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# Mount Vernon Gazette

Inside  
**PET GAZETTE**

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 1, 2018



Mojo was adopted with his brother from a feral colony near Lake Anna. More Pets, page 8-10.

— LEAH DYMEK AND RON WOOD

## County Opens Budget Debate

County executive proposes budget that fully funds schools and compensation for employees.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE GAZETTE

The Board of Supervisors has until March 6 to determine if it will advertise the 2.5-cents real estate tax increase proposed by new County Executive Bryan Hill last Tuesday, Feb. 20.

“When we advertise the tax rate that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it can not be higher than what we advertise on March 6,” said Chairman Sharon Bulova, following Hill’s presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The board will officially adopt the FY2019 budget on May 1, after a series of community meetings and public hearings on the \$4.29-billion budget. More than 40 community meetings have already been scheduled in the next month throughout the county.

“This will be an intense process as we work with the community,” said Bulova.

Bulova called Hill’s proposed tax increase “a significant amount.”

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust said, “the size of the increase, obviously a concern.”

“Every budget has two sides; you have the receiving end and the paying end, and if you’re on the receiving end of county services



County Executive Bryan Hill

people will be very happy,” said Braddock Supervisor John Cook. “When you walk up to your office, Mr. Hill, at the end of the day, people in the hallways will be very happy. Every county priority is fully funded, schools are fully funded, and that’s not a bad thing, that sounds good, but we have to remember the other side.”

The other side starts with what Bulova said would be an average tax increase of \$268 to every homeowner in Fairfax County.

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity calculates that increase to be five percent, adding to a total the last five years of more than 26 percent, Herrity said.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 16

3/2/18  
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# Lunch and Fashion Show with the DAR

Nelly Custis Chapter celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Mount Vernon Country Club.

By STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Nelly Custis Chapter, with 155 members, held its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with a luncheon and fashion show on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Mount Vernon Country Club.

“It’s truly an honor to be at the 90th anniversary of the DAR Chapter for Mount Vernon,” said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck who offered greetings. “They’ve contributed immense amounts of energy, support, and history to our understanding of the community, Nelly Custis, and the Washington family. It’s a pleasure to have them here today at the Mount Vernon Country Club.”

Storck gave a presentation on major initiatives happening in the Mount Vernon area, including Route 1 widening, Bus Rapid Transit, revitalization in the Richmond Highway Corridor, and what to do with the original site of Mount Vernon High School. He mentioned the “Colonial Corridor,” which provides the opportunity to bring tourism to our cultural gems, including Mount Vernon Estate, Woodlawn, Pope-Leighey House, (Frank Lloyd Wright’s house), and Arcadia, as well as the U.S. National Army Museum that’s slated to open in 2019.

Natalie Ardoline, the Nelly Custis Regent, was pleased to have many state officers attending as guests, including First Vice Regent Rebecca Morgan Rogers; Organizing Secretary Laura Nesbitt; and Recording Secretary Sherry Edwards. The guest speaker was District V Director Wanda English.

Susan Palmer, who organized



**Bonnie Wilkins models an outfit worn by a DAR member from the 1920s.**

the “Nelly Custis by the Decade” fashion show, said the 18 models donned DAR outfits starting from 1928, the year that Nelly Custis became a chapter, and progressed to present day. “These are clothes that people would have worn to DAR, and some of the outfits are what Juniors would have worn. The most interesting thing I found was we did not have to rent anything; everything was out of somebody’s closet or their mother’s or their grandmother’s,” she said.

Liz Hyde, DAR Registrar, whose job is to help people trace their ancestry back to the Revolutionary War, said the Nelly Custis Chapter was founded in April 1928 in Fort Humphries, Va. “Sometimes there were women who provided help to the military, maybe they provided a cow, or coats or blankets, and those women are also considered Revolutionary War patriots. You learn a tremendous amount about

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 18



**The DAR Fashion Show models line up after the show.**

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE



**The DAR Tree of Patriots.**



**Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck gives a proclamation to Natalie Ardoline, Nelly Custis Regent.**



**From left: Mary Beth Cutting, Chapter 1st Vice Regent; Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck; Natalie Ardoline, Nelly Custis Regent; and Rebecca Morgan Rogers, State Vice Regent.**



**Natalie Ardoline, the Nelly Custis Regent, addresses the crowd at the luncheon.**



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**Rohulamin Quander, Esq., with Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, Principal Joe Thompson, Assistant Principal Adrienne Williams, and Martin Tillet.**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

## Quander Descendant Talks History

**Rohulamin Quander, Esq., speaks to students at Quander Road School in Mount Vernon.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**R**ohulamin Quander, Esq., 74, an author of three books and a descendant of slaves whose land occupied 88 acres where the present day Quander Road School is located, gave a talk to students there on Friday, Feb. 23, about his African-American family's deep roots. The retired senior administrative law judge started his presentation with a 12-minute video that highlighted the Quander story dating back to the Amkwandoh Fanti Tribe in in Ghana, West Africa.

As director of Quander Historical Society, he said that the Quander family is one of the oldest African-American families documented in history, with the name dating back to the 1600s. Henry Quando's descendants are where the family came from. Today, the Quanders went from being slaves and farmers to teachers, principals, news anchors, judges, and authors.

They have a rich family heritage, helping to preserve the history at Mount Vernon Estate with a memorial to slaves, and holding family reunions in the area since 1926.

The family's documented presence shows the story of two brothers who got separated when they were brought over from Barbados to Charles County, Md. One was freed in 1684; the other stayed in servitude. The children found each other and vowed never

to be separated. Fast forward to 1691 and court records show Henry Quando in the Charles County seat registering his cattle. He obtained a 99-year lease to farmland there. In 1741, records show another Henry Quando in court suing somebody which ruled in his favor.

In 1758, George Washington came to Mount Vernon, and brought Martha with him in 1759. He went over to the Maryland side to buy slaves (three enslaved people for the price of two). Among those he brought over that were listed in the 1760 census was Suckey Bay, mother of Nancy Carter who would be Nancy Quander. Both were slaves on the grounds of Mount Vernon Estate.

But later Washington decided the institution of permanent in servitude needed to be done away with. He reached out to George Mason, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson and said he would like to propose that they free their enslaved negroes. They said no, but Washington freed those in his servitude, which he wrote in his will. But he could only free those who were his own property.

When Washington died in 1799, he had 123 slaves in his ownership. So, he freed them but said they could not leave until Martha died. Martha decided on the anniversary of George's death, that she would free them in 1801, and she did.

She released her slaves and they went back to various Custis properties. George's slaves were allowed

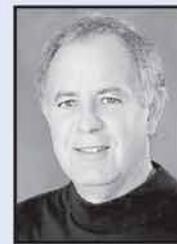
SEE LOCAL HISTORY, PAGE 11



**Rohulamin Quander, Esq., speaks to students at Quander Road School in Mount Vernon.**



**Guests look over the historical artifacts, booklets and scrapbooks of the Quanders from family reunions.**



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**Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000**  
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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,775**  
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**Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$589,900**  
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**Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$545,100**  
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# OPINION

## Hope for Expanding Health Care

Just say yes to \$400 million, thousands of jobs and health care for 300,000.

\$400 million.

That's how much the Virginia Senate had to cut from its budget because it refused to include Medicaid expansion in the budget.

The House of Delegates version of the budget has \$400 million more to work with.

\$400 million is a lot of money.

The change in the House of Delegates, a small miracle, comes with the change voters created last November. Republicans had a 66-34 in the House but lost 15 seats after the election.

### EDITORIAL

The economic boost that comes with expanding Medicaid includes as many as 30,000 new jobs. It's ludicrous that Virginia has bypassed this money, this economic boost, this life-saving measure for poor Virginians. The Commonwealth has forfeited than \$10 billion because of ideological, partisan irrationality.

State Sen. Janet Howell may have captured the cause and effect the best in the floor debate: "We've cut education, both higher and public education. We've cut student aid, public safety, mental-health programs, programs for the disabled, programs to have a reliable election system. Why have we made these cuts? We've made them to deprive low-income people of healthcare."

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County have no health insurance.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in.

In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid estimated between 266 and 987.

These are wrongful deaths, caused by the willful action of particular Virginia legislators.

Refusing to accept federal funds to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education. Imagine the celebration of the economic stimulus of adding \$400 million and tens of thousands of new jobs by any other means.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. More people die of opioid overdoses in Virginia than in vehicle crashes.

