



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

On Feb. 17, Rising Hope pastor Keary Kincannon and other religious leaders held a prayer vigil and demonstration at the ICE field office on Prosperity Avenue in Fairfax.

Prayer Vigil at ICE Office

Rising Hope pastor speaks about arrests outside church.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

On the morning of Feb. 8, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers showed up across the street from Rising Hope Mission Church on Russell Road in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. According to several witnesses, men who had just left the church's hypothermia shelter for the day were set upon and questioned.

Some were asked if they'd seen any number of illegal immigrant criminals for which the officers were searching. Others, Latinos in the group, were singled out, fingerprinted, and some even restrained, forced into vans and driven away, witnesses said.

An ICE official would only confirm that two arrests were made at that location on that day.

"Every day, as part of routine targeted enforcement operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests criminal aliens and other individuals who are in violation of our nation's immigration laws," the official said in a statement.

But on Feb. 17, Kincannon and other religious leaders decided to pay a return visit to ICE, specifically at the field office on Prosperity Avenue in Fairfax. He said they have been trying to find out the names of the men who were allegedly picked up in the vans but haven't been successful yet.

After reports of ICE officers conducting large

surges of searches, "targeted enforcement actions," for undocumented immigrant criminals that followed executive order from President Donald Trump, this action in Mount Vernon has sparked fear in the community and calls for answers from leaders, according to the religious leaders.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe released a letter Feb. 16 directed to John Kelly, secretary of Homeland Security, requesting an immediate briefing regarding the events outside Rising Hope, as chronicled by NBC Washington.

"These reports are anecdotal and I recognize that previous administrations have conducted immigration enforcement actions," McAuliffe writes. "However, the NBC report raises a concern that, unlike previous actions, ICE agents are detaining Virginia residents without cause or specific allegations of criminal activity."

"This is something we will not stand for," Kincannon said at the vigil. "That's our legal cause in why we are opposing what is happening. But there's a moral cause as well, that goes to the heart of our faith."

Kincannon said that Jesus Christ taught "how we treat the last of thieves is how we treat him.

"So when we detain people without cause, any allegation of criminal activity," he continued, "it's the same as detaining Jesus Christ, without cause, any allegation of criminal activity."

Oscar Ramirez, one of the green card-carrying men who said he was

detained and questioned by ICE on Feb. 8 before eventually being released, said fear in the immigrant and Latino community has caused people to stay inside, away from public and government buildings.

"We've come too far building relationships with the immigrant population [to] sever ties like this."

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

SEE PRAYER VIGIL AT ICE, PAGE 5

County Names Police Auditor

Richard G. Schott, a 27-year veteran of the FBI, was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be Fairfax County's first-ever independent police auditor.

The announcement of Schott's hiring came at the board's Feb. 14 meeting. As auditor, Schott will report directly to the board and have numerous oversight responsibilities. Among them, Fairfax County said:

- Monitoring and reviewing internal investigations of Police Department officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and use-of-force cases in which an individual is killed or seriously injured.

- Requesting further investigations if he determines that an internal investigation was deficient or conclusions were not supported by the evidence.

- Issuing public reports for each reviewed internal investigation.

- Reviewing all resident complaint investigations of alleged excessive or unnecessary force by officers.

- Producing annual reports that analyze trends and recommend improvements.

Schott will start full-time paid work April 17 this year — salary is set at \$143,000 — joined by two assistants.

Creation of an independent auditor was a recommendation by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission for increased oversight of Fairfax County Police.



Schott

Another was creation of a civilian review panel. The supervisors approved that body as well, set to be a nine-member

group of volunteers who will review complaints of police misconduct or abuse of power.

During closed session Feb. 14, the board was scheduled to review applications and nominees for those positions. However no announcement was made following the closed-door meeting.

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said she was pleased to welcome Schott as the first auditor.

"In this newly established position, Mr. Schott will provide increased accountability and transparency to the Fairfax County Police Department," Bulova said in a statement.

According to Fairfax County, Schott's FBI career includes working as a special agent with local law enforcement and training state and local officers, "including legal issues associated with police officers' use of force and deadly force."

He also serves as an FBI Academy instructor at Quantico, the county said, teaching new agents about basic constitutional criminal procedure and legal consequences when they employ force.

— TIM PETERSON



A Tribute

From left, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Mount Vernon Fairfax County School Board representative Karen Corbett Sanders and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) lay a wreath at George Washington's tomb on Presidents Day.

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Animal Protection Police officers responded to a report of an injured bald eagle at Justice Snowden Farm on Wednesday Feb. 15.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

The 10-pound female eagle was treated for a broken wing and was scheduled to be taken to a wildlife center in Waynesboro, Va.

Officers Rescue Bald Eagle

Animal Protection Police officers responded to a report of an injured bald eagle at Justice Snowden Farm on Wednesday Feb. 15.

The officers tried repeatedly to get close to the bird, which attempted to fly between a barn roof and trees. But it was having difficulty flying any further than that, police said.

Efforts to corral the bird lasted nearly two days. With the help of Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Engine 409 and Fairfax County Wildlife Management

members, police said they were finally able to bring the bird into protective custody.

The 10-pound female eagle was treated for a broken wing and was scheduled to be taken to a wildlife center in Waynesboro, Va.

A Fairfax County Police spokesperson said the eagle had to be euthanized due to injuries, but could not elaborate on specifics.

— TIM PETERSON

Browne Names New Administrator

Bryan Jackson

will become the new Head of Lower School at Browne Academy, effective July 2017. He



Jackson

replaces Bonita Lea, who, after more than 20 years with Browne Academy, is becoming Head of Westside Montessori School in Houston, Texas.

Jackson comes to Alexandria from Chicago, where he serves as assistant director at Chicago International Charter School's Prairie campus and K-5 Dean of Students at its Bucktown campus. He has his B.S. in elementary education from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and his M.A. in curriculum and teaching from the Teachers College at Columbia University.

Browne Academy is an independent day school. Visit www.browneacademy.org or schedule a tour of our campus by emailing admission@browneacademy.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Principal of Wayneswood Elementary School, Jamie Meier, and volunteer student crossing guard assistants presented Barbara Taylor with a bouquet of flowers on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, Wednesday, Feb. 8. Taylor has been a crossing guard for 18 years, mainly at Fort Hunt and Wayneswood Boulevard.

CRIME REPORT

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

ARMED ROBBERY: 7100 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 17, around 9 p.m. A 38-year-old man was walking home when three men approached him. One suspect displayed a handgun and demanded cash and the victim's phone. The suspects ran off toward Richmond Highway and fled in a car. The victim did not require medical attention.

ROBBERY: 7900 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 16, 8:45 p.m. The victim was walking in the parking lot when a man approached her. The suspect displayed a knife, took property and fled. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was described as black, about 20 years old, with a medium build, and approximately 6 feet tall. He was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt and a dark-colored winter cap.

ATTEMPTED CARJACKING: 5500 block of Malone Ridge Street, Feb. 16, 5:33 p.m. The victim was sitting in her vehicle in a parking lot. Two men approached her car. One man opened the driver door and attempted to pull her from her car. The victim resisted and after a brief struggle, both suspects fled. Officers located and arrested them. A 25-year-old man from Alexandria was charged with attempted carjacking and obstruction of justice. A 19-year-old man from Alexandria was charged with drunk in public.

SEX OFFENSE: 2900 block of Furman Lane, Feb. 16, 1:47 p.m. The victim was walking through a parking lot when a man drove up to her and began masturbating. The suspect then drove away in a gray sedan. The investigation is ongoing.

ARMED ROBBERY: 8200 block of Richmond Highway (Aldi Market), Feb. 11, around 6:35 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a man who had concealed merchandise and left the store without paying. A 22-year-old employee attempted to stop the suspect, when he displayed a knife and threatened the victim. The suspect ran off toward an adjacent neighborhood. He was described as white, around 40 to 50 years old, wearing a black coat, gray hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and tan work boots. The victim did not require medical attention.

TRAFFIC STOP/WARRANT SERVICE/NARCOTICS/ARREST: 8700 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 9, around 11:25 p.m. Neighborhood Patrol units were on Richmond Highway when they saw someone in a car who they recognized as having several outstanding warrants. A traffic stop was conducted and further investigation revealed the driver, a 19-year-old man from Alexandria, was in possession of heroin. He was arrested and charged with possession of heroin. The passenger, a 26-year-old man, of no fixed address, had five outstanding warrants on file; he was taken into custody so the warrants could be served. Both men were taken to the Adult Detention Center.

