

Annual Meeting Puts Mount Vernon in Spotlight

Storck hosts local dignitaries; exhibit hall with 70 exhibitors.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

With approximately 400 residents attending and more than 500 watching on live streaming channels, this annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting was the most viewed Town Meeting in 31 years.

The morning began with the Exhibit Hall packed with 70 exhibitors, where visitors learned about and engaged with community organizations and county agencies.

The formal part of the Saturday, Feb. 3, meeting, held at Mount Vernon High School, began with the Harmony Heritage Singers entertaining all with renditions of patriotic songs. Cub Scouts Canon and Christian Kurth of Alexandria from Belle View Elementary School led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, with the Mount Vernon High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard presenting the colors.

"We have five words that I think describe Mount Vernon District to a tee," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck in address-



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

More than 400 people attended the Mount Vernon Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Mount Vernon High School.

ing the crowd. "These are the core five we believe truly encompass and capture the key part of what we think we bring together as a community. First off, we have scenic beauty, diversity, history, hospitality, and finally, civic activism," he said.

Storck, together with former Supervisor Gerry Hyland, honored Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan, who is retiring in April after 30 years on the job. A meeting room will be named after Flanagan at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

Storck spoke about his vision for improving the quality of life for all Mount Vernon residents, while outlining his 2017 accomplishments and sharing his focus for 2018. His presentation included the following statistics: that he received 25,000-plus emails; held 850-plus meetings; and had 5,000-plus visitors to his office.

"Destination Mount Vernon is part of our theme. More and more people are moving to Mount Vernon and we are seeing tourism



Supervisor Dan Storck and former Supervisor Gerry Hyland honor Earl Flanagan (center), the planning commissioner who is retiring in April.

SEE ANNUAL, PAGE 16

Playing Whack-A-Mole with Predatory Lenders

Senate panel takes action to limit one kind of high-interest loan while leaving a loophole for another.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

By this time next year, high-interest lenders may be prohibited from making consumer finance loans — at least ones they find profitable at 200 percent interest. So that loophole may be closed by the end of the General Assembly session. But it seems likely lawmakers will leave Richmond this year creating no restrictions on open-end lines of credit, raising concern among some that lawmakers are playing a game of whack-a-mole.

"All of a sudden, in the last five, six, seven, eight years we've got title lenders, payday lenders, revolving lenders and now internet lenders jumping the fence and coming over into the consumer finance act that had never contemplated this kind of lending," said

Jeff Smith, executive director of the Virginia Financial Services Association. "So not only do we support this legislation, we drafted it."

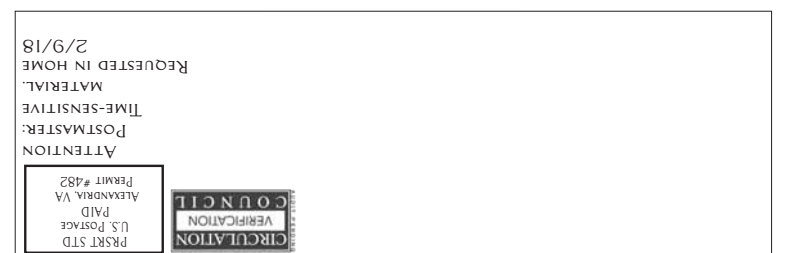
That legislation would create a cap of 36 percent interest rates for all consumer finance loans, clos-

SEE PREDATORY, PAGE 3



BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Check Into Cash lobbyist Robert Baratta testifies before the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. Last year, his company donated more than \$8,000 to members of the committee, which killed a bill that would have created new consumer protections on his company.



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Team Selected to Create Redevelopment Plan

For the Original Mount Vernon High School.

The Board of Supervisors approved on Tuesday, Feb. 6, a \$399,000 agreement with Alexander Company and Elm Street Development to work with county staff and the Mount Vernon community to create a master plan to redevelop the Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) campus. Sited at 8333 Richmond Highway, the approximately 42-acre historic 1939 school campus and park site had been leased by the Islamic Saudi Academy for 31 years. The site became available for redevelopment when the academy ended its lease in October 2016.

Alexander and Elm Street will have nine months to create a master plan to create shared multi-generational, community spaces with public and private, residential, educational, recreational and non-profit uses, as well as pedestrian connections to the nearby future bus rapid transit station. This location along Richmond Highway is



The site of the Original Mount Vernon High School campus at 8333 Richmond Highway.

next to one of nine future bus rapid transit stations that will run along the highway from Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck stated, "Our goal for the redevelopment of this innovative community campus is to reflect the unique tapestry of the Fairfax County community; create

shared, multi-generational community spaces; and serve as an incubator for nonprofits and businesses alike, while being self-sustaining and contributing to the economy of the region." "This is a major milestone for residents in the Route 1 Corridor and another step forward in our efforts to repurpose the building," said Lee

District Supervisor Jeff McKay. "I look forward to working with Alexander and Elm Street, as well as the community, to jointly plan for the future of Original Mount Vernon High School. There is no doubt in my mind that a revitalized OMVHS will benefit all of the Route 1 Corridor and continue our positive momentum."

Predatory Lenders

FROM PAGE 1

ing one loophole that has allowed loans for as much as 950 percent interest. Car-title lenders were using these kinds of loans in a bait-and-switch operation until 2016, after a series of investigative reports exposed the practice and lawmakers took action to rein in the industry. Since that time, internet lenders have moved to an unregulated product known as open-end lines of credit. Last week, lawmakers rejected a bill that would have prevented lenders from allowing lenders to have more than one loan at a time.

"The only way I would know that someone has an installment loan is if they were trying to get it from me," said Robert Baratta, lobbyist for Check Into Cash, which contributed more than \$8,000 to members of the committee last year. "I don't know if they've gone down the street to somebody else and took one out unless there's some kind of database we can access."

CRITICS OF PREDATORY LENDING say payday lenders and car-title lenders already have to comply with that restriction, which prevents people down on their luck from taking out new loans to cover old loans. Of all the consumer protections considered in a series of bills this year, this is one of the most important to people who want to make sure these companies don't take advantage of people who are already experiencing hefty medical bills or family emergencies.

"We'd like to close this loophole to ensure that some of the most vulnerable Virginians aren't taken advantage of," said Kevin Mauer, associate director of the Virginia Catholic Conference.

Opposition to high-interest loans isn't coming just from consumer groups and religious organizations. It's also coming from businesses in the consumer-finance industry, who believe unscrupulous businesses are using their section of the code to make predatory loans. That's why they worked with state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) to craft the 36-percent cap. Although that bill got out of committee, his other bill that would have created similar restrictions on open-end lines of credit did not.

"They're using these open-end credit loans to evade the laws that we passed," said Surovell. "We can't keep playing whack-a-mole."

Fire Causes \$73,870 in Damages

Units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and the Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched for a fire on Friday, Feb. 2 at approximately 2:47 p.m., to a townhouse in the 6200 block of Les Dorson Lane in the Kingstowne section of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on scene to find fire showing from a first floor door located at the rear of a three-story, middle unit townhouse. Crews quickly extinguished the fire.

Three occupants were home at the time of the fire. The fire was discovered by an occupant after he smelled smoke. All occupants evacuated the home and called 9-1-1.