It's time for a change, and there is hope for change. Look towards the budget conferences coming up shortly.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Legislatively Adjusting to 'Small Cells'

PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



As anyone with a teenager, or in my case, teenager and elderly parents at home knows, wireless devices are indispensable in today's internet connected world. There are more wireless devices in use today in the Commonwealth of Virginia than there are people and mobile data usage continues to grow exponentially. Wireless service providers must constantly upgrade their networks to keep up with the ever growing demand.

Traditionally, wireless technology involved large towers that included antennas and other equipment, but over time, advancements in technology allowed the industry to deploy smaller equipment, called "small cells."

### COMMENTARY

These small cells allow networks to meet the increasing need for wireless data from business, the public and communities, with far fewer of the new cell towers. Small cells can be located on structures like utility poles, streetlights and buildings. Problematically, zoning and right-of-way access needs to catch up with the 21st Century. Often, localities treat small cell installations the same as traditional towers, creating delays and increasing the costs for deployment.

In 2017, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation, that I supported, that created a predictable, accountable and statewide process for the deployment of small cell technology. The bill addressed small cell installation on existing structures such as utility poles,

light poles and buildings. This important legislation will accelerate investment in infrastructure to help meet the growing demand for wireless services. However, it only addresses part of the problem, and we are back this session to address the vital need for a process for locating new structures to support wireless equipment, as many readers in the Mount Vernon area will know.

Wireless providers prefer to locate their towers on existing structures, but when needed, the new installations consist mostly of utility pole height structures, and they object to localities treating the small cell installations being like cell towers, as they are much smaller and far less intrusive. Localities, on the other hand, obviously prefer to set their own zoning and land-use regulations. With demand continuing to grow for high-speed wireless access to the internet, video and web applications, something has to give and that is why the General Assembly is attempting to intervene again in this area to find a middle ground.

Two bills making their way through the General Assembly, HB1258 and SB405, establish a statewide, consistent administrative approval process for new structures under 50 feet high, similar to a typical telephone or power pole. The legislation sets up a predictable approval timeline while preserving a locality's jurisdiction over historic sites and other local considerations.

I have mixed feelings on this initiative, and have voted against the bill on the floor of the House of Delegates. However, that does not mean I am hostile to the concept nor necessarily going to vote against the final bill. These

new bills establish a fee schedule that can be below the market rate of the land. I think this is inappropriate, and while the cost ladder might fit in rural areas, it undercuts the ability of urban and suburban jurisdictions to request a fair market value for the land the telecoms would purchase or lease.

The other issue is the bill needs language to mitigate against costs of future undergrounding, such as what we want on Richmond Highway. Such language needs to include anticipated undergrounding as a part of any future transportation improvement included in a comprehensive plan, for example.

I hope these issues get resolved in the final version of the bill negotiated in conference because it does have some very good provisions within the language, including preserving viewsheds when the poles exceed 50 feet; allowing localities to limit the amount of new structures being installed; and it indicates a clear preference for co-location on existing structures, allowing localities to reject requests when there are existing alternative structures nearby.

This bill also protects historic districts, prohibiting locating wireless structures within the boundaries of any local, state or federal historic district. Most importantly for our community, it would prohibit installing new poles in areas where utilities are underground, or are planned to be placed underground.

I do not object to making the process more predictable, efficient and competitive. This would create a more attractive environment for wireless technology investment in Virginia which is very important. I plan to support the final version of the legislation if it has the protections I have set out in this article.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Jean Card  
Production Editor  
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker  
Contributing Writer  
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:  
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Real Estate, 703-927-1364  
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Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
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David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment  
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703-778-9431

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:  
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CIRCULATION  
Circulation Manager:  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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OPINION

# Budget Gulf

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



**W**eek Seven of the General Assembly brought some focus to the state's budget situation and movement on a few important bills of the session.

On Tuesday we debated our respective budget amendments. The budgets are separated by a massive revenue gulf due to Medicaid. The House of Delegates' budget included Medicaid Expansion with a work requirement. The Senate Budget did not.

Expanding Medicaid frees up about \$250 million per year of Virginia taxpayer dollars because the federal government picks up spending on items Virginia taxpayers currently fund including charity care at state teaching hospitals, prison healthcare and 12 other smaller programs. Aside from providing healthcare to about 300,000 Virginians it also is projected to create approximately 30,000 jobs — including about 1,000 jobs here in the 36<sup>th</sup> District and at least 7,500 in Northern Virginia.

Due to the Senate's failure to propose expansion, the Senate budget was forced to cut a 2 percent raise for teachers, a 2 percent raise for state employees, over \$23 million in college financial aid, another \$20 million in operating funds for state colleges, and other funding for secondary education. Medicaid Expansion could also fund all 36 vacant judgeships in Virginia (including two in Fairfax and Prince William counties), eliminate our waiting list for services for adult intellectually and developmentally disabled Virginians, or make a huge dent in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. I thought these policies were hostile to the 36<sup>th</sup> District and voted "no."

I also argued on the floor that I could not see how this put the General Assembly in position to adopt a budget before the session closes on March 10. When the chambers start \$500 million apart on revenue, it is impossible to have a reasonable negotiation. It is clear to me that this General Assembly is either not adjourning or going into special session.

As for some good news, I helped pass Del. Rip Sullivan's law that legalized BYOB at private swimming pools. Until this law came

through committee, I had no idea (along with everyone else) that it was illegal to bring your own alcohol beverage to a private swimming club without a banquet license.

Given that most of the 36<sup>th</sup> District's neighborhoods were built before homeowners' associations existed, this is how most of my constituents join a pool. After Governor Northam's signature and July 1, 2018, you can eat a burger and drink a beer at your pool without fear of prosecution.

My bill to waive all fees and provide free computers to low income students who take online classes passed subcommittee and the full Education Committee. Unfortunately, the bill was sent to the Appropriations Committee for a budget review, but I am hopeful it will pass.

This week, about five of my remaining bills will be heard in the House including extending the coal ash moratorium, limiting consumer finance loans to 36 percent interest rates, and providing state compensation to the Norfolk Four — four men who were intentionally and wrongfully convicted for a rape they did not commit.

Next week, we will also vote for a second time on two significant utility bills. First, the bill removing the cap on electricity rates and mandating a 10-fold investment in renewable energy, payment of \$450 million of coal ash remediation costs, and big boost in utility undergrounding will be heard. Also, the telecommunications industry is pressing legislation to simplify deployment of 5G technology which requires smaller cells and smaller antennae.

I am hopeful that the electrical utility bill will facilitate undergrounding of lines on U.S. 1 and even more in 36<sup>th</sup> District neighborhoods built before utilities were undergrounded. Likewise, I am working with the telecommunications providers to help keep 5G antennae off U.S. 1 right of way to minimize future taxpayer undergrounding expenses, and avoid future delays in wireless technology deployment that have previously occurred in the 36<sup>th</sup> District.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Please email me at [scottsurovell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsurovell@gmail.com) if you have any feedback.

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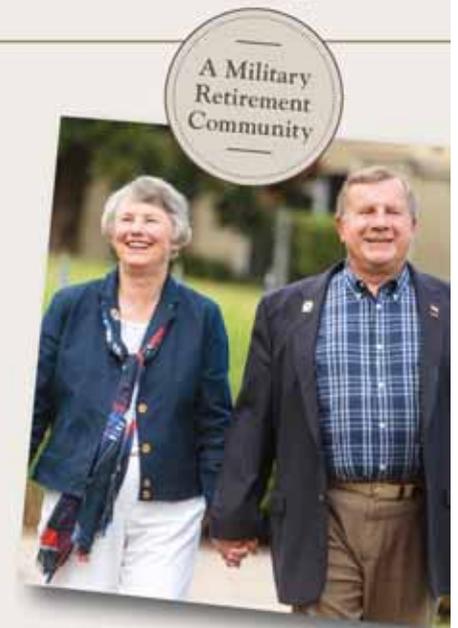
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Sharon Bulova (front row, middle) with Animal Shelter staff and volunteers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Bulova: Fantasy — To Adopt Office Pet

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, sent the following submission to the Pet Connection issue:

“Our office fantasy is to adopt an office pet. In our imagination, we bring back a cat, or dog, maybe a bonded pair of guinea pigs. At our last visit to the Animal Shelter we fell in love with a comical looking lion-headed rabbit. Apparently it is a distinct breed. And then there was a very cute little white

mouse that someone had rescued from becoming a snake’s meal at a local pet store. Maybe we could bring them all back.

“The ‘we’ is my wonderful chairman’s team. We are all big time animal lovers. In the end, however, we admit that the dream of populating our suite in the Government Center with critters is not really

SEE TO ADOPT OFFICE PET, PAGE 10



## DoodleBug

DoodleBug waits every morning to climb into her Dad’s lap and read the paper.

