

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 1, 2017

Police Practices Improve, Citizens Demand More

Board cites progress on Police Practices improvements, but some citizens demand more.

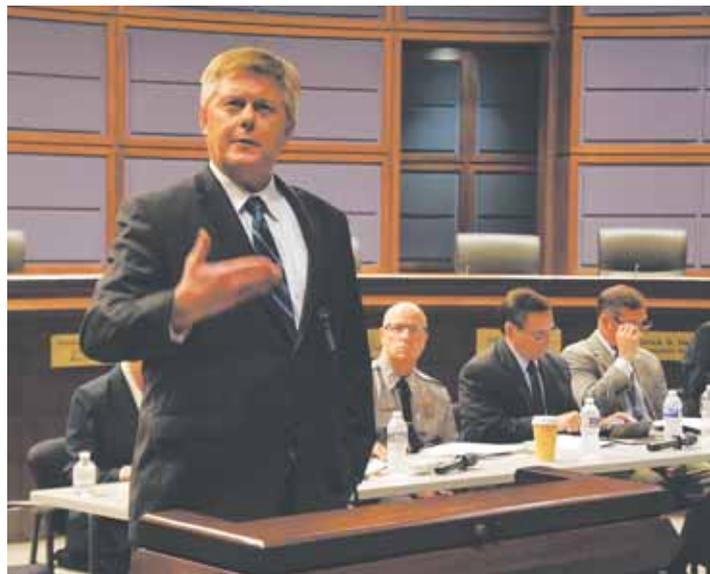
BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

John Lovaas admitted that he was a bit of a skeptic. Speaking at the May 22 meeting to update Fairfax County residents on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission's recommendations, the Restonian acknowledged that he hadn't been expecting all that much to come from the 32-member commission established by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova — in spite of the fact that Lovaas had actually been chosen as an alternate representative.

"But I am more and more impressed by what's coming out of the implementation stage," said Lovaas.

Lovaas may now be cautiously optimistic, but the meeting that highlighted progress, also subjected its panelists to criticism, shouts, protest signs, and a dose of expressed disbelief from many in the small, but vocal audience.

To provide the update and take questions



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), as chair of the board's Public Safety Committee, co-hosted a public forum updating citizens on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

from the audience were Bulova; Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock); Police Chief Edwin Roessler, Jr.; Richard Schott, independent police auditor; Adrian Steel, Ad Hoc Commission vice chair; Shirley Ginwright, Communities of Trust chair; and David Rohrer, deputy county executive for public safety.

Bulova opened the session at the Government Center by announcing that the board

had already approved and implemented or put in motion 172 of the 202 recommendations that the commission presented in its final report on Oct. 20, 2016. "I am proud ... that in the first year 88 percent of the recommendations have been approved," said Bulova, stressing that the board had taken the commission's findings seriously, and worked in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, as well, to ensure the best

possible results.

TWO NEW FORMS of independent oversight for the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) were established because of the Ad Hoc Commission. The supervisors recently named nine members — chosen from more than 140 applicants — to the Civilian Review Panel, to be chaired by

SEE POLICE, PAGE 16



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

Caycee Utley of Fairfax stands amid protest signs and fellow members of Showing up for Racial Justice. The group doesn't think any real progress has been made to "end racism and brutality, particularly against minorities" and hold law enforcement accountable for their actions.

Community Rallies Around Pool Renovations



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Cutting the ribbon marked the beginning of summer at the Stratford Recreation Association pool.

New pool facilities bring out sense of community.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Kicking off Memorial Day weekend, Willa Denton, 15, was happy at her job sitting behind the front table at the Stratford Recreation Association (SRA) pool, a community attraction where she's lived practically her entire life. The pool is a social spot in Stratford and with the newly completed renovations, will

remain a focal point of her neighborhood.

"I've made a lot of friends coming to this pool," she said.

The sense of community is one thing the neighborhood was preserving when they came up with the idea for a new pool house, locker rooms and dressing rooms to go along with other improvements they've made over the last few years including a new wading

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 6

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State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27), Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-27), and Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) answer questions posed at the Lieutenant Governor's Candidate Forum at George Mason University.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

The Democratic candidates seeking the position of Lieutenant Governor: Justin Fairfax, Gene Rossi, and Susan Platt.

Debate Can Be Civil, Too

Party platforms and civil discourse highlight forum for Lieutenant Governor candidates.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

At the May 23 lieutenant governor candidates' forum at George Mason University (GMU), there was none of the verbal fireworks or often embarrassing vitriol that has come to characterize the political debating arena of late.

Instead, the six major party candidates — three Republicans and three Democrats — sometimes passionately, but always politely, fielded questions posed to them by moderator Mark Rozell, dean of the co-hosting GMU Schar School of Policy and Government. So civil toward each other were the candidates that there were only two occasions when any of them took advantage of the 30 second "opportunity for rebuttal rule."

The fact that the forum was split into two sessions, with the GOP hopefuls taking the first shift, followed by the Democratic contenders after a brief recess, may have influenced the tone of the event.

THE REPUBLICANS seeking the position are all current office holders and they took the opportunity to discuss some of their governmental accomplishments during opening statements. The Democrat candidates have never held elected office.

State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27) is an advocate for rural economies and a supporter of school choice legislation. She also introduced bills to strengthen the enforcement of immigration laws.

Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17) is a former Army Ranger and police officer. Describing himself as "Pro-Life and Pro-Gun" Reeves says he seeks to "protect our values and outlaw sanctuary cities" and grow the state's economy.

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) says he is the one with a "plan to unleash Virginia" with tax

reform, attracting "21st century jobs, modernizing education" and cutting "government red tape."

ON THE DEMOCRATS' SIDE, Justin Fairfax is a former assistant U.S. attorney and businessman.

Gene Rossi spent 27 years as a federal prosecutor. Rossi told the audience that he led the largest investigation ever to address the opioid epidemic, helping to secure 200 convictions of "unscrupulous pain doctors, pharmacists, health professionals, and drug dealers."