There were smoke alarms located on each floor of the home, however, no smoke alarms activated because they had been disabled.

Fire investigators determined that the fire started in the garage and was accidental in nature. The cause of the fire was determined to be the use of unattended incense, which ignited ordinary combustibles in the garage.

There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries. A total of six occupants were displaced as a result of the fire. Red Cross assistance was offered and accepted. One townhouse next door sustained minor fire damage to the vinyl siding. Damage as a result of the fire is estimated to be \$73,870.



Fire engulfs townhouse on Les Dorson Lane.

PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

Detectives Investigate Human Skeletal Remains

Homicide and crime scene detectives are in the 2900 block of East Lee Avenue in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County after a construction crew discovered suspected adult skeletal remains.

Around 10:15 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, the workers were in the process of cleaning up a wooded area next to a business under construction. They came

across a wallet, with an identification listing the address of a shelter. Shortly after, they found the remains.

Detectives are in the early stages of this investigation and will work with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to confirm the identity of the remains and cause of death.



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Annual Roman Forum

Browne Academy's 6th grade history students held their annual Roman Forum on Jan. 31. Throughout their study of ancient Rome, the 6th grade historians researched, designed, and created two projects to further their understanding of the time period. Students choose from topics and projects ranging from original plays about the Roman gods and interviews with emperors to newscasts of gladiator fights and dioramas of the Senate.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

New Pastor at Heritage Presbyterian

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Erickson, new pastor at Heritage Presbyterian Church, will begin pastoral leadership on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Erickson attended Dartmouth College, where he ran track and earned a BA in engineering. He worked for seven years as an energy consultant in Washington D.C. While there he earned an MBA in finance from George Washington University. Erickson's ecclesiastical call into ministry arrived during his career in energy consulting. He soon received his Masters in Divinity from Princeton Seminary in 1986 and has served churches in Philadelphia, Texas, Kansas and Missouri. Erickson received his Doctor of Ministry

degree from Princeton Seminary in 1996. The church will feature a Jazz musical program to celebrate Erickson's new beginning following his first service.

Heritage Presbyterian Church, at 8503 Fort Hunt Road, has a 57-year history of mission outreach in the south Alexandria community. Heritage focuses its efforts on hunger, homelessness and education. As a member of Ventures in Community (VIC), they partner with the local faith community and nonprofit agencies serving southeastern Fairfax County to address critical community needs.

See www.heritagechurchva.org/.

CRIME REPORT

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

BURGLARY: 2600 block of Arlington Drive, Feb. 1 between 2:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered his home. Personal property was taken.

FEB. 5 - LARCENIES
2600 block of Arlington Drive, bicycle from residence

2600 block of Arlington Drive, shoes from residence

3300 block of Beechcliff Drive, wallet from vehicle

2500 block of Parkers Lane, cash from vehicle

6800 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, purse from business

8600 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business

FEB. 2 - LARCENIES
5900 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, electronic device from business

8600 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business

FEB. 1 - LARCENIES
1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8200 block of Russell Road, wallet from vehicle

JAN. 31 - LARCENIES
3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, beer from business

8800 block of Menard Court, clothing from residence

6200 block of North Kings Highway, laptop computer from business

2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from residence

9100 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from residence

JAN. 30 - LARCENIES
1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, cash from business

7000 block of Lamp Post Lane, property from vehicle

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, cell phone from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8400 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from vehicle

8200 block of Russell Road, beer from business

8800 block of Walutes Circle, earrings from residence

JAN. 29 - LARCENIES
7700 block of Fordson Road, cell phones from business

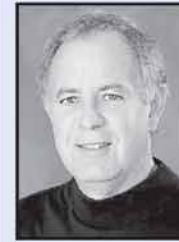
2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from vehicle

7500 block of Republic Court, property from residence

7600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8200 block of Russell Road, merchandise from business

7000 block of Stone Mill Place, cash and gift cards from vehicle



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Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000
8807 Vernon View Drive
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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 unbelievable spectacular 40'x 20' pool. Absolutely amazing, nothing like it in Mt. Vernon! LL offers 2 large BRs, plus remodeled bath plus family rm & gas fpl. A lovely den has built-in shelves & and 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!



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).



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 conveyes). 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!



Mt. Vernon Grove \$574,900
9336 Heather Glen Drive
Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA colonial w/2 car garage on the Potomac River side of Mount Vernon. .34 Acre. Library on main level. Family rm w/ fireplace off the kitchen w/French doors to bkdy. Dressing room & walk-in closet adjoin the spacious Master suite. Separate Dining & Living rms. Unfinished basement w/walk-up steps. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex, (N).



Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest Low \$600s
9123 Cherrytree Drive
Large, Beautiful, 4BR, 3BA Split w/ a spectacular open and renovated kitchen (\$75,000) - Gorgeous Refined hardwood floors on main level, gas fireplace, double pane replacement window-Stunning screened-in porch overlooks backyard- Separate utility and workshop rooms offer tons of storage- Throw-in updated roof, HVAC system plus a large circular driveway- Great Price @ \$614,900



Alex/Yacht Haven \$644,000
9417 Forest Haven Drive
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An Opportunity To Improve TJ

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to state Sen. Steve Newman, chair of the Education and Health Committee.

As graduates of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), we were deeply troubled to read that the Education and Health Committee of the Virginia State Senate struck down Senate Bill 787, the proposal by state Sen. Scott Surovell to make the admissions policies at Governor's Schools such as TJHSST more equitable. While debates will continue about whether Senator Surovell's legislation is the right instrument, its intent to significantly alter Jefferson's admissions procedure to account for class is sound. No serious action has been taken on this issue at the state or local level since the school was designated as a magnet school and that has to change. Outreach efforts have had modest success in the past, but they are not enough to make Jefferson equitable. For this reason, we strongly support the intent of the senator's bill and ask the committee to work with Senator Surovell to draft legislation to make progress on this urgent issue.

All of us attended Fairfax County Public Schools. There's one among us who still has her yearbooks and class pictures from kindergarten through 12th grade. And in those images from schools like Saratoga Elementary School and Mark Twain Middle School are the smiling faces of friends and classmates of all races, as well as friends and classmates who lived in a nearby HUD housing development. None of the kids from that housing development made it into TJ, not one. And virtually none of the Black and Hispanic students in those other photos were admitted either.

The racial and economic composition of Jefferson has been an annual news story just about every year since it became a magnet school, and it's never good news. Last year, only 17 Black and Hispanic students were admitted — 3.4 percent out of 490 students. And only eight students (1.6 percent) eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (an indicator of students living in low-income or poor families). This despite the fact that Fairfax County Public School students overall are 25.4 percent Hispanic, 10.1 percent Black, and 29 percent are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

This disparity between Jefferson's enrollment and the racial and socioeconomic composition of Fairfax County is unacceptable and easily remedied. Countless elite institutions — especially elite colleges — have modified their admissions procedures and requirements in recent years because they have realized that their old criteria have long been leaving talent on the table. They have softened their standardized testing requirements, engaged in admissions outreach, and sought out partners in high schools and middle schools to create a pipeline of under-represented and low-income students to draw from. These students (who would never have been admitted under the old admissions protocols) have thrived at these elite institutions — often overperforming their standardized test scores. Yet Jefferson's admis-

sions policies proceed ignorant of these developments.

