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Mount Vernon Gazette

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

PAGES 10-11

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 26, 2018

Expanding Helping Role

VFA leaders receive Search and Rescue training.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE
SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

A year ago, Veterans Fishing Adventure (VFA) was just an idea for Ed and Hailey Moore. Today, the father-daughter founding team of this nonprofit organization that provides free boating and fishing trips for veterans and their families are only beginning to see the difference they have made.

"We have touched thousands of people so far," said Moore, an Alexandria resident. "It's hard to fathom what we've done in nine short months. I have seen grown men cry on the boat, even when they're just touching the boat for the first time — especially the Vietnam vets. I see the biggest impact with the guys who served in Vietnam. They stand there and they look at you kind of dumbfounded. I've heard things like, 'When I came back from the war, I got spit in the face.' Or, 'when we came back, no one wanted to be around us.'"

While retired Marine Ed Moore knows firsthand that there is no truly adequate way to pay veterans back for their service and sacrifice, he tries to make it up to these Vietnam veterans — even if just a little. With VFA, Moore extends a token of appreciation to all generations of veterans. He and his family launched the organization last May and have since taken at least 100 military veterans on free boat rides on the Potomac and Chesapeake Rivers.

"We want to get everyone interested on the boat, from the World War II generation to the guys who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "I get choked up with these World War II guys. I've learned so much from this incredible generation of human beings, it's incredible. These are people who really deserve to get a break, which is something they really get when they are out on the water. When these guys came back from war in



Ed Moore (left), U.S. Marine and founder of Veterans Fishing Adventure in Pohick Bay Regional Park, with Mike, a fellow U.S. Marine veteran.

the 1940s, they got off the plane, they got back to their families and went back to the job they had before they shipped out. They never missed a beat. The government took these guys right out of combat flew them home and went right back to work."

A few hours on the VFA boat translates to a care-free afternoon, a time for passengers to escape their problems on the mainland and enjoy Mother Nature.

"The free boat trips we provide help the veterans maintain their camaraderie and feel like they are included in something," Moore said. "Being on the boat is calming and quiet. Enjoying the wildlife and the peace and quiet that you experience on the water is really something special."

In addition to granting such ease from the bur

SEE VFA LEADERS, PAGE 4

Lucky Half Penny

Supervisors drop a half-cent from the proposed 2.5 cent increase in real estate tax rate.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

The Board of Supervisors dropped one half cent for the FY 2019 advertised budget in a 8-2 vote Tuesday, April 24.

"This is the fewest number of changes we've made to the budget in recent years. And I think a lot of that is a reflection on our desire to fund a lot of needs that exist in the county," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, at the board's budget committee meeting on Friday, April 19.

The Board of Supervisors will officially adopt its FY 2019 Budget on May 1.

"The recommendation is to go from a two and a half cent increase to a two cent increase, so going to

\$1.15 as the new rate for FY 2019," said Joe Mondoro, the county's chief financial officer/director.

That translates to a drop from \$268 to \$241 for the average taxpayer on this year's real estate bill.

"We need to identify \$12.3 million," said Mondoro. "We are doing that in proportions, schools and county, just as we did with the building of the budget, so the impact is felt by both and as a result of the actions will maintain the 52.8 percent allocation to schools and will maintain the same growth rate for county and schools. That growth rate will be 4.2 percent as a result of this action. For the school side, the adjustment is \$3.6 million."

Supervisors expressed concern
SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 4



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

April West, a Fairfax County employee and union member, spoke about the importance of retirement security for working families at public hearings before the Board of Supervisors earlier in April.

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OPEN SUN 4/29, 1-4

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OPEN SUN 4/29, 2-4

Belle Haven | \$839,000
Two minutes to your tee time! Charming 1937 brick Colonial with 4 updated levels! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a garage and featuring a flat, fenced back yard with deck! Golf then grill! 6030 Fort Hunt Road Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984 www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 4/29, 1-4

Yacht Haven | \$649,900
Charming 4-bedroom, 3-bath house in Yacht Haven, only 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir and the Potomac River. Elegant living room, stunning family room addition, open dining room and kitchen. Sited on .53-acre lot with large private deck. 4625 Tarpon Lane Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961 www.mbenghauser.com



OPEN SUN 4/29, 1-4

Mount Vernon | \$500,000
4+ bedroom end townhome on George Washington's River Farm! Newly refinished hardwoods. Maple cabinets & stainless steel in kitchen with adjacent family room. Master suite with sitting room. Lower level with full bath walks out to patio. 8245 Cedar Landing Ct. Peter B. Crouch 703.244.4025 www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



OPEN SUN 4/29, 2-4

Plymouth Haven | \$939,000
Stunningly remodeled craftsman on picturesque lot. This 5-bedroom, 3-bath home features sparkling hardwoods, 2 gas fireplaces, lovely open kitchen/living room/dining room, screened-in porch, and mudroom. Steps from Wayneswood Elementary. 8632 Winthrop Dr. Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658 www.tracybdunn.com



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OPEN SUN 4/29, 2-4

Jefferson Manor \$449,900
2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome. Open concept for easy living & entertaining. Kitchen leads to enclosed screened-in deck with stunning views. Covered patio below & large yard. Spacious upstairs rooms, finished lower level, off-street parking. Walk to Huntington Metro. 2719 Jefferson Street

Jen Walker 703.675.1566 www.JenWalker.com



Old Town \$885,000
Stunning end unit in the sought-after SE quadrant! This lovely 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath house gleams with natural sunlight and has winter water views from 2 floors. Renovated kitchen and baths, fenced yard, deck and 2-car driveway. No HOA.

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From Estate to City

Runners pace themselves at GW Parkway Classic Ten Miler.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE

The GW Parkway Classic Ten-Miler and 5K was celebrating its 34th anniversary on Sunday, April 22. Runners woke up to a bright red sky at around 6 a.m., and began the ten miler just outside Mount Vernon, the home of the nation's first president, at 8 a.m.

The GW Parkway Classic is a USATF (USA Track and Field) certified course that runs along the scenic George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Parkway Classic is a primary sponsor of the Boys and Girls Club of Alexandria. It is also a favorite among veterans' support groups, local charities and cancer fundraisers, and, because of its relatively flat course, those who are just getting back into running long distances.

Will Christian, 34, of Norfolk, came in first with a pace of 5:03 minutes per mile. Kieran O'Connor, of Arlington, 31, came in second, with a pace of 5:14, and Bryan Cook, of Durham, N.C., 24, came in third with a pace of 5:17 minutes per mile.

In the 5K, Thomas Kelly, 28, of Washington D.C. came in first with a pace of 5:13. Travis Boltjes, 38, also of Washington came in second at 5:18, and Amber Hawkins, 22, of Burke, came in third with a pace of 5:43 per mile.

Jacqueline Gruendel, of Clifton, 43, and Lauren Edwards, of Arlington, 42, were the first women in the Ten Miler to cross the finish line and came in 9 and 10, with a pace of 6:04 and 6:05 respectively.



Every race involves hundreds of volunteers to make it work seamlessly. Eugene Robinson and Patricia Foust are two such volunteers. They unloaded six trucks of personal belongings so runners could run without bags and sweatshirts.

Security along the route was tight. Park police, local police, and SWAT teams, were placed at regular intervals along the route. Hundreds of volunteers helped make the race a smoothly running event.

Eugene Robinson and Patricia Foust were two volunteers on bag duty. They unloaded six trucks of personal belongings so runners could run without bags and sweatshirts. Robinson said a few years ago someone

asked him if he was doing anything on a Saturday in April.

They said there is always a need at the Parkway Classic race for marshals and other help. Robinson has been volunteering at the race ever since. His colleague Patricia Foust said she volunteers "because I just love people."

As always, the race's highlight was the people: runners were friendly and courte-

ous. Signs and supporters' encouragement along the route, particularly the children who held out their hand for "high fives" made the run a community affair. Runners were rewarded with breakfast tacos from District Taco and the standard post-run drink of choice, beer, if they ran fast enough to get it. The beer ran out around 10:30 a.m.; Port City Brewing Company attributed the shortage to the warm day.

This Parkway Classic sign made runners laugh.

PHOTOS BY
EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE



MVUC Greenhouse Opens with Native Plants and More

Variety of herbs, garden plants, and flowers at historic greenhouse on Mason Hill.

BY MARY PADEN

The Mount Vernon Unitarian Church greenhouse is open for business with a Spring Plant Sale every Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-June. The 1930s art deco greenhouse is known for its knowledgeable volunteers who grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers from seeds and cuttings using organic practices. The specialties are heirloom tomato plants, peppers, unusual or old-fashioned flowers, as well as hybrid tomatoes and a variety of herbs. Visitors will find Cherokee Purple, Mortgage Lifter, Hawaiian Pineapple, as well as, Roma and Early Girl among the more than 30 varieties of tomato plants. Peppers include Biggie Chili, Big Bertha, Cubanelle and Early Sunsatation, as well as, Devil Serrano and more.

Flowers include, cuphea which is a hummingbird magnet, fox-

glove (which deer don't like), bachelor button, marigold, salvia, four-o'clocks, balsam, Sweet William, Shasta Daisy, larkspur, nigella, and more. Greenhouse plants are supplemented with larger perennial plants purchased from a Virginia grower.

