surprise. Reno is often pursued by well-to-do men but there is something different about Evelyn. He is able to bring out a softer more romantic side of Reno," she said.

She said the music has been her biggest challenge. "I am working to stay true to the period but also bring in my own coloring and perspective to the music. The music ... is timeless and I am doing my best to honor Cole Porter in my interpretation," she said.

Ken Kemp is playing the role of Moonface Martin, who is "Public Enemy No. 13" and very insecure about his ranking. "He's a second rate con man and gangster, and a bit of a bumbler — his plans and schemes always seem to go awry. But he'll do anything to help bring Billy and Hope (and Reno and Sir Evelyn) together," he said.

"Moonface is the comic relief for the show, so finding the right timing and delivery for his lines — without going over the top — is the biggest challenge," he said. "Stefan Sittig, our director, has been a great help in finding the right rhythm and tempo for the comic timing. Also, finding the right Brooklynese/New Jersey 'wise guy' accent for him has been a fun challenge."

Music Director Francine Krasowska said they're not trying to make this production feel like an antique popped out of a time machine. "There are vocal sounds/placement and phrasing that are more suited to this jazz-age score than some of our actors might default to from experience in shows written in the last few decades. What works for 'Rocky Horror' or 'Legally Blonde' doesn't necessarily work for Cole Porter. We've had some fun playing with different ways to sing these songs," she said.

She added: "This is a lighthearted romp, and nothing in it is to be taken seriously. As we've moved through rehearsals, and some crew or assistants have seen the show for the first time, we've gotten plenty of laughs, so we're confident the audience will have a good time."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Anything Goes" from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit the website at [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or call the box office at 703-683-0496.

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**New Frontiers in Textile Art** through Jan. 15 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. a new exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the, turns an eye toward the future of textile art. Public reception: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m.; Juror's

Talk at 7 p.m.  
**Christmas Tree Recycling.** Through Friday, Jan. 22 residents who receive city refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on their regular trash collection day, beginning Monday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 22. Remove stands, lights, and decorations from trees. See [alexandriava.gov/YardWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste).  
**Simply Abstract" Art Exhibit.** Through Jan. 29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features local area artists' expressions of abstract art using shape, form, color, and line in 2- and 3-dimensional work. Artists tossed their colors and media in the air to

release their inner energy in this display of artwork. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)  
**Portrayal of Women in Visual Arts Exhibit.** Through Jan. 31, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. The artist's perspective of women inspired by in part by their experiences residing in Ethiopia. [alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com](mailto:alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com) or 703-299-9495  
**DASHing Words in Motion.** Through Feb. 1, The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing

Words in Motion." Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto which is "Keep Alexandria Moving," or bus stops, neighborhoods, roads, or other modes of transportation within the City of Alexandria. [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts), email at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov), or by phone at 703-746-5565.  
**Multiple Exposures Gallery.** Through Feb. 12 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson's A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan's McDowell County, WVA. Artist reception is Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m. [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com)

**Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.** Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org).  
**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at

# ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more.

**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/fortward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward) for more.

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who

served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum) for more.

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.**

Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

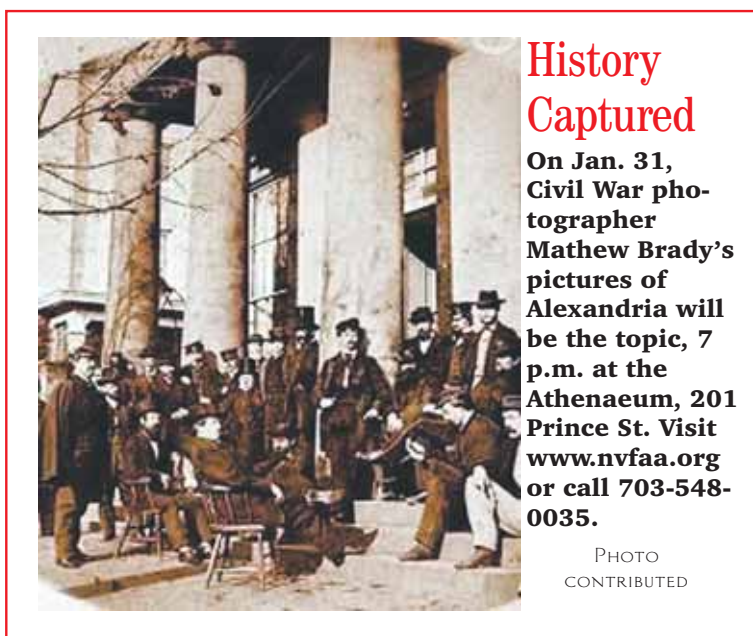
**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.**

Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).



## History Captured

**On Jan. 31, Civil War photographer Mathew Brady's pictures of Alexandria will be the topic, 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

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

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

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

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming

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

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).