ARMED ROBBERY: 8700 block of Cooper Road (Taco Grande Restaurant) Feb. 8, 9:12 p.m. The suspect came into the business and placed an order for food. Once his food was ready, he handed money to an employee. As the employee opened the cash register, the suspect pulled a handgun from his waistband and demanded all of the money from the cash register. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of cash and ran out of the store onto Cooper Road. K9 and Fairfax 1 responded to assist in the search for the suspect. He was described as black, in his 30s, with

a light complexion. He was wearing a brown shirt and dark pants.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 8600 block of Richmond Highway (7-Eleven), Jan. 28, around 6:20 a.m. An employee reported that a man came in the store and asked for cigarettes. When the employee turned, the suspect displayed a handgun and demanded cash. The victim gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspect fled. He was described as black, with short black hair and wearing dark clothing. The victim did not require medical attention.

ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT/DWI/ARREST: Mount Vernon Highway/Richmond Highway, Jan. 28, around 4:20 a.m. Officers responded to a report of a woman who crashed into a ditch and tried to walk away from the scene. An investigation determined she was intoxicated. When officers tried to take her into custody, she actively resisted and kicked one of them. She was arrested, taken to Mount Vernon Police Station and charged with DWI (second within 5 years), unreasonable refusal (second offense), and assault on law enforcement (second offense).

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: 8500 block of Hyman Way, Jan. 21, 8:23 p.m. A man was walking alone, carrying a pizza, when a man approached him and demanded that he hand over the pizza. The victim refused and the suspect punched him. The victim still refused to give up the pizza, so the suspect ran away. He was described as black, in his 20s, light complected, with a thin build. The victim did not require medical attention.

WEAPONS BRANDISHING: 8000 block of Richmond Highway, Jan. 22, 11:52 p.m. An anonymous caller said that a man was walking around, waving a gun in the air. Responding officers saw three black men exit the 7-Eleven and get into a black SUV. One of the men matched the description of the man with a gun. Officers stopped the SUV and eventually found two handguns and narcotics in the vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.

SHOT PERSON: 6600 block of The Parkway, Jan. 22, 1:07 a.m. Officers responded for a report of the sound of possible gunfire. Once on scene, they found a 14-year-old boy with a suspected gunshot wound to the torso. He was taken to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. His condition has reportedly improved. Detectives are actively working on this investigation. They do not believe that this is a random incident.

ROBBERY: 2800 block of Beacon Hill Road, Jan. 18, around 4:50 p.m. Two men entered a store and took merchandise without paying. An employee attempted to retrieve the merchandise and one of the suspects displayed a knife and cut the victim. The suspects fled the scene in a car. The victim was treated on the scene for minor injuries.

ROBBERY: 2800 block of Fairhaven Avenue (Walmart), Jan. 18, around 5:25 p.m. A 20-year-old man made arrangements to meet someone in a parking lot to sell two pairs of shoes. While waiting, a man approached him, displayed a gun, took the shoes and ran off. Suspect was described as black, around 25 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, 150 pounds, with dreadlock style hair. The victim did not require medical attention.

ROBBERY: 8300 block of Richmond Highway, Jan. 17, around 10:30 p.m. A 56-year-old man was walking down the street when three men assaulted him from behind. They demanded his wallet and continued to assault him, but he managed to break free and run away. The victim did not require medical attention.

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Prayer Vigil at ICE Office in Fairfax

FROM PAGE 1

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said this is a major blow to the public's relationship with law enforcement — one that Fairfax County Police have been working to repair and bolster.

McKay said many people don't differentiate among law enforcement — all are "police." And if residents, undocumented or not, refuse to open the door or run the other way when FCPD comes around looking for help solving crimes, that's a concern.

"We've come too far building relationships with the immigrant population," McKay said, to "sever ties like this."

McKay cited the recent murder case of 15-year-old Damaris Reyes Rivas, for which FCPD has arrested 10 suspects and issued murder charges against five of them.

"Without that cooperation, we wouldn't have people under arrest," McKay said.

FCPD Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said community involvement was definitely part of the case that helped them solve it.

Regarding the ICE activity as a threat to public trust of police, Roessler said "I absolutely have concern."

He said he's been hearing the same questions from numerous sources, "challenging me with what boils down to the perception, that we're out there as immigration police."

ICE is out there, Roessler said, but the myth that's developed about FCPD "doing immigration raids in certain parts of the county, it's not true."

FCPD does not participate in ICE's enforcement activity, the chief said. "I need the community to understand the FCPD primary mission is to prevent

and fight crime. We're not going to assist ICE in the service of an administrative matter."

Two memos from the Department of Homeland Security were recently published giving more detail to the executive orders on immigration and deportation enforcement.

"To maximize participation by state and local jurisdictions in the enforcement of federal immigration law near the southern border," director Kelly wrote, "I am directing the director of ICE and the commissioner of CBP to engage immediately with all willing and qualified law enforcement jurisdictions that meet all program requirements for the purpose of entering into agreements under 287(g) of the INA."

Spokespeople from both ICE or DHS both declined to answer whether or when Fairfax County Police might be contacted about participating as the memo describes.

However, when asked about the memo, Roessler said first that any change in FCPD operation would need to go through the Board of Supervisors. He also said he had not been contacted by anyone from ICE or DHS regarding the memos.

Then he added: "Regardless of their status, we want people to have great confidence in their police department and trust. We protect and serve you, prevent crime. That's the role we've been doing, and what we intend to do in the future."

More information about the two memos is available online here: www.dhs.gov/executive-orders-protecting-homeland. The full text of Gov. McAuliffe's letter is available here: governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=19347.



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OPINION

Budget Season in Fairfax County

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Alexandria and Arlington each have a meals tax, both enacted without a referendum because as urban forms of government in Virginia, their local elected bodies were authorized to enact the tax legislatively.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had to put the meals tax on the ballot for voters to decide, and after a heated campaign, the tax was voted down decisively.

Elections have consequences, a fact being affirmed on every level right now.

In Fairfax County, this means a more difficult budget process going forward than might otherwise have been the case. The vast majority of Fairfax County's \$3.99 billion budget is financed by property taxes, and the proposed budget is based on no property tax increase.

The meals tax would have provided about \$80 million for the schools; the current budget falls \$61 million short of the FCPS request.

While County Executive Ed Long has said there can be no new programs in the budget defined by no tax increase, we all know that some things could be cut to make room for new, needed programs. Long will conduct an online chat answer budget questions on Friday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. Submit questions here: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/AskFairfax/mobile/ActiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=131

The county will hold a series of budget town hall meetings which will include a presentation, time for questions and feedback.

The Connection welcomes letters for publication on the budget, send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

FAIRFAX COUNTY BUDGET

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Library - 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

Saturday, March 4 - 9 a.m., Hunter Mill District Community Meeting, Frying Pan Park, Visitors Center - 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon

Wednesday, March 8 - 7 p.m., Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax - First Floor Multi-Purpose Rooms

Wednesday, March 8 - 7 p.m., Sully District Budget

Town Hall Meeting, Rocky Run Middle School - 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly

Thursday, March 9 - 7 p.m., Mason District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale - Main Community Room

Thursday, March 16 - 7:30 p.m., McLean Budget Public Meeting, McLean Community Center - 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

Monday, March 20 - 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, West Springfield Government Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield - Community Room

Wednesday, March 22 - 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

Monday, March 27 - 7:30 p.m., Braddock District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Robinson Secondary School - Recital Hall - 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.

Correction

Last week's editorial implied that in November 2017, the Virginia Senate will be on the ballot. The 40 seats in the Virginia Senate will next be on the ballot in November 2019. All 100 seats in the House of Delegates are on the ballot this November, 2017, along with Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

'Stand Up When the Time Comes'

The following is an open letter to Alexandria District Clergy.

BY REV. JEFF MICKLE

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

I write to inform you of a special cause for prayer and advocacy involving one of our Alexandria District churches. On Wednesday morning of Feb. 8, as a group of homeless men left the Rising Hope hypothermia shelter at 6:45 a.m., a contingent of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents were stationed just across the street from the church to stop these men. The agents gathered the men (all Hispanic) and forced them to stand against a wall for two and a half hours while they were questioned. Many of the men had green cards, and no criminal warrants that would justify this kind of treatment. Eventually, about six men were arrested and taken away in vans.

Earlier this week, on Wednesday, Rev. Keary Kincannon was approached by a local television station about this incident, and he gave an interview with them. The next day, Thursday, he was receiving inquiries from the national media.

This past Friday, at 8:30, a prayer vigil and press conference was held at the ICE Field Office in Fairfax County (which serves Washington D.C. as well). The vigil was organized last night, with little time for widespread publicity. I found out about it when I checked my email this morning at 7:30.

I attended this prayer vigil, with about 30 other people of various denominations. Keary spoke, as did Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners, and others. Keary represented the call of Christ and the witness of the United Methodist Church very well.

You will probably be able to see parts of this event on the news later today.