— RON WOOD



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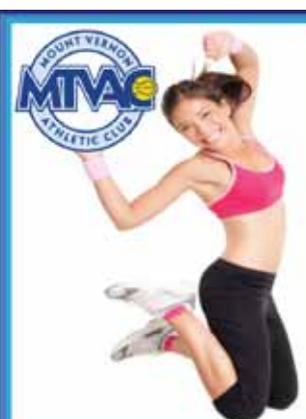
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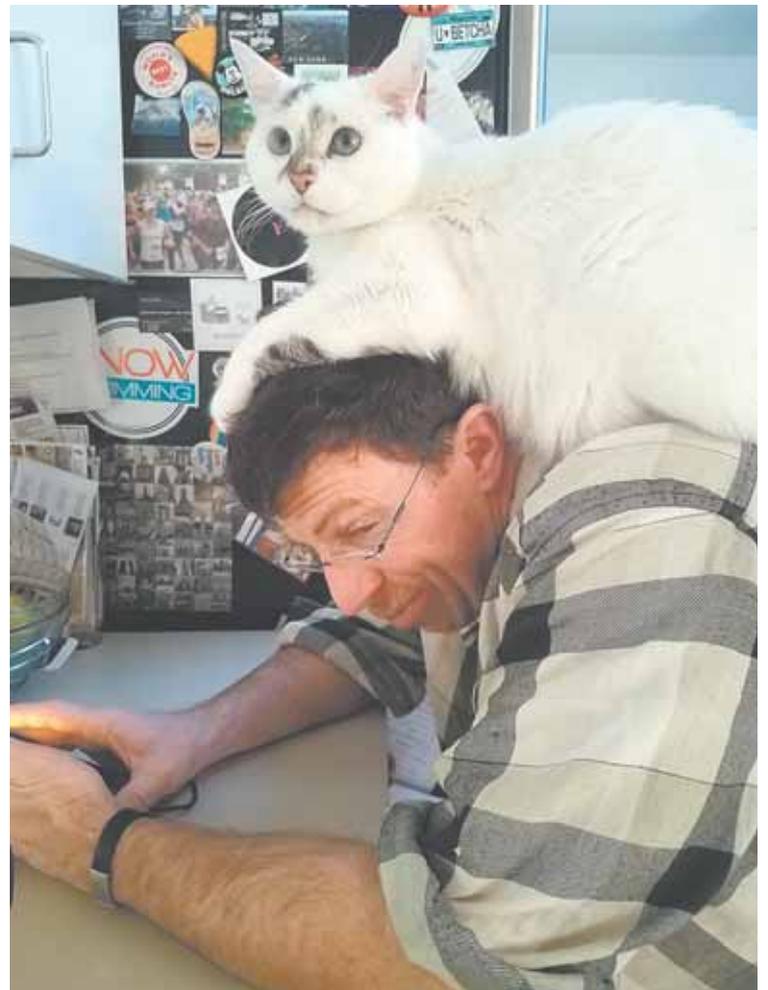
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**'Catch Me If You Can'**

Grace Hecker, a senior at West Potomac High School, and her horse "Catch Me If You Can" (nicknamed Patty) are pictured while competing in Mounted Games at the United States Pony Club National Championships in Lexington, Kentucky. Their team took second place. Grace will be entering Virginia Tech in the Fall as an animal science major, on her way to becoming a veterinarian.

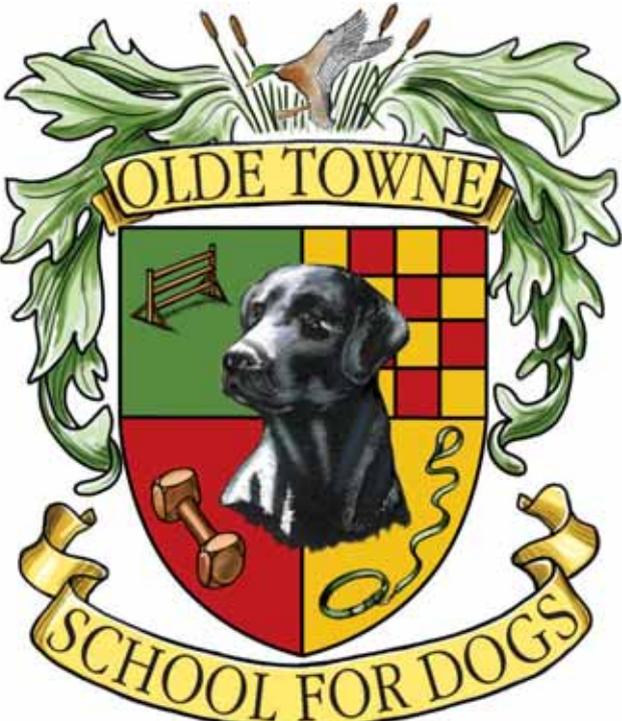
— KAREN HECKER



**Salty**

We rescued Salty with the excellent help of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria back in 2014. He liked to climb on people as a kitten, but we assumed he'd grow out of it. Nope!

— SARA COLLINS



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### Lilly

Ellie (left) and Siena Wilson (right) of Alexandria along with their dog, Lilly, a 13-year Labrador retriever who was a “rescue dog” (from a shelter) when she was a puppy.

— TRACY WILSON



### Brothers

Yoshi and Mojo (right), two tiny bottle-fed brothers, were adopted from a feral colony near Lake Anna. They are now 5 years old. My husband built an insulated two-room condo complete with sun deck for the remaining colony cats.

— LEAH DYMEK AND RON WOOD

## To Adopt Office Pet

FROM PAGE 8

practical, much less permitted. Although we can’t bring back all of the animals, it sure is fun to visit the Animal Shelter and spend some quality time there with such caring staff, dedicated volunteers, and well-tended animals.

“Pets add so much dimension to our lives. While I have not adopted an office pet, I do have two wonderful rescue cats at home that make me very happy.

“To volunteer at the Shelter, please visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter) for more information.”



### Lucky

We hosted a party animal on New Year’s Eve this past month! Unfortunately due to age and health conditions this may be our last year with our beloved furry best friend. His name is Lucky and he is such a sweet, kind dog!

— MATT CACHINE



### Hammock Buddies

Our cat, Buddy, loves laying in the hammock, either alone or with his human Dad, Mike Latham.

— BOBBIE LATHAM

### Gypsy Loves His Bro

Gypsy was found in the bushes outside of our house in Belgrade, Serbia at approximately four weeks of age meowing like crazy, obviously starving. Somehow he had wandered off from wherever his mother had him. He decided that our son, Brandon, was “his person” and they have been best buddies ever since.

— BOBBIE LATHAM,  
BRANDON’S MOTHER



# Local History

FROM PAGE 5  
to leave. The children who went back to Custis family ended up at Robert E. Lee's residence. So, the children ended up at the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Now freed, Nancy Carter married Charles Quander and by 1810-1820, they had three children; thus, began the presence of the Quander family now coming over to the Virginia side. Over the years, a different Charles Henry Quander purchased the 88 acres which became a Quander dairy farm where the Quander Road School sits today. The land was then subdivided and broken up; the family still has some of the land, but not much.

Regarding Quander's talk, Mount Vernon School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders said: "Quander is such an important school because of its historic relevance in Fairfax County as being

a school built as a desegregated elementary school and one that embraced the diversity that is what Mount Vernon is all about. Having Mr. Quander come and share the history of his family, which is actually Virginia's history, is so important and we we're just thrilled that he took the time to come and talk to the students today."

## Two Teens Charged for Threatening

Two Fairfax County teens are facing charges after an investigation revealed they were behind a social media threat regarding a possible shooting at Walt Whitman Middle School.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Division (CID) served the teens, a 14 and 15-year-old from the Alexandria area of Fairfax County, with felony petitions Tuesday, Feb. 27 morning. They have each been charged with one count of threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property. Officers first learned of the threat on Feb. 17 after a walk-in report at the Mount Vernon District Police Station. CID detectives were brought in to investigate.

They searched social media accounts and other databases which led them to identify and charge the teens, who are not being named due to their ages. The suspects turned themselves in and were sent home with their parents after a detention hearing. They are under electronic monitoring. Detectives say the boys did not actually have the means to carry out this threat.