Susan Platt served as chief of staff to former Vice President Joe Biden and serves on the Virginia Tourism Board as an appointee of Tim Kaine.

ALL SIX TROD CLOSELY along their party's lines. The Republicans focused on economic development in the Commonwealth via tax reform, defending Virginia's "Right-to-Work" status, exploring other options before increasing taxes, and reducing what Reeves called the "regulatory burdens placed on businesses."

Reeves sees the "constant change in the regulatory environment" as an inhibitor to economic health. "We need some stability," he said, and a process to appeal to business investors.

Vogel agreed. "For the first time, more people are leaving Virginia than coming here. We need tax reform and financial stability and predictability."

"We used to be the number one state for business, now we are 13th," added Davis, "and we need to better market ourselves" and tout the resources and advantages of the state.

Again, all three candidates stuck with the GOP platform on issues like opposing state regulation of utilities, the expansion of Medicaid, and the notion of collective bargaining for workers, and protecting gun rights.

Davis said he voted six times against expanding Medicaid, stating that the monies spent on Medicaid in the Virginia budget have already doubled in less than 10 years and needed to be reined in.

Regulating utilities like Dominion Power is not to their liking, either. "Competition solves the issues," according to Davis, while Vogel maintained that with government, "less is usually more."

A simple, but emphatic "No," was how Vogel, Reeves and Davis all "voted" on the subject of collective bargaining.

"I'm flabbergasted, why would anyone choose to make the state less competitive?" was Vogel's comment when asked if Virginia should turn away from its Right-To-Work status and more toward unionization.

"I would fight that tooth and nail," said Reeves.

"That would mean a negative outlook for our credit rating," predicted Davis. Recent indicators that suggest a less-positive outlook on the state's future credit worthiness is of significant concern to the Republican trio of candidates.

When the Democratic candidates were seated for their session, the overall tenor of the forum remained unchanged. Dean Rozell asked similar — and sometimes identical — questions of the second candidate panel, with Fairfax, Rossi and Platt usually agreeing with each other in principle and disagreeing with the GOP approach offered during "Round 1" of the forum.

Fairfax does not subscribe to the more dire economic picture painted by his Republican rivals. "Unemployment has declined from 5.4 percent to 3.4 percent. Our economy is strong," he said, but admitted that more work, especially in developing "middle skill jobs" needs to be done. He is a particular proponent of lessening the burdens of student debt, saying that freeing young workers from this obligation would benefit everyone as these graduates could

"start their financial lives sooner ... buying homes, starting families and getting the capital to start and grow their own businesses."

On the subject of collective bargaining and Virginia's Right-to-Work laws, the three would support unions and changes to the laws, but none of them saw this issue as a fight that could be easily won. "Let's concentrate on filling the 175,000 jobs that are open because our workers are not trained or qualified for them first," said Fairfax. Platt agreed, saying she supported unions, but realistically sees Virginia as a Right-to-Work state. "It's entrenched here."

THE EXPANSION of Medicaid was another area the three firmly supported, in contrast to the GOP line. "Not doing so, that's \$10.4 billion lost to our economy, plus more jobs and healthcare coverage for another 400,000 Virginians," said Fairfax.

Rossi told the audience of his daughter's battle and victory over a form of lymphoma, as well as his own more recent blood disorder. Saying Virginia needs a brand new blood supply, "and I am the candidate with new blood," Rossi pledged that he would "fight like a dog for Medicaid."

All three Democrats approved of the regulation of utilities as emphatically as the Republican candidates were against it.

Solving the woes that plague Metro also served to highlight the differences between the two camps, but the unity within each party. Vogel, Reeves and Davis are not in favor of a proposed 1 percent regional tax to subsidize the ailing Metro system.

The Democrats, on the other hand, see Metro as vital to the area's economic health and growth and all are convinced that a dedicated and sustainable revenue source is needed. "Metro was a great story, but we kept kicking the can. You reap what you sow," said Fairfax.

SEE DEBATING, PAGE 10

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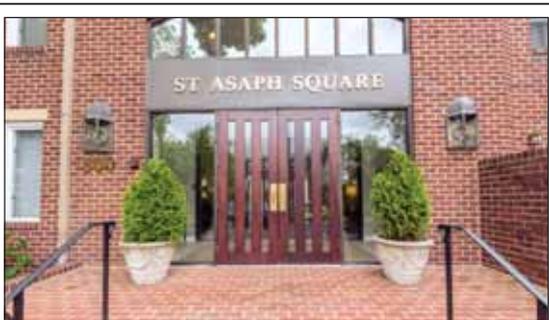


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Community Rallies Around Pool Renovations

FROM PAGE 1
area and improved concession stand. As they cut the ribbon on May 27, SRA President David Fleischman recognized the importance of this neighborhood amenity, pointing out the hours of volunteer work from the community members. "This building was four years in the making," he said.

The architects JC Schaub and Khrysti Uhrin live in the community and did the design work pro bono, as well as Larry Newman at Fort Hunt Construction that built it. The community raised the money, which was over \$100,000 without a special assessment. Newman discussed the job with his wife before the construction.

"If I mess this up, we're going to have to move," he said.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck lives in the community next door, and was at the ribbon cutting. Storck has been the president of his community pool, and their swim team has an ongoing challenge with Stratford. "Pools have a way of cementing communities together," he said. "Pools and schools are major things to pull people together." Karen Corbett Sanders, a member of the Fairfax County School Board, also lives in Stratford and swam on the swim team as a teenager. She has seen generations grow up and start their families in Stratford. The pool is an attraction "that makes Stratford the kind of place the kids are going to want to come back to and raise their kids," she said. "It's weathering the test of time, when it needed a new look, the community got together," she added.