The organizers of this event are planning to hold more such events in the future, with more

lead time to get the word out. I hope to inform you in advance, not in retrospect, the next time, so that many of you can participate in solidarity with our brother Keary and in support of the ministry of Rising Hope UMC. As you know, Jesus tells us that "inasmuch as you do it to the least of these, you do it to me," which specifies feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger. When government agents stake out churches who are fulfilling the commands of Jesus, and instill fear in people as they come and go to church, we are clear about our "Why."

Jim Wallis said that, if the choice is between honoring a president's campaign promise, or honoring the commands of Jesus, the Church has no choice but to follow Jesus, even if it leads us to stand up against the actions of the government.

Please keep this matter in your prayers in the days ahead. And please be prepared to stand up when the time comes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teaching Values To Scouts

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the Feb. 16 letter to the editor entitled "Inappropriate Topic?" In the article, the writer said that he was disturbed by an article called "Scholar to Address Scouts." He says that it is disturbing to "encourage resistance, instead of presenting a theme of unity in these troubled times."

I am an 80-year-old Eagle Scout. In Scouting, I learned the value of being strong, in standing up for what is right, in taking action instead of sitting on my hands and crying "woe is me." If we teach our Scouts to be nice, to always follow directions regardless of the source of the directions, we are doing the Scouts a disservice. Rather, we need to teach our Scouts to be brave, bold, outspoken, proactive. Those are important hallmarks of good citizenship. If we silently allow the bad guys

to run the show, we are not doing our Scouting civic duty. I say to all Scouts: Be brave, do the right thing, even when others try to silence you. A scout is trustworthy, loyal, strong, and more.

Bart Hewitt
Alexandria

Ensure School Children's Safety

To the Editor:

Two months ago, I noticed that the school zone speed limit sign on Parkers Lane is south of the intersection with Hinson Farm Road and that there is no other such sign north of that intersection. It occurred to me that the location of that sign means that traffic turning left onto Parkers Lane from Hinson Farm Road cannot see that sign. As such, when the sign is flashing, indicating that the speed limit from the location of the sign to past Walt Whitman Middle

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren

Editor, 703-778-9415

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon

Assistant Editor

msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson

Community Reporter

703-314-0789

tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information

sales@connectionnewspapers.com

703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales

703-778-9444

debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill

Real Estate, 703-927-1364

jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes

Display Advertising, 703-778-9410

hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411

asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant

703-778-9431

dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher

Jerry Vernon

703-549-0004

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,

Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



OBITUARY

Colonel Richard Bonner Trumbo

Colonel Richard Bonner Trumbo, Ph.D., U.S. Air Force (retired), died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, from complications of dementia.



Col. Trumbo was born Feb. 2, 1933 in Norfolk, Va., son of Grover Cleveland Trumbo of Brandywine, W.Va., and Sunshine Bonner Pope Trumbo of Tyler, Texas. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1954 with a major in biology and attended the Medical College of Virginia from 1954-1957. He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as an aviation physiologist in 1957. Col. Trumbo received his Master's and PhD from the University of Southern California with a major in physiology. He graduated from the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College while on active duty.

His military decorations while in the USAF include the Air Force Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Services Commendation Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. He reached the pinnacle of his career as Chief of Aerospace Physiology in the Office of the Surgeon General.

Upon retirement from the USAF after 30 years in 1988, he established Aerospace Life Sciences, Inc., a consulting firm in the ar-

ea of aerospace physiology, human factors, exercise and fitness. He was named the assistant executive vice president of the Aerospace Medical Association in 1991. A 50-plus year member of the association, he was elected a fellow and enjoyed his many world-wide friendships in that organization.

His outside pleasures included sailing, skiing, tennis, his West Virginia homeplace, and Cobbs Creek, Va., on the Piankatank River.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years Margaret (Peggy) Engle Trumbo and his two sons and their families, R. Hunter Trumbo, wife Stacy and sons Jacob and Jackson, and Raleigh B. Trumbo, wife Tina and children Luke and Anna. He was preceded in death by his sister Susan Trumbo Meredith. His sister Sunshine Trumbo Williams survives along with many nephews, nieces and great nephews and nieces.

Visitation with the family will be on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 6-8 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. A celebration of his life will be on Friday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. at St. Aidan's. Burial will be in Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandywine, W.Va., on Saturday, March 4, at 11 a.m.

Memorial gifts may be made to St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Virginia Military Institute (Richard B. Trumbo Scholarship Fund) in Lexington, VA 24450, or Capital Caring Hospice, 5845 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22303.



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Alexandria—8008/8006 Fort Hunt Road (Hollin Hall) 22308 \$849,000

COMING SOON. See MLS# FX9858733 for details. Existing 12,330 SF lot will be divided to position two new, magnificent custom homes. Floorplans for each home include 3000 SF of living space, 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths, garage, unfinished basement, and open-style main floor. Minutes to George Washington Parkway and easy access the Metro area, shopping, churches, Waynewood Schools, and more. See M&T Model home nearby.



Arlington—28 South Pershing Drive 22204 \$979,000

CONSTRUCTION STARTED. See details on MLS # AR9555136. Another superior M & T Home Builders craftsman, open-style main floor design. Five BR, 4 bath 3200 SF custom home. 2-story house with 2-car garage and an unfinished basement. Existing 21,700 SF lot was subdivided for 2 unique homes. One lot SOLD. Listed price includes the lot and new single family dwelling. Many features/options to choose. Located south of RTE 50 in Arlington with great access to all Metro-DC venues. Financial information available.



See other MLS listings:

Alexandria — FX9767421

Oakton — FX9618345

Annandale — FX8733393

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Chantilly High School
Saturday, March 18
10 am to 12 pm
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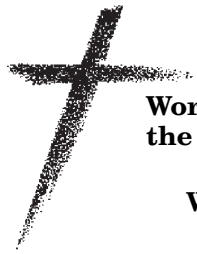
Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18
1 pm to 3 pm
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1
12 pm to 2 pm
Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29
11 am to 1 pm
Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm

Lent begins ... join us for the journey.



**March 1
Ash Wednesday**

Worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship
Wednesdays, March 8 through
April 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week and Easter Services April 9 -16

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OBITUARIES

Ann Oneida Jones Dempsey

Ann Oneida Jones Dempsey, age 81, of Springfield, Va. died at home on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017 after a lengthy illness. Ann was born in the Old Alexandria Hospital, and attended Alexandria public schools. Ann married another Alexandria native, Joe G. Dempsey in 1954. They lived in Alexandria until 1972, until moving with their family to Fairfax County. Ann and Joe remained married for over 50 years, until his death in 2008.

Ann was a devoted mother and grandmother. She had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed the beach, sewing, crocheting, needlepoint, and spending time with her family. Her family and friends covet her special homemade blankets.

She was also very accomplished in furniture restoration. Although she enjoyed family beach visits and casino outings, her focus was always her family and

she delighted in her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Survivors include her three children: Son Gary (Diane) Dempsey; daughter Vicky Trump of Springfield, Va.; and son David (Jeanne) Dempsey; and eight grandchildren: Valerie (Peter) Riccardi, Gregory (Sarah) Dempsey, Benjamin (Anna) Trump, Jacob Trump, Joshua Trump, Sean and Michael Mullikin, and Matthew Dempsey. She is also survived by six great-grandchildren: Jack, Wyatt, and Georgia Riccardi; Kennedy, Colton and Beckett Dempsey.

Family received visitors on Sunday, Feb. 20 at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road. Funeral services were held at Everly-Wheatley on Monday, Feb. 21 with interment immediately following at Mount Comfort Cemetery, 6600 South Kings Highway, Alexandria.

Donald Patrick Eggleston

Donald Patrick "Pat" Eggleston, 82, died Jan. 7, 2017 at Pratt Health and Rehab in Pratt, Kansas. Pat was born on Jan. 26, 1934 to David Robert and M. Jane (Irvin) Eggleston. He married Carol (Cochran) Eggleston on July 27, 1957 in Alexandria. She preceded him in death on Dec. 31, 2015.