Visit the greenhouse at the top of Mason Hill next to the windmill on the grounds of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The MVUC Greenhouse was built in 1930 by the Lord and Burnham Co. of Lexington, N.Y., which, at the time, was the country's premier greenhouse design and construction company. They continued to build greenhouses until 1990. Their most notable greenhouses include the conservatory at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, the Smith College Greenhouse, and the original 1933 conservatory at the National Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C.



Lead volunteer Mary Barnett at the art deco greenhouse at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church.

Supervisors Drop Half-Cent from Proposed Increase

FROM PAGE 1

that they are providing more money to schools for teacher salaries, but schools plan to spend more than \$17 million of the funds for administrators, not teachers.

"The bottom line, for me, is that they are still talking very significant increases for administrators in one year," said John Foust, Dranesville District supervisor.

SEVERAL SUPERVISORS complained that they needed detailed information from the schools about raises for administrators, but they hadn't gotten that information as the

vote approaches.

"I don't think we have the information we need to get them that money."

— **John Foust,**
Dranesville Supervisor

"I don't think we have the information we need to get them that money," said Foust.

"We're hoping we're going to have more definitive numbers before we have to act on this," said McKay. "The point is, we should have that information and we should be able to view it and we should be able to have it sooner rather than later since we have to take action on this on Tuesday."

"Tuesday is going to come real quick," said Foust at the Friday meeting. "They have to lay it out."

Pat Herrity added that School Board members hadn't gotten the answers to these questions either.

IN AN UNUSUAL TWIST, the General Assembly has still not approved the budget, injecting some uncertainty to how much the county and schools can expect to receive.

But overall, the news on state funding appeared to be good, with additional revenue from the state included in all three versions of the state budget, House of Delegates, Senate and Governor.

"As the board is aware, there is not yet a state budget. However, the \$900,000 that we're identifying here is included in all three the Governor, the House and the Senate versions of the budget so staff felt comfortable that recognizing this amount of money

add on, which is typically what we would do, made sense," said Mondoro.

"And so the addition of that \$900,000 to the advertised balance that the county executive identified for you in February of \$3.9 million means going into markup there's \$4.8 million available to the board," he said.

Negotiations continue at the state level about expanding Medicaid, with the House of Delegates' and Governor's versions of the budget including the expansion. With expansion of Medicaid comes significant extra funding.

"Should Medicaid expansion happen, we should make sure as quickly as possible that we sit down back at this table and take a look at the results of that will be," Chairman Sharon Bulova said.

VFA Leaders Receive Search and Rescue Training

FROM PAGE 1

happens everyday life, Veterans Fishing Adventure also provides a new degree of rescue for the community: The Port of Virginia invited Moore and some of the organization's volunteer leaders to Search and Rescue (SAR) training.

"Earlier this year, we got selected to go to SAR training in Hampton, Va.," Moore said. "We were the only civilian entity since 1984 to get selected to go. They teach you how to locate bodies and other boats out in the ocean. They teach you how to interact with other ships, and about night navigation. What a neat thing to go to and to learn."

With SAR certification, the Veterans Fishing Adventure team could be saving lives on a whole new level.

"I myself, another Marine, and two other local buddies who all volunteer on our boat went to the training," Moore said. "Now that we are SAR certified, we can do search and rescue missions. The local fire and police in our community can utilize our boat for such missions, too."

Barry Maham, VFA volunteer and captain of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Boat Patrol, attended SARS training with the team.

"SARs training gave us a lot of insights to using our boat and other ways we could use the boat to better the community," Maham said. "We got to meet and work with the Coast Guard, and this opportunity was a great way to spread the word of our mission and everything we are trying to do. On top of that, we are able to conduct search and rescue missions now: If I needed his boat today on behalf of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Boat patrol, I could take it out right away."

SAR certification is just one of many dimensions to this veteran group's vessel. Moore was using a borrowed boat for many of the organization's cruises, but now their custom built boat is ready for better-than-ever rides.

"This boat is multi, multi, multidimensional," Moore said. "Our VFA boat is cus-

tom built from the ground up with a hydraulic ramp (the entire front of the boat folds down) which allows easy access for those with mobility issues. The entire boat has a military aesthetic and a panoramic view, whether sitting or standing, from the inside. It's amazing to actually having a tangible item. I never imagined this would be what it is today. We want to let everyone know what we do, because it grows tenfold every day."

Their mother ship is such a work of art that the VFA team has been invited to show it off in a number of different boat shows across the state.

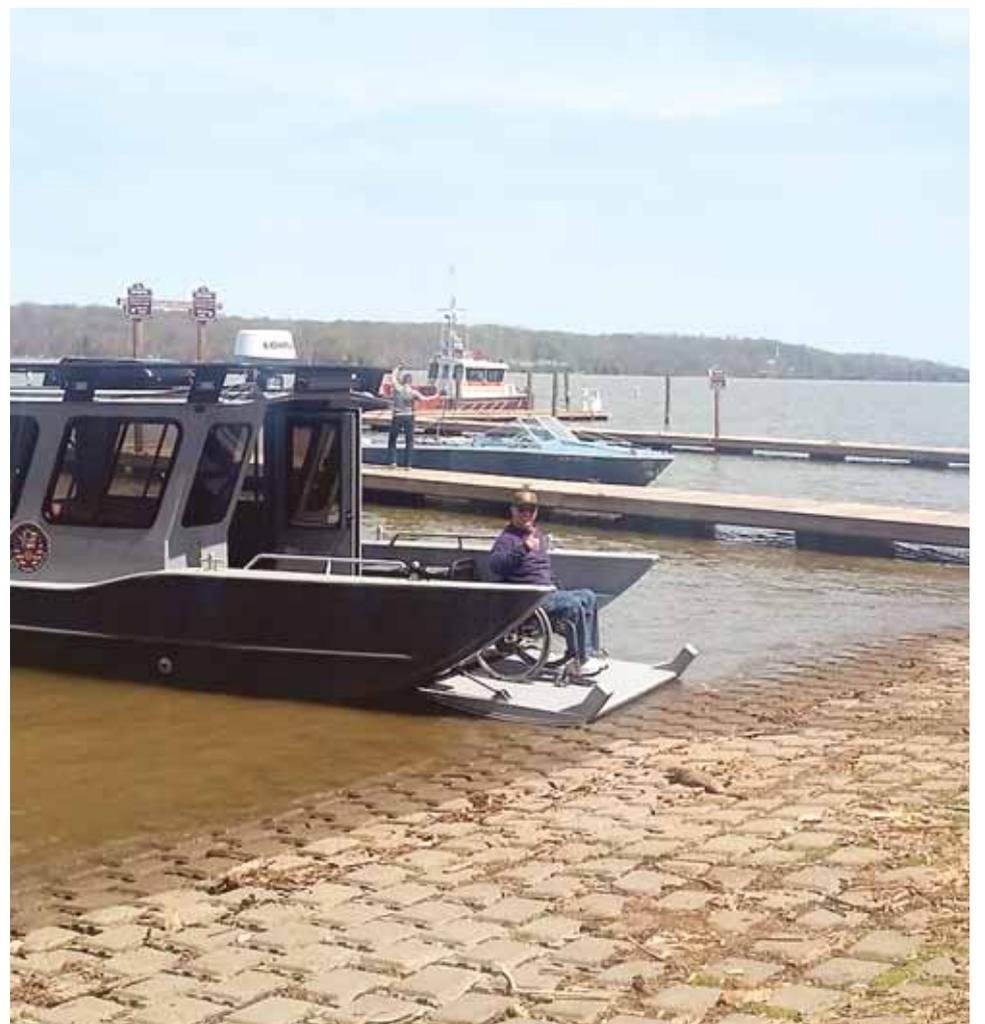
"I've got people calling me left and right now, asking me to showcase my boat," he said. "It's unbelievable. In February, our boat was on display at the 65th annual Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show in Virginia Beach, which was our first gala type event. We met more than 10,000 people and sold shirts and hats to raise money."

Following this appearance, the VFA crew made its way down to Chesterfield, Va., for the Salute and Celebration of Women Veterans and Women Veteran Entrepreneurs gala.

"We took the boat down, we showed it to everyone," Moore said. "We also met many congressmen down there and overall made a ton of great contacts."

Not only does their boat comply with American Disability Act (ADA) standards so that veterans with a wide range of disabilities can access it easily, but it also has features that most people could imagine. Fitting eight to 10 passengers, the boat features indoor heating and cooling systems, has a Corvette motor and also comes with a propulsion system ideal for fishing.

"It's pretty top notch amazing; I've never seen anything like it," Maham said. "We're definitely displaying it whenever possible, spreading the word. We're in the fundraising phase, but it's not about the money. We all love the water and hope to share that with others. If we can help someone mentally have a break, whether it's boating fishing seeing the Potomac from the water, that's



Mike, a U.S. Marine veteran at Pohick Bay Regional Park.

what it's all about."

The story behind the boat is also incredible: More than 100 volunteers joined the Moore family over the course of several weekends to help build the boat. Now complete, Moore said an official christening is on the horizon.

With increased visibility, Veterans Fishing Adventure will now focus on fundraising.

"Now that our boat is built, we will be working more on donations," Moore said. "It's endless what we can do; the word 'no' is not in our vocabulary."

As Moore's team devises a fundraising

strategy, he's also on the hunt for a big enough location for their boat's official christening.