We live in a time when headlines and Twitter feeds constantly observe the pernicious effects of systemic inequality and racism in the daily lives of the poor and people of color. And the state of Virginia has a long legacy of racism that the world was reminded of last year during and after the events that took place in Charlottesville. White supremacy is not just Nazis marching in the streets; it also lies in maintaining a high school that excludes the poor, African-Americans, and Latinos, and then calls itself the greatest, most meritocratic high school in the country. You and the other 12 members of the committee who struck down this modest change to Jefferson's admissions policies have voted to maintain a blatantly racist and classist flagship school.

This is a shameful display when it would have been so easy for you to answer the impassioned requests of so many parents and alumni, as well as Senator Surovell. We understand that the committee has framed its objections to this bill in terms of local rights. While in many cases local school boards are best situated to make local educational decisions, when a board ignores a pressing issue affecting its most vulnerable and disempowered constituents over decades, the state has an obligation to step in and remedy the injustice.

The one way that Jefferson, with the help of the Fairfax County School Board and the Virginia legislature, could truly differentiate itself is by showing that it is working deliberately and intentionally to combat the structural and systematic racism and class privilege that feeds students into the school. Thousands of schools and nonprofits around the country have already made meaningful change in this area, it's time for Jefferson and those in charge to take responsibility for this problem and do the same.

Alexis Clements, TJHSST '98, BA Emerson College '01, MS London School of Economics '06

Daniel Morales, TJHSST '98, BA Williams College '02, JD Yale Law School '05

Kristina Danahy (Buenafe), TJHSST '98, BS/MS University of Virginia '03, Ed.M Harvard '08

Kristen Olvera Riemenschneider, TJHSST '98, BSEE University of Virginia '01, JD University of Virginia '06

Koyuki Smith, TJHSST '96, BA Columbia University '01, MA Columbia University Teachers College '03

Megan Radek, TJHSST '93, BA University of Virginia '97, MA University of Illinois '04

Veronica Pillar, TJHSST '06, AB Princeton University '10, MS Cornell University '14

Christopher Lee Rollins, TJHSST '04, BA College of William & Mary '08

Séain Guttridge, TJHSST '89

Diane-Marie Johnston, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02

Tamara Metz, TJHSST '99, BA Bryn Mawr College '03, MA University of Arizona '11

Joe Zarrow, TJHSST '97, BA Brown University '01, MA New York University '06

Rachel Yi-Feng Lei, TJHSST '96, BA Johns Hopkins University '00, MA Fuller Theological Seminary '06

Jennifer Love King, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '01

Matt King, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02, PhD University of Maryland '08

Anwar Omeish, TJHSST '14, BA Harvard College '19

Richard Berman, TJHSST '89, BA University of Toronto

Corinne Pender, TJHSST '05, BS Caltech '09, PhD MIT '18

Abby France, TJHSST '99, BS Northwestern

University '03

Swathi Manchikanti, TJHSST '06, BS NJIT '10, MSPH Johns Hopkins University '13

Jack Levenson, TJHSST '90, BA St. Mary's College of MD '98

Ramón Zabala, TJHSST '99, BS VA Tech '08

Hillary Kolos, TJHSST '98, BFA New York University '02, SM MIT '10

Sienna Lotenberg, TJHSST '14, AB Brown University '18, MAHL '21 and **Rabbinic Ordination** '23

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Sheryl Wallin Abrahams, TJHSST '98, BA Rice University '02, MPH UNC-Chapel Hill '07

Christine Contreras-Slaughter, TJHSST '07, BA Duke University '11

Samuel Leven, TJHSST '03, BA University of Virginia '07, JD University of Virginia '10

Danielle Ahn, TJHSST '98, BA University of Rochester '02, MD University of Virginia '06

Michael Freedman-Schnapp, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02, MUP NYU '09

Tenzin Lhanze, TJHSST '14, BS College of William and Mary '18

James Wu, TJHSST '96, BS Virginia Tech '01

Jean Smith, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02, PhD University of California, Santa Barbara '13

Saniya Suri, TJHSST '13, BA Washington University in St. Louis, '17

Sanjana Verma, TJHSST '13, BS The College of William Mary '17

Martha Burtis, TJHSST '92, BA Mary Washington College, MA Teachers College, Columbia U

Pichchenda Bao, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02

Rohit Raghavan, TJHSST '96, BA Catholic Univ. of America, '01, JD, Univ. of Illinois, '05

Alison Slade, TJHSST '99, BA University of Virginia, '05, MS Johns Hopkins University, '12

Terence McDonnell, TJHSST '96, BA University of Virginia '00, PhD Northwestern University '09

Andrew Hayes, TJHSST '99, BA University of Virginia '03, PhD University of Maine '12

Alan Hevelone, TJHSST '96 BFA Savannah College of Art & Design '00

Brian Horne, TJHSST '96, BA University of Virginia '00, MA University of Chicago '04

Russell Smith, TJHSST '96, BA Pennsylvania State University '00

Janna Harris, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '02, PhD Virginia Commonwealth University '08

Nick Berning, TJHSST '98, BA Macalester College '02

Anne Marie Creighton, TJHSST '10, AB Harvard '14

Keryl Brown, TJHSST '10, BFA University of Southern California '14

Brittany Zuñiga Fulton, TJHSST '07, BA William and Mary '11, MSW University of Michigan '16

Elizabeth Carlson, TJHSST '97, BA Tufts University '01, PhD UCLA '11

Kate Hao, TJHSST '14, BA Washington University in St. Louis '18

Kassandra Dove McMahon, TJHSST '90, BS Virginia Tech '97, MS American Intercontinental University '00

Jessica Wyman, TJHSST '97, BA New York University '01, MBA Columbia University '08

Kimberly Taylor, TJHSST '91, BS University of Virginia '94, PhD University of Wisconsin '05

William Tarpeh, TJHSST '08, BS Stanford University '12, MS UC Berkeley '13, PhD UC Berkeley '17

Alec Rose, TJHSST '86, BA Tufts University '90, JD University of California, Davis '93

Kripa Patwardhan, TJHSST '04, BA University of Virginia '08, MPP George Mason University '10

Rob Heittman, TJHSST '88

Aaron Balasingam Koenig, TJHSST '10

Dave Algoso, TJHSST '99, BA University of Virginia '03, MPA New York University '11

Jorge A Torrico, TJHSST '98, BA University of Virginia '04

Sam Brinton, TJHSST '10

Tamara Krmoholz, TJHSST '01, BA University of Virginia '06, MT University of Virginia '06

Richard Joyce, TJHSST '00, BA University of Mary Washington '06, MA American University '10

Emily (Stanford) Colson, TJHSST '95, BA University of Virginia '98, MD Eastern Virginia Medical School '03

Caroline Odom, TJHSST '10

J. M. Harper, TJHSST '95, BS Carnegie Mellon '99, JD George Mason '06

Wendy Guo, TJHSST '14, BS College of William and Mary '18

Jennifer Gilbert Manly, TJHSST '07, BA University of Georgia '11

Sharon Gentges, TJHSST '92, BA University of Chicago, BArch Washington University

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'Electronic Textbooks' Bill Moves Forward

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The third week of the General Assembly brought action on about two dozen of my bills.