His is survived by a son Brandon and his wife Kathy

Eggleston of Alexandria. A brother Barry and his wife of Pratt, Kansas.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 7, 2017 at National Memorial Park 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Hungarian Vizsla or German Shorthair Pointer Rescues for dogs in his honor.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

American Association of University Women Mt Vernon Branch: Presentation of the documentary "Harvest of Empire, the Untold Story of Latinos in America." The 90 minute film examines the role of the United States military and economic interests in Latin American countries. Light refreshments will be served. 4 p.m., Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria, 703-780-8494, http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net, Free.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 1

Ash Wednesday Family Service. 5:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Full of music, movement and interactive stories, kids learn about Ash Wednesday and Lent in ways that

are appropriate for them. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy. 7:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

DEADLINE IS MARCH 3

Local Scholarship. A \$1,250 scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who are members of Good Shepherd Catholic church or St. Louis Catholic church. For those interested in nominating a high school senior for the award or if any senior is interested in applying for the award they should email alex.johnson@nationwide.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 7

Friends of GSH Tour. Noon-1:30 p.m. at GSH Office, 8305 Richmond Highway, Suite 17B. Tour of by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. www.goodhousing.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 9

Chamber Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Business Breakfast will feature a presentation from VDOT on widening Richmond Highway from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. \$25 per person for Chamber members and \$35 for non-Chamber. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Huntington Levee System. 6:30

p.m., at the Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Hear about the progress being made toward protecting the Huntington community from Cameron Run's floodwaters. Call 703-324-5800, or email huntingtonlevee@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 13

Civil Rights Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church 7836 Fordson Road. Join U.S. Rep. Don Beyer to learn more about your civil rights, protecting them, and protecting your neighbor's rights. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-rights-tickets-31972672123.

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Open House Sunday 12-3pm Hallowing Point River Estates
5929 River Drive, Lorton VA Waterfront! Rustic Contemporary! 4B/3B, One Lvl living, exposed brick & wood beams, aged heart pine ceilings. built on .86-acre lot with panoramic waterfront views reaching for miles. Private dock with electric boat lift. \$1,175,000 Susan Gray Chambers (703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2ixU0z3>



Open Sunday 12-3pm Harbor View
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Matching Pets to their Owners

Animal shelters' counselors help families find the right fit when seeking a pet adoption.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Natasha had been abandoned and was wandering the streets of Arlington under the blaze of a hot summer sun when she was rescued and taken to a local shelter. When handlers at the shelter leashed the German Shepherd mix, she became aggressive with other animals. After months of behavior classes, however, she began to trust and her pugnacious disposition became docile. Within months, Natasha was adopted by a family with small children.

"Most people wouldn't think of a German Shepherd as a kid-friendly dog, but that's a great example of how by taking a dog at their face value and looking at their personality rather than their breed, you can end up with a great dog that you wouldn't have thought of before," said Chelsea Lindsey, communications specialist for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

Lindsey says that Natasha's adoption dispels a common misconception that certain breeds are better suited than others for families with children. Lindsey and other shelter counselors say that when selecting a family pet, parents should consider factors such as the animal's temperament and the family's ability to afford and care for a dog properly.

"We don't say there are breeds that are better with kids than others. Some pit bulls are great with kids and some aren't," said Lindsey. "You really have to look at the individual personality of the dog. Are they going to let kids tug on their ear or take away their toys? Just because a dog is a lab or golden retriever doesn't mean that they're going to be good with kids."

Before selecting a pet, families should do

an assessment of their ability to give the new pet proper socialization, training, exercise, and attention. "You have to be realistic and honest with yourself," said Lindsey. "Puppies are appealing and hard to turn down, but they're a lot of work. Maybe your family is looking for an adult dog that is already house trained."

One of the first steps to successful pet ownership is beginning with an animal that is the right fit. Counselors are on hand at local shelters to help with the adoptions process. "We want to understand your family's environment and match it up with the best dog," said Gina Lynch, outreach coordinator for the Humane Society of Fairfax County, Inc. "Half the people who walk in to adopt a specific dog end up adopting something else after they talk to a counselor. You might want a puppy, for example, but if you're gone a lot during the day, an older dog that doesn't need as much attention might be a better match."

"When anyone adopts a dog, it's important to work closely with the counselors who know the dog best, so they can tell you about any personality issues," continued Lynch. "If a dog has recently lost its owners, for example, it might be depressed."

Becoming familiar with an animal's history before deciding to adopt is one of the recommendations Lynch offers. "It's like when you buy a used car, you want to know all you can about the car so that you can be an informed buyer," she said.

One-on-one counseling for families to help with the adjustment of adding a pet to a family is recommended, says Lynch. "We teach families that dogs have to have their own space and an area to eat," she said. "We want to give the best advice to make it a good situation. That's why the whole family has to be there. Until the dog gets used



Shelter counselors like Kelley Davis of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria can help families with the adjustment of adopting a pet.

them about the potential issues that could arise so that they can coexist peacefully."

"When the family does bring the animal home, we do encourage people to use caution around food, toys or other items of high value to the dog," added Fortin. "Proactively setting boundaries with the child, like [not] touching [the dog] when he's eating or taking toys out of his mouth. Respecting those boundaries can generally set them up for success."

Parents must watch vigilantly for the signs that a new family pet is uncomfortable or fearful, says Fortin. "Those signs include growling, avoidance, like the animal choosing to keep its distance, or things that they're visually communicating like looking fearful. Most of the time the dog will give lots and lots of warning before it bites," she said. "Children should use proper behavior and not be too loud or too rough with the animal. There is a potential for an injury to occur, but that is not the norm."

"Kids often want to watch the dog eat, which is fine as long as they stay at an appropriate distance and respect the dog's boundaries," continued Lynch. "Just like you don't want a dog eating off your plate at the table, a dog doesn't want you trying to pull his food away from him."

There is a return on the significant investment that goes into animal adoption with benefits ranging from self-confidence to communications skills development. "Pet ownership teaches kids about responsibility if they are actively taking part in [caring for] the animal," said Lindsey. "It teaches them compassion. They learn to listen and pay attention to nonverbal cues because they don't speak the same language as the animal. Kids who grow up with animals in their homes are also more aware of animal welfare issues."

to your household, it's best to give the animal their space."

Often, young children don't have the emotional maturity necessary to control their feelings or the skill set and physical strength needed to care for an animal, says Lynch, so interactions with family pets must be observed closely by a parent to help ensure safety.

"With regard to bringing a pet home, supervision is key in all interactions to make sure that both the child and the animal are safe and comfortable and being handled appropriately," said Joanna Fortin, community outreach and adoptions manager for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. "It can take weeks to months to get acclimated, particularly if the pet hasn't lived with a child before. We encourage parents to be vigilant for a few months. We advise

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Recommended Reading

For those considering adopting a pet, see www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com/.

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 PET GAZETTE



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Mike Salmon with Cocoa Latte overlooking the Potomac River.

Groucho and Gordy

We recently adopted best friends, Groucho and Gordy, from the barn where I keep my horse. They are now warm and happy Alexandria residents.

— KAREN BUCK



Timmy Boy

Timmy Boy, headed out to a job interview as a squirrel exterminator.

— JUDITH SUTHAR



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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'Key for Two' British farce with situational and physical humor.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Key for Two" from Feb. 25 to March 18. The classic British farce centers around Harriet, a divorcee with financial woes, until she takes control of her finances by entertaining — and collecting rent — from two gentlemen callers. To keep things straight, she orchestrates their comings and goings very strategically. Her carefully calculated scheme falls to pieces when Harriet's men arrive at her flat on the same day followed by their irate wives.

"The play is a domestic comedy, a British farce, with lots of situational and physical humor. It has been called 'a thoroughly engaging romp.' It is very fast-paced — you're laughing at one situation after another," said Producer Jean Coyle.

She added: "The play is one of those laugh-a-minute productions. Audiences should be ready to 'split their sides' at the hilarity presented before them on the stage."

Director Eleanore Tapscott wanted to pay tribute to farce as a specific theatrical form. "I love directing comedies, but particularly farce because getting the timing of the language and physical business — all the while working with the actors to establish relatable three-dimensional people, takes a lot of time and energy," she said.

She added: "I particularly love this play because we have women who are the key protagonists. In this type of British sex farce, it is usually the gents running around all frantic, and that dynamic is completely flipped with this production."

She said the challenges were working on the timing of the physical comedy, which has to be precise and requires a lot of repetition. "My fight choreographer, Ian Claar, has done a great job developing the various falls and working with the cast to ensure they can perform the various falls and stunts safely," she said.

Charlene Sloan plays the role of Harriet, a modern, enterprising woman who has engaged in some questionable behavior to



Cal Whitehurst (Alex) and Charlene Sloan (Harriett) rehearse for "Key for Two" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.



Charlene Sloan (Harriett), Peter Harrold (Gordon), and Dana Gattuso (Anne) rehearse for "Key for Two" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

maintain her standard of living despite a failing economy.

"This has been a challenging role because in addition to memorizing the normal amount of lines for a play this length, there is the additional struggle to remember the string of lies and mistaken identities that occurs in the plot. It is also a very funny play so trying to keep a straight face is hard too," she said.

Cal Whitehurst plays the role of Alec, a self-made businessman who worked his way up from enlisted man in the British Navy, to crewman on the fishing trawler, to owner of a fleet of fishing vessels. "He is a strongly physical man, very attracted to Harriet, but has come to see his wife more as a wife and mother than a romantic partner," he said.