"We've taken some veterans on unofficial rides, but we haven't done anything official yet. We're looking for somewhere that would accommodate four to five thousand people." Moore looks forward to spending his days with this venture for veterans.

"As long as I'm living and breathing, I know this will never get old," he said. "When I'm dead and gone, I'll still be smiling. It's something so infectious, it's unbelievable."

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.

DONATIONS NEEDED

UCM Needs Help. United Community Ministries (UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Inventory is low on disposable diapers especially sizes 4, 5, 6; canned tuna and other canned meats like chicken; and low-sugar breakfast cereals. Shop and donate with their Amazon Wish List at: bit.ly/UCM_FoodPantry_AmazonWishList. Email Assistant Food Pantry Manager Von at vonnetta.jones@ucmagency.org or visit at www.ucmagency.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community Ministries (UCM), located at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at www.ucmagency.org/volunteer or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or

caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

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 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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Community Job and Resource Fair. 9 a.m.-noon at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA), along with Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mount Vernon, will co-sponsor its first Community

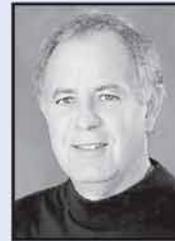
Job and Resource Fair. **Mount Vernon Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Refreshments will also be on sale. Admission is free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com.

Boater Safety Classes. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Boater Safety Classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Students who pass the test receive a boater education certificate recognized by the Coast Guard, Virginia and all other states that require boater education. Contact Moses Pettigrew at msgtop@verizon.net or 202-616-8987.

Community Job Fair. 9 a.m.-noon at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Meet employers who are hiring, learn about new places to work, get to know hiring managers. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Catholic Church Bridges to Independence, Catholic Charities of Arlington, Opportunity Neighborhood Mount Vernon. Email: jobfairs@ccda.net.

Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon District Station, 2511 Parkers Lane. Free, convenient, confidential, and safe disposal of unused or expired medications during Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. Drop off medications at any of the eight Fairfax County District Police Stations (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/medicine-cabinet-cleanout for more.

A Community Conversation about
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900
8341 Orange Court
Stunning & updated 5BR, 3BA Split w/2 car garage on a beautifully landscaped lot looking across to woodlands & winter water views of Little Hunting Creek. Kitchen gutted in 2011 w/porcelain, quartz, & SS. Other updates include:

painting, floors, baths, roof & A/C. Front windows replaced w/thermal DBL pane. Beautifully updated & meticulously maintained. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 mins to NTL Airport & 30 mins to the Pentagon.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900
8601 Mt. Vernon Hwy

Lovely Mt. Vernon home in Riverside Estates w/5BRs, 3BAs & a large carport on a .41 acre lot. Double pane replacement windows w/tilt-ins. 2014 HVAC, 2015 hot water heater. Recessed lights, crown & base molding. Living room w/large picture window flanked by additional windows & built-book shelving overlooking the large fenced flat backyard. Nice Family room w/wood burning fireplace. Double pane replacement windows w/tilt-ins. Great price!



Alex/Wessynton \$664,900
3301 Wessynton Way

Beautiful home in Wessynton, Mt. Vernon's sought after contemporary community, just a stone's throw to Mt. Vernon Estate & George Washington Pkwy, & is adjacent to Little Hunting Creek. Large kitchen w/breakfast area, & a separate Dining Rm. Beautiful hwd floors. FPLs in the lovely Living Rm & Family Rm. Situated in a natural, wooded setting the home's bountiful windows bring to outdoors inside. Enjoy the natural landscaping on your deck. 1 car garage. Community amenities include boat ramp, swimming pool, tennis courts.



Alex/Waynewood \$699,900
1120 Waynewood Blvd.

Waynewood's popular Mayfield model w/4 finished levels & a spacious 5th level w/good ceiling height waiting to be finished. Steps to Waynewood Elementary. This lovely light-filled home has 4BRs, w/2.5 BAs, a 3 season porch, & a lovely fenced bkwd w/a brick patio & an attractive shed. Quality replacement windows, 6 panel doors. Beautiful newly finished hwd floors. FPL in Living rm, eat-in kitchen w/gas cooktop & double oven. Separate Dining rm w/French doors to porch. Family rm on lower level w/half bath.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$679,900
9343 Boothe Street

Check out this large, beautiful updated Colonial on a stunning lot, a short walk from the Potomac River. Updated Kitchen & Baths w/DBL pane windows. 5BRs, all on the upper level-beautiful hardwood floors on main & upper levels. Large partially finished basement & 2 car garage w/side entry plus circular driveway. 5 minute drive to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to South Alexandria. Spectacular home, lot & location at a very reasonable price. Give Rex a call.



Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000
8807 Vernon View Drive

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



Alex/Vernon on Potomac \$595,900
8534 Riverside Road

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split w/DBL carport in Stratford Landing Elementary District. Numerous updates including Kitchen, Baths, tankless HWH, DBL Pane windows, exterior siding, beautiful hwd floors on main level and lovely laminate (like hard wood) floors throughout lower level. Fenced back yard w/a wood deck and brick patio- Short walk to Stratford elementary. This is a keeper!!



GIVE FROM THE HEART Gala



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hundreds of caring community members & supporters who joined us on April 14 to empower our neighbors in need to transform their lives!

The Friends of UCM
Gala Co-Chairs: Elaine Kolish & Paula Lettice
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A Successful Plea for Incentives

Governor Northam recently announced nominations of Opportunity Zones to the U.S. Department of Treasury — including Census Tracts along Route 1 that are being developed as part of the Embark process. Opportunity zones are revitalization tools that provide federal incentive for private investment in low-income census tracts.

For more information about the Opportunity Zone selection process, visit <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/component/content/article/346.html>

Four of the selected sites were subjects of a joint letter submitted by state Sen. Adam Ebbin, state Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Mark Sickles, and Del. Paul Krizek to Erik Johnston, the director of the Department of Housing & Community Development on Feb. 27 recommending the inclusion of sites along Rte. 1 in the Governor's recommendations. Text of the letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Johnston:

"It has come to our attention that Virginia

will be designating Opportunity Zone Census Tracts under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The Richmond Highway Corridor of US Route 1 was developed to serve the traveling public in the first half of the 20th century. The interstate highway system decimated the economy of the corridor, and it has never recovered. Unfortunately, the legacy of old motels, strip centers and trailer parks continues today.

"Now, Fairfax County is poised to adopt a new Comprehensive Plan for the Community Business Centers (CBCs) along Richmond Highway. A recent study led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) recommended median-based Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the corridor, with an eventual extension of Metrorail, and the new Plan (dubbed "Embark") encourages new, higher-density development of the CBCs to support the new transit, and vice-versa.

"While we believe the entire Richmond Highway Corridor is deserving of designation as an Opportunity Zone, we note that the following census tracts are both eligible and within the

CBCs, and we recommend that they receive priority consideration:

- ❖ Huntington area: 4204, 4205 (.01, .02, .03)
- ❖ Penn Daw area: 4206
- ❖ Beacon/Groveton area: 4214
- ❖ Hybla Valley area: 4215, 4216
- ❖ Woodlawn area: 4218

"The Embark Plan can be transformative for the Richmond Highway Corridor, and strategic designation of CBC census tracts as Opportunity Zones will serve to increase their development potential, leading to increased housing, employment, and tax base for the county and the Commonwealth, in addition to an improved quality of life for residents.

"We look forward to partnering with the Commonwealth, Fairfax County and local stakeholders to revitalize the Route 1 Corridor. Embark website for more information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/embark-richmond-highway.

"Thank you for your consideration."

Helping To Examine School Safety

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



On Thursday, April 26, I return to the Capitol as a member of the newly constituted Select Committee on School Safety for its inaugural meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the House Committee Room of the Pocahontas Building. The public is

invited and I encourage you to attend if you are interested and can make it down to Richmond.

COMMENTARY

I join Delegates Mark Sickles and Vivian Watts as the only three Northern Virginia Delegates appointed by the Speaker to this Committee. The three of us visited with Fairfax County Public Schools on Tuesday to meet with their security team to understand how the county addresses school safety and what recommendations they have for the Select Committee.

On Monday night, I also visited a local elementary schools and noted their new security features. I plan to conduct future visits to our schools in Fairfax County to determine how we can ensure that our schools are safe for our children, teachers, and administrators. The goal of the Select Committee will be to make policy recommendations for consideration of the General Assembly during the 2019 Session and I urge you to contact me with your suggestions and thoughts.

The Speaker of the House has limited the Select Committee's scope of work to strengthening emergency preparedness, hardening school security infrastructure, implementing security best practices, providing additional security personnel and behavioral health resources for students, and developing prevention protocols across the Commonwealth.

We are not allowed to consider any gun safety measures. I disagree with this and be-

lieve the best way to combat the increase in school shootings is to make sure fewer guns find their way into the hands of bad actors.

Despite my philosophical disagreement, this committee is conducting critically important work. We must recognize that the elephant in the room is the discussion we should be having on gun safety in our communities. The House Democrats have created a task force on gun safety which will convene meetings and public hearings across Virginia this summer and fall to build support and develop policy initiatives for common sense gun safety legislation for next year's General Assembly session.

There are many K-12 school systems, colleges and universities across Virginia moving toward best practices options-based responses to an active shooter, while there are others that are still using decades old out-of-date practices. The need for legislation to ensure uniformity with proper training, along with the necessary funds to pay for that training is a priority of mine.

