

Only Embark with Everyone Aboard

Residents concerned transportation revitalization could leave Mount Vernon affordability in the dust.

BY VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

Embark is going to transform Richmond Highway. The full scope of the plan's impact on the Mount Vernon area was laid out at a Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25. Embark Richmond Highway is a multi-year effort involving the implementation of bus rapid transit (BRT) along Richmond Highway and related transportation, land use, and design changes from Huntington to Fort Belvoir.

The plan will reshape Mount Vernon, but local citizens spoke up to ensure that the distinct communities that make the area unique aren't wiped away. An update to the Embark Richmond Highway plan called for six community business centers along the corridor near the BRT stops. There was enthusiastic support from the local business community, who said the plans' redevelopment could breathe new life into Mount Vernon's economy.

Edith Kelleher, executive director of the

Southeast Fairfax Development Cooperation, said, "[Embark Richmond Highway] is providing transportation options and opportunities for housing, retail and office space in choice locations," said Kelleher. "It's new development concentrated around future BRT and eventually Metrorail stations and in community business centers to create hubs of activity. We're particularly pleased with flexibility ... and we're ready to hit the road with a fresh marketing campaign for the corridor."

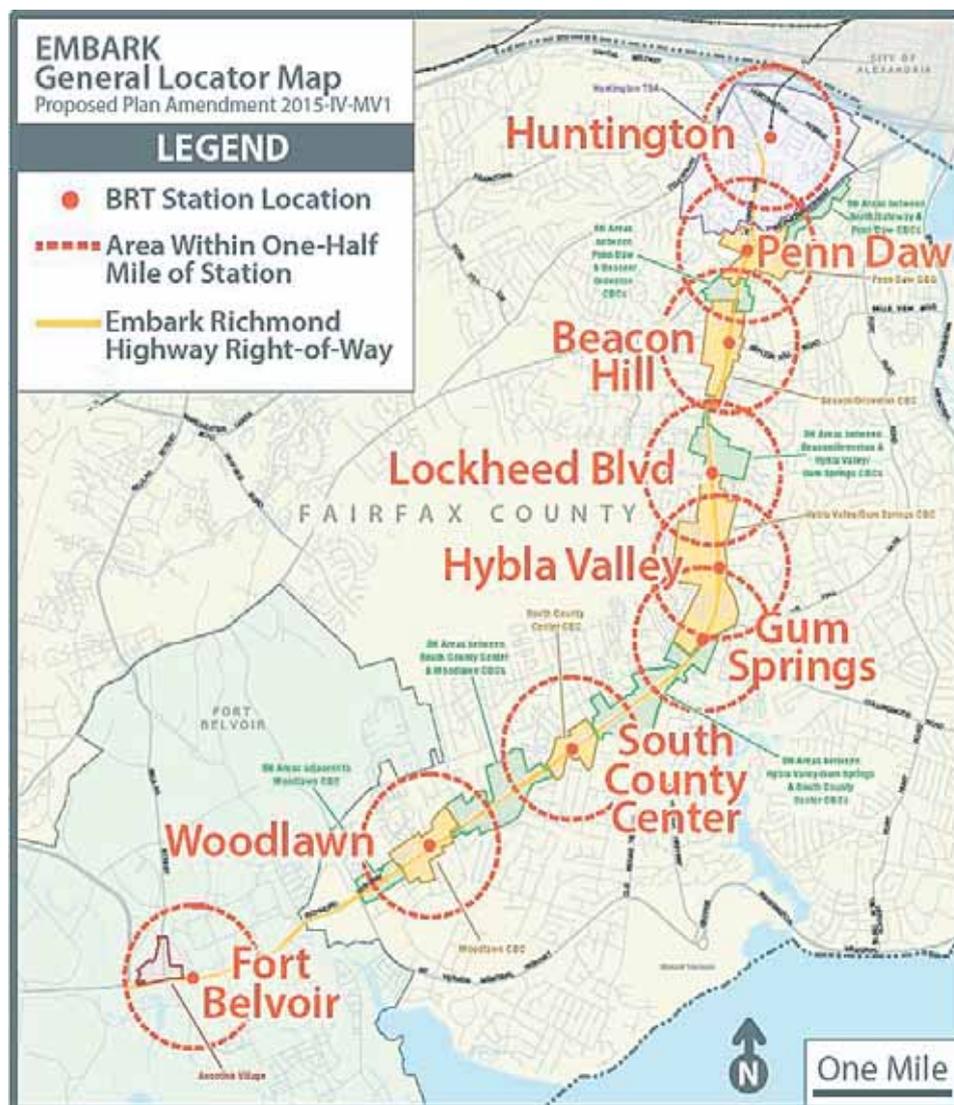
But among local residents, there were concerns about preserving the accessibility of Mount Vernon, for historic neighborhoods with roots to the area's founding to securing rental affordability to prospective residents.

Mary Paden, representing the South County Task Force for Human Services, said she was generally supportive of the plan but suggested some small modifications may help frame future efforts. Paden asked that the Embark plans put more emphasis on developing housing policies along Richmond Highway.

"We want to allow all who want to live in Fairfax County to be able to do so, said Paden. "We don't want to gentrify these members out of our community. [We] advocate for innovative ways to make sure tenants have safe, clean housing."

Paden's concerns were echoed by several other members of the public. Monica Billger pointed to the national equity atlas map from 2015 which showed extensive socio

SEE ONLY EMBARK, PAGE 3



Effort to Force Economic Diversity at TJ Fails

Lawmakers reject bill that would have required governor's school to admit poor students.



State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) wanted to force Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology to accept more students who live in poverty. But a bipartisan groups of senators, including several from Fairfax County, rejected the idea.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Don't fix what's not broken. That was the message last week from a bipartisan group of state senators, who rejected a bill from state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) that would have required Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology to admit more students who live in poverty. Surovell's bill had only one yes vote on the Senate committee that rejected it, state Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2), an African-American senator from Hampton Roads. The vast majority of the senators on the Education and Health Committee, which includes several prominent members from Fairfax County, rejected the idea.

"Quotas are a politically charged topic, and I don't think we should be going there," said state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32). "I don't think we down here have any business meddling with

the decisions of the Fairfax County School Board on this issue."

Concerns over the admissions policy have been festering for years at the school, which currently admits about 2 percent of its students who live in poverty. Back in 2012, the NAACP worked with a group known as the Coalition of Silence to file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education about admis-

sions policy at the school, which has 2 percent Hispanic students and 1.5 percent African-American students. The complaint charged that black and Latino students are being shut out of TJ because of systematic failure in the public schools to identify gifted students who live in poverty. The complaint didn't amount to much, Surovell said, which is why he said he filed

SEE EFFORT, PAGE 5

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PERMIT #482
ATTENTION:
POSTMASTER:
TIME-SENSITIVE
MATERIAL
REQUESTED IN HOME
2/2/18

Alexandria trusts McEneaney Associates

McEneaney.com



there when it counts



OPEN SUN 2/4, 2-4

Beverly Hills \$839,900

4-bedroom, 3-bath Colonial offers living room with fireplace, renovated kitchen and main level bedroom with en-suite. 3 large bedrooms up, finished lower level with access to attached one-car garage and walkout to beautifully landscaped yard. 3505 Halcyon Drive
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Condos at Carlyle \$574,900

GORGEOUS! A unique and sophisticated 2-level urban condo with spectacular floor-to-ceiling windows. This open floor plan features concrete ceilings, exposed duct work, granite & stainless steel appliances in kitchen and a cozy loft. Garage parking space included.
Rochelle Gray 703.328.1686
www.RochelleGray.com



The Preston \$420,000

2-bedroom, 2-bath condo with two parking spaces, open floor plan, 9-ft ceilings, new wood floors and fresh neutral paint. Granite counters and island, washer/dryer in unit, extra storage, good closet space. Balcony faces south. Conveniently located. Walk to retail & restaurants.
Donna Cramer 703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com



Fairlington Village \$432,000

Move in ready townhome. 2 bedrooms, 2 full modern baths, an updated kitchen, open concept main level, lower level family room with den and a private patio space. Near major interstate access for the busy commuter.
thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/2853-s-buchanan/
Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



meet Paige Beer

We are pleased to announce Paige Beer has joined the Alexandria office of McEneaney Associates. If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Paige today at 703.717.8210, or stop by our office.

109 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Trusted. Everywhere.