In 1964, the pool was built and Colonel Brintzer was a founding member that lived by the book, restrapping the chairs by hand when needed. He was a holocaust survivor, spent time in a German prisoner of war camp, and later helped design Tysons Corner while on the Fairfax County planning division in the 1970s. The street the pool is on, Brintzer Way, was named after him. His son, Scott Brintzer, traveled from his Arlington home to the ribbon cutting. "This pool was a tradition of Stratford that started when I was 4 years old," he said, and pointed at two trees towering over the grounds. "I planted those trees, they arrived in the back of our Pontiac station wagon," he said. "Those trees have deep roots now,



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck talks about the importance of community at the pool.



Kay Green from Good Shepherd Catholic Church sings the National Anthem.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE



Scott Brintzer holds up a swim team jacket from 1971 when he was on the team.



Stratford teen Willa Denton mans the front desk where she'll greet friends all summer.

we are all rooted to summer at the SRA," he said, holding up his old swim team jacket from 1971.

A new concession stand and pavilion is

next on the list for the SRA and their fundraising efforts have begun. Back at the check-in table out front, Willa Denton had a summer of friendships and responsibili-

ties to look forward to with her new job which is a short bike ride from her house.

"The Fourth of July party is always so much fun," she said.



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NEWS



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

A rental truck shows the result of striking the Alexandria Avenue overpass on the George Washington Memorial Parkway on May 30.

Not for Trucks

A rental truck full of Pella windows struck the Alexandria Avenue overpass on the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the morning of May 30. The vehicle, which is prohibited from using the Parkway, attempted to pass under the stone bridge in the outer, southbound lane. The collision ripped apart the truck's body as the top of it struck the downward arch of the bridge. The driver offered no comment other than to say no one was injured.

Sgt. Anna Rose, public information officer for the U.S. Park Police, when queried just after the crash, said the organization does not keep statistics on truck-bridge incidents at Alexandria Avenue. The overpass is located between the Morningside Lane and Wellington Avenue intersections on the Parkway, and, as Mount Vernon residents will attest, has been the site of a number of such incidents over the years.

— MICHAEL K. BOHN

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, was awarded the Mary Donnalley Award, given to the Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) student athlete with the highest GPA. Sopko was also recognized for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher at its annual athletics banquet.

Peyton Heyde, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Marist College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Kylie Bostick, of Alexandria, majoring in marine science, has made the president's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.) for the spring 2017 semester.

The following Alexandria students were named to the dean's list at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.): **Dean Kiamos**, **Petra Elizabeth Sucher**, and **Hunter Lee Thompson**.

Michelle Lauren de la Guardia was named to the president's list at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa).

Correction

The May 24 article in the Gazette on Parkway traffic incorrectly stated Katherine Ward's position at the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association. She is one of the organization's co-chairs and handles liaison with the Budget & Finance and Transportation Committees.

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Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

EVERY YEAR around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghani-

stan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Taron Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 18

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A Connection Newspaper





PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY KELEHER

Fire officials attribute this Mount Vernon apartment fire to unattended cooking.

Firefighters Extinguish Apartment Fire

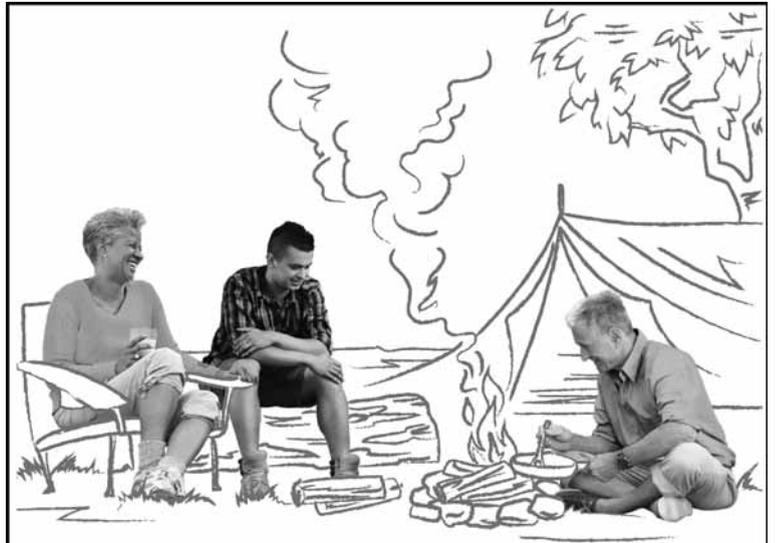
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded to an apartment fire in the 8200 block of Russell Road on Tuesday, May 16 at approximately 9:27 a.m.

Units arrived on scene to find smoke showing from the second floor of a three-story garden apartment. Firefighters discovered an active kitchen fire in an apartment and extinguished the fire. Their response prevented the fire from spreading.

One occupant was home in the apartment at the

time of the fire and was alerted to the fire by the smoke alarm. Fire Investigators determined that the fire originated in the kitchen area. The fire was accidental in nature and was caused by an unattended pot of oil left on the stove while heating.

Tenants from two apartments were displaced. Red Cross services were offered on scene but declined. No civilian or firefighter injuries were reported. Damages as a result of the fire are estimated to be approximately \$46,875.



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Party Platforms and Civil Discourse Highlight Forum

FROM PAGE 3

Platt suggested going after more federal funds to support Metro, coupled with better planning of communities to avoid “two-hour commutes,” while Rossi said this was another issue he was willing to fight for. Rossi also warned that the Trump administration’s cuts would devastate Northern Virginia.

The two groups came closest together

when it came to the subject of tax reform. While the Republicans placed the greater emphasis on its need and the shape it should take, the Democrats did not disagree that tax reform should be on the table, and that Virginia’s budget should be more predictable.

Platt was the only one, however, to tie this issue to the the “need for income equality and an increase in the minimum wage.”

They also all agreed, Democrats and Republicans alike, that each would make more of the position than it has been traditionally viewed in the past, looking for ways to more actively engage and to be real advocates for Virginians and the state’s economic development. All stated that whichever party took the Governor’s Mansion in the fall, they were ready, willing and able to work with colleagues on both sides of the

aisle.