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

**Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.** Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit [www.baseballboat.com](http://www.baseballboat.com) for more.

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street

Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Pool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. [maurisapotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurisapotts@gmail.com)

### CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 12

**Veterans Curation Program Meet and Greet.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alexandria Laboratory, 816 N. Saint Asaph St. Tour the facility and meet the new group of laboratory technicians and learn about the progress made over the past six and a half years. 571-312-4717 or [www.VeteransCurationProgram.org](http://www.VeteransCurationProgram.org)

**"The Hidden World of Food in the Civil War."** 7:30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. \$10 per person and may be purchased in advance at The Lyceum or by going to [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). Reservations are required, space is limited. [alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://alexandriava.gov/Lyceum).

**Alexandria Economic Development Partnership Social.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at eLofts Alexandria, 4501 Ford Ave. In conjunction with the West End Business Association. [stuih1@yahoo.com](mailto:stuih1@yahoo.com) or 540-454-3707

### SATURDAY/JAN. 14

**Movie Night at Del Ray Artisans.** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Featuring "Pollock." Learn about the life and work of 20th century artist Jackson Pollock. [DelRayArtisans.org/event/pollock-movie](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/pollock-movie)

**Stuff the Bus Food Drive for UCM.** 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Shoppers at Mount Vernon Plaza, 7660 Richmond Highway. Annual food drive hosted by Fairfax County Government and

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events

### SUNDAY/JAN. 15

**44th Annual Martin Luther King Memorial Program.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N Quaker Lane. Annual memorial event celebrating Civil Rights contributions featuring Dr. Frank Smith and music by the Women's Ecumenical Choir of Washington Metropolitan Area. 703-998-6166

### MONDAY/JAN. 16

**Martin Luther King Day Service Project.** 10 a.m.-noon at 123. N. Alfred St. Youth and senior volunteers will create a "vision" board on emergency preparedness by using newspapers and magazines cutouts. They will also put together bags with information on how to prepare for all hazards. [www.VolunteerAlexandria.org](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org)

All aboard Cole Porter's S.S. American with a colorful group of passengers who help Billy sing and dance his way into Hope's heart.

**SHOW DATES: JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 4**

Little Theatre of Alexandria  
600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496  
[www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule**

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

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

**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

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309  
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Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow.

—John Wooden

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Bagels, Pickles Take Center Stage at Del Ray Pop-Up

Two farmer's market favorites find a temporary indoor home.

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

Friday, Jan. 20, may be listed as Inauguration Day on the calendar, but within the heart of Del Ray there's another inauguration on the horizon that will hit closer to home: The grand opening of Salt | Bagel, a pop-up blending two Alexandria favorites in one spot.

The forces behind No. 1 Sons, mainstays selling their pickle-and-kraut wares at the Old Town Farmer's Market, and Bagel Uprising, a bagel purveyor that has developed a legion of fans through its years at the Four-Mile Run market, have linked arms to launch into a six-week run at a Del Ray pop-up, which will live in the Dairy Godmother space on Mount Vernon Avenue.

(And speaking of the Godmother, there's no need to worry about its continued existence — the shop shuts its doors annually for the winter months and will be back in business in the spring.)

### APPETITE

"We face many challenges (as a nation), but the greatest among them I think is the junky bagels you get at the grocery store," Bagel Uprising's Chad Breckinridge joked. He intends to combat this problem with sandwiches and fermented foods — and the community is ready.

The feedback has been "pretty enthusiastic," Breckinridge said. "There's been a lot of excitement about it."

The union of No. 1 Sons and Bagel Uprising was an organic one, Breckinridge said. After all: What goes better with sandwiches than pickles and kraut?

"To all involved, this seemed like a good, symbiotic relationship," he said.

And for No. 1 Sons, as well, the timing was fortuitous.

"Being a farmer's market business, we deal with quite a bit of seasonality," said No. 1 Sons' Caitlin Roberts, with wintertime being a slow season.

The pickle purveyors have cultivated a wealth of longtime customers "at Old Town Farmer's Market or Del Ray Farmer's Market who are really excited to come buy our ferments, not in a winter farmer's



ax011117-603. 32x22 (15x12)

**Bagels – along with pickles and kraut – will be the stars of the show at the new Salt | Bagel pop-up in Del Ray.**

market but in a place with a roof and heating."

Bagel- and pickle-lovers will find all of their favorites present and accounted for at the pop-up: Plain, everything, sesame, poppy seed, and, yes, salt bagels will be on the menu, as will a host of No. 1 Sons' fermented foods. And look for some new additions to the repertoire as well, Roberts says. While the final sandwich menu is being recipe-tested in advance of launch, "One fun thing that we're playing with is a sweet potato cream cheese schmear with walnuts," she said.