First, my two remaining bills to address education equity were unanimously recommended by the Education Subcommittee. The first bill prohibits localities from requiring children to use "electronic textbooks" without providing students with devices to use such "books" at home. Many children in the U.S. 1 Corridor do not have computers or broadband at home and our schools should not mandate electronic learning without providing devices.

COMMENTARY

My second bill requires school systems to waive all fees and provide computers to students who want to take online classes. Fairfax and Prince William counties charge low income students as much as \$345 to

take online classes and do not provide devices, making online classes difficult if not impossible for all students to utilize. The bills will be considered by the Senate this week.

The General Laws Committee reported my bill creating a sanctions process for government officials who abuse the closed meeting process or destroy public records. There have been at least six reported or attempted violations of the closed meetings law in the last two years and reports of local governments advising employees to delete emails to avoid public disclosure.

Predatory lending was on the docket this week. My bill to place a 36 percent cap on interest rates for loans made by licensed consumer finance companies and prohibit predatory internet lenders from using existing state licenses passed the Commerce and Labor Committee 12-2. This is the first legislation to push back against predatory lending passed by this committee in eight years.

Waze and Google Map driven neighborhood cut-through traffic has been a source of significant complaints to my office — especially in Belle Haven, Occoquan and

neighborhoods close to the interstates. I introduced legislation that would authorize local governments to designate a small number of residential secondary roads as off-limits to electronic routing services like Waze and Google Maps and keep commuters out of neighborhoods. The City of Alexandria was extremely supportive but the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors opposed my legislation (Supervisors Storck and Foust supported). Unfortunately, the bill died on a 6-6-1 vote in the Transportation Committee. My legislation to increase the required state auto insurance minimums for the first time since 1989 passed the Transportation Committee. My bill would increase the required minimum property damage minimum insurance from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Given the increased automobile prices, this is critical.

Teen "sexting" has continued to create problems for parents, teachers, administrators, clergy, and, most importantly, children. This year, I partnered with Senator Bill Stanley on legislation to classify such offenses as misdemeanors instead of either felony child pornography production or possession. This will allow schools, families,

and counselors to take care of these issues informally instead of necessitating law enforcement consultations. Our bill passed the Courts of Justice Committee and will be on the floor of the Senate this week.

Lastly, my legislation to impose a ban on hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" passed the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and will be on the floor this week after being amended to a four-year moratorium. A Texas company acquired leases to explore for natural gas on 84,000 acres of property on Virginia's Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. This area shares the same aquifer with over four million Virginians living east of Interstate 95 which must be protected. Approximately a dozen of my bills have not been heard in committee yet including six coal ash bills, bills to reform the credit "freeze" process, and studies regarding the decline in arrests for drunk driving. This week is the lead up to the deadline for action on all bills in our own chambers so stay tuned. Please complete my survey at www.scottsuovell.org/survey and email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have feedback. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Making Election Process More Accessible, Efficient

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



The Privileges and Elections Committee is the oldest in the nearly 400-year-old General Assembly. It's hard to believe that I have the honor to serve on the same committee that George Washington served on in his first year in the House of Burgesses. Voting forges an essential connection between citizens and their representatives; the integrity of elections grants government legitimacy and is central to democracy. As the 2018 session nears its midpoint, here are highlights of election laws that we have considered.

COMMENTARY

In coordination with voter registrars, elec-

toral boards, and former Gov. Terry McAuliffe's administration, I introduced eight pieces of legislation to make our election process more accessible and efficient. An interim joint committee will be established to consider a large volume of legislation regarding election reform in the wake of several incidents arising in the 2017 election and to consider the implementation of no-excuse absentee voting. Five of the bills I have introduced were referred to this interim committee, including SB602, which I introduced at the request of former Governor McAuliffe, and would make it easier for voters to cast an absentee ballot. Currently, a voter must present one of 20 valid excuses to vote with an in-person or mail-in absentee ballot. My bill would eliminate the need for an excuse, allowing all eligible voters to use this option.

Sen. Jill Vogel (R-Fauquier), the chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections Com-

mittee, has asked me to serve on the committee. It will meet after the conclusion of our current session and before we convene in 2019. I look forward to an in-depth review of more than a dozen bills and seeking potential solutions to the 2017 irregularities in House District 28. During that election, around 650 voters, more than the margin of victory, were given the wrong ballot in a precinct split among legislative districts; 55 additional mail-in absentee ballots were left uncounted because of a disputed point of law. Voters were unquestionably denied the right to vote.

I co-sponsored legislation introduced by Sen. George Barker (D-Fairfax) to remedy the issue of "split precincts." Our bill has been rolled into SB 983, introduced by Mark Obenshain (R-Rockingham), and with bipartisan support hopefully we can remedy the errors that disenfranchised so many in HD 28. We need to correct inefficiencies for

our poll workers, safeguard the integrity of our elections, and facilitate and encourage the participation of more citizens in the democratic process. As we adjourned last week, Majority Leader Tommy Norment (R-James City County) praised the pace at which the Senate has been able to consider legislation over the first four weeks. I have presented all but four of 29 bills to the relevant committees. In the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee we have completed our docket of legislation, and we have only five bills left to consider in the Privileges and Elections Committee.

Please consider following me on Twitter @AdamEbbin, liking my facebook page at [facebook.com/ebbincampaign](https://www.facebook.com/ebbincampaign), emailing your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov, and taking my survey at www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Historical Marker For Douglass

To the Editor:

Feb. 14, 2018, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. The fiery orator gave hundreds of speeches during a lifetime as a fugitive slave turned abolitionist, author, and publisher.

On Sept. 24, 1894, just five months before taking his last breath at his Cedar Hill home in

Washington, D.C., Douglass gave one of his last speeches at Lannon's Opera House in Alexandria.

The occasion was the city's Emancipation Day celebration. In some cities and towns, these annual jubilees had a long and continuous history. In Alexandria, Emancipation Day celebrations began in 1889 and lasted for over a decade before dying out in the early part of the 20th-century.

Both floors of Lannon's Opera House, whose site is the southwest corner of King and Pitt streets, were packed for Douglass's

speech. None of the newspapers printed the entirety of his speech, but some pointed out his message centered on "the Negro problem."

The elder statesman expressed his dislike of that term, noting it was prejudicial against black Americans. A year earlier the "Lion of Anacostia" had spoken at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He said, "There is no Negro problem. The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own Constitution."

2018 will see many commemo-

rative events for the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Douglass. Here in Alexandria, we should erect a historical marker commemorating the man and his speech. Any day this year would

be appropriate, while Sept. 24 would be the most fitting. That's when the "Lion of Anacostia" gave one of his last roars.

Jay Roberts
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to: Letters to the Editor
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OPINION

Reviewing the Grid Transformation and Security Act

BY PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE (D-44)



Many constituents have contacted me regarding the big Dominion bill, the “Grid Transformation and Security Act,” also known as the repeal of the so-called “Rate Freeze” act of three years ago where Dominion froze their base rate and negotiated less oversight in order to address President Obama’s Clean Power Plan, federal legislation that has since been repealed.