He said: "The challenge in farce — where the situations and everyone's behavior become increasingly outlandish as the plot progresses — is to maintain your character's sincerity and believability. I have to stay true to Alec as this stodgy guy trying to keep up as things around him get increasingly out of control."

Justin Latus plays the role of Richard, the alcoholic husband of Anne. He said: "The challenges are appearing and sounding drunk while pulling off a convincing Brit-

ish accent. I've never been drunk in my life but have taken notes as I've observed others. If the reader is at a bar and sees someone taking notes, that's probably me," he said.

He added: "I hope audiences laugh a lot and find the show ridiculous but in a good sort of way."

Peter Harrold plays the role of Gordon, one of the two gentlemen with a "key." "I am an advertising executive currently under serious financial pressure. I am not low on self-confidence, but a bit of a whiner. And clearly, as the audience will see, not too good at suffering pain," he said.

He said there are only two types of theater worth doing in difficult times: overtly political theater that addresses the big issues we are facing; and comedy, to give audiences a break and let them relax and enjoy the great medicine of laughter. "Safe to say this is no political drama. But if we do our job with this great script, laughter is sure to follow," he said.

Dana Gattuso plays the role of Anne, an old friend of the lead character, Harriet. "Harriet invites Anne to stay with her and within minutes, Anne becomes embroiled in Harriet's increasingly complicated plot to juggle two lovers," she said.

"Key for Two' is the first farce I have ever done so that has been challenging but also lots of fun. One of the challenges has been to keep it big but also believable. There's an energy that needs to build throughout the play, particularly as we the characters get more ensnared in the complications of the plot and the stakes intensify," she said.

As a co-producer, Becky Patton said the show is fun with laughs and brings out the great wit of Tapscott, the director. Patton handles the business end of the show — getting the technical designers and their crews and making sure everything is running smoothly to all coincide with opening night.

"When you work with all volunteers, this can be challenging — everyone has a day job, after all. But the community that is LTA always pulls together to create a polished product. I never cease to be amazed at the folks we get," she said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Key for Two" from Feb. 25 to March 18. Tickets are \$19 to \$22. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call the box office at 703-683-0496.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

UCM Raffle Tickets. The United Community Ministries is raffling off a trip to Cancun at the 'Give From the Heart' Gala on May 6 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St. \$175 admission, \$25 raffle ticket. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

RockNBlades. Fridays in February 8:45-10:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd.

Skating with music. \$12 admission includes rental skates.

"Sanctuary." Through Feb. 18 in the Commons Fireplace Alcove of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Selected black and white photographs from Nina Tisara's "Sanctuary" series, shot in Huntley Meadows Park. A closing reception will be held on Feb. 18, 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by a concert by Nova Chamber Orchestra beginning at 7:30 p.m. Email Nina Tisara at ninat@ninatisara.com or call 703-765-5950 for more.

Convergence Arts Initiative. Through March 4, Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Highlights the artwork of students from Bishop Ireton,

Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, and St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. Artists reception: Saturday, Feb. 11, 7-9 p.m. Email danabh@ourconvergence.org or call 703-998-6260 for more.

Ceramic Guild Show. Through March 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Customer Appreciation: Welcome to our World" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Visit www.scopegallery.org, www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope or call 703-548-6288 for more.

China Photography Exhibit. Through March 6, various hours at the Bisdorf Building, NVCC, 5000 Dawes Ave. "China in my Eyes" photography exhibit. Artists reception: Saturday, Feb. 11, noon.

Visit www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/ or email JJZelloe@aol.com for more.

Mixed Media Exhibit. Through March 14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the St. George Gallery, 105 North Alfred St. Inspirational approaches in mixed media inhabit this art exhibit. Call 703-299-9495 or visit www.StGeorgeofEthiopia.com for more.

Pick-Up Hockey. Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/ or call 703-768-3224 for more.

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 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

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Dealing Up 'The Gin Game' at MetroStage

Pulitzer-prize winning classic.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

MetroStage in Alexandria is staging the 1978 Pulitzer prize-winning classic, "The Gin Game," which has an all-black cast, now through March 12. This two-person, two-act play shows how intimately drawn characters and a simple game of gin rummy can offer explosive life lessons through a card game that escalates the stakes higher and higher with each dealt hand.

While MetroStage is best known for its original work and musicals, Artistic Director and Producer Carolyn Griffin thought it would be interesting to offer a classic play like "The Gin Game," by D.L. Coburn, and let Director Thomas W. Jones II put his signature mark on it. So they cast two of their favorite actors — Roz White (who plays Fonsia) and Doug Brown (who plays Weller) — who had also worked with Jones in the past and had supporting roles in MetroStage's "Uprising" a few years ago.

"Jones also added his stamp with additional music between scenes as 'bridge music' as well as within the scenes themselves," she said. "These unique music selections make the staging of the play with scene changes and time changes feel seamless. Classic Tom Jones. His signature style. On stage at MetroStage now," she said.

She said it was also of interest as a producer to cast these two well-known roles with African American actors as was done on Broadway recently with James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson. Husband and wife team, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy appeared in the original production, which received four Tony nominations with Tandy winning the Tony Award for Best Actress. "Previously I suspect it had always been cast in the traditional way with Caucasian actors. What is fascinating about this classic play is that it is so timeless and universal that it crosses all color barriers and is completely believable, moving, poignant, and



PHOTOS BY CHRIS BANKS
Doug Brown and Roz White star in "The Gin Game" at MetroStage in Alexandria now through March 12.

funny with all actors. Maybe its universality is what won it the Pulitzer in 1978?" she said.

Actress Roz White, who previously played in MetroStage's "Black Pearl Sings," said she would like for audiences to be thoroughly entertained by this piece as well as gain an understanding of what the elderly sometimes face in assisted living facilities. "Also I would like for people to get a peek into family dynamics and how major decisions can have a long-term effect on family ties," she said.

She said the challenges she faced in the role were: "Being almost 30 years younger than the character, the intricacy of the card games interspersed with the dialogue, and removing from my mind, a 21st century image of how the elderly is supposed to look, feel and behave"

MetroStage in Alexandria is staging the classic "The Gin Game" now through March 12. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Saturday matinees at 3 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and \$60. The venue is located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-548-9044 or visit the website at www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

build energized abstract paintings. www.nfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

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 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 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 for more.

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

calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES AND 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 for a schedule.

FEB. 17-26

Winter Restaurant Week. Neighborhood restaurants throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and the West End. \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20/person. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or call 703-746-3301 for more.

FEB. 23-APRIL 2

The Hand Print Workshop. Various times at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dennis O'Neil's Hand Print Workshop exhibit features a wide representation of the prints created

by these artists in his Alexandria studio, including some by William Christenberry and Renee Stout, as well as works by O'Neil himself. Opening Reception, Sunday, Feb. 26, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Starving the South. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Andrew F. Smith discusses his book "Starving the South: How the North Won the Civil War," and sign books. \$10. Call 703-746-4994, or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

CAC Hats Off Gala. 7-10 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. Benefit to help child abuse victims and vulnerable families in the City of Alexandria. Visit

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ENTERTAINMENT



Matthew Miller, Caren Anton, Katherine Stanford, and Robin Covington read from "A Very Present Presence" at The Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage last September.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'A Very Present Presence'

MetroStage hosts Pipeline Playwrights' first reading.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The new Pipeline Playwrights group in Alexandria is kicking off its 2017 inaugural series with a reading of its first play, "A Very Present Presence," on Monday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria. It will be a reading of the whole play with a time for discussion with the playwright, Ann Timmons, and actors with a reception afterwards.

This comedy opens as Alice's mid-life crisis is interrupted by a visitation from her long-dead great-aunt, who takes her on a journey through time. Alice learns that her problems spring from sources deeper than she imagined.

Writer and Director Ann Timmons said she wanted to see this play onstage, fully produced. "I think the events of the summer/fall have galvanized women and revived awareness of gender inequality that still exists," she said. "Cultural expectations work in tandem with political movements and the policies they produce to keep women 'in their place.' And somehow that message had gotten lost in the shuffle of our recent small victories."

She said she hopes people go away with an appreciation of family history, of cultural forces that shaped the lives of their parents and grandparents, and that have had an impact on their lives. "I also want audiences to see that people can change, and they can change the circumstances in which they live. It may

not always be easy, but it is possible. Passively accepting 'one's lot in life' is not the only (or best) option," she said. "I also want to treat a fairly weighty subject with humor and empathy."

Caren Anton plays the role of Nell, the "presence" referenced in the play's title. "Without revealing too much, I will say that I am the great-aunt of Alice, whose journey the play depicts. I have come to visit her from a time in the past in order to help her through a personal crisis in the present," she said.