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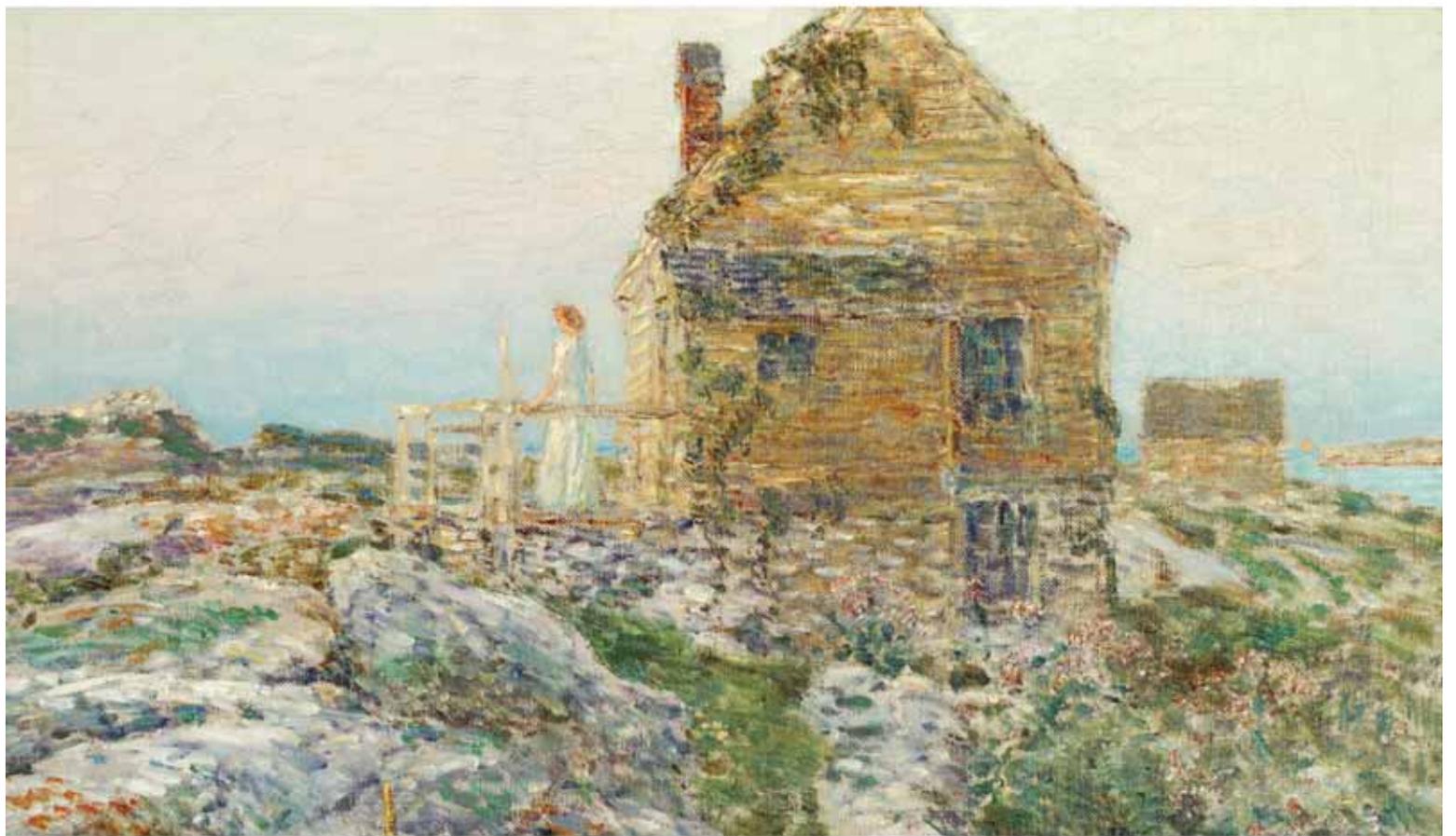
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Above:  
Childe Hassam (American 1859-1935)  
"The Norwegian Cottage" (detail)  
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Below:  
Lynn Chadwick (British, 1914-2003)  
"Maquette Jubilee II"  
Sold for \$466,000

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Creepy and Kooky: 'The Addams Family Musical'

With a cast of 27 students, the show is loosely based on the original cartoons.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

With a cast of 27 students, Bishop Ireton's theater department is presenting the musical comedy, "The Addams Family Musical," from March 9-17, at the school auditorium on Cambridge Road in Alexandria. The show is based upon the characters created by Charles Addams in his single-panel gag cartoons. It has music and lyrics by Andrew Lipa and is based on the book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice. The musical opened on Broadway in April 2010 with Nathan Lane as Gomez and Bebe Neuwirth as Morticia.

According to Joanna Henry, director of theater arts at Bishop Ireton, "It's a musical and it's loosely based on the cartoons. The character that drives the plot is Wednesday because she's the one who falls in love with a normal guy. She just wants her family to accept him and his family because they're this normal mid-Western family. She also wants them to accept her family because they're all a little bit off.

"It all takes place in one night when the Addams family hosts a dinner for the boyfriend's family, the Beinekes. But there's also the ensemble which is all ancestors of the Addams family and they come out of the crypt to help move the story along."

The cast and crew have been working since early December learning the music, and after Christmas started working on the blocking, acting and choreography. There's a crew of 65 students and about 15 adults who are working on every aspect of the show, including choreography, stage crafts, sound, set design, costumes and props.

Henry said they're going to be wearing iconic costumes from the Addams Family cartoons. "The Beinekes will look like normal Americans. The ancestors have all faded and distressed costuming, and every ancestor is a specific character, so we have characters from different eras. Make-up wise, they're pale. So, its heavy-duty makeup for the ancestors," said Henry.

As far as challenges, Henry said the music is tough. "But the students have constantly amazed us with how much hard work they put into it to learn it. The student choreographers have challenged the cast with the dancing, but the cast has stepped up. They're doing a fabulous job," she said.

What Henry hopes to accomplish with her direction is that the students will be different specific characters and not themselves. "I'd like them to be the characters, whether they're singing, speaking or dancing — that they communicate to the audience these different characters," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, Henry said: "I just want audiences to have a good time, to enjoy it and laugh and just have a fun night of musical theater. And see what these high school kids can do."

Music Director Christopher Tomasino said he was aiming to be true to the composer's original intent as well as the vocal arrangements. He describes the music as "all over the place, with some contemporary rock, a Spanish-Latin feeling, a bedtime lullaby, and a cake walk. It's almost like a Minstrel Show. They do a dance from the '50s and '60s and bring in the original 'Addams Family' TV Show theme," he said.

Kevin McNeerney, 17, of Falls Church plays the role of Mal Beineke. "Mal is really a stiff and a family-oriented guy. He is really invested in his work. He doesn't take enough time for his wife and his kid. He's focused on the work aspect to support them. So, the play really explores a lot of his internal feelings about his marriage and how it went wrong, and why his family isn't as close as the Addams family," he said.

He said some of the challenges of this show were "not being super-out-there when all the characters are strange and weird. "Mal is a straight character so keeping a straight face is sometimes really difficult when everything around him is going wrong or all the other characters are totally crazy and really different," he said.

Libby York, 16, of Alexandria plays the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GABY GARCIA

**Bishop Ireton Music Director Christopher Tomasino leads students Ronie-Gabriel Altejar (left) and Matthew Monaghan in rehearsal for their parts as Addams Family Ancestors in "The Addams Family Musical."**

role of Pugsley Addams. "Pugsley is just a little boy who is family-oriented, and he doesn't want things to change with his sister falling in love and moving on because he's so attached to his sister. He's scared of losing the dynamic that the two of them have.

"It was kind of challenging getting into the mind-set of playing a male character. Going into the audition, I loved the music that Pugsley has and his character, so one of the struggles was just being able to put myself out there, playing a male character and going outside the box. All of the characters are so flamboyant and quirky and there's nothing normal about the Addams family."

Gabby Baniqued, 18, of Fort Washington, Md., has a role in the ensemble and is the student choreographer. "So, in addition to just being a supporting role in the musical, I choreograph and teach most of the dance numbers in the musical, which requires a lot of preparation, patience and focus," she said. "It starts with getting familiar with the music and applying my past dance experience and applying moves that match the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GABRY BANIQUEU

**Bishop Ireton High School students (from left) Dagny Scannell as Wednesday and Libby York as Pugsley rehearsing "Pulled" for "The Addams Family Musical."**

style of the Addams family. The Addams family pulls from a lot of different eras for dance, so it touches upon a lot of styles and movements from different times in history."

Emily Graham, 17, of Falls Church plays the role of the cave woman. "So, basically the cave woman just has a lot of fun in the Addams family. She gets awakened by Fester by dancing on the ancestor's graves. And Fester keeps the ancestors there to help him get Lucas and Wednesday together so they can eventually be happily married.