COMMENTARY This new proposed bill addresses the utility’s over-earnings that resulted from General Assembly action in 2015, a year before I joined the body. I am very supportive of rebating those over-earnings by Dominion to the rate-paying customers and also of returning the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to full rate regulation over electricity providers like Dominion. We also must provide strong incentives to promote renewable energy.

The General Assembly and Gov. Ralph Northam seem to have reached a compromise on repealing the Dominion rate freeze. As of this writing, I have not made up my mind whether to support the legislation, but I am watching it eagerly and working to get the best deal for consumers.

This legislation has very simple goals: give

Virginians as much of their money back as soon as possible, restore oversight to ensure that utility companies do not overcharge ratepayers for power, and to make Virginia a leader in clean, renewable energy and electrical grid modernization.

Governor Northam has convened a group of stakeholders that represent every perspective of this debate, and are working furiously to make sure the legislation meets these goals.

According to the administration, the compromise puts more money in ratepayers’ pockets, ensures real oversight of utility rates, paves the way for significant upgrades, including security, to Virginia’s electrical grid, and mandates historic investments in energy efficiency and clean power.

However, the Attorney General’s office disagrees and believes that this legislation, while providing a larger refund to consumers, will lock in higher utility rates in the future.

Here are some of the key aspects of the compromise legislation at this point in time:

It restores consumer protections for utility rates by repealing the 2015 rate freeze and restores full regulatory oversight of electric utilities and allows the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to evaluate

rates in 2021 and consider issuing refunds to consumers who may have been overcharged. This bill also empowers the SCC to consider reducing rates in 2021 with no possibility of a rate increase for Dominion. The SCC will consider rate reduction in 2020 for Appalachian Power and it could perform full rate reviews in subsequent three-year periods.

The compromise bill also offers immediate relief for ratepayers by requiring Dominion to issue \$200 million in rate credits to consumers who were overcharged during the rate freeze period. Appalachian Power will issue \$10 million in credits. The bill also requires Dominion to reduce power rates by an additional \$125 million and Appalachian Power to reduce rates by \$50 million, and provides the SCC to be able to review possible additional refunds and rate reductions in the first SCC review and all subsequent reviews.

The compromise legislation makes massive investments in clean and efficient energy programs by requiring Virginia utilities to make \$1.145 billion in investments in energy efficiency projects and low-income energy assistance over the next 10 years. Furthermore, it authorizes the SCC to deem 5,000 megawatts of solar and wind energy projects to be in the public interest, paving the way for approval of new clean energy projects.

It commits Appalachian Power to make a

separate investment in 200 megawatts of new solar capacity; promotes energy technology including battery storage and pumped storage in Southwest Virginia; requires a review of state regulations that hinder clean energy development; and creates a transparent stakeholder process to expand energy efficiency program offerings; and creates a transparent stakeholder process to make recommendations for solar program expansion, including net metering and community solar.

Finally, the compromise legislation ensures development of a modern and resilient energy grid. It would deem projects to modernize the grid and support clean energy or to make the grid more reliable in the public interest. The compromise also requires an equal commitment by utilities to grid resilience and grid modernization and allows for a utility line undergrounding pilot project in Haymarket, and a process for the review of additional undergrounding projects, like along the Route 1 corridor.

As I make up my mind, I encourage my constituents to contact my office and tell me their opinion of the new compromise legislation. It is being carried by Sen. Dick Saslaw (D) in the Senate and Delegates Terry Kilgore (R) and Lamont Bagby (D) in the House. It also has the support of the League of Conservation Voters and the opposition of the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

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Feeding the Flu

What to eat when fighting the flu.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Flu season is in full swing and, according to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's packing a powerful punch. According to the most recent CDC report, the flu is widespread in most states, and healthcare providers report an uptick in influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths.



COURTESY OF SARA DUCEY

Turmeric, powdered ginger, honey and almond or coconut milk can create a soothing and healing drink for those who are battling the flu, says nutritionist Sara Ducey.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Fresh ginger can be a soothing ingredient for those who have the flu.



Garlic is credited with having antibacterial properties.

“One of the best sources for protein when you have the flu is real, bone-based soup.”

— Sara Ducey, Professor of Nutrition and Food, Montgomery College

While the thought of eating might be unappealing to someone who is battling the flu, nutritionists and health care providers say certain nutrients are essential for keeping up one's strength. Soothing and healing ingredients are key allies when fighting this season's virus.

“The thing you need most is water,” said Sara Ducey, professor of Nutrition and Food at Montgomery College. “You need sufficient water to bring nutrients to your cells and take away the waste. As you hydrate it gives your immune system more of a boost.”

Protein, says Ducey, will help one's body build and maintain strength. “It's important for supporting the immune system and for helping your body breakdown medicines like Tylenol,” she said. “One of the best

sources for protein when you have the flu is real, bone-based soup, not ramen noodles that have chicken flavoring.”

Bone broths, like those made from chicken or beef, offer hydration, protein and amino acids, added Ducey. Broth can be sipped or used as the base for a soup. “It's a natural healing and restorative food,” she said. “At this point, everyone can assume that they're going to get the flu and prepare some bone-based broth ahead of time and keep it on hand in the freezer. You can also buy boxes of it.”

Fresh ginger can work as an anti-inflammatory, soothe an upset stomach and boost one's immune system, says nutritionist

Debbie Hynes of Practical Ayurveda. “Warm water with grated ginger and honey can soothe a sore throat or upset stomach,” she said.

Foods that are high in Vitamin C like orange juice, particularly a variety that contains pulp, can boost your immune system, says Ducey. “It's a powerful antioxidant which is important for keeping your muscles strong especially when you're sick.”

Garlic is another ingredient that Hynes likes to include in flu-fighting recipes. “It has antibacterial properties, especially when it's raw,” she said. “I add it to chicken broth along with chili flakes to sip when someone in my family has a stuffy head. The combination can clear the sinuses. And if you can stand to eat it, raw garlic has the strongest antibacterial properties.”

Turmeric works as an anti-inflammatory and antioxidant, says Hynes. “It's been known for those properties in Chinese medicine for centuries,” she said.

Ducey uses the spice in a creamy drink she creates called Golden Milk. “I take a cup of milk, a teaspoon or two of honey and a little black pepper and put it in the microwave to warm it,” she said. “You can use almond or coconut milk if you can't tolerate dairy. Turmeric is very poorly absorbed by the body, so adding a little black pepper helps absorb it. It sounds bizarre, but it's strangely comforting.”

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ONGOING

“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.

Poster Exhibit. Through Feb. 28, artwork from the winners of the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest will be on exhibit at City Hall, 301 King St. The annual contest, sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, is for Alexandria City Public School students in grades 2-5. This year's contest theme is “Serving the People, Serving America, Serving Alexandria.” Visit alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory or call 703-746-4356.

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.

1939 Library Sit-In Display. Through Feb. 28, at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Beatley Central Library will host the 16-panel display on the 1939 Library Sit-In – one of America's first civil rights sit-ins that took place on Aug. 21, 1939. Stop by any library location and get a free commemorative Library Sit-In pin. February Tours of the Freedom House Museum. Visit alexlibraryva.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



Concert by The Harmony Heritage Singers will benefit “Alice’s Kids.”