This is no different than our recognized need for uniformity when responding to fires and other natural disasters, and is in line with the statewide requirement to ensure proper CPR/AED training and practice for school staff. Our children, the Commonwealth's students, must be safe at school and our response to critical incidents is best addressed by utilizing the latest research and recommendations from experts in the field.

To this point, I have met with an ad hoc committee of interested constituents and experts in the field to share with me with their expertise and to serve as a local sounding board to bounce ideas off of and gather information that I can use as a member of the Select Committee.

In addition to my efforts on the state level, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine will also host a meeting Thursday night at St. Aidan's to discuss gun safety legislation at the federal level that you may want to attend.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting FLE Program

To the Editor:

For the past 25 years Fairfax County Public Schools has had a Family Life Education program in its schools that prepares young children for being members of families, cautions older children about some of the hazards of adulthood, and contains lessons that encourage all children to be safer in this world. The program at the same time respects the values of families of different perspectives and cultural backgrounds. Most important of all, parents can examine and opt their children out of any part or all of FLE at any grade level — the

children will receive a well-constructed alternative health lesson.

This year's proposal will include some tweaks to language that make the objectives more inclusive of transgender students. FCPS has adopted language in line with the major medical professional groups: the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association. Alas, this has attracted a well-funded astro-turf campaign from some national lobbying organizations opposed to such inclusion. Fairfax residents should rest assured that the FLE objectives are closely examined by a committee representative of staff and the commu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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OPINION

Supporting Health Of all Virginians

BY DR. J. STEPHEN JONES,
NANCY HOWELL AGEE AND
HOWARD KERN

After wrestling with Medicaid expansion for years, the Virginia House of Delegates voted in favor of providing coverage for hundreds of thousands of our neighbors across Virginia. We want to commend the delegates from both parties for their perseverance in tackling a difficult topic and thank them for voting to improve health care for all Virginians.

Helping our neighbors makes sense for several reasons. Bringing back Virginia taxpayer dollars to the state would strengthen the economy. That action stands to support thousands of new jobs. Also healthy people equal a healthy economy, a more productive workforce and ultimately a lower cost to society overall.

Research continues to prove that individuals who have insurance see their primary care doctor more routinely, take care of their chronic conditions more effectively, and stay employed (and employable) longer.

What would Medicaid expansion mean if the Senate, House and Governor found a compromise solution during the special General Assembly session to finalize the state budget?

With additional funds from the federal government, the Commonwealth can expand coverage to the up to 400,000 additional low-income Virginians who currently do not qualify for Medicaid.

The cost of uncompensated care is initially absorbed by a health care provider such as a hospital or physician office. But it ultimately gets passed on to people through higher insurance rates, to employers who provide insurance for their

employees, and to workers who see their premiums rise.

Funding health care is not just the work of government programs, however. We, as hospitals and health care systems, need to partner with patients to take responsibility for lowering costs. With that in mind, we've been approaching care in new ways.

Additional Medicaid dollars are really just the next piece in a much larger puzzle. Hospitals like ours will continue to provide care to those who need it in an emergency, but increasingly we've shifted to a model of care that offers support to people who might be at risk for needing acute care. If we're able to help them before they become acutely ill, they have a much better chance at a fulfilling life, and the cost to our health system and the community is much lower. In other words, we're focusing on the complex work of keeping chronically ill patients from unnecessary hospitalizations.

As major employers in the Commonwealth, we share a commitment to ensuring the economic vitality of our great state. We know that a healthy economy is only possible within a healthy community where individuals have the tools and resources to keep themselves well and to seek care close to home when they need it.

Thank you to the House of Delegates for reaching out of your comfort zone in this year's budget to include federal Medicaid dollars. As health care systems, we exist to ensure our communities are healthy, and we appreciate you joining us in that mission. We're optimistic that the climate of compromise will find its way to the Senate during this special session, for the sake of all Virginians.

Dr. J. Stephen Jones is chief executive officer of Inova. Nancy Howell Agee is president and chief executive officer of Carilion Clinic. Howard Kern is president and chief executive officer of Sentara Healthcare.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

nity; almost all residents of the county will find nothing untoward in the objectives. Indeed, our Family Life Education program is something of which we can be proud. The campaign against it is really much ado about nothing.

Robert Rigby, Jr.
President, FCPS Pride

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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Public Hearings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402	Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

NEWS

Gov. Ralph Northam cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony. Also pictured is from left, Chief Lynette Alston of the Nottoway Tribe, Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield, member of the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission who read her poem "Mantle", Chief Emeritus Ken Adams Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, and Mount Vernon residents former U.S. Sen. and Governor George Allen and his wife, Susan.



PHOTO COURTESY RUNNING STRONG FOR AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH

Local Group Supports Monument

Running Strong for American Indian Youth, headquartered on Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon, is a major supporter of "Mantle," a permanent monument erected on Capitol Square on the grounds of the historic Virginia State Capitol in Richmond.

On April 17, the tribute to Virginia Indians was dedicated at a ceremony which included remarks by Gov. Ralph Northam, the artist Alan Michelson and Chief Emeritus of the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe Ken Adams.

The Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission

which was formed by the Virginia General Assembly to recommend an appropriate monument to commemorate the life, achievements and legacy of American Indians in the Commonwealth.

Mantle, which combines four integrated spiral elements to create the shape of a nautilus (a living fossil that has been replicating itself for 500 million years), consists of a five-foot wide winding footpath that follows the outline of the monument and a continuous smooth stone wall which also serves a bench.

SEE MONUMENT, PAGE 17



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Donations for New Hope

The Mount Vernon Evening Lions had a shower for New Hope Housing clients. Household items were donated to help set up their new apartments.

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Affording Summer Camp

For families with a limited budget, paying for camp can be a challenge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the great pleasures of summer is going to camp. From kayaking and rock climbing to horseback riding and sail-ing, camp is a place where lifelong memories are created. A recent study by the non-profit, global policy think tank RAND Corporation shows that voluntary summer programs like camp have a significant, positive impact on low-income students during a time when they fall behind their wealthier peers both academically and socially.

Katie Crump, a case manager at Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poor and underserved, says that the luxury of summer camp often eludes those who need it most.

“The opportunity of attending a real summer camp is a big thing for them. Unfortunately, this experience can be unattainable due to the high cost and finding transportation among other things,” said Crump. “Attending summer camp affords kids a special and important experience that’s all their own. It allows kids to be kids, something that is particularly vital for low-income children who are often forced to deal with the burdens of adulthood at a young age.”

Despite the cost of summer camp, keeping children engaged during the stretch of



Children at Camp Invention create tracks for a self-driving robot. This camp has funding to sponsor low-income children this summer.

time between June and August when school is not in session is a critical part of their development, says Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

“Summer camps give opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral skills,” he said. “Some

research shows that higher [socioeconomic status] children increase academic and behavioral skills over the summer and lower [socioeconomic status] children lose skills over the summer. Research shows that lower [socioeconomic status] children benefit from learning social and behavioral skills in different settings with new peers and

More

CAMP INVENTION

<http://campinvention.org/>

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<https://www.fsafeds.com/>

resources, summer camps can still be accessible, says Tom Rosenberg, president and CEO of the American Camp Association (ACA). “There is a camp for every budget,” he said “[Most] ACA-accredited camps provide some form of scholarship assistance. Reach out to the camp directly to ask about specific financial aid and scholarship options.”

The RAND study also showed that even though low-income students can lose up to two months of math and reading skills over the summer, high-quality summer programs can bridge that gap. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps are an example of programs that can be effective, but possibly unaffordable for some families.

Wolftrap and Colvin Run elementary schools in Fairfax County will be the site of a non-profit STEM camp called Camp Invention. Organized by the National Inven-

challenges to apply their skills.” Even with limited

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

SEE AFFORDING, PAGE 11

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Affording Summer Camp

FROM PAGE 10

tors Hall of Fame (NIHF), the hands-on program is designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Through activities like building robots and designing gadgets, campers get a sense of what it's like to be a physicist or engineer.

"The program has sponsors that provide funding that's used to help underrepresented kids attend the camps," said Ken Torisky, spokesman for National Inventors Hall of Fame. "The money is distributed to students by the school district."

Options for financial assistance for summer camp run the gamut from discounts for dependents of those serving in the military to camp funding offered by churches, synagogues, and civic organizations. "I would suggest to parents that they look into their child being sponsored by a local business to attend a camp or look into payment plan options at a camp that they are interested in attending," advised Stacie Gottlieb, director, Bullis Summer and Extended Day Programs in Potomac, Md.

While Bullis does not offer financial assistance for summer camp, Gottlieb says that there are discounts for early registration and registering for multiple weeks of camp.

Parents should check to see if a camp participates in U.S. government assistance programs, particularly those with income eligibility requirements, like Title XX, advises Rosenberg. While it might be too late for this summer, he encourages parents to explore Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts and a Child and Dependent Care tax credit through the FSA Feds

website: <https://www.fsafeds.com/>.

"I generally think lower income children benefit when they have access to the same opportunities as upper-income children and also gain cultural skills and knowledge important to upward mobility when

"Research shows that lower [socioeconomic status] children benefit from learning social and behavioral skills in different settings with new peers and challenges to apply their skills."

— **Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.**

they have opportunity to interact with upper-income kids," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "I also think upper-income kids gain mightily when they have genuine interactions with kids from other class backgrounds. Because empathy, cross cultural understanding, and an ability to work in diverse groups are skills that this new century demands, having opportunities to hone those skills are of value for all involved."