THE PRIMARIES for both parties will be held on June 13 and voters will choose who goes forth to the election on Nov. 7. “Whoever wins,” said attendee Joe Spellicy of Herndon, “this has been a really great forum. I like this process, and it was good to hear from both sides, all candidates, answering the same questions.”

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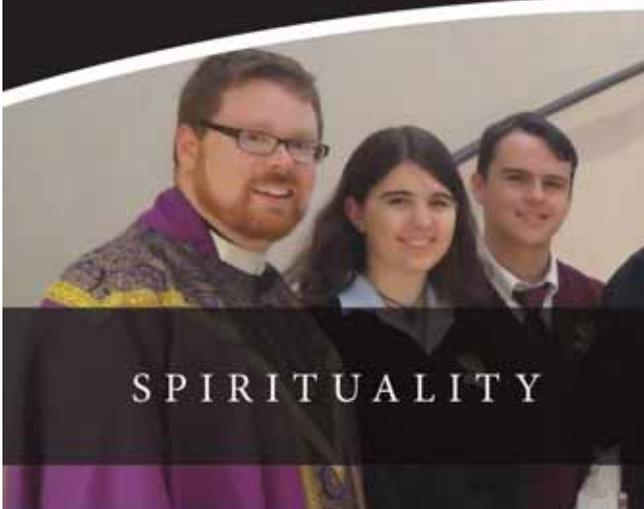
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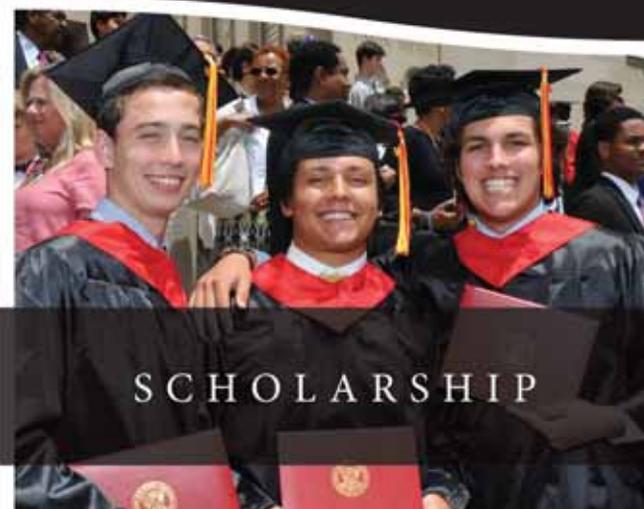
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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'Red, White, and Tuna'

A return to the Tuna, Texas franchise where actors play multiple comedic roles.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

In the hilarious comedy, "Red, White, and Tuna," the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) returns to Tuna, Texas, the state's third smallest town, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to the OKKK radio station. In this third installment of LTA's 2009 production of "Greater Tuna," two actors again create the population of Tuna, including a few hippies who have returned to their roots for their high school reunion. The show runs from June 3 to June 24, 2017.

Stephen McDonnell plays the role of Actor 2, whose many characters range from an aging vegan hippie, to a macho Texan radio man, to a mild-mannered animal lover, to the first lady of Tuna society (with an overdeveloped sense of what constitutes right and wrong). There's also a woman who lives to "shoot first and ask questions later," he said. "Each one is recognizable and outrageous ... perhaps that's what makes them all funny."

McDonnell used to act in New York City, but his real love was stand up comedy and improv. "Rediscovering all the little tricks that actors develop to learn their parts has been both a challenge and a joy," he said, adding that memorizing the line load was daunting. "Also, I have never had a role with so many costume changes, so many wigs, so many characters. Keeping them straight is an added challenge."

He said he wants people to laugh, of course, after all it is a comedy. "But I also want audience members to leave knowing that these people exist throughout the country. It's fun to laugh at these folks, but they are recognizable and deserve, in some way, respect," he said.

Dave Wright is playing the role of Actor 1, which is actually 10 different characters. "I like them all, but I am particularly fond of Bertha Bumiller, the aging bride-to-be,"

he said. "We all know someone like her. She has a sharp wit, insecurities, a strong moral core, complexity, and a willingness to learn, which we discover in the end. I also like the way her wig looks on me."

He said he is always looking for good character roles, and this show has given him several. "The challenge is developing 10 distinct characters with 10 distinct voices, and 10 distinct motivations, and then having each of those characters ready to appear instantly," he said. "Moving so quickly from one character to another is exciting, and it demands every trick I've ever learned on the stage over the years. The one thing that was not a challenge was working with Steve and Mike Baker to develop the characters. That part was a pleasure."

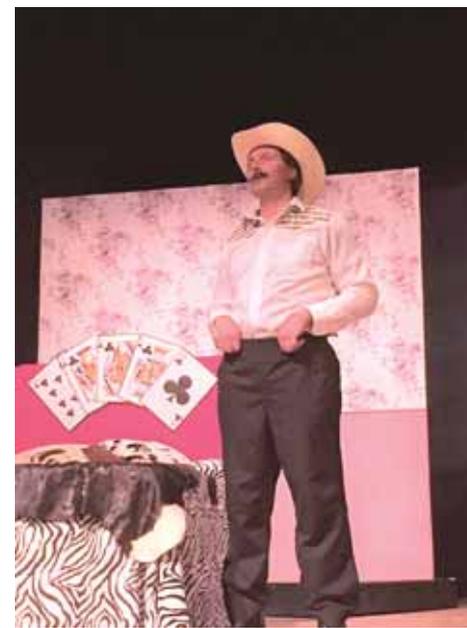
Co-producer Marian Holmes, who visited Tuna, Texas, as the producer for LTA's "Greater Tuna" once before, couldn't resist visiting again. "I relish the excitement of the fast changes for the actors backstage; it was an indelible theater experience," she said. "But one of the charms of live theater is that you never actually replicate an experience — even from performance to performance within a run, but the palpable sense of fun which surrounds all the 'Tuna' shows is quite narcotic."