For Breckinridge, who also has a full-time day job, the pop-up provides an opportunity to expand his reach to a daily business. It's "a chance to see how a bagel shop would actually do when there's actual overhead," he said, rather than in a week-to-week market situation.

And while No. 1 Sons will continue its standard winter schedule of alternating weekends at the region's farmer's markets, the inclusion of a daily pop-up space will bring with it a new opportunity — and potentially a new audience.

"We're really excited to see how many bagels the people of Alexandria would like to eat in the winter months," Roberts said. (Salt | Bagel will open with about 1,500 bagels to start and will adjust its count to meet demand.)

"People seem to be excited about carbs and sour vegetables," she said.

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

### If You Go

**Salt | Bagel, 2310 Mount Vernon Ave.**  
**Opening Day:** Friday, Jan. 20, through the end of February.

**Hours:** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (or while supplies last) daily.

**What to expect:** "We will be selling single bagels ... but we will offer a few more things that you can eat-in," says No. 1 Sons' Caitlin Roberts. "So if you want a single bagel with a schmear you can get it to go, or you can get it to eat in the Dairy Godmother space. We'll have a few sandwiches, too."

## CALENDAR

MTV Transportation to stock United Community Ministries food pantry. List of most need items at [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

**Case Remodeling Seminars.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Mosaic Tile Showroom, 821 S. Pickett St. Case Design/Remodeling experts will help you gain insight into the latest trends and different levels of kitchen and bath remodeling, as well as project timeframes and budgeting. 240-899-3537

**TUESDAY/JAN. 17**  
**Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast.** 7:30-9 a.m. at Carluccio's, 100 King St. Focus on roundtable power networking and giving attendees the chance to exchange business cards, develop new prospects, and share a 60-second commercial with each table. Members \$35, Non-Members \$50, Members at the Door \$40. [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com)

**January Lions Dinner Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway. Social at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be from Metro Access, all are welcome. 703-960-4973

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18**  
**Women and Wine Get Together.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Great Harvest Bread Co., 1711 Centre Plaza. For women 21 years and older who

**Discover your inner elf.** 

**Aldersgate Church Community Theater**  
Presents the Winter 2017 Production of

**Director:** Shelagh Roberts  
**Producers:** Tracy Dunn & Jacqueline Cooney  
**Music Director:** James Woods  
**Choreographer:** Michele Koros  
**Stage Manager:** Austin Fodrie

Elf The Musical JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theater International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)

**January 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30pm**  
**January 15, 16, 21, 22 at 2:00pm**

**Tickets and Information:** [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org)  
**ACCT - 1301 Collingwood Rd., Alexandria, VA 22308**

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Olivia Parker (Jovie) singing with Buddy in Rockefeller Center in ACCT's production of "Elf, Jr."



Olivia Parker (Jovie) stars in ACCT's production of "Elf, Jr."



From left: Walter Hobbs (Michael Kerns), Buddy the Elf (Grant Hamilton) and Mr. Greenway (Tonks Teitel) star in "Elf, Jr."

PHOTOS BY HOWARD SOOROS

## 'Elf, Jr.:' A Story of Transformation

Family-friendly children's story is based on a movie and a Broadway show.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

With a cast of 42 children, the Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is staging "Elf, Jr.," based on the New Line Cinema hit, from Jan. 13 to Jan. 22.

The children's story revolves around Buddy, a young orphan, who crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Director Shelagh Roberts said ACCT is always looking for upbeat, family-friendly shows that are familiar to people, but are also fresh and new for a good portion of the local audience. "I really think the creative team of 'Elf, Jr.' did an excellent job both converting the movie into the Broadway show; and also converting the full-

length Broadway show into a condensed Junior version without losing any essential elements," she said.

"The movie 'Elf, Jr.' is an iconic film for many families, and brings a smile to many people's faces. We were really excited to bring that story to life for a live audience, and the original music [from the Broadway show] really helps to convey the energy of New York City at Christmas time, and the sense of fun and adventure that Buddy feels as he sets off on his odyssey from the North Pole to a bustling city," she said.

She said Buddy's childlike innocence is such a contrast to the cynical New Yorkers he encounters — especially his father, Walter and Jovie — that it sets up opportunities for comedy. "Like so many of the most beloved stories, it's a story about transformation and what is possible," she said.

Co-producer Tracy Dunn said she loves the way community theater brings so many different types of people together. "It is such a unifying experience — you meet people you would never meet normally and you get exposed to great music and talent! It was a no brainer for me to say yes to Shelagh (Roberts) when she asked me to produce," she said.

She said the story of "Elf Jr." was about the importance of being good and believ-

ing in unconditional kindness and joy. "It is a true feel good. Everyone wants to believe," she said.