Concert to Benefit “Alice’s Kids”

The Harmony Heritage Singers, a men's barbershop chorus, will perform to benefit the charity Alice's Kids. Ron Fitzsimmons, founder of Alice's Kids, is a member of the chorus. Free and open to the public; an offering will be taken for Alice's Kids, the organization that arranges payment for small things children need but can't afford. Sunday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Email gronbrandt@gmail.com or call 703-765-4779.

at the Art Museum of Americas. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

Art Exhibit. Through, March 10, 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 8

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Paula Whitacre, “A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose.” Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

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-jytjuthly-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.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join for an author talk with M.J. O'Brien and Joan (Trumpauer) Mulholland. They

will be discussing the book, “We Shall Not Be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit-In and the Movement It Inspired.” Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Birthnight Ball Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on the 17th, learn 18th century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended: online at alexandriava.gov/Shop or by calling 703-746-4242

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.

Chamber Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia offers a Friday Evening Chamber Concert Series full of music by some of the great masters, as well as lesser known gems of the chamber music world. \$15, children 5 years and under are free. To purchase tickets online visit tinyurl.com/y847t63e Tickets are also available at the door.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Symbolic Meaning of Flowers. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Just in time for Valentine's Day, explore the sentimental Victorian era in which every flower held a symbolic meaning. Create a fashionable flower arrangement in this romantic style with the help of designer Chuck Mason. \$38 per

person, plus a \$25 supply fee. Register for both. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Dignity and Defiance – Mary Church Terrell. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Raised in privilege but degraded by persistent racial prejudice, Mary Church Terrell fought for the basic human right to be treated equally. Learn more about this fascinating woman by screening the new documentary with Robin Hamilton, an Emmy-award winning journalist, television host, moderator and writer. Call 703-746-4356.

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 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.

Locals' Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Luxe Sugar Mama bath product sampling. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

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.

Family Owl Outing. 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discover the secret world of owls on an outing designed for families. Learn what makes owls excellent night predators and go on a hike to try to hear or see one of Huntley's resident owls. For family members age 6-adult. \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

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 nationalistic themes. The ASO presents Debussy's Petite Suite, the Overture to Verdi's epic Nabucco and Lutoslawski's MaBa Suite. 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 www.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

ENTERTAINMENT

Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Enjoy a world tour exploring themes of nationalism, led by Maestro José-Luis Novo. A delicate collection of French dances originally written for two pianos, the ASO presents Debussy's *Petite Suite*. Dropping by Italy for a little opera, Maestro Novo will conduct the Overture to Verdi's epic *Nabucco*. Commissioned by Polish radio and complete with a polka movement, the program continues with Lutoslawski's *MaBa Suita*. Admittedly a "confession of the soul" and written on the heels of his acclaimed *Finlandia*, the concert ends with Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, proclaiming the grandeur of his homeland and the struggle for Finland's independence. \$5-\$80. Visit www.alexsym.org.

The History & Mystery of Saints, Sinners, and Presidents. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Join Historians Terry Gish and Wayne Kehoe for tales of history. Come celebrate the history of Valentine's Day and President's Day at Ivy Hill — in the vault! A rare opportunity to experience a "room" in the cemetery. Not for the faint of heart. \$10/person. Not recommended for children under 10 years of age. Space is limited, call to R.S.V.P. at 301-395-9541 or email info@ihchps.org.

Anne Hills and John Flynn in Concert. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Sponsored by Focus Music. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Experience Ethiopian Dance. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005

Duke St. Learn Iskista, the "shoulder dance," and see demonstrations of Oromigna, Tigrigna, Wolitigna and Guragigna and more with an authentic Ethiopian Dance Master. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Valentine's Day Coffee. 10-11:30 a.m. at Del Ray Cafe, 205 E. Howell Ave. Drop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and meet At Home in Alexandria members and staff to learn about the social activities, the practical services, and the many benefits of AHA membership. Free. Email aha@athomeinalexandria.org, call 703-231-0824 or visit www.athomeinalexandria.org.

Poetry and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Historic House at Green Spring will host a Valentine's Tea. Afternoon tea will be accompanied by a reading of ancient and modern love poems that speak to everyone. Join in a prize drawing and take home a favor bag. \$32 per person for the program and tea. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

DIY Sustainable Yard Series. 8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to retain and absorb storm water using the right landscaping techniques and plant choices. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Birthnight Ball Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on the 17th, learn 18th century English



By E. E. McCollum

Photography Exhibit

An exhibition of new photographs by E. E. McCollum. McCollum's work explores the emotional currents that exist in relationships — connection, conflict, isolation, comfort. Made in collaboration with a couple who are partners in life as well as in modeling and art-making, McCollum's black and white images explore the universal power of relationships. Exhibit runs Feb. 13-March 25, various hours, at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/.

country dancing from expert dance instructors. \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended: online at alexandriava.gov/Shop or by calling 703-746-4242

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.

FRIDAY/FEB. 16

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery 208 King St. Principle Gallery presents Bodies of Work: A Figurative Invitational. Thirteen artists from around the world have been invited to participate in this selective exhibition, and from found object sculptures to traditional figure studies to Magical Realism oil paintings, the show offers a variety of work. Free and open to the public. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Grio StoryMan. 9-11 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Multipurpose Room, 7836 Fordson Road. Troop 1906 presents Grio StoryMan: Baba Jaml Koram. As part of Black History observance, gather around Baba Jaml Koram unfolds children's tales filled with the warmth of the African sun. Each conveys a lesson: of standing up for what's right, caring for the earth and its animals, and believing in the good in everyone. Visit www.bethlehemofalexandria.org.

Puppet Shows. 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The National Capital Puppetry Guild in collaboration with the Office of the Arts will present Beech Tree Puppets at two family-friendly puppet shows. Reservations per show are \$5 for person, including children. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. To purchase tickets online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac, select activity number 355211.02 (10 a.m.) or 355211.03 (11:15 a.m.).



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ENTERTAINMENT

Make Room: Charlie's on the Avenue

BY HOPE NELSON

When it comes to new restaurants on the block, Del Ray diners need to know only one thing: Charlie is coming.

The erstwhile Fireflies restaurant space at the corner of Mount Vernon and Nelson avenues won't be quiet for long. Taking its place — and changing its face — will be Charlie's on the Avenue, a neighborhood sports pub from the owners of the nearby Live Oak Restaurant.

"I hate to say the words 'sports bar' because I think there's a bad stigma that goes with that," lamented co-owner Jeremy Barber. But his goal for Charlie's is to be "one of those places you can go into and always feel at home. ... We want to create a family atmosphere and environment."

And unlike Barber's original restaurant, Live Oak, Charlie's menu will contour to fit the new theme.

"Charlie's is not a Southern restaurant. ... We may have some of our (Live Oak) staples that people really enjoy — fried chicken, pulled pork, things like that — but it's a different style," he said.

To that end, expect the likes of Cuban sandwiches, chicken parmesan subs, spaghetti and meatballs, as well as smoked baked and fried chicken wings and

baby-back ribs. And Barber's team is just getting warmed up.

Charlie's will be open seven days a week for lunch and dinner to start; once the restaurant gets rolling, Barber and team will see about breakfast or brunch offerings. And if you're worried about too much pub fare for lunch, rest easy; Charlie's will offer up some lighter options such as build-your-own salads and sandwiches.