Paige Beer
703.717.8210
pbeer@McEneaney.com
paigebeer.com



OPEN SUN 2/4, 2-4

Old Town \$929,900

Exceptional detail and upgrades throughout this beauty. Great room with gourmet kitchen. Loads of entertaining space! Rec room & light-filled family room opening to rooftop deck. Freshly painted throughout. 4 blocks from King Street and Potomac. Minutes to GW Parkway, Metro, Reagan National Airport, DC, and 495. 420 Pendleton Street

Susan Anthony 703.795.9536
Rochelle Gray 703.328.1686



OPEN SUN 2/4, 2-4

Del Ray \$599,900

2-bedroom, 2-bath brick duplex. Main level with living room opens to dining room. Kitchen has access to back patio and private yard. Finished lower level with rec room and full bath. Extra large master bedroom. Park in the driveway and walk to Braddock Road Metro, shopping and dining along "The Avenue." 217 Adams Avenue

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Old Town Village \$865,000

This sunny, sparkling house sits nestled in the treetops with lovely light streaming in from the east in the morning and glorious sunsets in the evening. The open kitchen and living room floor plan make this home ideal for entertaining. Walk to Metro and everything in Old Town. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage.

Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
703.549.9292 | 109 South Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314



Buildings' Repurposing Debated

County considers vacant office space repurposing guidelines; public offers some "good ideas."

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

Across the county, since the end of 2016, an estimated 18 million square feet of office space is deemed functionally vacant. A hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center on Jan. 29 sought to gather public opinion on proposed guidelines which could streamline the application process for repurposing such properties in Suburban Neighborhoods and Low Density Residential Areas. At the hearing, members of the audience kept steering the conversation away from the specifics of the proposed Plan Amendment 2017-CW-5CP, and more towards the desire to see repurposing include community service and affordable housing potential.

In December, the Board of Supervisors authorized a similar Plan Amendment that addresses the repurposing application process for "activity centers" like Tysons and Merrifield, and in transit station and industrial areas. At that time, they directed staff to consider expanding the guidelines beyond these "activity centers." Outside of these larger, mixed-use and industrial areas, an inventory shows in excess of 607,000 square feet of vacant office space.

OFFICIALS see the guidelines as supporting the county's Economic Success Plan. A Comprehensive Plan Amendment on a site-by-site basis would not be automatically required as long as applicants still meet strict zoning regulations and established Performance Criteria. County planners feel that the shortened application process could encourage owners or developers to make modifications to these properties.

Fairfax County Department of Planning

and Zoning (DPZ) Director Fred Selden fielded the majority of the questions and comments from the public at the hearing. Selden said that most of the buildings in question were the smaller townhouse style, or two- or three story buildings that often house small individual businesses. "Doctors, dentists, insurance agents, Realtors, and the like," and the county believes that streamlining the repurpose process could be a real economic boon to a community, adding services and consumers.

The proposal was explained by Aaron Klibaner with the Planning Division who outlined the seven potential repurposing uses that the county identifies in the proposed Plan Amendment: Hotels, Light Industrial, Urban Agriculture, Institutional, Public Facilities, Residential Live/Work, and Retail or other commercial functions, and gave examples of the Performance Criteria that would be applied to applicants seeking to repurpose a property.

"Proposals would be reviewed for factors such as compatibility with the surrounding existing or planned development," said Klibaner. Transportation needs and impacts would also be considered, as well as the site design, impacts on schools, parks, public facilities, historic preservation and environmental considerations. "Those requirements stay the same."

After the explanatory presentation and clarifying questions about the proposal, Klibaner and colleague Meghan D. Van Dam, chief, Policy and Plan Development



Fred Selden, director of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, answers questions and listens to comments from the public at a meeting to discuss Plan Amendment 2017-CW-5CP — guidelines designed to streamline the application process to repurpose existing vacant office buildings in suburban and low density residential areas of the county.

PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Branch, asked the audience to divide into two groups to discuss the pros and cons of each usage type "to give adequate consideration to all the potential types and to be sure that all voices are heard," said Van Dam.

The audience had other plans.

There was general agreement that the question of what purpose would best suit a particular building could only be answered on a case-by-case basis, although the "Hotel" category seemed to raise the only immediate concern, with an opposition to the transient nature of the occupants being added to a smaller residential environment.

Instead of talking about categories, most in the audience wanted to talk about ways that vacant or under-utilized properties could be redeveloped to meet urgent needs in the community.

Several attendees voiced concerns over the county's critical shortage of affordable housing: "Not just low-income housing, but units that our service providers like our teachers, police, and firefighters can afford." A woman from the Annandale area added that housing for the disabled and mentally challenged is also much needed, and that

repurposing buildings could offer "live and work" opportunities for these members of the community.

Day Care and senior centers were also mentioned, as were county-supported or subsidized light industrial businesses that would bring employment opportunities along with economic gains for the county. Tax incentives and public-private partnerships were suggested as ways to encourage owners to repurpose with community needs in mind.

Selden acknowledged that, to date, the county

hadn't really given much thought to "these good ideas." He reminded the audience that PA 2017-CW-5CP speaks only to privately owned structures. The county can approve or deny applications and can negotiate and put forth recommendations, but what use the property owner seeks to employ in its repurposing is "their business decision." He did add, however, that all of the comments and suggestions would be considered as the process of the proposed Plan Amendment moved forward.

At the end of the two-hour event, an impromptu "straw poll" vote by a show of hands indicated that a majority of those present supported the proposal, but the majority also agreed that the county should look to those structures for their own efforts to meet the needs of their citizens.

Another Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for March 22. The Plan Amendment is currently on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors on May 1. The public can find more information on the county's website by searching "Repurposing Phase 2," or by contacting Aaron Klibaner at the DPZ at aaron.klibaner@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Only Embark with Everyone Aboard

FROM PAGE 1

economic disparities along Richmond Highway, which showed limited access to healthcare, high rent burdens, and poverty stretched along the route Embark Richmond Highway will follow.

Beyond the immediate threat of gentrification pushing out Mount Vernon's affordable housing, there were concerns that some of the region's oldest communities could be threatened by the new transportation plan.

Ron Chase, representing the Gum Springs Historic Society, said he would have liked to see some recognition of his neighborhood in the historic educa-

tion accompanying the transportation plans. Gum Springs is the oldest African-American community in Fairfax, existing as a freed enclave even before emancipation.

"I don't see that reflected within the Embark document," said Chase. "I don't see it when you redirect the main entrance of Fordson Road into Gum Springs. I don't see concern for the historic value of this black community. Up until present day, African-American history was not being told, and here we have an opportunity to bring forth all of what we knew about but nothing was being said."

In addition to housing affordability and history, the last major item of concern for many local residents was a hope for greater

protections for Mount Vernon's natural spaces along the redeveloped transit corridor.

"People benefit from connections to healthy, natural systems," said Catherine Ledec from the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. "Large, healthy trees, green corridors, stream valleys daylighted and filled with native wildlife where we can observe it: this is what we want in our [community business centers]. Friends of Huntley Meadows Park does not support any changes that add residential as an option to environmental quality corridors. These areas provide important ecosystem services that we need to maintain protected."

The Planning Commission deferred any

decisions on Embark Richmond Highway until Feb. 22 to leave the record open for public comment and explore public concerns.

"There has to be a nexus between developers coming in and doing it flexibly but that we don't lose the sense of place," said Planning Commission member Mary Cortina. "We don't want to squeeze out the ecological areas and the livability."

"When we revisit this, I'd like to understand if the issues raised relative to housing are achievable or actually in the plan," said Planning Commission member Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner. "I'd like to have some more information."

Suspect Sought in Attempted Abduction

Fairfax County Police Department detectives released a composite sketch of a man they believed was involved in the possible attempted abduction of a child. The preliminary investigation shows that an 8-year-old girl got off her school bus on Wednesday, Jan. 24, near the intersection of Frye Road and Madge Lane around 5:15 p.m. While walking home, she was approached by an unknown man. The man tried to talk with the girl but she refused. The man then grabbed the girl's arm, at which point she was able to break free and run away. The man began to chase the girl for a short distance, before he stopped.

The girl was able to make it home safely



Suspect

and told her mother about the incident. The man was described as black, between 40 and 50 years old, 5'6" to 5'7", with a medium build. He had short hair with a short beard, a mole on his left ear, and a tattoo on his inner right forearm. He was wearing a black zip-up jacket with gray pockets, a black baseball hat with gray writing, black pants, black

shoes, and a black or gray backpack.

Detectives will continue to canvass the area, review video surveillance in the area, and speak with any witnesses.

The police are asking for assistance in identifying the man in the sketch, anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Hengemuhle at 703-246-3086 or the Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131. To submit a tip anonymously through Crime Solvers, visit www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES (274637). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100-\$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

Juvenile Named Person of Interest In Girl's Death

Fairfax County Police Department detectives have identified a 17-year-old person of interest in the death of Jholie Moussa. He was arrested on Jan. 18 for a previous felony assault against Jholie and remains in custody. Detectives conducting interviews during the search for Jholie learned of a previously unreported crime in which she was the victim. The person in custody has been charged with felony assault.

He has not been charged in her death and is not being named due to his age.

Jholie was reported missing by her family on Jan. 13 from the Alexandria area of Fairfax County after they had not seen or heard from her since the previous evening.

The 16-year-old's body was found in a park in the 4800 block of Manor Drive on Friday, Jan. 26 during one of the police searches.