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STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

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Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May
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fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk



ENTERTAINMENT



Richard Isaacs (Lyman Sanderson, M.D.), Andy Izquierdo (Elwood P. Dowd), and Lindsey Doane (Ruth Kelly, R.N.) star in The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Harvey."



Andy Izquierdo (Elwood P. Dowd) stars in The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Harvey."



Catherine Gilbert (Myrtle Mae Simmons) and Rachael Hubbard (Veta Louise Simmons) star in The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Harvey."

Timely Return of 'Harvey' Classic story centers on invisible 6-and-a-half-foot tall rabbit

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "Harvey" now through May 12. Directed by Frank Pasqualino, and produced by Rachel Alberts and Bobbie Herbst, the story centers on "Harvey," an invisible 6-and-a-half-foot tall rabbit. When the main character Elwood starts introducing him to guests at a party, his sister can no longer tolerate his inebriated antics and worries about her family being exposed to this imaginary rabbit. However, after years of living with Elwood (and Harvey), she begins to start seeing him herself. It was made into the iconic 1950 film starring James Stewart.

Director Frank Pasqualino said what drew him to the play was the realization that maybe dreams or illusions are more important than we think they are. "I'm fascinated by the notion that Harvey is a real creature; experienced by at least three characters and the audience. So, is he, or is he not an illusion?" he said.

He said when playwright Mary Chase wrote the play in 1942, it was the height of WWII; a time when the harsh realities of war were being suffered by the whole country. "Everyone in the country was affected by the circumstance of the tumultuous times; much as we are now. Ms. Chase hoped when writing 'Harvey,' that she could bring laughter and respite to war-torn America. Her main character, Elwood, with his unflappable demeanor, his impeccable manners and the happy world he creates around him resonated with audiences in 1944 as they were looking for an escape from the insanity around them. I'm hoping we can get people laughing again; it's needed and it's necessary," he said.

Producer Rachel Alberts said the play represents, for her, the innocence and kindness that the world is lacking at the moment. "I was looking forward to creating something without rough edges. I love the dreaminess of Elwood, who appears to be out of touch

with reality, but this is really not the case, he just chooses to construct his own reality. And it's a lovely, gentle, kind reality. Something we all could use these days," she said.

She said what she was trying to accomplish was: "First, that some of these old chestnut plays are exactly what we, as an audience, need at times. And that they still have something to teach us. It's also really funny. Rehearsals were so fun — it was such a joy to be able to immerse ourselves in the silliness of this script," she said.

Andy Izquierdo plays the lead of Elwood P. Dowd, whom other characters refer to as peculiar, out of touch and crazy. "But in many ways, I think he represents what ev-

erybody strives to be: genuinely happy," he said. "He is always happy in the moment — whoever he's with — and he approaches every interaction with a sense of curiosity, fellowship and human connection. In truth, he is the most sane and aspirational character in the play — minus all of the time he spends in a bar, perhaps."

He added: "Elwood P. Dowd was so indelibly portrayed by Jimmy Stewart in the 1950 movie that one of the real challenges of the play has been to create a truly unique character. I could never and would never want to imitate that iconic performance — and Frank has been extremely supportive of the cast creating brand new characters in what is a classic play. Infusing this character with all of his quirkiness and misplaced optimism while making him a believable and genuine person has certainly been a challenge — but equally fun."

Tony Gilbert plays the role of Judge Omar Gaffney, a respected attorney in the community and represents the Dowd/Simmons family. "The more he tries to straighten

things out, the more Elwood (and Harvey) keep them moving in another path," he said.

He added: "The biggest challenge for me is, as always, creating a believable character onstage that connects with all the thousands of other pieces of our production to give our audience the fullest experience of the script we are portraying to them," he said.

Patricia Smith plays the role of Betty Chumley, the cheerful wife of Dr. Chumley, who always tries to avoid conflict. "That's not easy when you're married to Willie, who is prone to lose his temper. She is also a bit gullible, and a bit of a flirt," she said.

She added: "One of the challenges in play-

tude and desires of his family," he said.

He said the challenge was to make this blue-collar worker a "likable wise guy" and to deliver his dialogue in just the exact right way so that it conveys exactly the message desired by the author. "Now, of course, every actor's goal is to deliver his dialogue as intended by the author, but in the case of E.J. Lofgren, he has just a few lines to make the point," he said.

Brendan Quinn plays the role of Wilson, the orderly/muscle of the mental hospital. "He wants to do a good job, but his lack of smarts, quick temper and attraction to Myrtle May all get in the way of that goal," he said.

Mary Jo Morgan plays the role of Mrs. Chauvenet, an old, wealthy friend of the family who is prominent in Denver society. "Veta is anxious to impress her because she wants her daughter Myrtle to be accepted by this group and Mrs. Chauvenet is used to being flattered — after all, she's worth it," she said.

She added: "For me the play is about family and the sacrifices that people learn to make for each other — it's easy to feel that family in 1944 and family in 2017 are vastly different, but I think family members — whatever we mean by that — are still making sacrifices big and small for their kin. I don't think there will be a dry eye in the house when Veta makes her sacrifice for Elwood."

Chuck Leonard is playing the role of Dr. Chumley, a psychiatrist at the top of his field who runs his own sanitarium, Chumley's Rest. "The character is self-assured, demanding, and in charge. His routine is thrown off by the visit from Veta Simmons who is trying to commit her brother Elwood P. Dowd," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "Harvey" now through May 12. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

"I'm hoping we can get people laughing again; it's needed and it's necessary."

— Director Frank Pasqualino

ing Betty is making sure that everything she hears is news to her. Her entire encounter with Elwood must be brand new every time. She believes everything he tells her is the truth," she said.

Lindsey Doane plays the role of nurse Ruth Kelly. "When Veta shows up at the sanitarium to commit her brother for treatment, Ruth Kelly, the competent and poised head nurse, assumes the experience will be business as usual," she said. "Little does she know that an invisible white rabbit and his friend Elwood will shake up her routine at the sanitarium and enliven her love-hate relationship with an egotistical young doctor. Despite Miss Kelly's demanding job and long hours, she is remarkably genuine and eager to see the beauty in others."

David Featherston plays the role of the cabbie, E.J. Lofgren, the driver who doesn't make an entrance until the final scene in the play. "It is a very short part but very critical to the play in that my description of how the anticipated treatment for Elwood will actually affect him, changes the atti-

ENTERTAINMENT



High-fire stoneware hand painted woodpecker ware by Laura Nichols of Great Falls.



Raku-fired sculpted crackle-glazed polar bears by Heidi Schramm of Arlington.

'Beasts Beyond Boundaries'

Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Hang with hip hippos and party with polar bears as artists express imagination in original sculpture. Looking for a little fleeting fun, artistry attracts insects like sweet bees, lovely ladybugs or an utterly beautiful butterfly. Go fishing for good fortune and catch a school of smelt, a plate of salmon or Maryland crabs. Plan to playfully eat kung pao from a kitty bowl and mu shu from a platter of mutt. Through April 29, daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Beasts Beyond Boundaries. Through April 29, daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Call 703-548-6288 or

visit www.scopegallery.org.
Art Exhibit: A Touch of Magic. Through April 29, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans "A Touch of Magic" exhibit is inspired by the subtle, simple, complex, or bold magic that creates life's special moments, fulfilled dreams, rare experiences, and fosters the recognition of beauty. Opening Reception is Friday, April 6, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.
"High School Musical." Through April 29 at George Washington Middle School auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by the George Washington Middle School Theater Department. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/Domain/10.
"I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)." Through April 29, 8 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. A play written and performed by Deb Filler, an internationally acclaimed Canadian/New Zealand Jewish comic, musician and writer. visit www.metrostage.org.

Alexandria Pop-Up Program "Looking Up." Through May 1. At 104 South Union St., Alexandria. AEDP's Pop-Up ALX program is partnering with The Art League and the International Institute of Photography to bring an exhibition showcasing the artwork of girls from the City of Alexandria alongside the work of seminal female artists. The gallery will feature the photography of 10-year-old girls from the SOHO Old Town (a Space Of Her Own) outreach program juxtaposed with iconic photographs of groundbreaking women in the field. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market Opens. Opens Wednesday, May 2, from 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Art Exhibit A Study of Manhattan. Through May 6, gallery hours at the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory. Paintings by Robert Gilbert: A Study of Manhattan: Power, Dominance, and Excitement. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: 2018 Emerging Artists. Through May 20, daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday until 9 p.m. at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



Canine Cruises

Starting April 28 through to Oct. 26, Alexandria's doggy families can enjoy a 45-minute sightseeing trip on the Potomac. With 10 cruise dates available, all offer historic waterfront views with tasty treats for canine companions. Everyone is invited - with or without a furry friend - plus dogs ride free. Departing from Alexandria City Marina, ticket prices from \$18 for adults (aged 12+) and \$12 for children (aged 2-11). No charge for infants aged under 2. See www.potomacriverboatco.com/sightseeing-tours/canine-cruise.