"The cave woman was originally a cave man and so it's really hard to sing my high voice part and still act very guttural, stone-age. So, it's hard to stay in character while also keeping the tone of the show and all the different songs."

*Showtimes for Bishop Ireton High School's "The Addams Family Musical" are on 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 9; Saturday, March 10; Friday, March 16; Saturday, March 17; and Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-751-7606 or visit [www.bishopireton.org](http://www.bishopireton.org).*

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

#### ONGOING

**U-Street the Musical.** Through March 3, 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](http://www.momentumcinc.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](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

#### Art League's Student/Faculty Show

Through March 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., daily; Thursdays until 9 p.m.; Sundays noon-6 p.m. in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show showcases the diversity and talent of more than 6,500 students and 100+ artist instructors. Visit [www.theartleague.org/content/](http://www.theartleague.org/content/)

student\_faculty\_2018.

**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](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

**"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](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 1

**"Border."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visual art, movement, audio interviews by community members focus on borders. Hear of chance happenings told through movement and spoken word. Learn about people who have inspired a redirection of action, aided others in crossing boundaries or made barriers insignificant. Find threads of bias, isolation and loneliness residing alongside the urge for belonging. \$15 at [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**World War I Lecture Series.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's

History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "The Hello Girls" (with a book signing) by Elizabeth Cobbs. On the eve of American involvement in World War I, the Selective Service Act drafted 2.8 million American men to do their part for home and country. Three hundred remarkable women known as "The Hello Girls" were selected to operate the vital communications network that helped the Allies win. \$10 per person; all three lectures \$25 (March 1, 15, 22). Reservations recommended. Tickets at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov).

#### MARCH 1-31

**Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed

# ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesdays) at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The 55th annual Needlework show and sale at Woodlawn Estate, the historic home of Nelly Custis, America's foremost needleworker. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, house tours, and more for the whole family. Adults \$15, k-12 \$6, 5 and under free. Call 703-570-6903 or visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/).

## MARCH 1-APRIL 15

**"Parallel Lives."** Various times, March 1-April 15, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 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. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## MARCH 2-APRIL 1

**"Outdoors In."** Various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Outdoors In" showcases the ways artists see nature and depict it in paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew about nature came from artists and others who drew and painted what they saw and experienced. Artists include local students. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 2

**Family Art Night.** 6-8:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. A "meet and greet" begins at 6 p.m. Art activities begin at 6:30 p.m. No experience necessary. Reservation includes one art experience, art supplies, pizza and soda. Reservations are \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Children must be accompanied by one adult. Register at [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac) and select the activity number (painting - Activity # 355202.04 or clay sculpture - Activity # 355202.05).

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Outdoors In" showcases the ways artists see nature and depict it in paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew about nature came from artists and others who drew and painted what they saw and experienced. Artists include local students. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**Songwriting Contest Finalists Perform.** 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists (including Jarrett Nicolay of Alexandria) and one will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. Three songwriters from the Young Songwriter category (applicants who are under 18 years of age) will also perform live and compete for \$2,500. Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 3

**Historic Sites in Peril.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Meet leaders in Mid-Atlantic archaeology, and learn about their challenges and finds. Speakers from a variety of projects in Virginia and Maryland will discuss sites in peril. Refreshments and lunch included in registration. Registration is \$55; \$45 for Friends of Gunston

Hall and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology, \$25 students. Contact Lacey Villiva at [lvilliva@gunstonhall.org](mailto:lvilliva@gunstonhall.org), or 703-550-9220, for more. To register online, visit [bit.ly/2BcZskw](http://bit.ly/2BcZskw).

**Writer's Workshop.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young adults (age 16 and older) and adults interested in writing for the young adult market. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. This workshop is limited to 14 people. A continental breakfast and snacks will be provided. Bring lunch. Reservations are required, and the \$100 registration fee must be paid online by March 1 at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). For more information, call 703-746-4356.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade.** Classic car show is from 9:30-11 a.m. Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon. Parade starts at 12:15 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Don green and line King Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia to kick off the D.C. region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 37th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit [www.ballyshanners.org](http://www.ballyshanners.org) for schedule and locations.

**Needle and Thread-Maker Market & Pop-Up Shop.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A historically-hip shopping experience on the first Saturday of the Annual Needlework Show. Area makers sell their needle art and textile-based wares in the front entrance to the historic mansion. Call 703-570-6903 or visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/).

**St. Patrick's Day Parade Open House.** Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. John Carlyle's son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Step back in time to see what life was like in the 19th century in Alexandria, and to learn more about this part of Carlyle's family life. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) or call 703-549-2997.

**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 Sweet Sophia local honey product tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**Floral Design Workshop.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a beautiful, early spring flower arrangement using cut flowers and flowering branches with the help of designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn to harvest and force flowering branches and get ideas for ways to use them in floral designs at home. Register for program code and supply fee - \$38/person, with a \$25/person supply fee. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates) using code 290 112 6601 for the program and 290 112 6602 for the supply fee, or call 703-642-5173.

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance; lessons, 6-7 p.m.; open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12;

# The Magic of British Comedienne Joyce Grenfell

## Catherine Flye performs in "George ... Don't Do That!" at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The second show in MetroStage's Spring Solo Series, "George ... Don't Do That!," will run March 8-25 in Alexandria. The story chronicles the music and magic of beloved British comedienne Joyce Grenfell, which is devised and performed by British actor Catherine Flye. The Spring Solo Series celebrates work by women, about women, and starring women.

If her name sounds familiar, Flye starred in the holiday show, "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush." She has been performing this tribute to Grenfell throughout the British Isles since 2003 (also the U.S. and Africa). She performs this MetroStage show with Music Director and Pianist Joe Walsh and Michael Tolley as the Narrator.

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director at MetroStage: "Catherine Flye or Catie to her friends and colleagues is a beloved actor in the Washington theatre community known for the award-winning plays and musicals produced by her own Interact Theatre Company, as well as iconic roles in all the major theatres in the area and beyond, including Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage and The Kennedy Center. She was first seen on our stage here at MetroStage in 2002 when she was in 'Sea Marks' with Michael Tolley, another acclaimed actor who will be joining her in 'George ... Don't Do That!' in the role of the Narrator. Catie was most recently seen over the holidays in our wildly popular 'Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush,' which she devised, directed and where she performed roles that included 'The Nativity Play,' a popular sketch from Joyce Grenfell, and a priceless song called 'Nobody Loves a Fairy (over 40).'"

She continued: "Catie is fearless on stage and was influenced as child growing up in England by Joyce Grenfell, a beloved British comedienne. Catie has been touring this show based on Joyce's work throughout the UK and beyond since 2003. So, when I decided to put together a Spring Solo Series this seemed a perfect choice — spotlighting Catie, Joyce, and reuniting her with her collaborators, Joe and Michael. The material and music are both comic and poignant and covers a range of topics that will entertain, enthrall and maybe once again make Joyce Grenfell a household name."

According to Flye: "Joyce Grenfell was a household name in my family as I was growing up in Northampton, England, and as a small child I would act out all the characters in the famous nursery school sketches. It was my favorite 'make believe' game, which I played for hours on end," she said. "The beloved entertainer became a source of inspiration to me and her 'people watching' philosophy part and parcel of my daily life. Her unique style of comedy was never nasty but endearing, truthful and often poignant."

She continued: "Following Joyce's death, I



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CHRIS BANKS

**Catherine Flye is pictured from her role in "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush" at MetroStage last December, shown with Music Director and Pianist Joe Walsh.**

wanted to pay tribute to this special lady. At that time, I was living and working in the States and happened to meet Lord Julian Grenfell, a relation of Joyce's husband Reggie, who was working at the World Bank in Washington. Lord Grenfell helped me with research and spoke the narration. Following that first performance at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., I have performed my tribute 'George ... Don't Do That!' many times in America, East Africa and across the United Kingdom, including performances at the Jermyn Theatre in London's West End. Keeping Joyce's legacy alive is important to me personally — so it's a great joy to be able to bring her work back to life again at MetroStage."

Grenfell was born in London on Feb. 10, 1910. She was three-quarters American — her mother Nora was one of the famous Langhorne sisters of Richmond, Va., and her Aunt Nancy Astor married an English Lord and became the first woman Member of Parliament. Her first stage appearance was in 1939 in the West End using her own material, and she went on to tour the world with her solo performances including an acclaimed run at the Bijou Theatre on Broadway with her one-woman show, "Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure."