Tomlinson. Fort Belvoir is one of the most important defense installations in the United States. Cost is \$25 per person for Chamber members and \$35 for guests. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

Registration Opens: Two-way and

Immersion Programs. Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Mount Vernon Town Meeting. 7:45 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. 7:45-9:30 a.m., Exhibit Hall open; 9:30-noon, speakers, audience Q&A's and virtual tour. Meet the District Supervisor and many county, state and federal leaders. Have questions answered, learn about issues, connect

with county agencies and service providers and mingle with neighbors.

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.

THURSDAY/FEB. 8

Chamber Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Chamber's February Business Breakfast will feature a presentation from the commander of Fort Belvoir Lt. Col. Christopher



Residents since 2012 & 2015

At Westminster at Lake Ridge, a vibrant and exciting world awaits you. The retirement lifestyle you deserve is shared with the active and engaged friends and neighbors who make our community home, all with peace of mind that comes with on-site health care.



Now accepting wait list deposits.
Call 703-791-1100 or visit us today!

Westminster at Lake Ridge is a CARF accredited, not-for-profit, continuing care retirement community.



703-791-1100 | www.wlrva.org
12191 Clipper Drive | Lake Ridge, VA





2017-2018 SEASON!

DEBUSSY & SIBELIUS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 3PM

JOSÉ-LUIS NOVO, GUEST CONDUCTOR

ADULT: \$20-\$80
STUDENT: \$10
YOUTH: \$5

TICKETS MAKE A GREAT VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT!

PHOTO BY MICHAEL ADAMS

(703) 548-0885
WWW.ALEXSYM.ORG

Effort to Force Diversity at TJ Fails

FROM PAGE 1
the bill.

"The local school system hasn't dealt with it. And the School Board won't deal with it," said Surovell. "Given that my School Board seems completely incapable of dealing with the problem I figured it was time for the legislature to do something about it."

THE BILL would have required the school to admit about 15 percent of students who live in poverty. It would also put an admissions cap on 15 students per school, an effort to prevent certain schools from dominating the admissions roster.

Plus it would have required that the school admit five students from every middle school in its area, a requirement that would boost admissions from Surovell's part of the county which is currently underrepresented in admissions to the school. Critics of the school's admissions policy is that it creates a pipeline from schools such as Rachel Carson Middle School while ignoring schools in the Route 1 corridor.

"People move right before seventh grade to get into Carson so that they can go to TJ," said former teacher Patricia Hyning. "There are parents who are buying their kids a seat at TJ, and not all children have this same opportunity but they have the aptitude."

Recent years have seen growing concern that parents are gaming the system, investing in expensive tutoring programs and using their wealth to attend schools that have a better chance of getting into TJ. That's led to some reform efforts, including organizational changes at Fairfax County Public Schools

that has senior officials focused on making sure all students have the same opportunities regardless of what schools they attend. Nevertheless, senators believe that high achievers will be able to make their way into the TJ regardless of where they live.

"Kids that come up through Fairfax County public schools often get steered into advanced studies programs at certain middle schools," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "And so that's why certain middle schools are going to have 60, 70 or 80 kids. It doesn't mean necessarily that the other middle schools are failing. It's just that the best and brightest kids get steered into the best middle schools."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS rejected the idea that lawmakers in Richmond needed to take action to address problems in Fairfax County. They said that the new superintendent is making efforts to increase availability of accelerated math and science experiences to parts of the county that currently don't have them. The idea that the General Assembly might institute a rigid quota about how many students who live in poverty should be accepted — or how many students from specific schools should be accepted — is anathema to the merit-based admissions policy they say has worked well for years.

"The reality is that TJ is a highly competitive school, and only about 17 percent of all applicants get in," said Michael Molloy, director of government relations for Fairfax County Public Schools. "We welcome this discussion, but we don't think this is the right venue for it. This discussion should be held among our constituents, among our stakeholders."



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$589,900
4317 Granada Street
Beautifully remodeled 4BR, Split: Kitchen, Baths, DBL pane windows, 6 panel doors-Large Garage- All on a spectacular .52 acre lot. Stunning covered porch off the dining rm overlooking a magnificent landscaped/hardscaped back yd w/an spectacular 40'x 20' pool. Absolutely amazing, nothing like it in Mt. Vernon! LL offers 2 large BRs, plus remodeled bath, family rm & gas fl. A lovely den has built-in shelves & a newer double pane SGD which opens to a beautiful covered patio also overlooking the phenomenal yd & pool. All this for under \$600K!! Your chance to buy it now before everyone can see how the spring weather will turn this beautiful yd into a wonderland!



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000
8807 Vernon View Drive
Lovely 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl, Split on a lg, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkdy. Freshly painted interior & beautiful refinished hdwds. Main lvl has a spacious & cozy Family rm w/gas FPL, 4th BR, & 2nd full bath. Upper level #1 offers an open kitchen plus Living & Dining Rm. Upper level #2 has a full bath & 3BRs. The lower level has a lg partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a super lot & very nice home that you can add some personal touches to.



RENTAL

Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,775
8314 Bound Brook Lane
Beautiful 3 level colonial w/1 car gar. Meticulously maintained. Lovely landscaping. Renovated kitchen, SS appliances, granite, breakfast bar. Refin hdwd floors. Gorgeous screened porch off Din Rm. Beautiful finished lower level. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N).



UNDER CONTRACT

Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000
8608 Cherry Valley Lane
Charming 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/3 finished levels. Kitchen has been updated w/granite counters, breakfast bar & porcelain flooring. All Baths have been updated w/new tile, vanities, & fixtures to include double sinks in the master & main bathrooms. Family rm on main lvl has gas fireplace. Beautiful hdwd floors throughout. Lower lvl Rec Rm & extra Den/5th BR. 2 car garage has work area (work bench conveys). Walk-in attic access on upper lvl for lots of storage. Cozy brick patio w/screened gazebo (conveys). New roof in 2016. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N). Best Value in Riverside Estates!



SOLD

Alex/Berkshire East \$435,000
5956 Berkshire Court
Lovely three level townhouse, 3BRs, 3.5BAs in walking distance to Huntington Metro! Freshly painted, new carpeting, beautiful kitchen. Spacious floor plan, recessed lighting, hardwood floors. Updated bathrooms. Wood burning fireplace in lower level. Family Room w/walkout door to bkdy patio. Minutes to Old Town, Alexandria.



SOLD

Alex/Yacht Haven \$644,000
9417 Forest Haven Drive
Stunning immaculate 2 level Rambler on a large spectacular landscaped half acre lot. Updated: Kitchen w/corrian, SS appliances & cherry cabinets, 3 updated baths, 2 wood burning Fpls. Beautiful new/refinished hdwd floors-Large finished basement w/family rm, den/BR, 3rd bath & could be used as an in-law suite. Tons of storage available plus a 2 car garage-Great location in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates w/water front properties & an amazing Marina, Pool and Club House.

For more information: www.RexReiley.com
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

GERELI MARBLE & GRANITE
Natural Beauty in your home

SERVING THE DMV AREA FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

yelp CHECKBOOK houzz

Best Prices Guaranteed

Design by V6B Design Group

caesarstone CAMBRIA SILESTONE

- Kitchens, Bathrooms, Fireplaces
- Granite & Quartz Countertops
- Custom Design
- Tile
- Cabinets
- Residential & Commercial

Free Estimates* **Free Sink & Install***

8241-I Backlick Road • Lorton, Virginia 22079
Licensed & Insured • 703.339.0300 • Fax: 703.339.0400
www.gereli.com • information@gereli.com

*Ask for details

OPINION

Time for Criminal Justice Reform

BY JOHN COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (R)

Fairfax County is joining the bipartisan, nationwide movement of Criminal Justice Reform. In 2015 the county introduced its Diversion First program, which provides treatment instead of incarceration for those with mental health challenges or developmental disabilities who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses. This initiative is just one step in a national movement to make the criminal justice system better serve the American people. Criminal justice reform, broadly speaking, is supported by a diverse range of public officials as U.S. Senators Rand Paul and Kamala Harris. It is well past time for Virginia to dive in as well.

Since ancient times society has recognized five purposes to the criminal justice system. One of these is “deterrence,” which is the effort to persuade an offender or potential offender not to commit a crime. Another purpose is retribution, which is society exacting punishment to make up for the pain or damage caused by the crime. Incapacitation means removing a criminal from the rest of society so he or she cannot commit more crimes. Rehabilitation refers to changing an offender so he or she does not commit more crimes. Restitution is the payment for damage caused by

crime. All of these purposes must be present and well represented for a fair and effective criminal justice system.

In the United States, our system has focused on long jail sentences for crimes. Jail serves deterrence, retribution, and incapacitation in cases of violent crime. However, it does not serve rehabilitation or restitution particularly well. And, in the case of mentally ill offenders, jail fails to serve deterrence.