She added, "Our hope is first of all to entertain. We want to hear the audience giggle and guffaw as they meet the array of Tuna residents — with all their foibles. However, there are tender moments and warm relationships between the characters which we hope they will remember and carry away with them when they leave the theater."

Co-Producer Russell Wyland, who has produced almost 20 LTA productions, said he decided to produce because he loves the Tuna, Texas, franchise with Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. "But I come from a small town — Wisconsin, not Texas — and the kinds of small town characters are almost like comfort food to me. I laugh at them, but only because I recognize they are a part



Dave Wright plays the role of the Mayor in LTA's production of "Red, White, and Tuna."



Stephen McDonnell rehearses the part of Arles, one of about 10 characters he plays in LTA's production of "Red, White, and Tuna," now through June 24, 2017.

of me as someone raised in that kind of place. It also helps that I married a Texan, and jokes about SMU, Oklahoma, and Aggies make sense to me."

He added, "It would be difficult, I think, for audience members to leave the theater without amazement that this show — with its jokes about liberals, conservatives, gun owners, vegetarians, pet owners, beauty pageants, etc. — is as relevant today as 20 years ago when the play was written."

Director Mike Baker Jr. said the play makes fun of our ability to transform and accept personal responsibility, accountability, and possibility — similar to that of the "EST Movement" (EST-Werner Erhard Seminars Training in the 1970s) satirized in this play. "In charting each of the character's arcs, I found many do take responsibility for their actions, admit imperfection, and embrace the changes that may come," he said. "This took some real creative work on the part of the authors."

He said the biggest challenge in directing was not losing sight of the humanity within. "There are a number of tender moments of realization that could have easily

been glossed over. I think the actors and I found each of them. These only serve to heighten the comedic moments that follow," he said.

When he interviewed Jaston Williams and Joe Sears for the Bravo Cable Channel TV series, "National Arts," he said they made it a point to tell him that these characters were real people. "Most were penned somewhat lovingly; others were made fun of for the buffoons they are," he said. "No doubt, the audience will recognize characters just like these in their own communities. Folks mired in pettiness which holds many of them back."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Red, White, and Tuna," from June 3 to June 24, 2017. 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 Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Ceramic Show. various times through July 1 at Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The "Classic Wedding Whites" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

Gods, Heroes, and Fools. Various times through June 4 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 21, 105 North Union St. Artist Lesa Cook sets the Greek and Roman gods into a contemporary context in "Gods,

Heroes, and Fools. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: Pattern and Repetition. Various times through June 25 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists Reni Gower and Stephen Books use repetitive shapes and patterns, combining both precision and randomness to create meditative and mesmerizing pieces. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

"Master Class" on Stage. Through June 11, 7 p.m. at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Music direction by Joseph Walsh, featuring Ilona Dulaski as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's valentine to "La Divina." Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Native Plants, Herbs, and Heirloom Tomatoes. Various times through mid June at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.mvuc.org for more.

Flora and Fauna Artshow. Through June 25, various times at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will highlight the work of artists Jeanne Bohlen and Floris Flam. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Relics.

Various times through Labor Day at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn the history of the museum, the purchase and see the original woodwork. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm for more.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along

the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

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

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday

ENTERTAINMENT

10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org 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/mvternon/ or call 703-768-3224 for more.

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

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

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

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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Family Game Night. 6-9 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081 for more.

JUNE 2-AUGUST 31

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times at Huntley Meadows Park Nature Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Local artist-photographer Nina Tisara will share some of her mosaic work in an exhibit entitled "Inspired by Nature." Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Athenaeum Yard Sale. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. For sale, art and historical artifacts covering their 52-year history as an organization and 150-year historic building. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Summer Sunset Movies in Mount Vernon

The Mount Vernon Rec Center at 2017 Belle View Boulevard will be the location for family-friendly movies throughout the summer. Twice a month, from 7-11 p.m., movies will start at sunset. The movie schedule is as follows:

- ❖ June 16 - "Sing"
- ❖ June 30 - "Nine Lives"
- ❖ July 14 - "The Jungle Book"
- ❖ July 28 - "Secret Life of Pets"
- ❖ Aug. 11 - "The Lego Batman Movie"
- ❖ Aug. 25 - "Beauty and the Beast"



Organ Concert

On Friday, June 9, David H. Brock will be performing an organ concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com/news-and-events/.

Clean the Bay. 9 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. The Fairfax County Park Authority is partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to pick up litter and debris in Fairfax County waterways. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

City and Museum Tour. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. The Alexandria Commission for Women and Historic Alexandria presenting the 2017 Alexandria Women's History Guided Tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Alexandria City. Email Alexandriawomen@gmail.com or call 703-566-0856.

Archaeological Excavation. 10-noon and again 1:30-3 p.m. behind the Masonic Memorial parking lot, 101 Callahan Drive. Discuss recent findings and interpretations with city archaeologists and students from George Washington University. Visit www.gwmemorial.org for more.

Building an Evening Container Garden. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturist Judy Zatsick introduces you to plants that work best for evening viewing and explains how natural history developed these night beauties. \$38 for the program and \$25 for supplies. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront, 211 N. Union St. Come out to the Alexandria's waterfront for an evening of wine/charcuterie, music, silent/live auctions, wooden boats and camaraderie. \$85 advance, \$100 at door. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org for more.

Evening Tour with Martha Washington. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet Lady Washington while enjoying refreshments and live music. \$28. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Thanks For All The Fish" Exhibit. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Exhibit showcases the artwork of members who have made exceptional volunteer contributions to support Del Ray Artisans. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits for more.