Aldersgate Church Community Theater proudly announces AUDITIONS for *Enchanted April*



Audition Dates:
Sat, May 5, 2018 2-5 PM
Sun, May 6, 2018 7-9 PM

Directed by Marzanne Claiborne

Produced by
 Rebecca Patton & Leah Hays

Performance Dates:
 July 6 - 22, 2018

Performing at:
 Aldersgate
 United Methodist Church
 1301 Collingwood Road
 Alexandria, VA 22308

More Info: acconline.org

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'Rebellion in the Heartland'

A Pipeline Playwrights' stage reading on April 30 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Playwright Patricia Connelly will be presenting a reading of her play, "Rebellion in the Heartland," as part of Pipeline Playwrights' second-annual play reading series on Monday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.

In parallels to events involving Westboro Church of Kansas, Connelly said the play directed by Gabrielle Hoyt begins with a protest by a church group at a military funeral, led by one of its devoted members, Janet, who is also a lawyer for the church and daughter of its founder. The church teaches that America is doomed for condoning gay rights, gay marriage, adultery, fornication and sodomy. Their beliefs come from their own interpretation of the Bible.

"After picketing at one military funeral with signs that say things like 'God Hates Fags' and 'Thank God for Dead Soldiers' the mother of the dead soldier sues the church and its leader," she said. "The play focuses on Janet, an experienced and skilled trial lawyer, who begins to show cracks in her faith and questions the church's extreme tactics after she comes face to face with the mother of the slain soldier. She inexplicably feels compassion for her. Janet starts to see the world from a different perspective."

She continued: "Yet, she is torn because, as a lawyer, she believes in the importance



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Playwright Patricia Connelly.

of the church's First Amendment rights and knows she is on the right side of the law. Ultimately, Janet must admit her doubts and decide how to fight for the First Amendment rights of her controversial clients, while staying true to her own beliefs."

She said she was inspired to write about the issue when she heard an interview with one of the lawyers in the Supreme Court Case of Snyder v. Phelps involving the Westboro Church of Kansas that pickets at military funerals. The Southern Poverty Law Center views the Westboro Church as a hate group.

"I began to think about how attorneys are often called upon to represent clients whose conduct and beliefs differ from their own and still find a way to vigorously represent those clients. Our constitution in fact guarantees the right to counsel in most criminal cases. With the Westboro Church Supreme Court case, the lawyers were not only members of the church, but they were children of the founder. I wondered what would have happened if those lawyers had personal misgivings or doubts about their faith or their tactics and, if so, how that would have played out, under those circumstances," she said.

Her main challenge was how to get beyond her bias against a group that would picket and display hate-filled signs at military funerals and funerals of gay men and women, she said. "In order to write about people with similar beliefs, albeit fictional characters, I wanted to understand the individuals who participate in groups with such extreme religious views and understand what would motivate them to use the tactics they use. I needed to understand them so I could find a way to create and present my characters in a sympathetic light," she said.

She said she hopes the play causes people to consider the personal issues for Janet — both as a lawyer and family member of the founder of the church — and what she risks

when she questions both family and religion.

"I also hope audiences begin to understand how difficult it is to balance and protect First Amendment rights when espoused by extremist groups that choose to exercise them in a manner that most people find shocking," she said.

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia, working together to support, present, and promote each other's work with the goal of moving their plays into the local and national theater pipeline. Each of the current Pipeline Playwrights — Jean Koppen, Ann Timmons, Nicole Burton, and Patricia Connelly — is presenting a reading of a new full-length play in the 2018 spring reading series at MetroStage.

Connelly is the founder of Thelma Theatre and is an award-winning playwright and director. Her plays have been presented at The Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage Festival and have been produced in Washington, D.C., and New Mexico.

"Rebellion in the Heartland" will be presented on Monday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St. in Alexandria. Suggested donation is \$10. After the reading, enjoy refreshments and informal conversation with the playwright and actors. For more information, visit <http://www.thelmatheatre.com>.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, introduces a new annual exhibition series featuring the work of emerging artists of the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Tour Historic Huntley. 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Cost is \$5. From a woman's point of view, learn the roles women played in Huntley's history and the dramatic changes in the lives of women since the house was built in 1825. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Open House Block Party. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 315 Cameron St., Alexandria. To mark the one-year anniversary of Home On Cameron. Enjoy light fare from local restaurants and shop Home on Cameron's collection of upholstered furniture including new private label sofas and chairs, custom dining pieces, Nepal felt flowers, console and coffee tables by D.C. and Virginia artisans, local art, antiques, couture chandeliers, lamps, ceramics and wooden toys and dog items. RSVP to rsvp@homeoncameron.com

Make an Offer. 6-9 p.m. at 4950-C Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Bring friends and family and enjoy a special evening of shopping. First time, one evening event – Eisenhower Consignment, Luxury Furniture & Art Reseller is accepting offers on entire showroom inventory including new arrivals. Visit eisenhowerconsignment.com.

APRIL 26-28

"Bye Bye Birdie." At Mount Vernon High School, Entrance 4, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria. Performances on April 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. and April 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$7/students and younger; \$8/FCPS Staff/Senior

Citizens/Military; and \$10/General Admission. Go to www.itickets.com/register/new/383894. Visit www.mvstheatrearts.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Film Screening: "Out of the Ring Still in the Fight." 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Film chronicles boxer and Alexandria native Anthony "Da Beast" Suggs' turbulent journey and path to redemption. Contact Anthony Suggs Sr. at 703-801-8191 or Charles Houston Recreation Center 703-746-5552.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 27-28

"Hairspray." At T.C. Williams High School. Show times are Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 7 p.m. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Rebuilding Together Alexandria. 7:45 a.m. Kick-off at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Volunteers will provide free repairs and upgrades to low-income homeowners and their families on a national day of service with 100,000 volunteers nationwide focused on repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives. Visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org.

Walkathon for Youth. 8 a.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Project Discovery Walkathon with proceeds supporting Project Discovery Alexandria. Donations may be sent to the Youth Development Team at 123 N. Pitt St., Ste. 225, Alexandria, VA 22314, or made via the Project Discovery Walkathon donation page.

Fairfax Run for the Children. 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Join Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 8th Annual 8K and 3K races. The superhero-themed race attracts nearly 1,000 runners and walkers, 250 volunteers, and raises almost \$85,000 each year to support Fairfax CASA's advocacy work with

abused and neglected children in the community. Participants can enjoy the after race celebration, including superhero meet and greets, a DJ, free food, face painting, kids' crafts, photo booth, and more. Visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/.

Native Plant Sale.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot, Alexandria. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 12 or more vendors from three states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Admission is free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Alexandria Earth Day.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This family-friendly event includes the eighth annual Upcycling Showcase, where students from Alexandria schools will present unique fashion items based on the event theme, "Local Action, Global Impact." Enjoy tent talks on environmental topics, the presentation of the 10th annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, more than 60 environmental exhibits, music, giveaways, and more. Free. Call 703-746-5592 or visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay for more.

Author Tesa Jones. 1-3 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Author Tesa Jones will be signing her books, Reflection of Memories and Cobwebs of Time. From 4-5 p.m., Raya the Reading Therapy Dog will be available. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

Old Town Underground Experimental Film Program.

1:30-3:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Free. An inaugural Old Town Underground Experimental Film Program featuring different types of experimental film, from slow contemplative stories to montage-y trips. Visit nvfaa.org.

History's Mysteries in the Vault.

3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St., Alexandria. Historians Terry Gish and Wayne Kehoe return to the historic burial vault at Ivy Hill Cemetery for an exciting chapter of the Tales from the Vault series. Learn about the history of Memorial Day and Civil War Holidays – while sitting in the vault. Not for the faint of heart. RSVP to info@ihchps.org.

Book Launch. 3-5 p.m. at First Agape Baptist Community of Faith, 2423 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For Rev. Dr. Donna Taylor's book, "Financial Empowerment in the African American Church." The book shares the interconnectedness between the knowledge of financial literacy as it relates to debt reduction and debt management principles that can be utilized in every facet of life. Visit www.revdrdonnataylor.com.

Classical Piano Concert.

6:30-10 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Pianists Elias Dagher, Jingxuan Zhang, Sasha Beresovsky. Featuring piano duos by Schumann and Schubert, works by Bach, Prokofiev, Mussorgsky. Organized by United Help Ukraine charitable organization unitedhelpukraine.org, email UnitedHelpUkraine@gmail.com. Tickets \$40 at the door, \$35 (\$20 seniors/veterans/students) in advance at pianistsforsoldiers2018.eventbrite.com/ Call 301-785-4316.

Concerts at Saint Luke's.

7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Will bring a lively mix titled "Samba Surf." Michael Sheridan will return playing guitar and the accordion. A reception will follow. \$20/adult; \$15/senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events.

Sensory Friendly Golf.

At 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Topgolf in Alexandria is celebrating World Autism Month by creating a sensory-friendly environment. Venue will have sensory-friendly modifications that include dimmed lights, low music and minimal staff. The ticket link to reserve a golf bay is at topgolf.com/us/promo/sensory-friendly-day/

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Love Your Pet Day Block Party. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Roth and Colvin streets in the West End of Alexandria. Mayor Allison Silberberg and the Alexandria City Council proclaimed April 29 as the second annual Alexandria Love Your Pet

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

ENTERTAINMENT

Pick Up a Picnic at Jackson 20

BY HOPE NELSON

Forget freeze warnings and sweaters: The picnic season is finally here. And amid all the world's plain sandwiches and lackluster spreads, Jackson 20 Chef James Hudson aims to improve your standard picnic basket with a new al fresco menu perfectly poised for lunch alongside the Potomac.