When someone with mental illness engages in crime, it is not due to evil intent, but his or her illness. Retribution does not seem fit for someone who is ill and committing crimes. Incapacitation is accomplished, but what we have done is make our local jails expensive substitutes for psychiatric hospitals.

The expense of jail is no small matter. A year in the Fairfax jail costs the taxpayers about \$82,000. A year of residential psychiatric treatment costs about \$24,000. One year of outpatient treatment costs about \$8,200. When someone with a mental illness, who is often of limited wealth, is arrested, this person often spends up to four months in jail awaiting trial for minor crimes (trespassing, disorderly conduct, petty theft) where the final sentence would generally be far less. Someone with regular income would post bond at \$500 cash and spend no more than two or three nights in jail. Altogether the government and taxpayers are spending millions of dollars to hold people in jail before they are even convicted. Is this

system really helping anyone?

We have learned in the juvenile justice system that incarceration actually creates criminals out of youth who may be only misdirected or who make stupid mistakes. Twenty years ago, our juvenile detention center held 1,509 youth. In 2017 that number fell to 533, which is a 60 percent decrease. In those two decades we learned a great deal about the benefits of jail alternatives for children. Instead of locking these children up, we are reforming, teaching, and mentoring youth and turning them away from crime. And this prevents future crimes from occurring. The same can be said for non-violent crimes by adults. Simply putting people in jail, where they lose their jobs and family contacts, does not necessarily create better citizens when they are released. In the case of mental illness, jail can actually make things worse. There is a better way.

Criminal Justice Reform is not about “going easy” on criminals. It’s about finding techniques that stop people from continuing to commit crimes. It’s about turning lives around. Oh, and it can save a boatload of money. Violent criminals, murderers, gang members and the like still need long jail sentences. But many other lesser offenders can be turned around into productive, working, self-sufficient citizens.

It takes some work, but the payoff is a society with less crime, lower jail costs, and more productive citizens.

Losing and Winning at Legislation

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

This past weekend, we saw about 150 people turn out at my three Town Hall Meetings in Occoquan, Montclair and Stafford County with state Sen. Jeremy McPike, Delegates Jennifer Carroll Foy, Hala Ayala, and Elizabeth Guzman. You can watch videos of all six of my town hall meetings on my Facebook page or on my blog – The Dixie Pig – at scottsurowell.blogspot.com. Thank you to everyone who turned out.

On Wednesday, the Senate Transportation Committee killed my legislation to authorize temporary driving permits for Virginians who cannot show legal immigration status but can pass a driving test and are paying Virginia taxes.

Numerous studies in the 15 states who have done this have shown that it reduces collisions, hit and run incidents, increases reporting other crimes to law enforcement, and results in significantly increased tax collections. The bill died on a party line vote 7-8 after over 300 people jammed the room and testified about how a lack of driving privileges affected them on a daily basis.

Second, my legislation that would prohibit operation of a vehicle with a phone in the driver’s hand also failed. Road deaths are up in the United States for the first time in 50 years and most studies attribute it to drivers distracted by digital devices. My legislation passed the Transportation Committee after failing for the last three years, but was referred to the Courts of Justice Committee after the attorneys in the chamber wanted to review it where it

died. I will try again next year.

On a more positive note, six of my bills have passed the full Senate and are on their way to the House of Delegates. This week, several of my civil justice reform bills passed clarifying rules for spousal support modification and collection.

Also, my legislation requiring public school sex education to include education about the dangers of “sexting” passed. Many minors engage in this conduct with no awareness that “sexting” is a felony (manufacturing and possessing child pornography), or any realistic appreciation of how freely such images tend to be distributed both generally but especially after relationships end.

My legislation to reform admission to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) failed in committee. Approximately five percent of applicant children from the 36th District are admitted while in other areas of Northern Virginia, about one-in-five are admitted. Also, two middle schools account for approximately 25 percent of each class while eastern Fairfax and Prince William counties admit less than 5 percent of the students while possessing probably 25 percent of Northern Virginia’s population.

This situation is unacceptable for a taxpayer funded institution and is a symptom of the larger misallocation of resources in Northern Virginia’s secondary education system. I will continue to highlight this disparity and fight for more equity in how resources are allocated in Northern Virginia. On that note, my legislation prohibiting school systems from mandating students to use electronic textbooks without providing comput

SEE LEGISLATION, PAGE 14

LETTER

Fed Up with Plane Noise?

To the Editor:

Are you fed up with airplane noise from the FAA’s NextGen “super high-way-in-the-sky” over our Mt. Vernon communities, and despairing of this worsening assault on your neighborhood environment?

Then take heart! You can learn about two new recommendations that the FAA is considering to help resolve the current aircraft noise problem.

The recommendations are a positive and exciting outcome of ongoing deliberations by the Reagan National Airport Community Noise Working Group and have the strong support of Supervisor Dan Storck, the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizen Associations, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and our state and federal elected officials. You will be able to meet and chat with technical aircraft noise expert Mike Rioux, who represents the Mt. Vernon area on the Noise Working Group, by visiting the MVCCA table at the upcoming Mount Vernon District Town Meeting, this coming Saturday, Feb. 3 at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria.

Judith Lean

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Assistant Editor
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@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

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
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper





Brandywine residents since 2014

BRANDYWINE LIVING...
because we still do what we wanna do



BRANDYWINE LIVING
at Alexandria

Life is Beautiful

OPENING SOON! Call Samantha or Susan at 703.940.3300

5550 Cardinal Place (next to Cameron Station) Alexandria, VA 22304 | www.Brandycare.com

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



Helping Animals Find Their Way Since 2001

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer
www.lostdogandcatrescue.org

THE CONNECTION
 Newspapers & Online
Special Edition

PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 • Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 28, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, call 703.778.9431 or Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
 Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

• Alexandria Gazette Packet	• Fairfax Connection	• Oak Hill/Hemdon Connection
• Arlington Connection	• Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection	• Potomac/Arlington
• Burke Connection	• Great Falls Connection	• Reston Connection
• Centreville	• McLean Connection	• Springfield Connection
• Chantilly Connection	• Mount Vernon Gazette	• Vienna/Oakton Connection

703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

VALENTINE'S DAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Accessories like Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics at The Picket Fence in Burke might appeal to those who want to create to a spa at home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

A bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors like these that were handmade in Nepal, is a gift with a charitable flair from Home on Cameron in Alexandria.

Gifts for Valentine's Day

Local tastemakers offer thoughtful giving suggestions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the most heavily gifted holidays is Valentine's Day. In fact, much of the fun is the anticipation. In preparation for Cupid's Day, a few local style aficionados offer up ideas to sweeten the celebration.

For those deserving some pampering, create a spa experience at home with NW Rainforest Body Cream, advises Isabel Chiotti of Sonoran Rose in Potomac.

"Soaps and candles also make great gifts," she said. "It can also be fun to think outside the box," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Surprise your Valentine with a gift certificate for a spa day or a shopping spree at her favorite store. Put together a basket of a few of her favorite things."

Among the things that Thomas suggests are Moon Melt Lotion Bars by Moon Valley Organics. Decadent and indulgent, these scented moisturizers combine herbs and beeswax to help fight dry skin, she says.

For the romantics, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria suggest a bouquet of felt flowers in assorted colors, handmade in Nepal. These eye-catching, fair trade buds offer bursts of color and benefit women artisans who are heads of households.

For the bedhead, Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Old Town Alexandria recommends silk charmeuse pillowcases by Branche. "These won-

derful pillowcases help preserve one's hairdo and help to keep away wrinkles," she said.

For the stylish, a fur neck warmer is a cozy suggestion that Mertins offers. And for the traditionalists, "Flowers are always welcome and, of course, the color red being very popular as it conveys deep emotion," she said. "Don't be afraid to give varieties other than roses."

For the nostalgic, Kevin Sweitzer of Thos. Moser, Handmade American Furniture, believes that an heirloom quality beacon box to hold keepsakes would be ideal. "[It's] meant to be passed down from generation to generation," he said. "A really nice and memorable Valentine's gift."

For the entertainers, Nelson and Martz suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles, while Mertins says bar accessories work as gifts for mixologists.

For those with a sweet tooth, Chiotti recommends hot cocoa by the Cocoa Company, brown sugar toffee by Gearharts Fine Chocolates or caramels by Big Picture Farm.

For almost everyone,

Suzie Clayton of Dalton Brody suggests picture frames. "From wood to Lucite to silver, there's something for everyone," she said. "It's more about finding the right thing for the right person."

"Some of the most meaningful gifts are those which are handmade including cards and a home-cooked romantic dinner," added Mertins. "Don't forget the bubbly and always lots and lots of chocolate."

"It can be fun to think outside the box."

— Courtney Thomas, The Picket Fence



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONORAN ROSE

A basket of spa items like NW Rainforest Body Cream from Sonoran Rose in Potomac is an indulgent Valentine's Day gift.



Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron suggest all natural, hand blown glass candles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

ENTERTAINMENT

Novo To Conduct Music of Many Cultures

BY MELINDA KERNC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra continues its 74th season, featuring the four final candidates for music director. The finalists are diverse, conducting symphonies from Xalapa, Mexico to Lucena, Spain — from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Washington National Opera. One final candidate will be chosen as the next music director to conduct the 75th anniversary season in 2018-2019.

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The third candidate, José-Luis Novo, will conduct on Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, and Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, with a program focused on themes of nationalism. On the program are Debussy's "Petite Suite" and Lutoslawski's "MaBa Suita." Debussy's "little suite" is originally written for two pianos, based on poetry by revered French poet Paul Verlaine; Lutoslawski's "little suite" was written for Polish National Radio, celebrating folk song traditions. The concert opens with the Overture to Verdi's

opera "Nabucco," lamenting the captivity of the Hebrew slaves.

José-Luis Novo currently serves as music director and conductor of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. He has held positions with the Binghamton Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. As guest conductor, he has led the Baltimore Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and Cleveland Philharmonic.

The performance closes with Sibelius' epic Symphony No. 2 in D Major. "Music can commemorate significant events in history," comments Maestro Novo. "Dec. 6, 2017 marked the centennial anniversary of Finland's independence from Russia, a particularly appropriate case in point. The first time I heard this piece, I fell in love with it. It still gives me goosebumps when I hear it. The audience will feel this intensity just as the Finns connected with it during this pivotal time in their history."

Concert attendees, musicians and community members are invited to provide feedback after each performance in order to assess the four final candidates. The ASO plans to announce the new music director



Conductor
Josei-Luis Novo

PHOTO BY
MICHAEL ADAMS

following the final concert of the season, and special events are planned to introduce him to Alexandria and the surrounding community.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military

bands. The ASO performs Saturdays at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Adult tickets are \$20-\$80, with \$5 youth, \$10 student and military, senior and group discounts available. To order tickets and for more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Alexandria Winter Restaurant

Week. Through Sunday, Feb. 4 in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, Virginia, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End, participating restaurants will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20 per person. Call 703-838-5005 or visit AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

"Déjà Vu," Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 4, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery show "Déjà Vu," highlights the work of artists Elizabeth Davison, Elise Miller, and Dianne Harris Thomas. Visit torpedofactory.org.

"POUR." Various times through Feb. 19 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, TAG Gallery, 105 N Union St. #311. Featuring Jennifer Brewer Stone and Whitney Staiger. Brewer will be showing mixed media pieces with resin, texture paste, various paints and gold leaf. Staiger is a jeweler and will be showcasing how to cast into cuttlefish bones, one of the oldest ways of casting metal. Visit torpedofactory.org.

"Form and Void." Various times through Feb. 25 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellyn Weiss's work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss's creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

"Winter Respite." Through Feb. 25, Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m.

at Green Spring Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. NOVA Plein Air Artists debuts its exhibit "Winter Respite." NOVA Plein Air Artists is a group of Northern Virginia artists who regularly paint together in outdoor settings; in local public and private gardens, parks, farms, wineries, and at other local sites. This show features their recent oil paintings showcasing floral still lifes, landscapes and florals, painted en plein air. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

New Project Studio. Through Feb. 28, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 8. Over the course of three months, Korean painter and sculptor Suh Yongsun will transform the New Project Studio into a workshop and community space for discussions and creativity. He will explore public, social, and political issues in present-day Korea while developing a visual discourse of his time creating in Alexandria. Visit torpedofactory.org.

"Passages." Through March 4, various times at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery's next exhibition, Passages, explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity from the perspective of immigrants and immigrant families from across the global diaspora. The juror for this exhibition was Adriana Ospina, curator of the Permanent Collection and Education at the Art Museum of Americas. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

"Terracotta Warriors" in Market Square. Through March 11, all day in Market Square, 301 King St. Two replicas of the famous "Terracotta Warriors." Each replica stands six feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds, and will be on display through March 2018. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.



Country, Not A War Series, Antonius Bui, 28" x 32", hand-cut paper, relief ink, spray paint, hand woven textiles for stencils and reclaimed Vietnam War photos, 2016.

'Parallel Lives'

In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions embrace and explore their place in the world. Various times, March 1-April 15, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Opening Reception: Sunday, March 4, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Alexandria Poetry Contest Entry Deadline. 5 p.m. at the City of Alexandria, The Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation. The "DASHing Words in Motion" poetry contest, topics edge on transportation, ideas might stem from The Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto is "Keep Alexandria Moving." Call 703-746-5565 or email

cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov for more.

Blues Night with Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meigs Hodge explores Delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FEB. 2-MARCH 10

Art Exhibit. Various times at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its third and most exciting year so far. This year's expanded event features over 90 Alexandria high school students and will welcome two additional schools to its juried exhibition; Commonwealth Academy and The Howard Gardner School. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Alexandria Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The "Super Bowl of Shopping Event" (always occurring the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend), the 13th Annual Alexandria Warehouse Sale will take place at the Westin Hotel located in the Carlyle District of Old Town Alexandria. Free to enter. Visit www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com.

Watercolor Workshop: Paint a Winter Scene. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to paint a winter landscape in watercolor with the help of artist Erik Hottenstein, who demonstrates techniques for translating photographs into winter scenes and provides guidance for your individual piece. \$90. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Fighting for Freedpeople. 11 a.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn how two women, one black and one white, helped improve conditions while carving out new roles for themselves in 19th century America. Paula Whitacre's recently published book, "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time," is a biography of Julia Wilbur and tells the story of how Wilbur and Jacobs became effective advocates for free

Start the New Year with a
New Look & Great Savings!

12 Months Same as Cash
Financing available

Buy 1 Shutter Blind or Shade*
get the second of equal or lesser value
50% OFF

BeltwayBlinds & MORE

*Offer applies to Alta Window Fashions & Norman Shutters only.

| Shutters | Shades | Blinds | Motorization |

For a free in-home consultation call:
703-991-7264

A Community Favorite
Since 1904

Since 1904, The Royal has been Old Town's Favorite neighborhood restaurant. Award-winning menu includes prime rib, fresh seafood, roast chicken best burgers hand-carved roast turkey and salad bar.

Serving Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

Full Buffet with Omelette Station
Saturday and Sunday Brunch
7am-2pm

Save 50%
On second dinner entree of equal or lesser value when you mention this ad.
Offer expires 2/28/18.

734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Royal Restaurant 703-548-1616
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1904 RoyalRestaurantVA.com

ENTERTAINMENT

John McCrary, director of Music and Liturgy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Pre-Lenten Concert Features Bach, Mozart

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on West Braddock Road.

Six years ago, John McCrary, director of Music and Liturgy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, began a special series performed on the Friday before Lent that focuses on music not often sung and offering special opportunities for the performers. Last year it was "The Prodigal Son" by Sir Arthur Sullivan (without Gilbert) that hadn't been performed in the United States for over 75 years. McCrary selected this year's music because "it is very different than last year to avoid comparison. It also suits the soloists best and I have a special liking for this music."

This year's Bach will be sung in German. The Mozart is in Latin, "but we are using the Austro-German Latin diction rather than the Italianate Latin that people are more used to. Each year varies because the choir always performs the selections in the original language. And," he added, "Bach wrote his music for instruments, and voices have to sing that type of music and it is difficult."

Celia Wexler, a member of the choir who has sung in these concerts for the last 6 years said, "The mu-

sic is always demanding, and John always reminds us that singing in a language is far different than speaking it. So those of us who have learned French or German or Italian find it takes a lot of practice to sing in those languages."

McCrary says the 33-person choir has been practicing since October and has been meeting twice a week. McCrary invites members of the community to participate with the church choir, and a few join in each year for these special concerts.

Selections include Bach's Ascension Oratorio BWD 11 and a Pentecost Cantata "Erschallet ihr Lieder," BWV 172 that are not often performed as well as Mozart's "Dixit et Magnificat," KV 193 and the "Litaniae de venerabili altaris Sacramento," KV 243 which were both written while Mozart lived in Salzburg in his early 20s. McCrary explains the Litany was a forward-looking piece for Mozart at the time since it used two different violas as well as flutes which were unusual for that period.

Featured soloists include Michelle Kunz and Joshua Hong, Washington National Opera, and Philip Pickens, San Francisco Opera. Wexler said, "There is no thrill quite like singing with an orchestra of professional musicians, and serving as the choral backdrop for our superb soloists."

The community is invited and there will be a free will offering at the door.

CALENDAR

people's rights. Whitacre will be available to sign copies of her book. Call 703-746-4356.

A 1760s Celebration. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join in to wish a very happy birthday to Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Festivities will include 18th-century dancing, live music, and a birthday treat. Admission is free, donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-2997.

Freedom House Museum Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria, the public is

invited to visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check at the door. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/.

SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Focuses on some of the most important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

MONDAY/FEB. 5

Microgreens. 7-8 p.m. at Barrett

Branch Library, 717 Queen St. **Microgreens: What Are They, Why They Are So Fabulous, and How to Grow Them.** Join us to learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts at home. Come prepared to get a bit dirty while planting one's own microgreen garden in class. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or emailmgaralex@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. The Cutaways, with Dave Kitchen, promise a great time for swing dancers. An accomplished singer/songwriter active in the roots rock scene for over 15 years, since 1995

Treat Your Valentine!

River Bend
Bistro & Wine Bar
February 14

Enjoy a Very Special Menu

See Our Website for Details
Call for Reservations!

Free Wine Tastings
Every Saturday 2-4 pm

7966 Fort Hunt Road
(In the Hollin Hall Shopping Center)
Call **703-347-7545**
RiverBendBistro.com
Plenty of FREE parking

We'll Be Your Valentine

Dinner For Two & Bottle of Wine \$60
Call 703.836.4442 for Reservations

Chadwicks
203 Strand Street Alexandria, VA
www.chadwicksrestaurants.com
703.836.4442

Valentine's Day Dinner

Four Course
Prix Fixe
\$75 per Couple

REDROCKS
NEAPOLITAN BISTRO

(703) 717-9873
904 King St.
Alexandria, VA

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

\$39.95 per person
3-Course Prix Fixe Menu

FONTAINE
Caffe & Crêperie

Lunch • Dinner • Weekend Brunch
119 South Royal Street, Alexandria VA 22314
703.535.8151 • www.fontainecaffe.com

VIA VENETO
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Reserve Now for
VALENTINE'S DAY

Serving Northern Italian Cuisine
Our dishes are authentic.
Our ingredients are fresh.
Our pasta is homemade.

Dine In • Carry-Out • Catering

Facebook.com/viavenetoitalian
703-765-6661
www.viavenetoitalianrestaurant.com

Located just off Ft. Hunt Rd,
in the Hollin Hall Shopping Ctr
1309 Shenandoah Rd, Alexandria
Family Owned and Operated Since 1984

Save the Date

Sweep That Special Someone Off Their Feet with a Romantic Four Course Prix Fixe Meal
February 14th

Reserve your Table Today
Call Us at 703-739-6090
theblackwallhitch.com

5 Cameron Street
Alexandria, VA

ENTERTAINMENT

Dave has been nominated for a dozen or so of the Washington Area Musician's Association's WAMMIE Awards and has won twice. \$10. Visit nicksnightclub.com/.

THURSDAY/FEB. 8

Artists Reception. 6-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, TAG Gallery, 105 N Union St. #311. With a demonstration by Jennifer Brewer Stone and Whitney Staiger. Brewer will be showing mixed media pieces with resin, texture paste, various paints and gold leaf. Staiger is a jeweler and will be showcasing how to cast into cuttlefish bones, one of the oldest ways of casting metal. RSVP on Facebook at <http://jennifersartgallery.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jrdhjudt-jytjiuthly-m/>.

Artist Reception: Passages. 6-8 p.m. Various times at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Target Gallery, 105 N Union St. The newest exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity. Passages gives an intimate look in to artists' individual experiences and how they shaped who they are today. Visit torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

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 concert of works including Bach's Ascension Oratorio and the Litaniae de venerabili altaris sacramento, KV143. Donations are encouraged. Email jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or call 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Fancy Nancy Author Visit. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Visitors should dress in their fanciest ensemble (that's fancy for "outfit") as Hooray for Books! welcome back Jane O'Connor. She will present and sign her final Fancy Nancy picture book, Oodles of Kittens. To secure a spot in the signing line, stop in, call 703-548-4092, or email order@hooray4books.com to purchase a copy of Oodles of Kittens. Recommended for children ages 3 and up. Free admission. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

Seed Swap Day. 12:30-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Washington Gardener magazine is hosting the 13th annual

5 Foodie Dates to Circle in February

BY HOPE NELSON

From Super Bowl festivities to chili cook-offs, February is packed from end to end. Here are some of the month's best bets.

APPETITE Super Bowl Party at Murphy's, Feb. 4

Whether you're there for the game, the commercials, or the half-time show, pull up a stool and settle in for Super Bowl LII at Old Town's venerable Irish pub. While the New England Patriots play the Philadelphia Eagles, you can feast on Sam Adams drink specials and Murphy's Super Bowl party menu filled with football favorites. 6:30 p.m. 713 King St.

Microgreens Lecture and DIY Class at Barrett Branch Library, Feb. 5

What are microgreens, and how can you use them? The Virginia Cooperative Extension - Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia hosts a talk and hands-on workshop focusing on the benefits of microgreens and how to grow them. Get ready to get your hands dirty and learn some new culinary skills. 7-8 p.m. 717 Queen St. Free, but registration requested at mgnv.org.

Captain Gregory's Drag Dinner, Feb. 6

Ring in Mardi Gras in style with a two-course dinner and drinks while you take in a "Salute to Divas" drag show at Captain Gregory's. The popu-

lar Shi-Queeta-Lee will preside over the proceedings, which will pay tribute to the likes of Tina Turner, Beyonce, Adele and Amy Winehouse. Two seatings at 6:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. 804 N. Henry St. \$85.

Del Ray Citizens Association Chili Cook-off, Feb. 10

It's definitely still chili season, and what better way to enjoy it than with a multiple of varieties, each one serving as the entrant's best? Taste as many chili styles as there are competitors at the DRCA Chili Cook-off - and wash it all down with some beer. May the best chili chef win. 5-7:30 p.m. Commonwealth Academy Gymnasium, 1321 Leslie Ave. Free for members; \$10 for non-members.

Metro Red Release Party at Port City Brewing, Feb. 16

Port City is bringing back its popular double red ale a bit early this year due to an ahead-of-schedule shipment of Citra and Amarillo hops. But its calendar shift is beer lovers' gain. This annual favorite is that way for a reason, teeming with citrusy flavors bubbling just under a bitter veneer. Metro Red will be offered up on tap and in six-packs; pick up a meal from the Borinquen Lunch Box food truck to complete the experience. 3-11 p.m. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

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

Washington Gardener Seed Exchange at Green Spring Gardens. These seed swaps are in-person and face-to-face. Bring extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Participants can learn, network and prepare for next year's seed collecting. Registration is strongly recommended as space is limited. Register online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210698.

Freedom House Museum Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria, the public is

invited to visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check at the door. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/.

Champagne and Chocolates Fundraiser. 4-7 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Champagne, small plate hors d'oeuvres, desserts, mansion tours by costumed historical interpreters, raffle and live auction to benefit educational programs for George Mason's Gunston Hall. Music by Robinson High School String Quartet. Cocktail attire. \$50 per person. RSVP by Feb. 3 at bit.ly/champagneandchocolates2018. Call 703-550-9220.

Salon at the Statehouse III. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ashley and George Wilson will welcome 50 guests to their recently renovated, historical home, where dinner will be served. \$100. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

ASO Presents: Debussy & Sibelius. 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4815 E Campus Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro José-Luis Novo for a concert with nationalist themes. The ASO presents Debussy's Petite Suite, the Overture to Verdi's epic Nabucco and Lutoslawski's MaBa Suita. Written on the heels of his acclaimed Finlandia, the concert ends with Sibelius' Symphony No. 2. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 11

Art of the Book - Paper. noon-1 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley is offering three classes this winter that delve into different aspects of book making. Register for any of the series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Chocolate and Wine Tasting. 1-3 p.m. at The Italian Place, 621 Wythe St. Join The Italian Place of Old Town for a complimentary wine and chocolate tasting before Valentine's day. Meet local chocolatier, Sarah Dwyer from Chouquette in Maryland who will offer a variety of chocolate samples. Free. Call 571-777-8981 or visit theitalianplaceofoldtown.com.

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Focuses on some of the most important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Enjoy a world tour exploring themes of nationalism, led by Maestro José-Luis Novo. \$5-\$80. Visit alexsym.org.

FEB. 15-MARCH 3

U-Street the musical. Various times at the Richard Kauffman Auditorium (Lee Center), 1108 Jefferson St. U-Street, the musical is an exploration of homelessness in America brought to life with 12 musical numbers, and a 30-member cast from around the D.C. metro area. The production is also a fundraiser to support programs for low-income youth in Alexandria. \$20. Call 703-640-4980 or visit www.momentumcinc.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Freedom House Museum Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check at the door. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

Alexandria Wedding Showcase. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria 400 Courthouse Square. 50+ exhibitors, fashion show, brides across america wedding dress giveaway. Call 703-652-5367 or visit alxweddingshowcase.com/.