Grant Hamilton, age 13, plays the role of Buddy the Elf, a completely happy guy. "Any sadness he feels needs to come from the outside," he said. "The thing is, there are different types of happiness, and nailing down all of them is the hard part."

He said the challenge has been the singing. "My vocal range is not what you would expect from someone playing Buddy the Elf, so me and the music director have had to rework some of the singing parts," he said. "The funny thing is I'm usually not a good dancer, but the choreography to this production has come to me quite well."

He added: "If you don't walk out feeling entertained, then we didn't do it right. We may want to make you feel happy, or sad, or sympathetic or whatever, but that's all to serve the greater purpose of just giving the audience a good time."

Olivia Parker, age 17, plays the role of Jovie, who is a bit jaded. "She's been through some hard times and doubts herself. Over the course of the show she begins to open up, gain confidence, and like all the characters, learns the best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said that the month of January can feel like a snowy slap in the face after the Christmas season. "Hopefully, this show will remind people that you can carry and spread that

joy throughout the rest of the year," she said.

Joel Simpson, age 9, plays the role of Michael Hobbs, Buddy's half-brother. "Michael is 12 years old and is very excited about having a new brother. He doesn't want toys for Christmas, but wants more time with his family," he said.

He said the hardest thing about being in a stage production is that you don't get a lot of time with your own family. For audience takeaways, he hopes they will keep their hearts open to new people even if they're different. "Also, that Christmas is more than just gifts. And a lot of laughs!"

Emily Roddy, age 16, plays the role of Emily Hobbs, a devoted wife and mother who is "finding it continuously difficult to put up with her husband's lack of attention to his family because of his demanding job."

She said she found it challenging to develop her character as a working mom, who is trying to balance life with her son, and to try and keep her husband more involved. She said she hopes the takeaway will be that, even in the most difficult situations, one should keep a positive attitude, rely on your family for strength and put family first.

*The Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is staging "Elf, Jr." from Jan. 13 to Jan. 22. Tickets are \$12. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m., and a show Monday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. The venue is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit the website at <http://acctonline.org>.*

## CALENDAR

enjoy wine and are interested in getting to know other women in Alexandria. [www.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org).

### JAN. 20-22

#### Inauguration Weekend at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.

Various times at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Free tours, ladies tea, plus other hands-on activities. 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 21

**Family Owl Outing at Huntley Meadows.** 4:30-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discover the secret world of owls and

learn what makes these raptors excellent predators of the night. After the presentation, hike the trail at Huntley and hopefully hear or spot one of the park's resident owls. \$7. 703-768-2525 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

### MONDAY/JAN. 23

#### "City Elections: Are We Getting It Right?"

6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Discussion by Chris Marston, former Alexandria Republican City Committee Chairman; Cameron P. Quinn, International Elections Law Expert and former head of the Virginia State Board of Elections; and

Clarence Tong, Alexandria Democratic Committee Chair. Cash bar reception and dinner with reservations and cancellations by Jan. 20. Members \$32 nonmembers \$37. 703-548-7089 or [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

**Ballroom Dance Classes.** 7:45-8:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Gary Stephens teaches the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. For all skill levels. \$15 per class. 703-505-5998 or [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

### TUESDAY/JAN. 24

**Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S.

Alfred St. See how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

**Dyke Marsh Walk.** 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Dyke Marsh, 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Join leader Tom Nardone to scan the river for waterfowl and enjoy a walk through the marsh and woodland areas. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Club. [www.nvabc.org/](http://www.nvabc.org/)  
**Speaker Series on "Technology for Seniors."** 10 a.m.-noon at Beatley

Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This workshop will discuss how technology can enhance lives. [Seniorservicesalex.org](http://Seniorservicesalex.org) or 703-836-4414, ext. 110

#### Volunteer Alexandria Open House.

4-7 p.m. at 123 North Alfred St., 1st floor board room. Meet friends and learn how to get engaged in the community. Visit [www.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org)

#### Iconography: Prayer in Images.

7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and homes with Laura Clerici. 703-360-4220

# OPINION

## Plan's Possible Chaos

FROM PAGE 7

nated for 2,974,000 people, including Liz Salter. Children can stay on their parents' plan until they turn 26 and more than 114,138 seniors have saved an average of \$1,015 on prescription drug costs. Make no mistake, all of that is at risk if Republicans repeal the Affordable Care Act.

It may have made good politics to demagogue the Affordable Care

Act, but stories like Liz's are common throughout Northern Virginia and they demonstrate that our health care system is far better today than it was before we acted. I support improvements to the law including expanding Medicaid in states like Virginia, creating even more choices for consumers, and continuing to drive down the cost of care. But just repealing the law is no plan at all; it will just make America sick again.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is seeking volunteers to participate in a free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

**Sponsors Needed.** Britepaths Family Sponsoring, Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at <http://britepaths.org>. Contact 703-273-8829 or [hpassist@britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@britepaths.org).