For her songs, her main collaborator was Richard Addinsell who set more than 50 of her lyrics to music and who is widely known as the composer of "The Warsaw Concerto." His association with her lasted 30 years. Joyce died on Nov. 30, 1979.

*Performances for "George ... Don't Do That!" are March 8-25 at MetroStage. Show times are Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. All tickets are \$45. The MetroStage venue is located at 1201 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 for more information or to order. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).*



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 5 Dates to Circle in March

BY HOPE NELSON

**F**rom paired dinners to St. Patrick's Day to the kickoff of cherry blossom season, Alexandria's food scene is bustling in March. Here are some of the month's best bets.

### Loire Valley Wine Dinner at Bastille, March 1

Kick off the month with a glass of vino and plenty of food. North Old Town's beloved French café is offering up a multicourse pre fixe meal with wine to suit each selection. Five courses (including an amuse bouche to start things off) will match nicely with five wines on offer throughout the evening. It's not a trip to central France's Loire Valley, but it does make Thursday just a bit sweeter. \$59 per person; reservations recommended. 606 N. Fayette St., 6:30-10 p.m.

### Anniversary Beer Release at Portner's, March 7

You're not seeing double: Portner's Brewhouse is celebrating its first anniversary with a duo of beer releases. The "Peach Be Wheat You" fruit beer will debut alongside the – wait for it – "And Also Wheat You" to make an impressive double-riff on a single style of brew. The former is a wheat beer brewed with peaches; the latter, the same base beer conditioned with whiskey-soaked peaches to give the final result a bit more zing. 5770 Dow Ave., 4-11 p.m.

### Jameson Whiskey Dinner at the Majestic, March 13

St. Patrick's Day comes but once a year, and the Majestic is getting the party started in fine form with a Jameson-centric dinner four days ahead of the main event. Enjoy a selection of Irish dishes – and wash them down with Jameson-based cocktails. \$65 per person; reservations recommended. 911 King St., 6-9 p.m.

### St. Patrick's Day ... Everywhere, March 17

There are too many festivities and too many specials to single out as the greater part of Alexandria becomes temporarily Irish for the day. In Old Town, Murphy's, O'Connell's and Mackie's are all excellent choices to toast with the crowds – or strike out to less traditional spots for a quieter experience. Slainte!

### Cherry Blossom Festival "Cherry Picks" Menu, March 20-April 15

A passel of restaurants across the D.C. area are participating in this year's incarnation of the Cherry Picks program, hosted alongside the National Cherry Blossom Festival each spring. Visit some of Alexandria's participating eateries to see their take on various cherry-infused recipes, ranging from savory entrees to sweet treats to cocktails. Local participants include Virtue Feed and Grain, Lena's, the Majestic, Rockland's Barbecue, and Vol's Dockside Grill.

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

## CALENDAR

children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvewda.org](http://www.nvewda.org).

**Concerts at St. Luke's.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. Concerts at St. Luke's presents Melissa Mino, soprano and Brad Clark, pianist, offering a program of American Art Songs, arias, and tunes from the Great American Songbook. A reception will follow to meet the artists. \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Call 703-765-4342 or visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 4

**The Origin of Manners Tea Program.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Concepts of courtesy and good manners have defined cultures throughout history and made social interaction run smoothly. Learn how manners have changed from medieval times to the Victorian era to the present day, and consider the differences between "good manners" and "etiquette." For adults, \$32/person (program and tea); \$12 (program only). Programs are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

**Women's History at the Tavern.** 1, 2, 3 or 4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Special Tour: The Feminine Side of Taverns. The 45-minute tour challenges assumptions about a women's role in the 18th century and how women interacted with the tavern, a place commonly assumed to be just for men. \$5 per person. Reservations recommended. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

**Winter Lecture Series.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. No southern

garden would be complete without a beautiful azalea. Azalea expert Don Hyatt discusses the diversity of Asian evergreen azaleas, including old favorites, newer introductions and recent trends in hybridizing. For adults, \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 186 0601 or call 703-642-5173.

**"Parallel Lives" Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 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. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

### MONDAY/MARCH 5

**Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschoolers enjoy nature-themed toys and puzzles while adults meet other playgroup parents. A staff member is on hand to put out nature sensory bins, direct games and activities or lead a garden walk. The March topic is All Things Green. 3-5 years old. \$6/child. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 102 8703 or call 703-642-5173.

### MARCH 5-31

**"Finishing Flourishes."** Gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19. Artists have a ball with "Finishing Flourishes," as they put forth their finest, and elevating detailing as the high-point in design. Perfect punctuation on a pot makes tops

twerk or handles twirl with grace. Edges flute and ruffle and feature lacy, racy cut outs. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### MARCH 7-31

**"Drone Zone." Gallery hours** in the Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Drones appeared in Beverly Ryan's artwork in 2015, inspired by questions about their use in warfare. Ryan explores questions related to this topic in her multimedia exhibit, "Drone Zone." Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 8

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Kathleen Sanders, "John W. Garrett and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).  
**The Auld Alliance: France and Scotland.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Auld Alliance: France and Scotland from Braveheart to Bonnie Prince Charlie, a lecture by Jennifer Paxton, PhD, Professor, Catholic University. Wine, desserts and light fare. \$10 per person supports ACSCC programs. Information and tickets at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Tiny Planet – Tom Teasley and Seth Kibel.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Teasley is a globe-trotting percussionist whose approach as performer, educator, and cultural envoy is heralded worldwide. Kibel is a woodwind specialist in jazz, swing, and klezmer. Together, their improvisatory blend includes Jewish klezmer, Arabic rhythms, and American jazz. \$15.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Visit [www.nvfaa.org/events/](http://www.nvfaa.org/events/) for tickets.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 9

**Garden Talk: Growing Roses.** 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Celebrated for beauty and fragrance, the rose lends elegance to any garden. Although this universally-loved plant has a reputation for being temperamental, Master Gardeners will show you common-sense approaches and precautions to help ensure growing success. For adults. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 183 3501 or call 703-642-5173.

**Scottish Social and Whisky/Wine Tasting.** 7-10 p.m. at the historic Lloyd House, 220 North Washington St. The Alexandria Sister Cities Committee will sponsor The Alexandria Sister Cities Scottish Social and Whisky Tasting. In addition to the tasting, BBQ dinner, wine and other beverages will be provided. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), search Whisky and Wine.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 9-11

**"The Addams Family."** Friday-Saturday, 7:30-10 p.m.; Sunday, 2-4:30 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. The Bishop Ireton Drama Department presents "The Addams Family." From costuming to choreography, more than 60 Ireton students have contributed to this production. Visit [www.bishopireton.org](http://www.bishopireton.org) or call 703-751-7606.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 10

**NoVa TEEN Book Festival.** Opens at 9:30 am at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Forty authors will take part in the NoVa TEEN Book Festival. Author panels and breakout sessions will be held throughout the day-long event packed with books, authors, and activities. Book lovers of all ages are welcome. Free admission. Find a full event schedule and registration information at [novateenbookfestival.com](http://novateenbookfestival.com).

**Family Fun: Garden Terrarium Workshop.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create an enclosed, mini garden terrarium that is fun to view and easy to take care of. Learn about the water cycle and have fun decorating with colored sand, stones, and a figurine. Ages 5-adult. \$12 per project (not per person). Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 182 3701 or call 703-642-5173.

**Enhancing Winter Gardens.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. With some planning and planting, enjoy color, texture and plant shapes while the garden is dormant. Horticulturist Judy Zatsick shares top winter interest plants and how to care for them. Also take a short walk outside to see what surprises Green Spring holds for the winter visitor (weather permitting). For adults. \$18/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 187 4501 or call 703-642-5173.

**Write Like A Woman.** 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Facilitated by Poet and Author KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes women writers ages 18-100. The workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing. For amateur and professional writers. Free. RSVP at [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org).

**Women in Action.** 3-4:15 p.m. at The



"Line of Sight," Oil and Graphite by Beverly Ryan.

## Drone Zone

Drones appeared in Beverly Ryan's artwork in 2015, inspired by questions about their use in warfare. Ryan explores questions related to this topic in her multi-media exhibit, "Drone Zone." March 7-31, gallery hours in the Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Celebrate women and learn about issues important to women and girls in the community at this special event. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and their accompanying adults will participate in hands-on activities and add their own future goals to a timeline of Juliette Gordon Low's story. Participants will talk with a panel of current and former Girl Scouts and discover how scouting empowered them. \$6 per person. Advance purchase is recommended. Purchase tickets at 703-746-4994 or [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Alexandria Choral Society: The Morning Watch.** 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Alexandria Choral Society presents The Morning Watch, featuring Eleanor Daley's "Requiem." Gala and silent auction reception following performance. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/military/student, child (13 and under) free. \$5 more when purchased at the door. Tickets available at [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/boxoffice](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/boxoffice).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 11

**Foodscape Revolution.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Foodscape design requires a well balanced mix of flowering and edibles plants. Plantswoman Brie Arthur shares her favorite perennials for the seasonal foodscape. \$10. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 183 0901 or call 703-642-5173.

**Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band Tribute.** 2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. Marine Band Living History: Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band Tribute. Free, no tickets required. Visit [www.marineband.marines.mil/](http://www.marineband.marines.mil/).

**Complete Dogness.** 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Complete Dogness is a new family friendly

performance about a delightful little doggy with bad habits. She can eat a delicious wool sweater or steal a whole block of cheese in no time. But there is hope as Barky learns new tricks and as the whole family adjusts. The performance incorporates spoken word, movement, and music. \$15 adults, \$10 children under age 10. Call 703-933-1111 and [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## MARCH 13-APRIL 15

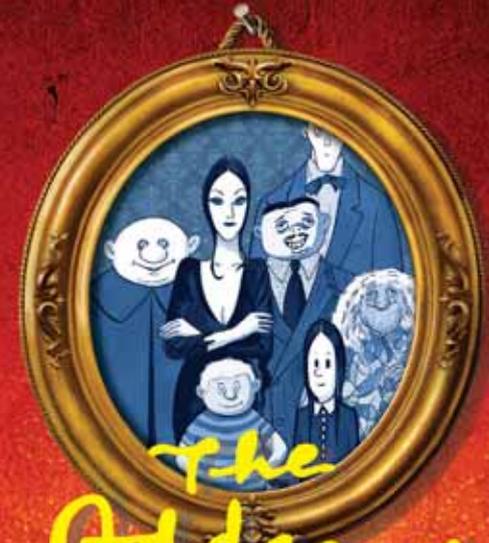
**Art Exhibit: Renewal.** Gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Gallery artists producing themed work may draw on any aspect of "renewal" for inspiration. This show will highlight the work of gallery artists Debra Lee, Cheryl Roesel, and Julia Stephens. Visit [Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 15

**Meet the Legends Reception.** 6 p.m. at Center for Design, Media and the Arts, 3301 Netherton Drive in Alexandria, on the NOVA Community College Alexandria Campus. Sponsored by Living Legends of Alexandria, the event introduces the 2018 Living Legend honorees. Visit [alexandrialegends.org/](http://alexandrialegends.org/).

**World War I Lecture Series.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "Doing Our Bit" (While Having a Bit of Fun): American Nurses in World War I," by Marian Moser Jones, a social historian and ethicist of public health who explores the institutionalization of benevolence in the United States. She will share experiences of specific nurses in World War I gleaned from journals and diaries, including two from Virginia. \$10 per person. Reservations recommended. Tickets at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov).

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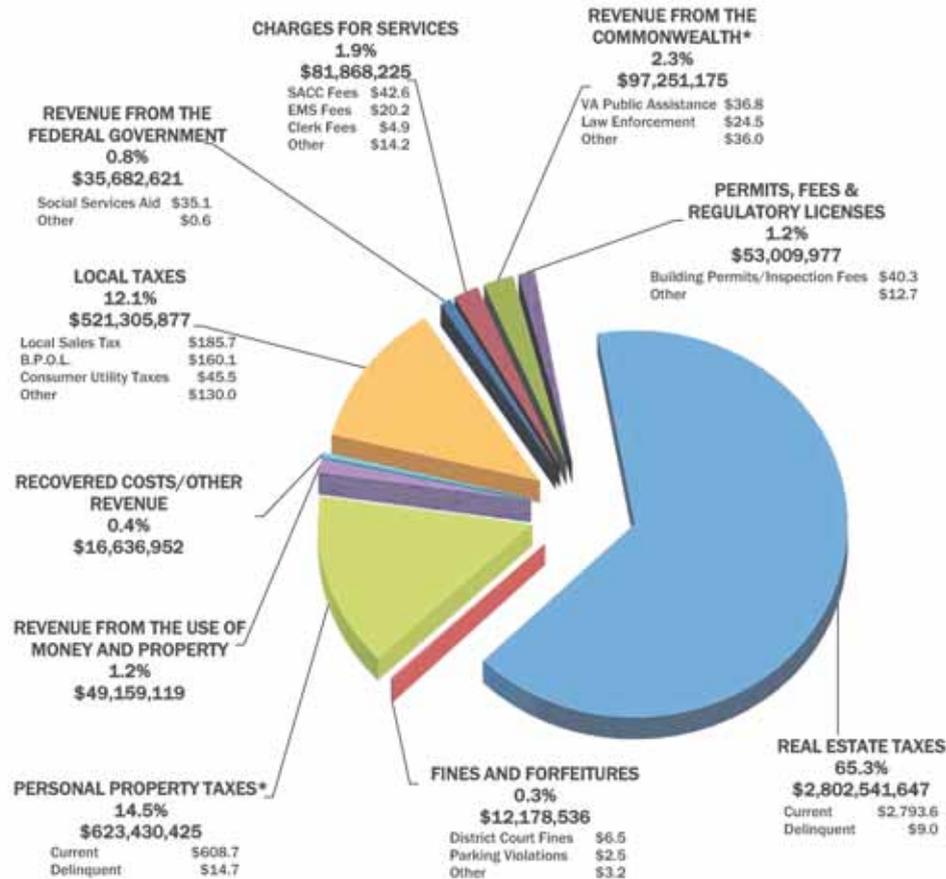
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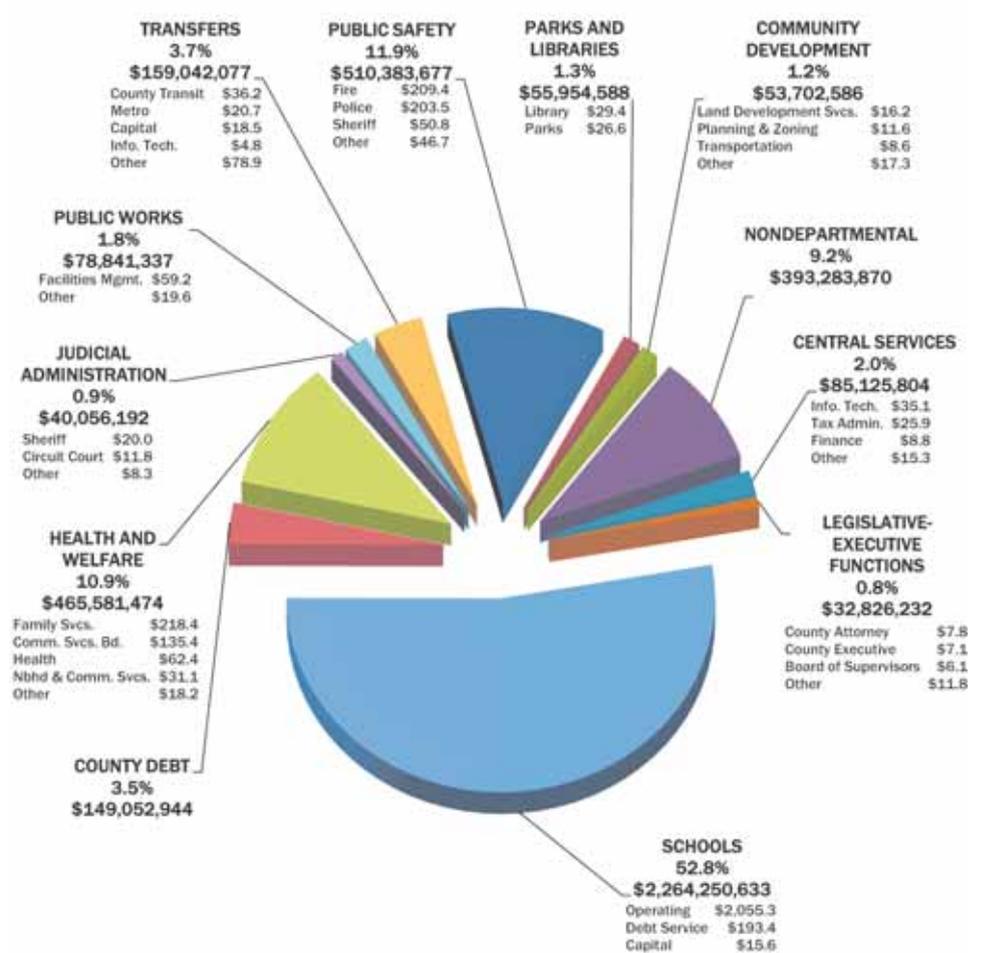
**GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS  
"WHERE IT COMES FROM"**  
(Subcategories in millions)



**FY 2019 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$4,293,064,554\*\***

**FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN**

**GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS  
"WHERE IT GOES"**  
(Subcategories in millions)



**FY 2019 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS = \$4,288,101,414**

\* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

\*\* Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

In addition to FY 2019 revenues, available balances and transfers in are also utilized to support disbursement requirements.