APPLY BY JUNE 4

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- Reston Connection
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- Vienna/Dakota Connection

ENTERTAINMENT

the Arts invites artists and artist teams living and working in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to submit their qualifications for a temporary public art project for the Duke Street Pedestrian Concourse. Contact Jimena Larson, Office of the Arts, at 703-746-5503 or e-mail jimena.larson@alexandriava.gov for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Bagels and Bach Concert. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Solos and duets will be performed by Kevin Kirby, musician, playing Bach Suites on the Mandola. Resident \$10, nonresident \$15. At the door tickets: resident \$15/nonresident \$10. Children under 5 years old are free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac for more.

Tiny Dancers. 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Nearly 300 young dancers will do a choreographed performance of Cinderella, which includes ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Harrow Fair Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. To open for Tab Benoit. Visit www.Birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 6

"Red, White & Tuna." 7-10 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Friends of United Community Ministries special showing of "Red, White & Tuna" where two actors create the population of Tuna, Texas. \$30. Visit www.ucmagency.org/events for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 8

Meet the Author. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet Vivian Thomson, former state air board member during the Alexandria, Wise and Roda issues, as she presents her new book, "Climate of Capitulation," which narrates both scientifically and politically these three cases. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

United States Air Force Band. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince



Poetry Inspired

Poetry and dancing on Sunday, June 11, from 3-4 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Community School Auditorium, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Dancers created choreography inspired by poems with their teachers. Wendi R. Kaplan (Alexandria's Poet Laureate) will be the featured reader. \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for adults. Visit www.localmotionprojet.org for more.

St. A traditional orchestra and strolling segment. Questions will be entertained by the band members at intermission. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/JUNE 9

Art on the Vine. 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Art auction and wine tasting party. \$55. Must be 21+ to attend. Call 703-683-1780 for more.

Organ Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. David H. Brock will be performing an organ concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com/news-and-events/.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. This annual living history event features military and civilian reenactors in camp settings. Suggested donation is \$2 per person

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

MAY 31-AUG. 25

Summer Theatre Camps. Various times at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Preschool-8th graders can learn acting, musical theatre, dancing, improv, Shakespeare, film making. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

JUNE 26-28

Civil War Mini-Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Camp participants will explore life during the Civil War through fun and educational activities such as drilling and marching, hands-on craft lessons, 19th-century games, and learning from guest reenactors. Ages 9-12. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

or \$5 per family. The program is weather dependent. Call 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.
Old Town Arts and Crafts Festival. 10-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Food, beverages and snacks provided by Bunny & the Bear Food Festival; Rockland's BBQ and Grilling; Red Hook Lobster Pound; and Talk Of Di Town II. Email mbrunken@volunteeralexandria.org or call 703-836-2176 for more.
Artists Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The Light of Day exhibit featuring Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, Rajendra KC. Exhibit will run through July 15. Visit torpedofactory.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 11

Poetry in Motion. 3-4 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Community School Auditorium, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Dancers created choreography inspired poems with their teachers. Wendi R. Kaplan (Alexandria's Poet Laureate) will be the featured reader. \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for adults. Visit www.localmotionprojet.org for more.

Vaughn Ambrose Quartet. 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Part of the Jazz at Meade series of concerts. \$20 donation, free street parking, free intermission buffet. Call 703-549-1334 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

Civil War Nurse Descendent. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Anne Reading, a descendant of a nurse portrayed on Mercy Street, will discuss her Great Grandmother's book "The Journal of Anne Reading." \$10. Visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum for more.

JULY 13-29

By the Seashore. 6-8 p.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Produced by Arts on the Horizon. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

Summer Sunset Movie Night. 7-11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



District Taco's breakfast burritos are a hit first thing in the morning (or any time of the day).



DRP Belle Haven's patio is worth the wait on a nice summer's evening.

Eat Your Way Through a Summer Day

BY HOPE NELSON

On a busy summer day, whether heading to work or to the pool, it's easy to lose track of time. Here are some go-to spots for every meal of the day (and dessert).

Breakfast: District Taco, 701 S. Washington St.

On your way out of town to go tubing or hit the beach? Stop by District Taco before you go to pick up a breakfast that will keep you fueled for hours. The locally owned chain of taquerias has been an Old Town neighbor for a year and a half now, and within that time it has created quite a following. Don't be surprised to find a line, even at breakfast time.

District Taco's breakfast burrito is a must-order. Stuffed full of black beans, potatoes and eggs, it's wrapped up tightly and served with lettuce and salsa on the side. The burrito itself is a great on-the-go, one-handed meal (the lettuce and salsa make things a little more unwieldy, so consume with caution). Looking for a lighter start to the day? Order a Basic or Healthy taco – or one of each – filled with eggs (or egg whites) and toppings to fit the bill.

Lunch: Perfect Pita, 1640 King St.

Whether packing a picnic lunch or grabbing a bite to eat on your way back to the office, Perfect Pita has you covered. This longstanding pita shop runs the gamut in all things Greek, from a standard hummus or falafel sandwich to pizzas topped with hummus (or with a more traditional red or white sauce).

For your picnic, order your sandwiches – the hummus veggie is always a winner, as is the boardwalk pita, filled with ham, salami, provolone, and vegetables – and if you've got many mouths to feed,

pick up a salad as well for the side. The Zorba is the shop's take on a Greek salad, and between the olives, feta, cucumbers, and peppers, it doesn't disappoint.

Dinner: DRP Belle Haven, 1401 Belle Haven Road

At first blush, al-fresco dining doesn't seem to be in the cards over at DRP Belle Haven, but your eyes deceive you. There's a wonderful little patio off to the side of the friendly restaurant, and it's worth the wait on a pretty evening. Sit down, order a beer, and gaze at the restaurant's kitchen garden, a 1,000-square-foot patch of land that grows the majority of DRP's salad blends.

DRP Belle Haven offers a great many salads, sandwiches, and entrees, but their mainstay is pizza, and it would be silly not to order one. Go traditional with a Margherita variety, or scale things up a bit with the Maui Wowie (ham and pineapple). Looking for more kick? You could do worse than the Midnight Marauder, a pie topped with chipotle marinara, crushed red pepper, and spicy pepperoni, chilled out with mozzarella.