#### SECOND WEDNESDAYS

**Art Making as Meditation.** 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as 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 [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org) or visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Heroin-Opioid Dependency Information.** 7-9 p.m. at Merrifield Center, 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is hosting a public information session for people who know someone who has opioid or heroin dependency and learn about a new CSB opioid dependency treatment group that starts in February. 703-324-7006.

#### THROUGH FEB. 3

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#### Volunteer Service Award

**Nominations.** Now open for the 2017 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. The awards celebration on Friday, April 21 from 8-10 a.m. at the Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. [www.volunteerfairfax.org/](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/)

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Town Hall Meeting on Schools.** 7 p.m. at South County High School cafeteria, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Karen Corbett Sanders, School Board Member, will be hosting a citizen town hall meeting in January to hear from community members about key issues facing the schools in Mount Vernon and the school system. 571-423-1055.

#### MONDAY/JAN. 24

**Town Hall Meeting Focused on Schools.** 7 p.m. at Saratoga Elementary School cafeteria, 8111 Northumberland Road, Newington. Karen Corbett Sanders, School Board Member, will be hosting a citizen town hall meeting in January to hear from community members about key issues facing the schools in Mount Vernon and the school system. 571-423-1055.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Financial Education Class.** 7-9 p.m. at South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway. Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education classes and sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required. [britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year](http://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year).

#### ONGOING

**Peer Facilitated Mental Health Support Group** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Gartlan Behavioral Health Center, 8119 Holland Road. Facilitated by trained peers with lived-experience dealing with mental health challenges. 571-414-9072 [sharonmartinbsa@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonmartinbsa@yahoo.com)

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Family Support Group.** 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road. Opportunity for discussion, information and support for families with members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Free. For more information contact Nga Nguyen at 703-799-2726, TTY 711.



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# Landmark Mall: 1965 - 2017 While big plans move forward for Landmark Mall, small businesses prepare for the end.

BY VERNON MILES  
THE GAZETTE

**A**fter a long battle with vacancy, Alexandria's Landmark Mall has died. As part of a nationwide series of closures, Macy's announced on Jan. 4 that its Landmark Mall location will close this year. While development of the mall has long been gridlocked, according to city officials, the redevelopment of Landmark Mall could finally be underway.

"Today is a milestone," said Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP). "Now we have development entirely controlling the site. It's sad to see Macy's go, but it makes the project easier.

Plans for a redeveloped Landmark Mall will reshape the area into the more contemporary open-air retail plaza design found at the Mosaic District in Fairfax or planned for the Ballston Mall redevelopment in Arlington. According to Landrum, the Howard Hughes Corporation bought the Macy's property and is currently developing a timeline to begin development with hopes to have shovels in the ground soon. Sears,



**Vjay Dari, owner of Tobacconist Essentials**



**Carlos Dominguez, co-owner of City Cap in Landmark Mall and Fair Oaks Mall.**

the final department store remaining at the mall, has made no announcements regarding closures, but store owners at Landmark Mall say they have been told that they will need to vacate the mall by Jan. 31.

"We sent people to talk to retailers in the mall," said Landrum. "A lot of them were enjoying lower rents, and now they're figuring out how to move into market rate [retail space]."

"It's really exciting," said Councilwoman

Redella "Del" Pepper. "It looks like things have a better chance of moving forward. We've waited for any kind of movement. This is exciting."

Few of the store owners in Landmark Mall were particularly surprised about the closure. The mall currently looks more like the one from the movie Dawn of the Dead than Tysons Corner. The center of Landmark Mall is checkered with a variety of niche stores, bookended by Sears and Macy's at either

end of the mall. But there's more shuttered storefronts than open ones. Long hallways at the facility are completely abandoned.

Richard Taylor remembers a very different Landmark Mall. His Landmark mall of the 1970s was vibrant and bustling with activity. He used to visit the mall all the time when he was young, before he ever dreamed of owning a store there. Now, his Fashion Mechanics is one of the last retail holdouts at Landmark Mall.

"Back in the day, it was like Tysons is now," said Taylor. "It was busy."

Fashion Mechanics is one of the new startups that moved in two years ago to take advantage of the low rents.

"The price was low, but it fits," said Taylor. "It's a pretty laid back mall."

Taylor said his favorite thing in the mall was the playspace near the front of his store.