# County Executive Proposes Fully Funding Schools

FROM PAGE 1

"While the tax bills continue to grow in Fairfax, wages have not, especially for our growing population of seniors and our dwindling population of millennials," said Herry.

And various parts of the county will be hit harder than others. Cook suggested that some in his neighborhood each month "will pay \$450 to \$700-plus more with this budget."

"While there are many things in this budget that I strongly advocated for and fully support, and it's nice to see, we also have to go back to the people who pay. ... In this budget, it's hard to explain to the people paying the bill where the restraint was," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay heads the budget committee for the board.

"When you're stuck with residential taxes as your main source of revenue and you can't control property values, you can't control the fact that the highest percentages are sometimes in the communities of this county whose residents can least afford that increase," he said.

**HILL TOOK OVER** as county executive on



**County Executive Bryan Hill answered questions along with FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand. The FCPS budget is fully funded in Hill's proposal.**

Jan. 2; former county executive Ed Long retired Sept. 15, 2017.

"Excellent job in a very short period of time," said Foust, after Hill's presentation.

"Fifty-three days, sir," said Hill, with humor.

Bulova called Hill's budget "outstanding."

"It essentially hits on all the notes that our board is concerned about, increasing funding for schools, fully funding compensation for our employees and also addressing Diversion First and increases in what we need to fund CSB [County Services Board] and police, etcetera, etcetera, etcet-

era," said Bulova.

"This is a budget that invests in people and I think that's the single most important thing we can do this year, to invest in our school employees and our county employees," said McKay.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said she welcomed Hill's support "embracing initiatives" that will allow all families to enjoy what the county has to offer.

"Fairfax County is a really great place but unfortunately there are a lot of folks who are not in a great place in order to enjoy all of that," she said.

For example, "School readiness needs to be looked at with as broad a brush as you can find," she said.

**URGENCY AND WARNING** were themes of Hill's presentation, however.

This year's budget proposal addresses almost all priorities and initiatives, but the future will need to be different, Hill said.

"We're going to have to change how we do business here in Fairfax County," Hill said, predicting persistent budget shortfalls into the future. "It's 2020 where we really need to tie our shoes a little tighter," being

SEE COUNTY OPENS, PAGE 17

# County Opens Budget Debate

FROM PAGE 16

“more creative and nimble.”

He recommends returning promptly to an analysis of county lines of business, looking for efficiencies and savings in each department.

“You hit the nail on the head,” said Foust. “We have to find a way to make county government more efficient if we are going to continue providing the awesome services that we provide at fair and reasonable costs.”

Hill predicts restrained revenue growth for the foreseeable future, with uncertainties in federal spending, the impact of tax reform on property values, state budget contributions and meeting the needs of Metro.

One continuing issue is that Fairfax County sends far more tax money to state coffers than returns, getting just 23 cents back for every dollar, Hill said.

“No matter how many times I say it, people in our community don’t understand it,” said McKay. “They think we get significant help from the state, they think the schools get significant help from the state, but really the schools are getting significant help from the homeowners in Fairfax County.”

**THE \$4.29-BILLION** budget would transfer \$2.26 billion to the school system, 52 percent of the total.

Hill and new School Superintendent Scott Brabrand pledged to work collaboratively to reach joint priorities and efficiencies.

The two new executives stood side by side when answering questions about the proposed budget.

“The quality of the school system is directly tied with the quality of life in the county,” said Brabrand, who began July 10, 2017. His contract runs through June 30, 2021.

“I think it is the first time in recent years that the county executive and the superintendent of schools have stood side by side to share our budgets and take questions.

I think this change is emblematic of a new approach to meeting the needs of the residents of Fairfax County,” he said. Hill’s proposed budget would fully fund the FCPS request.

Hill’s annual salary is \$250,000, Brabrand’s is

## Budget Meetings

◆ Monday, March 19, 7 p.m., Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall, Location to be determined

◆ Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

◆ Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield

◆ April 10-12, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form) to sign up.

\$290,000.

**MORE THAN** 18.9 million square feet of office space remains vacant in the county.

“Maybe it’s starting to think about different uses for that instead of the normal,” said Hill. “Leaving it vacant is not a good thing for our tax base. The more people we have in our vacant office space ... reduces the burden on our county residents. So we have to be more creative, we have to be more nimble, and we have to be cutting edge.”

Hill and numerous supervisors discussed the importance of economic development,

“Increasing commercial is a really good story that can not be overlooked,” said Foust. “A 3.8 percent increase in the non-residential assessment is really good news.”

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck suggested overtime expenditure is an area to save money.

And Herrity made his annual appeal for the county to address pension benefits.

“Every year we put it off, it gets harder,” Herrity said.

“I am extremely disappointed that we have reached yet another budget cycle and we have failed to address our pension issues,” he said.

“As I talk with constituents throughout the county, they are in disbelief that we continue to offer new employees a pension benefit more generous than surrounding jurisdictions on top of a county taxpayer paid social security benefit as early as age 55. Pension costs alone add 30 cents to every payroll dollar and compete for funding with critically needed county services and employee and teacher raises.”

**“This is a budget that invests in people and I think that’s the single most important thing we can do this year to invest in our school employees and our county employees.”**

— **Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay**

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### Announcements

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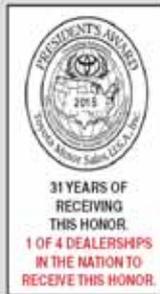
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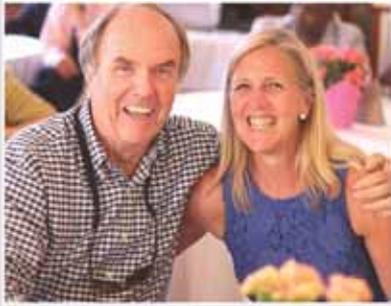


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**5411 Grist Mill Woods Way**  
**\$1,050,000**  
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Truly spectacular Property! Stunning three level Colonial in premier setting on gorgeous large lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in premier Mt. Vernon location. Special Features

Include: open floor plan, high ceilings, many major updates, finished fully walk out lower level, and 2 car garage. Window walls and large deck capitalize wood private lot! Available starting March 3rd!

**JUST LISTED | Open Sunday 1-4**



**9421 Old Mt. Vernon Rd.**  
**\$729,500**  
**Rare Opportunity!**

Rare mid-century design with private pool scene makes for ideal setting. Many updates to this 4BR/ 3.5 BA home include kitchen, roof, water heater, basement finished

and in-law suite added with full kitchen, pool work, all bathrooms updated including stunning master bath and closet. Don't miss this one!

**JUST LISTED**



**9104 Chickawane Ct.**  
**Main Level Master!**  
**\$719,500**

Exceptionally spacious 6 BR home with rare first floor master suite. Major rooms on main level accommodate one level living. Other features include: three

finished levels, full walk out level, cavernous storage space, freshly painted, newly finished hardwood floors, and two car garage. Prime location on large lot with pool on quiet cul-de-sac.

**JUST LISTED**



**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.

**1 Level Living!**



**8307 Crown Court Rd**  
**Incredible New Kitchen!**  
**\$775,000**

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**



**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

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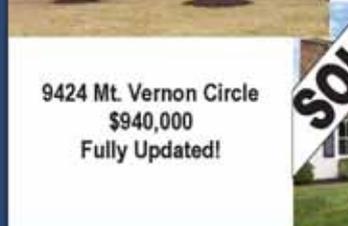
**9032 Mcnair Dr**  
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**One Level Living!**



**8807 Battery Rd.**  
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**9509 Ferry Harbour Ct**  
**\$849,000**  
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**9424 Mt. Vernon Circle**  
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**Fully Updated!**



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

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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**



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



**8709 Curtis Ave**  
**\$539,000**  
**Recently Renovated!**



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



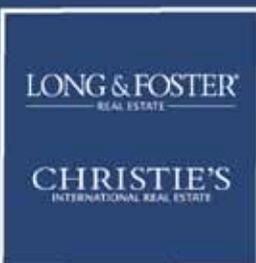
**9317 Maybrook Pl.**  
**\$575,9000**  
**Great Value!**



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



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



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