As far as challenges, she said: "There's an inherent challenge in presenting a play in a staged-reading format. You count on the audience to 'fill in the blanks.' And in this play, especially, there are extra challenges because it plays with the concept of time. You want to be sure the audience is not confused."

Katherine Stanford plays the role of Alice, a strong but soft-hearted, over-achieving but flawed woman who has a lot to learn, and does in the course of the play. "We first see her vacating her life for a few days to rest and reflect, but she ends up taking a leap of faith into her new future by exploring her family and feminist history, and ultimately learning to live in the present," she said.

Her biggest challenge was bringing compassion to the character of Alice, she said. "The audience needs to identify with her right away so they can join in her journey of self-discovery. But she yells a lot in the first few scenes — and it's a fine line to walk between hilarity and annoyance."

The play reading is Monday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria. More info at: www.facebook.com/events/101047870374049.

CALENDAR

www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org or call 703-746-6043 for more.

Blessed Sacrament Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Director of Music, John McCrary will conduct the Blessed Sacrament Festival Chorus and Orchestra with soprano Michelle Kunz, alto Sally Monson, tenor Phil Pickens, bass Joshua Hong in a performance of Arthur Sullivan's sacred oratorio. Email jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or call 703-998-6100 x103 for more.

Todd Snider Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Nashville gonzo outlaw music. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Black History Month Speaker. 9-11

a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. C.R. Gibbs will be the featured speaker for Boy Scout Troop 1906 talking on "Let Your Motto Be Resistance, Great Slave Revolts." Visit www.bethlehemofalexandria.org/.

Gallery Talk on Retha Gambaro. 11 a.m. at the Potomack Company 1120 N. Fairfax St. Dr. Letitia Chambers will present a Gallery Talk on Native American artist Retha Walden Gambaro, whose spiritually inspired sculptures are featured in The Potomack Company's Feb. 28 auction. Visit www.potomackcompany.com or call 703-684-4550 for more.

The Will to Adorn Workshop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The Will to Adorn: African American Diversity, Style, and

Identity. Free. Email black.history@alexandriava.gov, or call 703-746-4356 for more.

George Washington Symposium. 1-3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Mark Tabbert, the Memorial's director of collections, discusses contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Free. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.net or call 703-829-6640 for more.

Winter Birds and Feeder Workshop noon-2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn about the birds that call Huntley Meadows Park and your backyard home during winter. Learn how to identify winter birds through calls, games and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. \$8 county residents, \$10 non-county. Visit

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ENTERTAINMENT

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park for more.

Civil War Winter Drill Day. 1-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Members of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will interpret the life of the Union soldier on Civil War in the winter. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848 for more.

Annual Birthday Gala. 5:30-9:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Black tie affair, featuring The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award. \$125. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.net or call 703-829-6640 for more.

Washington Revels Jubilee Voices. 6-8 p.m. in the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Songs and stories of struggle and perseverance, trials and triumphs, as expressed through a cappella music, drama and dance. \$5. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

Annual Black History Month Gala. 7 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Keynote speaker is Dr. Stedman Graham. He will speak on the 2017 National Black History Month Theme: The Crisis in Black Education. Visit www.vabhma.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

Deer and the Garden. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Author and garden expert Ruth Clausen shares some beautiful shrubs, annuals and perennials that deer usually ignore, and signs her book on "50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants." \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Lindy Bots Dancing. 1:30-4:30 p.m.

at Market Square, 301 King St. Join Lindy Bots Adrian and Ashley Munteanu for a public dance experience. Visit www.facebook.com/lindy.bots for more.

Secretive Marsh Birds. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Join several area Audubon clubs, the Northern Virginia Bird Club and the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/sh/direct.htm or call 703-765-3645 for more.

Locals Highlight Black History. 2 p.m. at the Lee Center Richard Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. Program features the recognition of three former employees: Lawrence "Lucky" Elliott, Traverse Gray, and Jackie Mason for their more than four decades of service to the Alexandria community. In addition, local R&B singing group Nu Era and a youth cheerleading team and dance group from neighborhood recreation centers will provide entertainment. Call 703-746-5402 or email mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

FocusMusic. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Scott Ainslie and Reggie Harris in concert. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members. Call 703-380-3151, or visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets.

Documentary. American Association of University Women Mt Vernon Branch presents "Harvest of Empire, the Untold Story of Latinos in America." The 90 minute film examines the role of the United States military and economic interests in Latin American countries. Light refreshments will be served. 4 p.m., Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria, 703-

780-8494, mtvernon-va.aauw.net, Free.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

Member Orientation. 7:45-9 a.m. at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 2834 Duke St. An overview of the Chamber and member benefits. Call 703-739-3801, email info@alexchamber.com or visit www.alexchamber.com for more.

Homeschool Program: 17th and 18th Century Music and Dance. 1-2:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy a special interactive presentation of instruments and dances as you compare early Colonial and Early American music. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

MARCH 1-31

2017 Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Themed "Every Stitch Counts," that includes both traditional and contemporary works. Call 703-570-6904 or visit woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 2

Childrens Jazz Band Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu or call 703-425-5839.

FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Children's Concert. 5-6 p.m. at Various hours at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Local musician,

Achille, will be singing popular children's French songs. \$5. Email AlexandriaSisterCities@gmail.com or call 202-203-0177 for more.

Whisky and Wine. 7-10 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Alexandria Sister Cities Committee for Scottish Social of Scotch Whisky and Virginia Wines, includes a discussion and tasting instructions led by a Scotch whisky expert. \$45. Call 301-526-0873 or email roberthayjr@gmail.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Watercolors in Workshops. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Botanical artist Dawn Flores discusses color, orchid anatomy, techniques and transfer practices to compose and paint watercolor orchids. \$88. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ for more.

Parade Open House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Open to all during the St. Patrick's Day parade. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-2997 for more.

Senior Services of Alexandria Gala. 6-10 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Entertainment by Brothers Plus One. Black tie optional. \$150 www.seniorservicesalex.org/.

Country-Western Dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941 for more.

Hollywood Goes Choral IV. 7 p.m.

at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Symphonic Chorus along with the Washington Symphonic Brass pay musical tribute to several films. \$40-\$15; Students with ID \$10; Children 4 and under free. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277 for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 5

The Provazak Youth String Quartet. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Part of the The "Bagels and Bach" Concert Series, light brunch included. \$10/Nonresident \$15, under 5, free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts.

Women's History Tour. 1-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Tour will highlight the many roles women played in tavern life—from women as tavern owners and enslaved workers to participants in events and as overnight guests. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

Choral Evensong for Lent. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Will feature music by composers Ley, Walford Davies, Near, Batten, and Stanford. Free to the public, with donations going to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. A reception will follow. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

MARCH 8-25

Nutt and Bolt Performance. Various times at the The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Nutt and Bolt are two robots who live in a junkyard. \$9. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org/nutt-and-bolt-buy-tickets.html for more.

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Coal Ash Bill Passes

By SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR
(D-36)



We have one week to go in session and negotiations are rapidly reaching conclusion as we push to finish out work so we can get back to our families and our jobs.

This past week, my legislation to raise Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500 failed. Virginia's threshold has not changed since 1981. Our existing system unnecessarily focuses police and prosecutors on minor crimes instead of violent crime while tainting thousands of Virginia's suffering from depression or drug addiction with felony charges for life.

The House of Delegates passed my legislation requiring Dominion to provide better information on coal ash pollution, disaster preparedness, and recycling. I am not happy that a permitting moratorium was removed, it is better than no bill at all and the Governor will also have a chance to amend the legislation.

The House is also poised to pass my legislation that would require the police to provide police records to next of kin in deaths involving suicide or unattended deaths. Some police departments refuse to provide this information. I think it will help families achieve closure and assure high quality policing.

Two of my more significant bills have been referred for further study. As a part-time legislature, we frequently refer meritorious, but complex proposals to groups who meet outside of session that have better staff support, can take a deeper dive into policy choices, and provide a longer period for stakeholder vetting.

My legislation that would require school systems to purchase personal computing devices for all students ex-

pected to use electronic textbooks was sent to the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Joint Committee. I am hopeful we will finally come up with some guidelines to make a personal digital device an essential learning tool in the Commonwealth.

Also, my legislation requiring regulation of predatory internet lenders was sent to the Virginia's Bureau of Financial Institutions who was directed to create a working group to propose a regulatory framework in 2018. Today, internet lenders are making loans in Virginia at rates north of 500 percent. For example, this week I went to www.cashnetusa.com and they are offering loans for \$100, \$300, or \$1,800 at a daily rate of 0.8192 percent or in other words — an APR of 299 percent before you include the 15 percent "transaction fee" on your initial loan. This means if you borrow \$100 and make no payments you would owe \$458.86 after one year before late fees. Others have seen rates as high as 5,000 percent. We need to get this under control.