"This is amazing," Taylor said, pointing down to the playground at the center of the bottom floor. "It's a great place to bring the kids. I've never seen another mall have something like this, and I think every mall

SEE LANDMARK MALL, PAGE 18

## CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

**STOLEN AUTO RECOVERY:** Richmond Highway/Poag Street, Jan. 9, around 7:45 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a stolen car. A 53-year-old man saw someone driving his car and leaving a parking lot. The victim attempted to stop the car and a woman exited and ran off on foot. The victim gave chase and the suspect assaulted him. She was able to get away. The car was recovered and the case is under investigation. The suspect was described as white, 20 to 30 years old, wearing a red shirt and black pants. The victim did not require medical attention.

**LARCENY/OUTSTANDING WARRANTS/ARREST:** Pole Road/Del Norte Court, Jan. 5, around 9:15 a.m. A 35-year-old woman met a 17-year-old male teenager to sell a phone. The teen took the phone without paying and ran off on foot. Police officers responded and identified the suspect as a juvenile that was known to them. In addition, he was wanted in Fairfax County, as well as

other jurisdictions. Officers in the area conducted a traffic stop and the suspect fled from the car. Several units responded, to include K9 and Fairfax 1, he was located by the K9 and taken into custody. He was treated at a local hospital for minor injuries due to a dog bite. The juvenile was then taken to the juvenile detention center, and charged with larceny. Other local warrants were served. Additional charges could be pending.

**ARMED ROBBERY:** 8400 block of Frye Road, Jan. 4, around 7:30 p.m. A 50-year-old man went to the local police station and reported that two men and a woman approached him the night before, assaulted him and took a phone and an undisclosed amount of cash. There was a delay in reporting due to his phone being taken. The male suspects were described as black and in their teens. The female suspect was black, wearing shorts and a red and black striped shirt.

**GRAND LARCENY/BRANDISHING A WEAPON:** 6300 block of Richmond Highway (Walmart), Jan. 5,

around 1:40 a.m. An employee saw three men walking in the store and acting suspicious. The suspects took property from the store and went outside when the employee confronted them. One suspect displayed a handgun. The victim notified police and the suspects drove off in a van. The suspects were described as black, around 25 to 30 years old, and wearing jump-suit style clothing. The victim did not require medical attention.

**ROBBERY:** 7900 block of Audubon Avenue, Jan. 3, around 10 p.m. A 47-year-old man was delivering food when he was approached from behind by three men. One suspect sprayed a substance in the victim's face and the others took his wallet and an undisclosed amount of cash. A cell phone and food was also taken. The suspects ran off. The victim was treated at a local hospital for minor injuries.

**BURGLARY:** 6600 block of Wakefield Drive, Jan. 2, 8:15 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**POSSESSION OF STOLEN HAND-**

**GUNS/POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA/ARREST:** Sacramento Drive/Bedford Terrace, Jan. 1, around 12:30 a.m. A man was seen attempting to break into a car. When officers arrived they identified the man as being an authorized driver of the car. Officers smelled a strong odor of marijuana and saw a handgun in plain view inside the car. A search was conducted and three handguns were recovered along with drugs. A 21-year-old man from Woodbridge was arrested, taken to the Adult Detention Center and charged with three counts of concealed weapon, receiving and/or possessing a stolen firearm and possession of marijuana.

**BURGLARY:** 8400 block of Fuerte Court, Dec. 31, 5:55 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**JAN. 10 LARCENIES**

1100 block of Alden Road, property from residence

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business

8700 block of Lukens Lane, backpack from residence

8400 block of Riverside Road, copper from construction site

**STOLEN VEHICLES**

6100 block of Richmond Highway, 2017 Lincoln Continental

6800 block of Richmond Highway, 2001 Subaru, Forester

**JAN. 9 LARCENIES**

6100 block of Bayliss Place, jewelry from residence

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business

8400 block of Frye Road, property from business

6100 block of North Kings Highway, beer from business

2500 block of Parkers Lane, package from residence

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business

6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business

8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**JAN. 6 LARCENIES**

2700 block of Arlington Drive, leaf blower and snow blower from residence

8500 block of Highland Lane, cell phone from school

2300 block of Huntington Avenue, merchandise from business

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, merchandise from business

**JAN. 5 LARCENIES**

6900 block of Duke Drive, property from residence

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**JAN. 3 LARCENIES**

1600 block of Concord Place, GPS from vehicle

2800 block of Fairhaven Avenue, cash from residence

3500 block of Huntley Manor Lane, packages from residence

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, groceries from business

5900 block of North Kings Highway, license plate from vehicle

2500 block of Parkers Lane, license plates from vehicle

6600 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business

7600 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from vehicle

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8200 block of Russell Road, beer and wine from business

6300 block of South Kings Highway, purse from residence

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## Driver Charged in Fatal Pedestrian Crash

Crash Reconstruction detectives have placed charges in the Dec. 2 fatal crash that occurred in the area of Richmond Highway and Frye Road. The lead detective obtained a magistrate summons charging the driver from Alexandria with failing to yield to a pedestrian.