Dessert: Sugar Shack, 804 N. Henry St.

Dessert. Doughnuts. Need we say more? Anyone unfamiliar with the venerable doughnut bistro by now should plead willful ignorance. But despite its well-known status around town, Sugar Shack remains a top-notch spot to score a sweet treat no matter the time of day. Order a tried-and-true flavor, such as maple or salted caramel, or venture further afield with the likes of a Key Lime pie or Oreo sundae, and go home happy.

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

CALENDAR

p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd. "Sing," is the first of a series of movies throughout the summer. Visit www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Anne Hills and Jay Ansell in Concert. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. \$15 in advance and for members, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets to purchase.

JUNE 27-JULY 30

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 29. Show is called "Under the Big Top," highlighting the work of three featured artists: Janet Barnard, Paige Garber, and Anne-Sanderoff Walker. Call 703-548-0935, or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's

Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme for more.

Welcome to Tuna, Texas, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to OKKK, the local radio station. Join the hilarious wild ride of quick changes and comedic characterizations.

SHOW DATES:
JUNE 3 - 24, 2017

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Police Practices Under Public Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1

Steel. In addition to the Review Panel, Schott has been named as the independent police auditor, to report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

The Civilian Panel will have the authority to review completed FCPD internal administrative investigations regarding civilian complaints against an officer. They may hold meetings to inform the public on how investigations were conducted. They may review complaints of harassment or discrimination, reckless endangerment of a detainee, or serious violations of Fairfax County or police procedures, and misuse of authority, as part of their duties.

The independent police auditor will handle the cases of police use-of-force that result in serious injury or death.

The Ad Hoc Commission, made up of private citizens and members of the law enforcement, legal, and academic communities, as well as members of the media and public relations arena, divided their review responsibilities into five categories: Use-of-force, independent oversight, mental health and crisis intervention training (CIT), communications, and diversity and recruiting.

Cook chairs the board's Public Safety Committee, and had the task of bringing the recommendations to the committee and seeing that they were "worked through, not just rubber stamped one way or the other."

The majority of the recommendations — 34 percent — came from the use-of-force sub-committee. Even though review of police practices had been on-going before, the impetus for the establishment of the Ad Hoc Commission itself came after the 2013 fatal shooting of John Geer of Springfield, by then Fairfax County Patrolman Adam Torres, while Geer stood unarmed in his own doorway.

After Geer's death, with no information being made available to the public, several community groups formed and petitioned for reforms and more accountability from county law enforcement agencies. In early 2015 protests demanding "Justice for John Geer" were held outside police headquarters and the county government center.

The public did not learn the name of the officer involved in the shooting, or many of the relevant details until 17 months after the incident, when the information was released by a court order. The demand for more transparency did not fade away. In March of 2015, Bulova received the board's support to create the Ad Hoc Commission with the mission to "review FCPD policies and practices related to critical incidents, use-of-force training policies, threat assessments, as well as those within the Internal Affairs Division."

While insisting that avoiding any loss of life during police-public interaction had always been the guiding standard, at the meeting Cook said that one result of the commission's efforts was a re-commitment to the "Sanctity of Life" philosophy. Cook referenced revisions made to FCPD policies. Last updated in 2013, revised General Order 540 on the subject of the use-of-force

by county law enforcement personnel took effect on March 31 of this year. The order will be reviewed again in January of 2019, to determine its effectiveness and make any additional revisions if necessary.

Roessler also made mention of the revised policies, explaining that a number of policies had been consolidated into "one concise document" to clarify the appropriate actions to be taken while carrying out their duties, and the proper reporting required after the use of force by county police officers.

Roessler also praised the establishment of the Diversion First program, which is designed to divert persons with mental health issues and intellectual or developmental disabilities from detention to treatment wherever possible.

Since its launch in January of 2016, Diversion First has seen 375 individuals transferred for appropriate treatment options, instead of being arrested and detained for non-violent offenses.

To make Diversion First truly successful, Roessler said that law enforcement personnel had to be trained to handle citizens with these challenges. To that end, "de-escalation" training was begun for all FCPD officers last year.

WITH 52 ADVISEMENTS, the communications sub-committee of the commission came in second, targeting the transparency complaints and addressing the timeline gap between a use-of-force event and the public's access to the details.

Roessler announced the establishment of a Public Affairs Bureau within the FCPD. The chief also mentioned pages on the FCPD's website where information on use-of-force incidents are made available, including links to press conferences and briefings by Roessler and other officials.

Shirley Ginwright is the chair of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee (COTC), a diverse citizen group "focused on strengthening and building positive relationships between public safety agencies and the communities they serve." Since its inception in December, 2014, COTC has been looking for ways to connect law enforcement with the residents they serve. They have a particular interest in programs that focus on the county's youth, and cutting off the "supply" of youngsters in the school-to-prison pipeline. Ginwright invited the audience to attend the COTC's upcoming "Public Safety Day" on June 3 in Lorton.

Despite the numerous high notes in the one-year Ad Hoc Police Practices Review



PHOTO BY ANDREA WOKER/THE GAZETTE

George Becerra of Burke, who attends a number of public meetings concerning community issues, wants to know what county officials will do to change their outreach approach and increase attendance at important meetings and forums. "They can all get out the word at campaign time."

Commission's report card, things got heated during the public commentary session.

Caycee Utley, lead organizer with Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia, castigated all of the panelists over the death of 37-year-old Natasha McKenna, diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression from the age of 14. The 5' 4," 130-pound African-American McKenna, in custody at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center on an outstanding warrant for attacking a police officer, was tasered multiple times when sheriff's deputies tried to put her in a wheeled restraint chair. At the time, McKenna was handcuffed behind her back, shackled around the legs with a bobble strap connecting the restraints, and had a spit mask placed over her face.

McKenna went into cardiac arrest shortly after being tasered. She was revived, but died five days later when it was determined that she had no brain activity, and life support was discontinued.