Mtnac
MOUNT VERNON
ATHLETIC CLUB
(703) 382-1011
www.mtnac.net

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION HELP IS HERE!
MEMBERSHIP SALE
ONLY \$10 Down—\$10 Your 1st Month!
(a \$130 value) Hurry, Offer Expires 2/28/18

Alexandria's Favorite Place for Tennis, Fitness & Fun

SHOP LOCAL FIRST

MOUNT VERNON ★ LEE

Chamber OF COMMERCE

Connecting Business and Community

Find local businesses at
www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org
703-360-6925

Monthly Networking
Second Thursday Business Breakfast
2nd Thursday of each month
8:00 am to 9:30 am
Belle Haven Country Club

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306

Announcements

We pay top \$ for STERLING,
MEN'S WATCHES,
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefers@cox.net

Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!
www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers
THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com

Announcements

Computers

HDI
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
JENNIFER SMITH
Serving the Area Since 1995

➤ Speed Up Slow Computers
➤ Virus Removal
➤ Computer Setup
➤ Help with Windows 8
571-265-2038
Jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

Announcements

Earn more with Quality!
★★★ **30 YEARS OF SERVICE** ★★★
Looking for CDL A or B drivers to deliver
new trucks all over the US and Canada.
Experience preferred. Must have DOT physical and be
willing to keep logs. No DUIs in last 10 years, clean MVR.

Apply Online at
www.qualitydriveaway.com
or call 574-642-2023

Announcements

Announcements

Attention Invokana® Users

Our law firm is accepting claims nationwide for an **Invokana® Injury Lawsuit**. Invokana®, a SGLT2 inhibitor, is prescribed to patients with type 2 diabetes.

The new **Boxed Warning**, the strongest label the FDA can place on a prescription medication, will now inform patients about the **risk of amputation** from canagliflozin, the active drug in Invokana.

If you or a loved one has suffered an amputation after taking Invokana® or Invokamet®, please contact our law firm now as you may be entitled to financial compensation.

The Miller Firm LLC
TRIAL LAWYERS

800-882-2525
MillerFirmLLC.com

NEWS

Reform Criminal Justice System

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATE (D-30)



Criminal justice reform is front-and-center in Richmond this year. The theft of any item worth over \$200 is considered a felony in Virginia – tying us with New Jersey for the lowest threshold in the entire United States. Raising the felony grand larceny threshold, last changed in the 1980s, has been a multi-year bipartisan effort in the Senate. This session, five Democrats and two Republicans introduced separate bills to increase the threshold to \$500 or higher. I co-sponsored Senator Suetterlein's (R-Roanoke County) SB 105, which incorporated the other seven bills.

COMMENTARY

Also on my agenda is marijuana decriminalization. Unfortunately, SB 111, my bill that would have changed simple marijuana possession from a criminal offense to a fine, was unfortunately defeated Monday in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee. A sign of progress did occur when the Senate voted, 23-16, to pass "ban the box" legislation from Sen. Rosalyn Dance (D-Petersburg) on Friday. That bill, which I co-sponsored, would require state and local agencies to wait until after a provisional offer of employment is extended to a potential employee before asking about the applicant's conviction record. People deserve a fair shot at employment, and after someone has paid his or her debt to society, we ought to give them a true second chance.

Families like Fred and Laura Tarantino of Alexandria also deserve a second chance. Fred, an Air Force reservist, and Laura, a student at GMU who volunteers at RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) are parents seeking to adopt a brother or sister for their biological son, but due to a nonviolent drug possession conviction in Ms. Tarantino's past, the couple cannot even be considered as candidates to adopt in Virginia until a full decade has passed since the offense. Laura, who was herself adopted from Peru at 3-weeks-old, and Fred could move to the District of Columbia, Maryland, or 47 other states, but as they told the Washington Post, "Virginia is where we have settled and what we call home, and we'd like to remain here." Their moving testimony before the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee led the committee to unanimously pass my legislation, SB920, to lower the adoption barrier from 10 years to five years, in alignment with federal standards.

Those who fall into debt should retain the capac-

ity to pay back those debts. In Virginia, medical professionals can have their licenses suspended if they fall into delinquency or default on student loans.

The practice of revoking the means by which professionals pay back their loans is counterproductive. Worse still, the threat of license revocation only applies to medical professionals, and not other professional licensees. Why should this penalty target dental hygienists, and nurses, but not attorneys, architects, or accountants? The bill I introduced, SB919, a companion to HB456, carried by Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) will protect those individuals burdened by student-loan debt and ensure that they have the capacity to keep their licenses, continue serving the community, and repay what they owe.

Punishment should fit the crime. Sen. Bill Stanley (R-Franklin) and I have introduced legislation, SB181, which eliminates the automatic revocation of driver's licenses for those who fail to pay their court fees and fines in a timely manner. SB181 passed the Senate Courts of Justice, 12-2, and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee to fit into the budget before considering whether to advance it to the full Senate vote. It doesn't make sense to take away a person's means to get to work if they are struggling to pay a debt, especially when the offense in question is not related to driving.

Please consider following me on Twitter @AdamEbbin, liking my Facebook page at facebook.com/ebbincampaign, emailing your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 30th District.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Andrea Jensen, of Alexandria, was named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) trustee's list for the fall 2017 semester. Students on the trustee's list have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

Priscilla Marie Rosario, of Fort Belvoir, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Leah Kirk, of Alexandria, graduated from Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, Tenn.) with Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies.

Darby J. Philbrick, daughter of Amy and John Alden Philbrick of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list at Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.) for the 2017 fall semester. Philbrick, a senior majoring in literature, is a graduate of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE:
PROPOSAL TO CLEAN UP AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE
There has been a release of petroleum from an underground storage tank system at:
4368 King Street
City of Alexandria, Virginia 22302
The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) required King Enterprises of VA, Inc. to prepare a Corrective Action Plan to remediate petroleum fuel contamination at the Site. The Corrective Action Plan was submitted to the DEQ on January 12, 2018.
If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:
Mr. John Diehl, CPG, LRS
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.,
43045 John Mosby Highway, Suite 100, Chantilly, Virginia 20152
If you would like to review or discuss the Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Alex Wardle of the DEQ at (703) 583-3822 or Alexander.Wardle@deq.virginia.gov. The DEQ Petroleum Program Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the Corrective Action Plan for 30 days following the publication date of this notice, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case: PC # 2018-3059.
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
Attn: Mr. Alex Wardle
Alexander.Wardle@deq.virginia.gov
13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193

Legals

Employment

PROFESSIONAL STAFF NEEDED
Experienced Full-Time
Preschool Teachers.
Full and PT Teacher Assistants
Also Needed in Mt. Vernon Area.
Before School 7-9am /After
School 3-6pm.
Positions available immediately.
Must be Creative, Reliable,
Flexible & Strong Communicator.
Competitive Pay, 401K,
Paid Fed Holidays,
Med/Dental Benefits
& Earned Leave.
Please Call (703) 765-8811
Fax Resume (703) 765-7801
Email Resume:
acphollinh@aol.com

Space In Which I Wouldn't Get Lost



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column titled "Lost in Space," I have a few recommendations for the medical profession, oncologists particularly, as it relates to their comings and goings and the effect it might have on their patients, many of whom have been characterized as "terminal," as I was.

Respecting and appreciating the fact that on a good day, our anxiety level is likely off the chart, we need you to work with us, not against us.

And though I can certainly recall how I was encouraged to reach out – either by phone or electronically, whenever we had questions or concerns, I believe there needs to be an upgrade to that advisory. That 'encouragement' works fine when you're here/on site. However, based on my most recent experience, I need that 'advisory' to work equally fine when you're not here.

Ergo: I want to meet and develop some kind of relationship with the oncologist who will be covering for you when you're absent. I want that oncologist's name, email address and phone number (none of which I had during this most recent experience). I want some assurance/acknowledgment that this oncologist knows who I am, how I'm treated and is familiar with any special circumstances pertaining to my care and feeding. Moreover, I want "t.l.c.," because I definitely deserve it.

As for the oncologist's goings; on the occasions when, for whatever reason, you're away from your office. I want to know before, not after. I don't want to learn about it by reading a default email saying you're out of the office. Though I appreciate knowing after, it's not good enough. I want to know all the time. In fact, every time you're away, I want to know. Whether or not I have any medical activities (lab work, infusion, scans) planned, I want to know, just in case something unexpected – or even expected, happens.

This would help me to prepare, anticipate, assimilate and coordinate any and all future medical activities so that I could determine in advance, if necessary, an action plan. One that would proactively solve/prevent a problem rather than reacting to one as most recently happened to me. I don't want any more surprises. I don't want to experience any lack of communication at any time. I don't care about how or why. I simply want to know ahead of any potentially complicating circumstances, not behind. I'm already feeling some relief just writing about it.

How can this be implemented? Electronically of course. I don't need any calls. A don't-reply email is fine. I know that system/process works when I want to communicate with you and/or review information which has been posted online. What I want to know next is the doctor's schedule, not hourly, maybe not even daily (although I wouldn't be averse to it), but weekly for sure, electronically in my inbox first thing Monday morning.