Visitors to the now-defunct Fireflies will see some changes to the space once Charlie's opens. The kitchen will remain largely intact — save for a few facelifts with the new team's own equipment — but the dining room and patio will enjoy some changes. Charlie's will sport a larger bar, a new dining room décor and a renovated patio space, Barber said.

And — perhaps most pressing — who, precisely, is Charlie?

"It's named after many people, but most importantly it's named after my grandfather. My grandfather was the best guy I've ever known," Barber said, so much so that one of his daughters is named after him too.

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

CALENDAR

Locals' Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Crum's Hot Sauce tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

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/.

Community "Ceili" Dance. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, Lunceford Hall, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Alexandria's own Irish Breakfast Band is hosting a Community "Ceili" dance designed for first-timers and beginners who would like to have some fun learning traditional Irish social dancing. A ceili (pronounced KAY-lee) is similar to an American square dance, with live music provided by friends and neighbors and fun had by all. Free. Call 571-379-3927 or visit www.Irishbreakfastband.com.

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/.

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.

Fancy Nancy Author Visit

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. Saturday, Feb. 10 at 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Free admission. Visit www.hooray4books.com.



Jane O'Connor

Benefit Concert. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The Harmony Heritage Singers, a men's barbershop chorus, will perform to benefit the charity Alice's Kids. Ron Fitzsimmons, founder of Alice's Kids, is a member of the chorus. Free and open to the public; an offering will be taken for Alice's Kids, the organization that arranges payment for small things children need but can't afford. Email gronbrandt@gmail.com or call 703-765-4779.

Concert. 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic introduces three works by American Composers including William Grant Still's *Symphony #4*, Mark Edwards Wilson's *Piano Concerto* with acclaimed pianist Thomas Pandolfi, plus this season's WMPA Composition Competition Winner, Zhou Tian's *Broken Ink*. \$20, children are free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org/.

TUESDAY/FEB. 20

Shopping Stories. 7-8 p.m. at Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd. AAUW Alexandria Branch presents

"Shopping Stories: Learning about 18th-Century Women's Lives through Ledgers." How do store ledgers show us how 18th century women living in Alexandria were able to be independent and live their daily lives separate from men? Esther White, PHD, of History Revealed, Inc., will answer those questions and more. Open to all community members. Email GailLaneAAUWalex@gmail.com.

Inventors of Color. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. This free program from the National Park Service describes crucial inventions developed by enslaved people and others which helped cultivate the United States. From a slave named Ned, who invented the cotton scraper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Oney Judge Historical Reenactment. 1:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sheila Arnold Jones, a local storyteller and historical character interpreter, will be performing as Oney Judge, a slave owned by Martha Washington who escaped to the North. This program is for ages 6+. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Author Talk. 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Ruthi Postow Birch discusses her memoir, "How to Build a Piano Bench: Lessons for Success from a Red-Dirt Road in Alabama," which shares her humorous and heart-warming story about the life lessons she learned and how she applied that knowledge to build a successful business. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Four Hundred Years of American Chairs 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Oscar Fitzgerald gives an overview that will show how American chair styles evolved over time from the 17th century to the present. This will be followed by a signing of American Furniture. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by John R. Maass, "George Washington's Virginia." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Vegetable Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation for the beginning gardener. Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting the best site and evaluating and improving soil, including which plants grow best in this area. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or emailmgaralex@gmail.com.

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by percussionist Michael Burritt. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

"The Audience." 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) presents "The Audience," as the club's fundraiser for local candidates. For 60 years, from 1952 on, every Tuesday afternoon, Queen Elizabeth II met in Buckingham Palace in a private audience with her prime ministers. What did they discuss? How candid were they? Before the performance, from 7-8 p.m. attendees will be treated to a buffet with champagne. \$35. Visit www.alexandriacrwc.org/.

Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m. 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. 24

"Kepi to Cartridge Box." 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the clothing and equipment used by Union soldiers during the Civil War in "Kepi to Cartridge Box: Outfitting Billy Yank." Free. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Inventors of Color. 11 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This free program from the National Park Service describes crucial inventions developed by enslaved people and others which helped cultivate the United States. From a slave named Ned, who invented the cotton scraper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Keeping Heritage Alive: African



John Flynn



Anne Hills

In Concert

Sponsored by Focus Music Anne Hills and John Flynn are in concert Sunday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

Story Telling. 11 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sheila Arnold Jones, a local storyteller, will be a program featuring stories and songs written, told, or passed down through the African-American culture. For adults and kids of all ages. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Brides for Haiti. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Brides For Haiti, a fundraising effort of St Mary's Church, will host a discount bridal sale event with hundreds of wedding dresses. Changing space is limited during the event. Pre-register for the event on the Brides for Haiti Facebook page or by emailing Brides4Haiti@gmail.com.

Freedom House Museum Tours. 1-

George Washington's Birthday 2018

Celebrate George Washington's Birthday at His Home, Mount Vernon. Four days of events, with free admission on Monday, Feb. 19 and Thursday, Feb. 22. Visit www.mountvernon.org/birthday or call 703-780-2000. Saturday-Sunday/Feb. 17-18 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

George Washington's Favorite Breakfast - 9 a.m.-noon - Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last).

Mingle with Costumed Characters from George Washington's World - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

18th-century Dancing Demonstration with costumed characters.

Wreathlaying Ceremonies at the tomb of George Washington throughout the day.

Monday/Feb.19 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) Free admission.

Visit George Washington's home and burial site. The traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb takes place at 10 a.m. followed by Mount Vernon's official celebration on the east lawn including a keynote speaker and 21-gun salute to the first president. Special military demonstrations and patriotic music will take place on the Bowling Green at 11:15 a.m. "General Washington" is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day.

Special musical tribute - 1 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Share selected stories with "George Washington" - 2 p.m.

Wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington - 3 p.m.

Visit the Washington Library for the rare opportunity to tour the reading room and examine replica documents.

Thursday/Feb. 22 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Free admission

George Washington's 286th Birthday - Visit Mount Vernon on George Washington's actual birthday for wreathlaying ceremonies throughout the day. Enjoy a patriotic concert and observe a moving ceremony honoring new citizens. Join "General Washington" for a slice of birthday cake (while supplies last).

Be Washington: It's Your Turn to Lead - Mount Vernon has opened a new first-person interactive experience titled Be Washington: It's Your Turn to Lead in its Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center.

New Objects on View in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. A new installation will highlight objects related to one of the Be Washington's scenarios: the Newburgh conspiracy.

New Revolutionary War 4-D Theater - The new 17-minute film focuses on Washington's leadership and the pivotal campaigns that secured American independence. This experience is included in admission.

The City of Alexandria celebrates George Washington's Birthday with more than a dozen events throughout February. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.net or call 703-829-6640.

George Washington Birthday Parade - Feb. 19, 1-3 p.m., Old Town Alexandria.

Cherry Challenge - Jan. 28-Feb. 11, at various restaurants throughout Alexandria. **Walking with Washington Tours** - Sundays in February 2018, 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St.

Washington's Birthday Celebration - Feb. 17-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Visit www.mountvernon.org/birthday or call 703-780-2000.