"Whose side are you on?" shouted several members of the SURJ group, waving their posters and pointing to an empty seat with a sign reading "Natasha McKenna" placed upon it.

"We don't want to be on sides," answered Cook.

The new police internal auditor, Schott, added, "This is what I have been hired to address."

Both Roessler and Bulova tried to explain that the case of McKenna and some of the others being referenced by the SURJ supporters were not within their direct purview, citing that the Sheriff's Office does not report to the Board of Supervisors.

"So nobody protects us from them?" Utley replied. "What pressures have you put on the sheriff?"

Attendee Jenifer Hitchcock "couldn't understand how they cleared the deputies" involved in McKenna's death.

AT ONE POINT during the public comment phase, Cook refused to respond to "people yelling out of turn" and Bulova

threatened to adjourn the meeting.

After Utley said, "There can't be any trust until there is justice," Bulova invited her to "talk personally" after the meeting.

Several of the citizen speakers described the Civilian Review Panel and the police auditor as "toothless" — lacking in the power to do anything. "Smoke and mirrors," said Mary Tracy of Alexandria. "The county has a long way to go on this. What about body cams? The Department of Justice was offering \$1 million grants, but we made no efforts to get them."

Several of the panelists explained that the auditor is prohibited under Virginia Law from investigating or conducting interviews. Citizens responded that they were willing to help the board get those changes made at the General Assembly, "just show us what to do. Support us."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax NAACP, took a more conciliatory approach in his remarks, calling the work done so far "a good start," but he challenged the county to look into the disparity in the treatment of blacks versus whites within the legal system and in detention. Annan called for measures to track such information and make it easily available to the public.

George Becerra of Burke, a community advocate and familiar face at public meetings on diverse issues around the county, asked a different kind of question of the panelists. He glanced around the large auditorium, then, pointing to the small numbers in attendance, Becerra asked "How will you change your outreach efforts?"

In response, Ginwright with Communities of Trust referred again to her organization's Public Safety Days campaigns.

After the meeting, Becerra expressed his disappointment with the answer. He acknowledged that citizens were equally responsible for informing themselves and in becoming engaged, but said that the information is often hard to find and overwhelming.

With so many media relations personnel and staffers, Becerra thinks just a bit more of the work should fall on the county's side of the fence.

"During campaigns, politicians find a way to bombard your email with information and requests for donations and support." Becerra wants to know why something similar can't be done for these important issues and meetings. "There's maybe 40 people here tonight. Forty people out of a population of 1.1 million. That's a lot of voices going unheard."

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PEOPLE



Brian Ventura Hernandez and Kayle Ventura-Ramos

Selected for Forestry Camp

Brian Ventura Hernandez and Kayle Ventura-Ramos were selected to receive full scholarships to attend the Virginia Department of Forestry's Holiday Lake Forestry Camp from June 19-24. The camp is held at the Holiday Lake 4-H Education Center in the 20,000 acre Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest and will include classes on forest ecology and management, tree identification, wildlife management, and environmental protection. They will also participate in a Lumberjack Field Day with traditional outdoor skills contests and a field trip to a local paper mill. They will also enjoy presentations from Conservation Police Officers, arson investigators, and wildlife researchers. The students were nominated by their science teacher at Whitman Middle School, Peggy White.

Joining Together Science and Art

David Joo of Alexandria was one of six University of Virginia students to receive grants from the University Award for Projects in the Arts program. Modeled on UVA's Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, the arts awards give selected students up to \$3,000 for projects that expand their creative expression and showcase artistic accomplishments. Joo, a third-year chemistry major focusing on materials science and music, plans to create super-black handmade paper for works of origami using traditional East Asian methods, and embed colored nanoparticles into the paper to acquire a super-



David Joo

black appearance. Joo, who sees his work as the intersection of science and art, said this project was inspired by Surrey NanoSystems' Vantablack, a super black coating that is considered the darkest man-made substance. But instead of coating the paper, Joo's object is to incorporate nanotechnology into the paper itself. A member of the New Music Ensemble in the McIntire Department of Music, Joo is a graduate of West Potomac High School. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in materials science and/or nanotechnology and explore further combinations of science with art.

On the Bridge

Boatswain's Mate Seaman Ahmed Jamjalloh, center, from Alexandria, explains the role of the helmsman to



Marines, assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), on the bridge of the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). Bonhomme Richard, flagship of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is on a routine patrol, operating in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to enhance warfighting readiness.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/JEANETTE MULLINAX

Price Points — In the Wrong Direction



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/non-typical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless; I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's long-standing — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed rounds.

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, so too is it difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: desert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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OPINION

Memorial Day 2017

FROM PAGE 8

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Middlethian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabocoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

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BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Mobile DMV. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Hall Library. Two programs, DMV Connect and DMV 2 GO, will provide full DMV service to the Route 1 area. At the Sherwood Hall service centers, customers can apply or renew their ID cards, drivers licenses, take road and knowledge tests, apply for special ID cards, get copies of their driving records, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates, purchase an EZ-Pass transponder and more. A full list of services is available at www.dmv.virginia.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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The Gum Springs Senior Program is looking for a Line Dance Instructor.

An Urdu-speaking Grocery Shopper is needed in Alexandria to assist an older adult male twice a month.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults needs Instructors for the following classes: Art, Line Dance, Hula Hoop Class and African Style Dance.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center needs front desk volunteers, an Art Instructor to teach water colors and acrylics and Social Companions.

The Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria is looking for Instructors for the following classes: Jewelry Making, Knitting/Crochet, Zumba, Yoga/Matwork, Aerobics and needs Front Desk Assistance.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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

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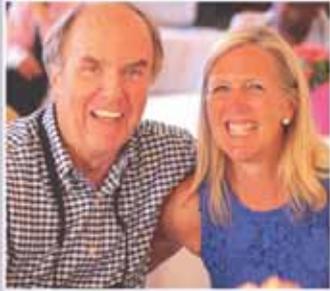
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