Knowing the doctor's availability will help me manage my expectations and minimize my stress. As a cancer patient, I never know what I'll want or when I'll want it. But finding out the easy way (in advance) is certainly preferable to finding out the hard way (during/after).

Medically speaking, I don't want to miss anything nor do I, living forward, want anything to be missed. If you can email an after-appointment summary, you can certainly email me a pre-appointment schedule of when and where my primary care physicians (oncologist and internal medicine) will be. Because out of sight unfortunately doesn't mean out of mind, unless I know otherwise.

And that's my goal: to mind my own business and not have to worry about yours.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS. CALL KAREN AT 703-778-9422

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller	
ELECTRICAL K&D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...		ELECTRICAL Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com	
GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-912-6886	
IMPROVEMENTS Power Washing Go from green to clean, do you have mold on your siding rotten wood that's a hoia voilation? We do houses, decks, fences, side walks, etc. Deck and fence repair, deck staining and sealing. Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates email: jnave@comcast.net 703-987-5096		LANDSCAPING J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed	
A&S Landscaping • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia		TILE / MARBLE BATHROOM REMODELING by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes. Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp. www.brennan-tile.com 703-250-2872 Licensed • Bonded • Insured	
RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com		TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Summer Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL • Email Marketing • Social Media • Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING			
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			

OPINION

In Richmond

PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE (D-44)

Once again, these early weeks of the legislative session are proving to be a flurry of activity.

On Monday, I had hearings on four bills, bringing my total to action on 13 of 21 bills. So far, five of my bills have advanced to full committee or to the floor, and another was continued to 2019.

The remaining bills are still awaiting hearings.

Yesterday, House education committees advanced legislation to extend the amount of time that school divisions have to hire a new superintendent, and another bill to allow the Department of Education to accept third-party Employment Verification forms when out-of-state teachers apply to transfer their teaching license to Virginia to work in the Commonwealth.

I also advanced a bill to give the state police a dedicated source of revenue to create and maintain an e-summons system and upgrade their software regularly. Local jurisdictions already had a system like this and it brings state police up to the 21st century.

While I was very excited about some of the good legislation that passed, I was disappointed by several of my bills that have failed, including temporary in-state tuition for residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; a secondary seat belt law for passenger vehicles; school bus seat belts; and an expansion of the Homestead Act for bankruptcy filings that would have allowed people filing bankruptcy to protect up to \$25,000 of equity. Current law only allows for \$5,000 of bankruptcy protections and it is the lowest amount in the country.

Later this week, the General Assembly will consider more of my legislation, along with marquee priorities like expanding access to affordable health care and making our economy work for all Virginia residents.

I look forward to updating you on those priorities in the weeks to come. And, thank you to my many constituents who have already come down to Richmond to visit and even testify before committees to support these important legislative efforts.

Legislation

FROM PAGE 6

ers was recommended by the Secondary Education Subcommittee of the Health and Education Committee along with my bill to prohibit schools from offering online classes without providing computers or waiving fees for lower income students. Fairfax and Prince William counties currently have such programs but charge all students fees and do not offer computers to children who want to participate but cannot afford their own device.

This week, approximately 20 of my bills will be heard in committee. You can watch our committee hearings live online at www.virginiageneralassembly.gov.

2

VIRGINIA

2018

Special VIP Offer for your Toyota

BUY 3 TIRES AND GET ONE FREE

BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95

SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. **GOT TIRES?**

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

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 2/28/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-684-0710
www.alexandriatoyota.com

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS

NO CHARGE

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.

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 2/28/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

TOYOTA ServiceCenter TOYOTA Let's Go Places

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
2015
31 YEARS OF RECEIVING THIS HONOR. 1 OF 4 DEALERSHIPS IN THE NATION TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR.

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:
Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!

ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service. 5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

NOW AVAILABLE Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305

LUBE, OIL, & FILTER SPECIAL

\$29⁹⁵ NON-SYNTHETIC
\$44⁹⁵ SYNTHETIC

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 PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

COMPLIMENTARY
15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

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. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF when you spend \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF when you spend \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$500.00 or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

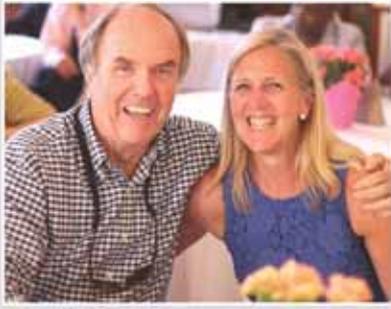
TRUESTART™ BATTERY SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/18.

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



CHRIS WHITE

Planning to sell in 2018?
Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!
*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***



9411 Mount Vernon Cir.
\$1,220,000
Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!

Stately brick colonial in area's premier water front community. Over 6,000 sq ft of luxury! Features include: Estate size rooms, high ceilings, three finished levels, four BR's including 3 room master suite with stunning bath, elegant trim detail, hardwood floors, extensive rear decking, oversized 2 car garage. Located in cul-de-sac with river access.

OPEN SUNDAY | JUST LISTED



9509 Ferry Harbour Ct.
\$849,000
Many Updates!

Classic Southern Colonial. Unique opportunity, stately 5 BR custom colonial with classic old south style. Balconies overlooking front and rear grounds. Spec Features include: porch, Hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ custom bar, & oversized 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on level half acre lot on one of the area's premier streets!

JUST LISTED



9424 Mt. Vernon Cir.
\$949,000
Completely Updated!

Better than new! Stunning updated home in area's premier waterfront community! Fabulous home has been renovated from top to bottom. Features include: 3 finished levels, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, designer kitchen, hardwood floors, new HVAC, new windows, doors, and 2 car garage. Spacious screened in porch overlooks expansive rear yard. Unparalleled community amenities

CONTRACT



4417 Dolphin Ln.
\$649,900
Spacious Rambler!

Exceptionally spacious rambler in Yacht Haven Estates with expanded main level master suite with luxury bath. Gorgeous setting on large level lot steps from Yacht Club. Features include: large room sizes, hardwood floors, 4 BR's, 3 Baths, thermal windows & finished lower level. Oversize deck overlooks expansive fenced rear yard.

CONTRACT



8307 Crown Court Rd
Incredible New Kitchen!

Just completed, brand new Chef's kitchen and custom lighting plan enhance this truly spectacular property. New kitchen features custom cabs, top line granite counter, brand new appliances, and gas cooking. Other feats: 5 BR's, 5 BA's, high ceilings, two car garage and the most amazing pool and grounds you'll ever find at this price range!

NEW KITCHEN



3909 Rive Dr.
\$725,000
Pristine Condition!

Fabulous property in prime Belle Rive location! Major features include: 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, large room sizes, open floor plan, home has been substantially updated and Chef's kitchen is absolutely stunning. Gorgeous setting on elevated half acre landscaped grounds in premier river front community with many multi million dollar properties!

CONTRACT



9032 Mcnair Dr.
\$569,000
One Level Living!

Rare opportunity! Totally renovated rambler with oversized two car garage on gorgeous level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location! Recent major updated include: new roof, thermal windows, hardwood floors, new kitchen. Located in quiet neighborhood surrounded by Mt. Vernon Country Club and Grist Mill Park! Nothing like it for close to this price!

CONTRACT



8807 Battery Rd
\$589,000
Excellent Deal!

Quaint setting backing to Ft. Hunt Park creates your own private oasis. Many impressive features including gorgeous kitchen which opens into dining room area, many windows creates light filled living area and garage parking/storage. Back deck overlooks private wooded parkland. Great opportunity at a great price!

CONTRACT



8709 Curtis Ave.
\$539,000
Recently renovated!

Gorgeously updated home on 2 lots on quiet cul-de-sac ready for you to move in! Inviting front porch leads you to dramatic open floor plan with tons of light. New Kitchen, windows, light fixtures, updated baths, fresh paint and landscaping make this a rare opportunity! Huge yard, pond, and hot tub complete this serene setting.

CONTRACT



5125 Remington Dr.
\$1,395,000
Virtually New!

Truly stunning custom home near river with seasonal water views from many major rooms. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan enhanced by dramatic high ceilings on main two levels. 7,000 sq ft of luxurious custom features include spectacular custom kitchen with two islands, 5 BR's, including the most amazing master suite you'll ever see, 5 full / 2 half baths, top of the line

CONTRACT



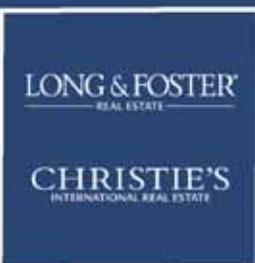
4214 Robertson Blvd.
\$550,000
Great Value!

9317 Maybrook Pl.
\$575,9000
Great Value!



3705 Riverwood Ct.
\$889,500
Classic Colonial!

4708 Ferry Landing Rd.
\$475,000
Great Value!



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com
 Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