Officers had responded to the area of Richmond Highway and Frye Road around 5:44 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 for a report of a crash involving a pedestrian. Investigation determined a 52-year-old man driving a 2005 Mercedes-Benz ES500 was traveling southbound on Richmond Highway. The driver made a turn onto westbound Frye Road.

The pedestrian, David D. Baines, 57, of Alexandria, was crossing Frye Road near the crosswalk and was struck by the car. Baines was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The driver remained on scene and Crash Reconstruction detectives assumed the investigation. On Friday, Dec. 2 just before 1 a.m., Baines succumbed to his injuries. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be contributing factors to the crash.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Fairfax County police at 703-691-2131 or Crime Solvers electronically by visiting [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/).



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**21 Announcements**

**OBITUARY**  
**BETTY HALL**  
March 2, 1923-October 22, 2016  
Tucson, Arizona

A native of Pennsylvania, Betty also lived in Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Virginia, San Jose, California, and Tucson, Arizona. She retired from the federal government with 32 years of service. She was active in the Methodist Church, played golf, traveled and worked part time in retirement. She was one of eleven siblings and is survived by her children, David and Leslie, grandchildren Todd, Courtney, Jeffrey, Sarah and Emily and two great grandchildren. Those who knew her will remember her beautiful smile and calm and loving presence. Her life with us will be a cherished memory. Services were held.  
Adair Funeral Home, Tucson, AZ

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**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**

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# EMPLOYMENT Plan Moves Forward for Landmark

FROM PAGE 16



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

## One of the mostly abandoned hallways connecting Sears to the cluster of retail at the center of Landmark Mall.

prefer to stay in Alexandria.

"This is all I know," said Thrash, currently 72 who started working retail at 17. "I'm so grateful to God for the time I was allowed to rent here at Landmark Mall."

Thrash said she isn't mad about the closing, she understands and praised the work of Mall Manager Carol Martin. Like many other retail owners, Thrash said she wished there was more notice given for retail owners.

"It was a surprise," said Tesfahun Getu, owner of Ethiopia Twice Boutique. "They gave us one month notice. Considering how many people are losing their jobs, they

should have given us some consideration."

"We need more time," said Vjay Dari, owner of longtime Landmark tenant Tobaccoist Essentials. "Even to move our house we would need more than one month."

Dari said business in his store was good in the beginning, years ago when the mall was still fresh, but that lately things have been rough.

"We're looking for a reasonably priced place," said Dari. "We've talked about moving to Maryland but I'm concerned about the safety ... If we don't find another place, we will try to sell what we have."

Getu and a few others said they hoped that window to close would be extended a few months.

Getu has run Ethiopia Twice Boutique in Landmark Mall for nine years and two months. They started at the end of the mall near Sears, but as more stores were shuttered six months ago they were forced to move closer to the other retail. Getu said he spent a lot of money on that move, only to have to close a few months later. Now, Getu is looking around for other retail options. "Landmark Mall needs to consider their reputation in Alexandria," said Getu. "If retailers have a bad experience, people won't come back. We work hard, but we knew Landmark would close. This experience, it has been good and bad, but you have to expect both when you run a business."

## BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

**The Pub by Wegmans** is now offering Sunday brunch from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive. Make reservations by calling 571-527-2465 or visiting [www.wegmanspub.com](http://www.wegmanspub.com).

**Inova Mount Vernon Hospital** has been awarded its fifth consecutive "A" ranking for patient safety, in new Hospital Safety Scores published by The Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety watchdog advocacy organization. The Leapfrog Group publishes semi-annual patient safety outcomes which assign A, B, C, D and F letter grades to hospitals nationwide. Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has received an "A" patient safety rating for every reporting period since fall 2014.

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Victoria Catalina Voellm** of Alexandria has been appointed to the student leadership organization of cadre within the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA).

Alexandria residents **Margaret Fogarty** and **Mary Kathleen Dougherty** were named on the 2017 James Madison University women's lacrosse roster.

**Karina Bakhshi-Azar** of Alexandria, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Bakhshi-Azar was initiated at Virginia Tech.

**Adelia (Addie) Di Scipio**, a student-athlete at Commonwealth Academy, has signed a formal letter of intent to play women's lacrosse at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island next fall.

**Hailee Reeder** of Alexandria, was one of the featured McMurry University student artists at an art display hosted at their studios in Ryan Fine Arts Center in Abilene, Texas.