This week, I also hope to be part of negotiating the final terms of my legislation placing controls on the City of Alexandria's raw sewage discharges. The House passed similar legislation that takes a different approach. Also, about 10 more of my bills are set to pass the House of Delegates this week.

We will begin the process of packing up our office in preparation of moving to temporary office space for the next four years. The current General Assembly Building is an agglomeration of four asbestos-laden, leaky, and unreliable buildings with uncoordinated elevators and lousy accessibility. We will move down the hill for four years as "the GAB" is demolished and reconstructed through 2022.

Finally, I have received nearly 400 responses to my Constituent Survey. Please make sure you provide your opinions soon at www.scottsurovell.org/survey.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Progress on Mental Health Reforms

By ADMA EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



A robust legislative agenda seeking to improve Virginia's approach to mental health crises emerged this year from the Joint Subcommittee Studying Mental Health Services.

The committee was formed in 2014 with the passage of legislation, introduced by Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-Bath), which I co-sponsored. Senator Deeds humbly and heroically transformed his personal tragedy into progress. He had been stabbed by his son, Gus, who suffered from mental illness, who then committed suicide. Days before his son's death, Senator Deeds sought help for Gus but was told that Gus did not meet the criteria for hospitalization, which was being a danger to himself or others. The General Assembly adopted reforms to establish a new real-time registry of available psychiatric beds, and a law requiring state hospitals to serve as a facility of last resort and provide beds to those in need. Since then, the "Deeds' Commission" has been tasked with evaluating long-term solutions needed to address mental health issues.

Legislation initiated by the committee this year would require local Community Service Boards to provide additional mental health services, improve how our criminal justice system addresses intake and discharge of at-risk inmates, and also provide funding for permanent supportive housing.

SB1005, legislation sponsored by Sen. Emmett Hanger (R-Augusta) and Senator Deeds would increase required mental health services offered by Community Service Boards (CSBs) and behavioral health authorities. The bill will expand the core services of CSBs to include same-day access to mental health screening. It would also require crisis services for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders, outpatient services, psychiatric rehabilitation, peer support and family services and targeted mental health case management. Funding to provide same-day access was provided in the Governor's proposed budget, and the bill has passed the Senate

unanimously and is progressing quickly through the House of Delegates.

Another positive advancement is the inclusion in both the House and Senate budgets of more money to provide rent subsidies and other support to help get people out of state hospitals or off the street and into housing. Whatever the final amount, I am confident significantly more resources will be made available to support a "housing first" approach to address the needs of some of the most vulnerable Virginians. Having access to stable housing is essential to putting people on the path to permanent recovery.

In the wake of escalating problems in jails across Virginia and the death of Jamycheal Mitchell at Hampton Roads Regional Jail a renewed focus was placed on the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system. Mitchell, who was arrested for stealing a Mountain Dew, a Snickers bar, and a Zebra Cake from a 7-Eleven, had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia and was ordered to be transferred to a state psychiatric hospital. Instead, after 101 days in jail, he lost 40 pounds and died of starvation. Several bills were introduced to build on efforts in 2016, when we funded pilot programs to improve the ability of jails to identify and better provide services to mentally ill inmates.

SB975, sponsored by Sen. Louise Lucas, engages Community Service Boards in the mental health pre-screening process at local and regional jails and grants them the responsibility of providing services to inmates. The bill seems poised for passage.

SB1063 redefines the qualifications required to sit on the Board of Corrections. The revamped board will include mental health practitioners, professionals with experience conducting death investigations, as well as other experts and community advocates.

On an additional positive note, legislation to provide planning services for those with serious mental illnesses due to be released from local and regional correctional facilities, SB941, has passed both the House and Senate. It now awaits Gov. McAuliffe's signature.

SEE PROGRESS, PAGE 18

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

All-In for Nonpartisan Redistricting

By PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



These last weeks are a flurry of activity as we rush to complete our legislative business by our Constitutionally mandated deadline of Feb. 25.

Last Saturday, I participated in two widely attended Town Halls. In Mount Vernon, I was joined by Senators Scott Surovell and

Adam Ebbin. At the Lee Town Hall, I was joined by Senators Surovell and George Barker, as well as Delegates Mark Sickles and Vivian Watts.

Mount Vernon and Lee residents are rightfully fired up right now and spoke with one voice calling for fair redistricting reform. The House Privileges and Elections Committee killed every single redistricting reform bill introduced this session.

I am very disappointed in the House P&E committee, and stand with 44th district residents demanding fair districts.

Nonpartisan redistricting was the single most important topic the General Assembly considered this year. While nonpartisan redistricting is not a silver bullet to fix every political ill, most of the political gridlock and problems we experience today can be traced back to extreme partisan gerrymandering.

Let me be clear: I fully support nonpartisan redistricting reform, and pledge to support such a measure regardless its effects on the fortunes of my party at the time.

Throughout our American history, re-

drawing districts to favor the party in power was considered a spoil of victory. Both Democrats and Republicans would shore up a couple vulnerable seats here and there, which would then be traded back and forth every decade, depending on the party in power.

Something different happened in 2011. Aided by the powerful computer program, Maptitude, the Republican Party drew political maps in Virginia and across the country and drilled down block-by-block as to how many Democrats there were, or con-

SEE ALL-IN, PAGE 18

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-Dagobert Runes

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OBITUARY
Sarah Helen Moneyhun Bird



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Sarah Helen Moneyhun Bird, 93, of Winchester, Virginia died at Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury on February 16, 2017.

Mrs. Bird was born March 4, 1924 in Wise County, Virginia, the daughter of the late Charles Carter and Sara Nancy Moneyhun. She was a graduate of Coeburn High School in Wise County, and Marymount University (Alexandria) from which she earned a Bachelor of Education degree.

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Boyakin and Helen Bird were married at Emmanuel Church in Alexandria in 1946 and remained members there until the '70s. Mrs. Bird was instrumental in the founding of church schools for the Episcopal churches in Alexandria. She served as director of the church school at Grace Episcopal. Subsequently, she opened a new church day school, becoming its director, at Emmanuel Church on High Street that is still in operation today. She taught Kindergarten at St. Agnes School, and then English and Old Testament at St. Stephens School.

After moving to Winchester in the '80s Helen and Boyakin became members of Christ Episcopal Church. Both were very active in practically every aspect of church life. The current rector, The Rev. Webster Gibson, was one of the many students who had her for a teacher at St. Agnes and St. Stephen's.

Helen loved cats and enjoyed gardening, birdwatching and studying butterflies. She was very knowledgeable about the history of Virginia, especially the Winchester area, and knew a great deal about architecture and furniture from the 18th and 19th century. Helen was a wise Bible scholar. Her heart was generous and she was always ready to comfort others with a hug, a hot casserole, flowers from her garden or an understanding ear.

Mrs. Bird is survived by her loving daughters and their husbands, Sara Bird Bicking (David) of Winchester, VA and Catherine Bird (Irvin Chewing) of Fredericksburg, VA; grandchildren, Christy Spencer, Becky Starkey, Jennifer Hodge, Matthew Wright, Katy Schain, and Nathan Bicking; and thirteen great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester, VA at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2017 with The Rev. Webster Gibson and The Rev. Bridget Coffey celebrating. Immediately following, interment will occur at the Church Columbarium with a reception in the Tilford Room.

Helen was always ready to lend a hand to friends, and would be delighted to know that someone might do a kindness for others in remembrance of her. The family would prefer that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to The Living Memorial Fund of Christ Episcopal Church, 114 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601 or the Westminster-Canterbury Employee Emergency Fund, 300 Westminster-Canterbury Road, Winchester, VA 22603.

Please view obituaries and tribute wall at www.ompsfuneralhome.com

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The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

OBITUARY
Mrs Virginia G. Jacob
On February 16, 2017, Virginia G.(Bunny) Jacob died peacefully after an extended illness. She is survived by her brother Dr. John A. Galloway of Duxbury, MA, daughter Anne G. Tyree of Ladysmith, VA, son James L Jacob and his wife Barbara B Jacob, grandchildren Andrew Tyree and Tamara Tyree, Christopher Tyree, Alex Jacob, and Erin Jacob, and great grandson Andrew Tyree, Jr.
Services will be held at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 on Friday, February 24, 2017 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers donations to St Paul's Church.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

School is reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph, those turning vehicles are unaware that the speed limit is reduced and travel past the school at 35 mph (or more).

As such, I visited Supervisor Storck's office and brought this to the attention of his receptionist and a staffer who identified herself as responsible for this issue. They agreed with my concern and they assured me they would promptly notify the Mount Vernon School Board representative and request that she take action.