George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball - Saturday, Feb. 17, 5:30-11 p.m. (9 p.m. if attending the ball only), at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Reservations required. Visit alexandriava.gov/Shop or call 703-746-4242.

Historic Alexandria Open Houses - Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., various museums throughout Old Town Alexandria. In honor of George Washington's birthday, admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum.

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Mount Vernon at Home booth exhibitors Priscilla Bornmann, Member, and Barbara Sullivan, Director, talk with visitors in the Exhibit Hall.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Members of the Harmony Heritage Singers of Mount Vernon entertain the crowd at the Mount Vernon Town Meeting.

Annual Meeting Puts Mount Vernon in Spotlight

FROM PAGE 1

is up in Mount Vernon Estate, and I know it's up at many other sites in our area," he said.

"We also have tremendous amounts of public investments that are starting to come into Mount Vernon. Just in the last two years, we've had almost \$200 million in public investment, and that doesn't come close to the private investment commitments that were made. We are pleased with the direction we are going," he said.

Storck spoke of Mount Vernon's challenges like opioid addiction, homelessness, and airplane noises. But he also mentioned its wonders like the Potomac River, Mason Neck, recreation, and other special places in the community.

Some of the local dignitaries in the audience included Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Schools Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand, School Board member Ilryong Moon, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, Chief of Police Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Del. Kathy Tran, and Del. Paul Krizek.

Next to speak was Bulova who called Mount Vernon her first home.

She told the story about community engagement with the construction of the Burke VRE Station (Virginia Railway Express) – and how the Burke Centre parking garage got built in 1992. She talked about how Burke residents hated the design for the garage at first, but after participating in a community task force, how their opinions changed.

"I truly believe that without community engagement, without involving and including the community in the things that we are doing, people do not feel that they are part of their government, the part that's really important that you reach out to folks — so they have the opportunity to work with us," she said.

She said residents were able to redesign the Burke garage so it was smaller and more attractive. They redesigned it in a way that

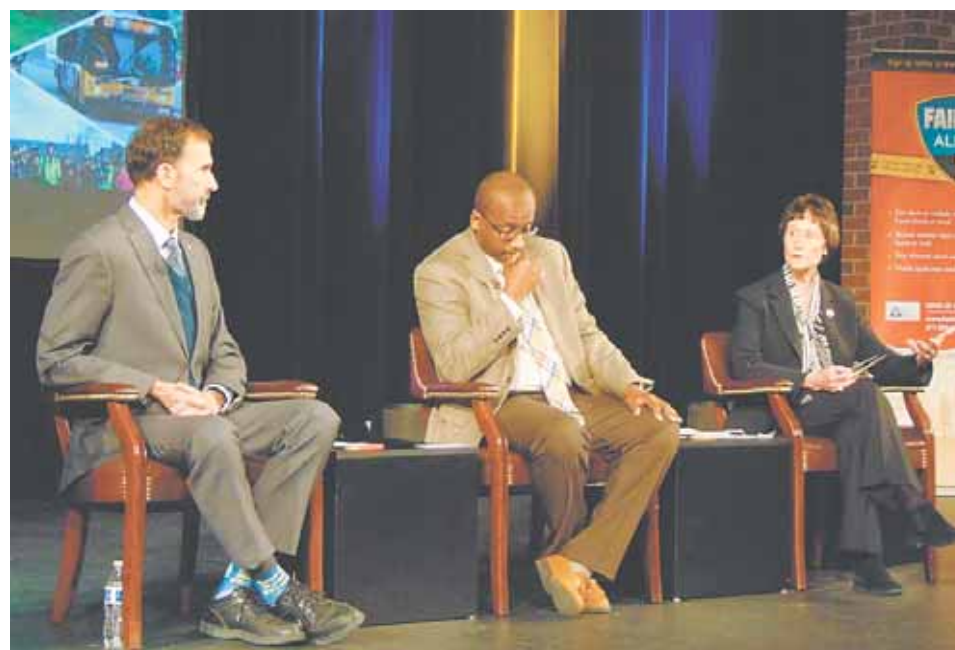
SEE TOWN MEETING, PAGE 18



Cub Scouts Canon and Christian Kurth of Alexandria recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



The Presentation of Colors by the Mount Vernon High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard at the Mount Vernon Town Meeting.



The Q&A Session with Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, County Executive Bryan Hill, and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck speaks at the Mount Vernon Town Meeting.


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BULLETIN BOARD

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

schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

Chamber members and \$35 for guests. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Award Nomination Deadline. 5 p.m. Nominate a volunteer or volunteer group that has made a positive impact on the Fairfax County community at www.volunteerfairfax.org. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. For a complete list of categories and guidelines, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary

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 Tomlinson. Fort Belvoir is one of the most important defense installations in the United States. Cost is \$25 per person for

Legals

OPENING ALERT 03-01-2018
Spring Garden Apartments, LLLP (Section 8) Waiting List
Notice of Re-Opening for Two and Three Bedroom Apartments
03-01-2018

On March 1, 2018 Spring Garden Apartments, LLLP will re-open its waiting list for two- and three-bedroom sized apartment units in the Section 8 Housing program for low and extremely-low income individuals and families.

Spring Garden is a 208 unit community of rent subsidized one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Only the waiting list for two- and three-bedroom sized apartment units will re-open on March 1.

All applications for housing must be submitted online at:
<http://www.sm-group.com/Rental.html>

Those without a computer or smart phone, or who need extra assistance, may contact the rental office at 7943 Richmond Highway, Suite 10, Alexandria, Virginia 22306 (703) 780-6700.

Once you have completed the application, you will need an email address to receive notifications and monitor your application status online.

Spring Garden Apartments does not have a preference point system that may improve your spot on the waiting list. Applications will be reviewed and filed in the order of receipt. In addition, applications will be categorized according to unit size.

Under the Federal Code of Regulations, 24 CFR 982.206, the Management of Spring Garden Apartments, LLLP has the authority to open and close the waiting list based on the number of pending applications. It is the policy of Spring Garden Apartments, LLLP to not accept new applications for housing when the waiting list exceeds 12 months.

Management will post a separate public notice, in accordance with 24 CFR 982.206(c), when families may resume applying for one bed-room apartments tenant-based assistance at Spring Garden Apartments.

Legals

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

Success with Seeds. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring is hosting a series of Garden Talks with Master Gardeners during the winter months of 2018. Learn about the enormous selection of seeds available and get tips on how to grow them successfully. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- ❖ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.
- ❖ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

MONDAY/FEB. 12

Community Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host a community information meeting to discuss this year's paving and restriping efforts in the Springfield District. Comments will be accepted through Feb. 23. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping.

TUESDAY/FEB. 13

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is Maintaining Relationships While Caregiving. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Grant Application Deadline. The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds.

TUESDAY/FEB. 20

National Archives Research. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Malissa Ruffner, JD, MLS, CG, will speak at the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society monthly meeting and will provide tips on how to successfully find records at the National Archives. Her talk is called "A Federal Family Tree." Open to the public. Free. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

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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, & oversize 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!

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

Rare opportunity! Totally renovated rambler with oversize 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!

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8807 Battery Rd
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8709 Curtis Ave.
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