It all started with some bicycles. The Alexandrian hotel purchased some new bikes for guests to use, and Hudson started thinking outside the box — or restaurant, as the case may be — in terms of menu items to pair up with the new two-wheelers.

“They’re really cute and really nice, and we wanted to provide something for our guests and the public at large something they could take down to the waterfront, to one of our local parks ... and have a nice day outside,” Hudson said. “... We actually produced the menu right about the same time the bicycles came.”

The picnic menu itself is teeming with al fresco favorites such as a take on chicken salad, turkey sandwiches and a fruit and cheese plate, as well as some not-quite-famous picnic items such as field pea hummus and a camembert-and-apple sandwich.

“Our hummus is really strong and always goes really, really well with anything. I wouldn’t call it a

classic picnic basket item but I think in a modern sense it kind of is,” Hudson said.

But some classics do shine through, too — including a chef favorite.

“My personal favorite of course is the chicken salad,” Hudson said. “I just really think it has lots of nice fruits and nuts and isn’t your average white chicken breast with mayonnaise.”

The logistics of the menu are a bit more time-intensive than just popping into the restaurant for a meal.

“It’s not a grab-and-go — we’re requiring about 4 or 5 hours of advance notice,” Hudson said. “We’re customizing it to the specific order of the client, and that takes a little bit of time.”

What customers will find as a final result is an already-packed basket filled with the results of their order — including a bottle of wine if they so choose, also available for purchase alongside the food. The baskets themselves fit conveniently within the baskets of the Alexandrian’s new bicycles, making for easy transport.

“It’s a great opportunity for a snack and hopefully a good possibility for outreach into the community as well,” Hudson said.

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

APPETITE

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Day. A block party kick-off will be held in the Wholistic Hound Academy parking lot at 18 Roth St., hosted by celebrity vet Dr. Katy Nelson. Attendees will head along Roth and Colvin streets to interact with 40-plus businesses; children and leashed pets welcomed. Visit www.facebook.com/alexandrialoveyourpetday.

Contemporary Flute and Guitar Duo. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Free. Returning to the Athenaeum for a spring concert is MIN ~ Contemporary Flute and Guitar Duo. MIN is flutist Sais Kamaliddin and guitarist, Rick Peralta. Visit nvfaa.org.

The President’s Own Band. 2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus. Marine Band: Fair Winds and Following Seas, Assistant Director Major Michelle A. Rakers’ Final Concert. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser. 6-8 p.m. at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Pohick Church Episcopal Youth Community will present an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and musicians. Proceeds go toward the Sr. High Summer Mission Trip to Ohio. Contact Youth Director Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or rusty@pohick.org.

Violinist Timothy Baker and Pianist Frank Conlon. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Free. The program includes: Beethoven - Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor, Op. 30, No. 2 Franck - Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major; Grieg - Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor, Op. 45; and Ravel - Tzigane, Rapsodie de Concert for Violin and Piano. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

MONDAY/APRIL 30

Gardening in Containers, Window Boxes and Balconies. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Use containers in a sunny window or on a balcony or patio to grow flowers, foliage, herbs, and edibles. Learn what works best in these places and get tips for maintaining them in this climate. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

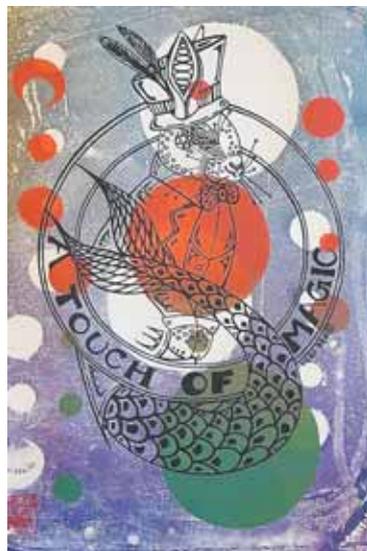
Sowing the Seeds of Victory: War Gardens in America. 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Provides an overview of home food production during World War I and describes how contemporary gardeners can grow the same crops in our gardens today. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 1

Golf Clinic Registration Opens. At Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Introduce 8-17-year-olds to the fundamentals of golf with one-hour junior clinics. Clinics are offered for \$15 each and run through August. Spring registration is now open; summer registration opens May 1, 2018. Space is limited. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

Mount Vernon Farmers Market Opens. 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through December 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.



“A Touch of Magic” by Veronica Barker-Barzel.

A Touch of Magic

Del Ray Artisans “A Touch of Magic” exhibit is inspired by the subtle, simple, complex, or bold magic that creates life’s special moments, fulfilled dreams, rare experiences, and fosters the recognition of beauty. The art will be on display through April 29, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Ikebana Show Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Art League, Studio 21, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

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**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Davison Army Airfield Area Development Plan (ADP)
Department of the Army, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir**

Public Notice of Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Fairfax County South County Office
8350 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

You are invited to a public scoping meeting the Department of the Army (Army) is hosting in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to gather information to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed implementation of an Area Development Plan (ADP) for Davison Army Airfield (DAAF), U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (Fort Belvoir), Virginia. In parallel with the NEPA review process, the Army will also assess the ADP implementation's potential effects on historic properties protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

DAAF is located west of the Fairfax County Parkway, between U.S. Route 1 to the south and Telegraph Road to the north, on Fort Belvoir's North Post. The ADP consists of multiple new construction, replacement, demolition, and renovation projects at DAAF.

The meeting will be held in an open-house format and you may arrive at any time between 6 pm and 9 pm to learn about DAAF, the proposed action, and the EIS process. Army representatives will be available to discuss the ADP and answer questions. During the meeting, you will be able to submit comments on the proposed action and the EIS process in writing or by dictating them to a stenographer. If you need special assistance because of a disability or limited English proficiency, or if you have questions about the scoping meeting, please send an email to FortBelvoirNOI@usace.army.mil before May 11, 2018.

Before or after the meeting, written comments may be submitted by mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN. Heather Cisar, Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; or by e-mail to: FortBelvoirNOI@usace.army.mil.

Comments must be sent or postmarked no later than May 21, 2018. Public participation is an important aspect of the NEPA and Section 106 processes and the Army strongly encourages you to attend the meeting and/or comment on the proposed action and the EIS.

PEOPLE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Doris Leisner (left) and Maybelle Campbell, Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living residents, planted flowers in pots in the Spring Hills garden in honor of Earth Day.

Seniors Observe Earth Day

The seniors at Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living celebrated Earth Day one day early by planting hydrangea bushes and flowers in their garden. Everyone was given a straw hat with a brim to get them

in a spirit as well as block the sun. After they were done planting and getting their hands dirty, they enjoyed lemonade and cactus-shaped cookies.

It's nature and nurture all summer long
at Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp!

Open House
this Saturday,
9-11 a.m.!



- Campers will enjoy 25+ acres of beautiful, natural space, just off the Beltway in Alexandria. A pond, barnyard, woods and more await children!
- Camp runs June 18 through August 10. We have options for ages 3 years, 8 months through 12, with a counselor in training program for ages 13-16.
- Preview camp at our Open House April 28, 9-11 a.m.! Or learn more and register for camp: 703.842.0477 or www.burgundysummer.org



Joanne and Bruce Malkin were honored with the second annual UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award at the UCM Gala. From left are UCM Board Chair Ken Disselkoe; UCM Executive Director Alison DeCoursey; retired Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland; and Bruce and Joanne Malkin.

UCM Gala Raises \$180,000

The Friends of UCM hosted the 2018 Give From The Heart Gala at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Madison Building, on Saturday, April 14. The event raised \$180,000 for United Community Ministries, Inc. (UCM) to support families and children in need.

Adam Tuss of NBC4 Washington emceed the evening's festivities, which included cocktails, dinner, auctions, and dancing, plus the presentation of the UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award and a testimonial from a UCM client.

"We appreciate the energy and creativity of The Friends of UCM," said UCM Executive Director Alison DeCoursey. "We are especially grateful to Elin Bohn, president of The Friends, and event co-chairs, Elaine Kolish and Paula Lettice, for their hard work. The Friends have raised nearly \$2.8 million for UCM since the group's inception in 2001. We thank them and all of our generous sponsors, supporters, and guests for making this evening a success."

Long-time Mount Vernon residents Joanne and Bruce Malkin were presented with the 2018 UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Retired Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, the namesake and last year's inaugural awardee, helped

to honor the Malkins in recognition of their commitment to service and dedication to the betterment of others that enriches the community of Alexandria.

"UCM serves hardworking, amazing people who need a hand up," said Bruce Malkin. "Along with our fellow members of Mount Vernon Kiwanis and AAUW Mount Vernon Branch, Joanne and I are happy to partner with UCM wherever possible to assist to meet the needs of our community, especially our children and young people, who are the future of our country. They deserve the best chance we can give them."

Guests also heard from Lorraine, a UCM client who shared her personal journey to financial stability and good health: "Without UCM, I would not be the happy, healthy person standing here tonight. Thanks to the fresh food at UCM's food pantry, I am able to eat healthy even on my limited budget. I am off high blood pressure medicine and no longer diabetic. I am living proof that when you have healthy food, you have energy. Food is energy. Healthy food is even better. I never thought I could be feeling as good as I do now. The UCM team has inspired me with the confidence to take good care of myself and to stick with it. I feel strong and excited about my future."