After three weeks went by and the sign was still there, this scenario was the subject of my letter to the editor published in the Jan. 12 Gazette. The next day, I heard from the School Board rep who explained to me that she had never heard from Supervisor Storck's office concerning this issue. She indicated she would look into it.

Almost three weeks later, she e-mailed me informing me that her staff looked at the sign and informed her that "Movement of the sign would require new authorization and unfortunately the existing rules would not allow for a sign to be put in place." I immediately responded explaining that this response was unacceptable and suggesting that the focus must be to ensure the safety of children attending the school. She had informed me that "all of the students that attend Walt Whitman are bused to the school." I am skeptical that this universal statement is true. There must be some children who walk to that school at one time or another. It only takes one tragic accident to throw our community into turmoil. Such a scenario must be prevented.

I further explained to her that the sign location results in a situation, when the sign is flashing, in which vehicles are traveling at two different speeds on the same road, creating further risk. She responded again

explaining again that "the code does not allow for flashing signs in areas where students are not walkers." She also explained that the school system "is not responsible for establishing the code for signage" but that she would be happy to work with Supervisor Storck's office and VDOT "to see" what other options are available. That email was received on Feb. 3, almost three weeks ago.

The day after that email was received, Supervisor Storck held his town meeting at Mount Vernon High School. I attended the early morning portion in the cafeteria where numerous tables were displaying for numerous organizations. While walking along, I happened upon former Supervisor Hyland and James Patteson who is in charge of the county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES). I explained the situation to Supervisor Hyland and Mr. Patteson and they fully agreed with my concern and that something needs to be done about it and quickly. I asked Supervisor Hyland if he would do what he could to expedite a proper solution and he agreed to do so.

These are the facts. As of today, that sign is still in the same location and drivers turning left from Hinson Farm Road onto Parkers Lane are unaware of when the speed limit is lowered. An additional sign located on Hinson Farm Road or north of its intersection with Parkers Lane would solve this problem. If our local government is incapable of solving such a simple problem, I question whether it is competent to address the larger issues. I trust that parents of children who attend Walt Whitman Middle School share my concern as should our government officials.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Progress on Mental Health Reforms

FROM PAGE 16

I introduced legislation to provide for a study which would have identified solutions for addressing the physical and mental health needs unique to older incarcerated adults and those being discharged into the community at an advanced age, 20 percent of whom suffer from some degree of mental illness. The Senate Finance Committee, however, opted to wait to conduct this research until a current study evaluating the health needs of the general prison population has been completed.

While not all legislation recommended by the Joint Subcommittee Studying Mental

Health Services made its way through the General Assembly this year, bipartisan, bicameral support for addressing mental health issues is a positive step. The General Assembly has embraced several aspects of mental health reform, however, several important steps remain to be taken before we are fully faithfully supporting this community. Our work to build coalitions across regional and party lines to benefit the mental health of Virginians continues.

Please consider following me on Twitter @AdamEbbin, emailing your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov and visiting AdamEbbin.com.

All-In for Nonpartisan Redistricting

FROM PAGE 16

versely, how many Republicans there were.

This led to a systematic slaughter of our political maps and the most bitter divide between Republicans and Democrats since the Civil War.

Before I served as your delegate, I had the honor to serve as an advisor on Fairfax

County's reapportionment task force in both 2001 and 2011. I've witnessed firsthand that it is indeed possible to draw district lines fairly, without considering partisanship — keeping communities of interest together. I'm proud of the work we did then.

The voters must choose their elected officials. It cannot be the other way around.

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The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking Proposals for Design Services for Relocatable Placement. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP # 17-02-03, Design Services for Relocatable Placement will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, Monday March 20, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement Office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., March 10, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

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

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

Meloni Hurley
Procurement Manager

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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

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ZONES

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Zone 2: The Springfield Connection The Burke Connection The Fairfax Connection The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection	Zone 5: The Arlington Connection The Vienna/Oakton Connection
Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet The Mount Vernon Gazette	Zone 6: The McLean Connection The Great Falls Connection

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

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- Services
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2

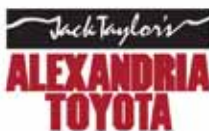
VIRGINIA

2017

Special VIP Offer for your Toyota



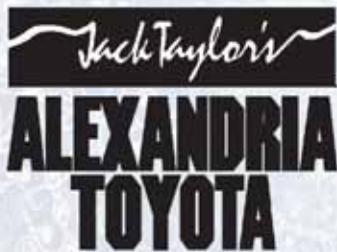
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Service & Parts Dept. Hours:
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5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000
Mile Services
Call your ASM for details
ToyotaCare Plus \$299⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/17.

GENUINE TOYOTA
SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES

\$10 OFF
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/28/17.

BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR \$1

SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. GOT TIRES?
INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

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TRUESTART BATTERY SPECIAL \$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
BRAKE SPECIAL \$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/17.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
\$29⁹⁵ LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$49⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/17.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
COMPLIMENTARY 15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. GOOD THRU 2/28/17.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁵

Synthetic \$10 More
INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

- Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors •
- All weather floor mats • Toyota bedliners •

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Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
10% OFF OVER THE COUNTER PARTS

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM



CHRIS WHITE

Planning to sell in 2017?

Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***



9504 Lynnhall Pl.

\$1,099,000

Stately Colonial!



Prime location near river in prestigious Oxford. Home was crafted with the finest materials & workmanship resulting in true custom masterpiece. Features include: High ceilings, glass window walls, exquisite trim work, open floor plan, two story family room with stone fireplace, library on main level with full bath attached would make excellent master, oversized 2 car garage, fenced grounds with custom pool, decks and patios.



4301 Adrienne Dr.

Southwood Gem!
Fabulous customized home in prime Southwood location just off the GW Parkway. Stunning family room with dramatic cathedral ceiling and floor to ceiling stone fireplace. Other features include: updated custom kitchen, hardwood floors, updated baths & oversized 2 car garage. Gorgeous grounds include, stone patio & large fenced back yard.



4601 Cornwallis Ct.

\$475,000

VALUE!

Unique opportunity!

Three level home with rare detached two car garage for under \$500k! Home is in excellent, move in condition. Oversize two car garage has huge second level which creates many potential uses. Prime location on level half acre corner lot. Combination of features that can't be duplicated at this price!



1604 Baltimore Rd.

\$899,000

Unique Opportunity in Waynewood School area! Best price new construction in Ft. hunt area! Total renovation and addition totaling approximately 3,500 sq ft of top quality construction. Features include: stunning open floor plan, high ceilings, 4/5 BR's, 3.5 Baths, luxury master suite, amazing chef's kitchen and two car garage. Patio & large fenced rear yard. Can't be duplicated close to this price! Super Value!



8417 Plymouth Rd.

\$1,399,000

New Build!!

New Melson II model on half acre lot in Plymouth Haven. 3525 square feet on two main levels plus fully finished basement and 2 or 3 car garage. Open floor plan, high ceilings, upgrades throughout. Finished recreation room & bathroom in Basement. Pre-construction contract offers maximum opportunity to customize! \$10,000 towards closing costs! (Using approved lender)



5427 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$899,000

Stunning 5,686 sq ft Colonial featuring dramatic open floor plan, large room sizes, soaring high ceilings, and modern amenities typically found in \$1 Mil+ properties. Features include: 3 Fin levels, walk out lower level, 5BR's, 4.5BA's, Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Custom deck and brick patio capitalize on gorgeous fenced grounds backing to park.



9027 Mcnair Dr.

\$585,000

Fabulous Home!
Spacious grounds and updated home in pristine condition on half acre lot. Features include: open floor plan, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, thermal windows, fireplace, custom screened porch with cathedral ceiling overlooks private rear grounds. Surrounded by Country Club grounds and beautiful 75 acre Grist Mill Park!



4221 Dandridge Terr

\$598,500

Beautifully Updated!

Priced to sell - fabulously updated home in Southwood, one of the area's premier communities. Features include: 4 BR's, 2.5 updated baths, stunning Chef's kitchen open to family room with stone fireplace, hardwood floors, and side load 2 car garage, custom deck overlooks fenced rear yard. Nothing like it for under \$600,000!



9419 Mt. Vernon Cir
\$998,500

One time opportunity to acquire true estate caliber property in Mt. Vernon on the Potomac- the only community in the area with a private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open foyer with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings and spacious room sizes. Columned veranda overlooks pool.



9314 Craig Ave.

\$635,000

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



9221 Patton Blvd.
\$795,000

Custom Build!

True custom home with bright open floor plan and Potomac views on half acre lot in premier water access community. Stunning Master suite on main level! Other features include: 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, Chef's kitchen w/ granite counters, Gas cook top, wood floors, large deck and oversized 2 car Garage. Truly amazing value!



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com

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