**Phoebe Otchere** of Alexandria has been

**Hair Cuttery's** newest salon has opened at 1522 Belle View Boulevard in the Belle View Shopping Center. Hair Cuttery has an established legacy of charitable support. For the past 17 years, it has sponsored Share-A-Haircut, a salon-wide charitable campaign aimed at giving free haircuts to those in need. Through partnerships with local social service agencies, Hair Cuttery has donated more than 1.95 million free haircut certificates since 1999. Hair Cuttery salons also support local and national causes, including Breast Cancer Research Foundation, American Red Cross, National Network to End Domestic Violence, OneOrlando, American Cancer Society and Girls on the Run. The salon will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. For employment opportunities, visit [www.haircuttery.com/](http://www.haircuttery.com/).

named as a new member of the 24th class of Honors students at the Honors College of Youngstown State University of Youngstown, Ohio. Otchere is a Combined Science major at YSU.

**Petra Sucher** of the Mount Vernon area, was among some 2,270 students at University of Alabama who were awarded degrees during winter commencement Saturday, Dec. 10.. Sucher received a Bachelor's Degree.

**Taylor Logue** of Alexandria made the Dean's List for the 2016 fall semester at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga.

**Khalila Karefa-Kargbo** of Alexandria, was inducted into Randolph-Macon Academy chapter of the National English Honor Society.

**Molly Ann Undersander** of Alexandria graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December. Undersander earned a bachelor of science with distinction from the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Brendan Loveng** of Alexandria was named to the honor roll at Mercersburg Academy (Mercersburg, Pa.).

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should."

Now, Taylor is looking at moving to Spotsylvania or Manassas.

Like Taylor, Carlos Dominguez opened City Cap with a friend four years ago to take advantage of the lower rents. The two of them worked at a kiosk in the mall five years ago. Dominguez said they looked around and noticed there were no clothing stores other than the major chain stores, so they pitched their idea to the mall owners and were able to get their store opened.

Dominguez said City Cap has another store in Fair Oaks, and that they had been bracing for this close for a while.

"It wasn't really a surprise," said Dominguez. "Once the main chains started leaving we had a pretty good idea of what was coming."

While the location was perfect and the store drew in business from D.C. and Maryland, Dominguez said their main customers were people who'd come to the mall specifically to see them.

"It's been bad here," said Dominguez. "There's been almost no foot traffic."

Dominguez, 25, says he has an attachment to Landmark Mall and that he'll be sad to see it go.

"I spend my 20's here," said Dominguez. "This was our first time starting a business. It was the right place and the right time, with super low rents. But it gets super lonely sometimes. It's depressing, seeing all of the emptiness and the lost potential."

Other stores facing the mall's closure have been longtime community fixtures. Ellen's Boutique, owned and operated by Pastor June Ellen Thrash, has been in Landmark Mall for 10 years. The consignment store moved to Landmark from a location on Duke Street and was successful in the new space. Thrash said she enjoyed being at Landmark Mall and that she's going to miss it. Once the mall closes, Thrash doesn't know what will come next but she doesn't plan to stop working. She's looking at Manassas and Springfield, but said she'd

## SCHOOL NOTES

Dance enthusiast **Dazeline Williams**, 17, of Alexandria, is majoring in Technical Design and Production at the Duke Ellington School of Arts in Washington, D.C.

**Geonni Thorne** of Mt. Vernon, has been named to the Dean's List at Berkeley College for the Summer 2016 Semester.

Air Force 2nd Lt. **Chloe Shea** has received the Col. Clifford C. Lutz, Jr. Operation Bushmaster Honor Platoon Award. She is a 2006 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and earned a bachelor's degree in 2010 from United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Victoria E. Voellm** of the Mount Vernon area, a junior at Randolph-Macon Academy, earned a place on the Dean's List for the first quarter of the 2016-17 school year.

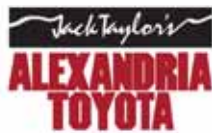
**Jeannette Reyes** of Alexandria, graduated from Kent State University recently with a Bachelor of Science from the College of Communication and Information.

**1**

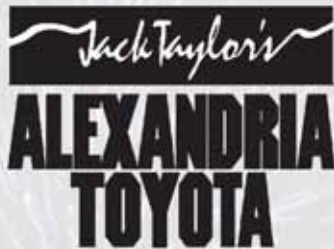
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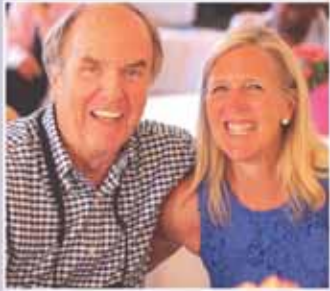
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**9314 Craig Ave.**  
**\$635,000**  
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**9433 Forest Haven Dr.**  
**\$745,000**

**Walk to Yacht Club!** 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, oversized 2 car garage, expansive rear deck overlooks magnificent grounds which includes detached studio/office.



**9515 Mt. Vernon Lndg**  
**\$950,000**  
**River Views!**

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**8417 Plymouth Rd.**  
**\$1,399,000**  
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**8522 Riverside Rd.**  
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