Local Group Supports Monument

FROM PAGE 9

A meditation area, located at the center of the spiral, features an infinity pool made to resemble the pottery indicative of where the names of the 11 tribes of Virginia are engraved.

Among those attending the ceremony were Run-

ning Strong Executive Director Lauren Haas Finkelstein and General Counsel Paul Krizek, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

For more information about Running Strong for American Indian Youth, located at 8301 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, visit <http://indianyouth.org/>.

CALENDAR

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MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER: 000-00-0000-A	Medicare Number/Numero de Medicares: 1EG4-TE5-MK72
SEX: FEMALE	Entitled to/Con derechos a: HOSPITAL (PART A) MEDICAL (PART B)
ENTITLED TO: HOSPITAL MEDICAL (PART A) MEDICAL (PART B)	Coverage starts/Comienza vigencia: 03-01-2016
Signature: Jane Doe	Medicare.gov

You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not that deadlines don't happen in the newspaper business; of course they do, every Tuesday for us weeklies. But when combined with my usual post-chemotherapy malaise, it is a bit more challenging. More so when the deadline is tightened up due to the nature of hitting and occasionally missing in-house communications, which is also not unreasonable when the multiple demands multi-tasking imposes.

Compounding this task even more is that until I'm back to semi post-chemo normal, in the interim, I am not eating too much, not sleeping well, have low energy (related to the previous two deficiencies), my hands are shaky, my balance is off and I'm having some difficulty focusing. It's a good thing I'm sitting at a desk while attempting to write this column because operating any heavy machinery would definitely be out of the question. What I need to do is mind my own business.

Business which at the moment involves fending off my buff-colored male cat, Chino, as he angles to sit on my writing pad as I move him from left to right – and then right to left since he won't take "Chino, move!" for a directive. But if I know anything, other than what to expect post chemo, I also know what to expect from Chino – or any of the other cats we manage: independence, as any fellow cat owner knows. Unlike a "true and loyal dog," a cat, generally speaking, is not inclined to respond to your commands, well, too many of them, anyway. Nor are they likely to respond to any physical discipline and/or pushing/pulling/redirection. Invariably, if you push, they pull. If you pull, they push.

How Chino knows I'm not feeling well and on an unanticipated and abbreviated deadline, I'll never know. But rather than leave me to it, he'll interfere every way possible: nuzzling, nudging, leaning, rubbing, meowing, moving about and plopping down when all else fails. If you love cats as we do, this is their charm. If you don't love them and their antics, I can see how this kind of behavior can be very frustrating.

I mean, with all this activity, it's difficult to think about what I'm supposed to be doing when I'm so busy preventing things from getting done. I imagine Chino thinks he's doing me a favor, being so affectionate and so in the way. Maybe he thinks he's contributing to the creative process by sitting in the middle of my writing pad? In a way, maybe he is. He's forcing me to concentrate. Moreover, he's forcing me to focus on this most immediate task which, at the moment, has me fending him off with my left wrist while I'm scribbling prose with my right hand. Oddly enough, it might be working as I'm three-quarters finished with this column which 30 minutes ago was a weekend task until it became a today/Tuesday task.

Now if I didn't have a CT scan and lower abdomen MRI scheduled for Wednesday, I'd have a bit more time to sort out the details of writing this column. Unfortunately, post-chemo, mid-newspaper deadline and pre-scan is a triple threat which sometimes can impose its will. A 'will' which I take personally so I will persevere and complete this column with one final paragraph now that Chino has left my desk and likely ended up on some unoccupied couch to sleep; he's had a big day.

All kidding aside, if there's one behavior I need more than any other during these deadline triple threats, it's companionship. Because of Chino and our other four cats: Andrew, Sloane, Biscuit and Twinkle, I am never alone and always have someone to talk to who, occasionally talks back. Not that we understand one another, but it's giving and getting, and it's loving and affecting – me and my cancer; and everything in between.

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

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<p>Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers</p> <p>THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com</p>		<p>An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.</p> <p>-Werner Heisenberg</p>			

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

the Opioid Crisis. 1-5 p.m. at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon. For students in 7th-12th grades and their parents. Register online at epiphanyes.org/occc. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/battling-opioid-crisis.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Reduced Cost Rabies Clinic. noon-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/reduced-cost-rabies-clinic.

APRIL 30

Community Discussion. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon. Community discussion with Supervisor Dan Storck regarding the County's Short-term Lodging Proposed New Zoning Rules for short-term lodgings, such as those offered through Airbnb, VRBO and Flipkey.

TUESDAY/MAY 1

Earl Flanagan Celebration. 6-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon. Community Open House for former Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan. Flanagan has helped shape the Mount Vernon District and Fairfax County. This will be an opportunity to celebrate his dedicated years of service and friendship to the community.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

AARP Caregiver Class. 10-11:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Free. Explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia and identify strategies to help connect and communicate at each state of the disease. To register, call 1-877-926-8300. Visit <https://states.aarp.org/caregiver-college>.

Scholarship Application Deadline. For the 2018 Jackson Casey Memorial Scholarships. The Board of Directors of the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association has announced a call for applications for the \$3,000 scholarships named in honor of a Fort Hunt athlete who passed away in 2011. They are awarded annually to two graduating seniors (1 male, 1 female) who participated in a Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association team. Each applicant is asked to submit a 750 to 1,200 word essay describing the life lessons they've learned through participating in athletics. Visit fhyaa.org to apply.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Workshop for Siblings of Children with Special Needs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Key Middle School, 6402 Franconia Road, Springfield. This Sibshop workshop is for 8-13-year-old siblings of children with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. A pizza lunch will be provided. Visit www.fcps.edu/spedconference2018.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

RECenter Expansion/Renovation Meeting. 6 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. The Fairfax County Park Authority will renovate and expand Mount Vernon RECenter in the near future. This capital improvement project will provide benefits to the community and provide a state-of-the-art facility for the many thousands who use the RECenter each year. Members of the public are invited to join in the conversation. Contact Project Manager Eric Inman at 703-324-8698.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Know the 10 Signs: Your Memory Matters. 10-11:30 a.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, located on 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. This class provides a greater understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and dementia and what to do if you see the signs. Come to all classes or a few. Classes are free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served; registration is kindly requested. To register, call 1-877-926-8300.

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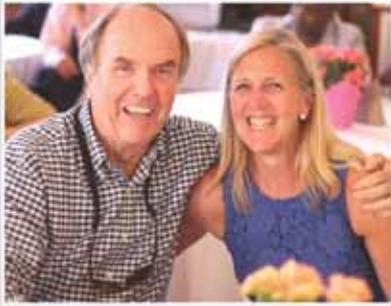
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9300 Maybrook Ct
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JUST LISTED! OPEN SUNDAY



4118 Robertson Blvd
\$575,000
Classic Colonial!

Classic three level Colonial with 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths and garage. Special features include: 4 Bedrooms on upper level. Master suite with dressing area and ample closet space, living room with wood burning fireplace, hardwoods on main two levels, basement with wet bar and full bath, 1 car garage. Hard to find three level colonial in prime Mt. Vernon location for under \$600k!

JUST LISTED! OPEN SUNDAY



8708 Sudbury Dr.
\$580,000
Pristine Condition!

4 BR/3 Bath 4 level home on private half acre corner lot. Full interior paint, new carpet, and all hardwoods just refinished make this home ready for your personal touches! 350 sq ft sunroom addition with fireplace over 2 car garage gives you views over beautifully landscaped half acre lot. Absolute bargain for this much space!

NEW PRICE!



4417 Dolphin Ln.
\$625,000
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!



9421 Old Mt. Vernon Rd.
\$698,500
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, incredible pool, all bathrooms updated including stunning master bath and closet. Don't miss this one!

NEW PRICE!



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

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

COMMUNITY WATER ACCESS



4800 Tarpon Ln.
\$555,000
Pristine Condition!

Unique opportunity! Two level brick home with many features on magnificent 1/2 acre lot. Just steps from River and Yacht Club. Special features include: open floor plan, thermal windows, hardwood floors, updated kitchen & baths, sun room, deck, and garage. All this for what you would expect to pay for just the lot!

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



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!



4200 Robertson Blvd
\$575,000
Contemporary Design!

Super unique center courtyard style home in Mt. Vernon. Circle drive leads to 2 car garage. 3 bed/ 2.5 bath home with lower level rec room. Fully fenced back yard with unique center courtyard accessible from all interior rooms. Bring the outdoors in with this rare contemporary opportunity! Won't last long!

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



9313 Old Mansion Rd.
\$850,000
Park Like Back Yard!

Riverwood gem! Impeccable 4 BR/ 3.5 Bath home in park like setting on quiet cul de sac next to Potomac River! Recently renovated kitchen, family room off kitchen with fireplace, fully finished basement with guest room, full bath and rec room. Oversize two car garage allows for extra storage space. Unique rear covered patio overlooks beautifully manicured back yard.

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



CONTRACT

8634 Gateshead Rd
\$699,000
Incredible Pool Scene!

4405 Ferry Landing Rd
\$699,500
Recently Renovated

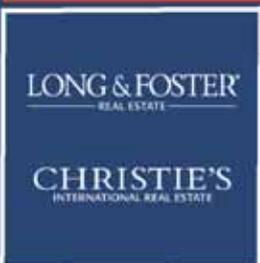
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9104 Chickawane Ct.
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