



Pet Gazette

Once upon a time, a skinny, lonely, skittish hound dog named “Lily” showed up on a pet adoption site. Two fair tween princesses hounded their parents to “pahleeeeeez” go visit this cute, cuddly, homeless urchin. Well, it was love at first sight/lick/bite and so “Lily” came to live at our humble castle in the kingdom of Stratford Landing. After several days —and umpteen pairs of flip flops — her name was changed to Luna (a joint decision by the subjects of the kingdom as she 1. failed to respond to her given name, Lily, and 2. has one blue “moon” eye and one brown, harkening to a sort of possessed look). So Luna (aka Looney) thus discovered her happily ever after home. Her flip-flop eating ways have luckily gone by the wayside. She now enjoys any opportunity to romp in the snow, chase her mean feline sister, Tilly, and stalk her squeaky yellow tennis balls in the yard. She recently celebrated a “school’s off” snowfall with her sister, Anna. And they all snoozed happily ever after.

— CARRIE USTUN

Bulova: Commission To Review Policies

Group would include citizens, legal community and other organizations.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

When Alexandria resident Natasha McKenna was removed from life support and died on Feb. 8, the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office posted a release on the county website. It was an update to an earlier post on Feb. 5 that explained McKenna was an inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center who experienced a “medical emergency” on Feb. 3.

McKenna was scheduled to be moved to the Alexandria Adult Detention Center that day. When she fought against deputies transporting her, they used tasers to restrain her, according to the release. At that point, the Fairfax County Police Department was notified and an investigation of McKenna’s “in-custody inmate death” began.

Feb. 19, the Police Department

released another update, an 800-word description of the events leading up to McKenna’s arrest and death: She had called Fairfax County police herself on Jan. 25 to report being assaulted. Officers accompanied her to a hospital and through a record check discovered an outstanding arrest warrant for assaulting an Alexandria police officer back on Jan. 15.

Though the officers involved have yet to be named, the content and amount of information released in under two weeks since McKenna’s death is comparable to that which it took the county over a year to release following the officer killing of Springfield resident John Geer.

According to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova, that was indicative of the board’s commitment to “making a stronger effort than before to make sure that we’re putting out

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 20

New Chairman for Chamber of Commerce

Sean O’Connell looks to expand and increase dialogue among membership.

TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

In his 30 years as a certified public accountant with the firm PBMares, Sean O’Connell has worked in Harrisonburg, Fredericksburg and spent close to the last decade in northern Virginia. In becoming involved with the 60-year-old Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, the big-



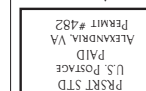
Sean O’Connell

gest difference he saw was the first two locations each had regional chambers with vast footprints.

“In Fairfax County, there are over eight

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 20

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





Alexandria \$1,395,000

Wonderful Craftsman themed dream built in 2012! Curb appeal, all modern amenities and appliances, and "show home" living. This home has it all! Over 4,000 finished SF with 5 bedrooms & 3.5 baths near Old Town and Del Ray. www.1700russell.mceneaney.com

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TheGoodhartGroup.com



Del Ray \$1,249,000

Southern style porch welcomes you to 6 bedrooms, 4 full baths and 3 levels of grand living space in this completely renovated farmhouse! Driveway for off-street parking. Excellent location, walk to "The Avenue." Easy access to Metro. 14 W Caton Avenue.

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JenWalker.com



Porto Vecchio \$579,000

Waterfront and poolside. This rare 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit features a stunning waterfront view and the luxurious top-notch building amenities: limo service, garage parking, 24 hour concierge, health spa and more. Just off the GW Parkway. 1250 Washington St #101.

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FischerMcMasterHomes.com



Rosemont \$849,000

Inviting farmhouse with character throughout. Spacious family room has a cozy fireplace & built-in bookcases. There's a renovated chef's kitchen and luxurious master suite. A few blocks to Braddock Rd and King St Metros, parks and shops. 32 Linden Street.

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LizLuke.com



Stonegate \$639,000

End unit in sought-after community. 2 master suites, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, kitchen/family room opens to deck, and walk-out lower level rec room. 2 gas fireplaces and 2-car garage. Close to Pentagon, Mark Center & just a zip to DC. 4614A Latrobe Pl.

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Alexandria \$415,000

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Rosemont \$1,165,000

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hardwoods, long driveway, and just a short walk to King Street Metro! Fantastic location! 8 E Walnut St.

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Alexandria \$979,000

Stunning 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom townhouse overflowing with upgrades! 2-car garage, private roof terrace, each bedroom with en-suite bath.

4 blocks to Braddock Metro, 5 blocks to river/Mt Vernon trail, 7 blocks to King Street. 816 Snowden Hollowell Way

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MaryAshleyRealEstate.com



Parkside \$299,500

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main level, 2 bedrooms up with bath, and patio. Easy off/on access to 95. Walkable to community pool & adjacent to park. 5242 Maris Ave.

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NoelK.com



Alexandria \$927,000

Beautifully finished 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom townhouse with private roof terrace, rear deck, 2-car garage and office. Each bedroom with

en-suite bath. 4 blocks to Braddock Metro, 5 blocks to river/Mt Vernon trail, 7 blocks to King Street. 828 Madison Street.

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PET GAZETTE

Shelter Gets Creative To Save Lives

Volunteers, social media assist in pet adoptions.

BY KRISTEN AUERBACH
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH
FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Since 2013, Fairfax County has been the largest jurisdiction in the United States with a placement rate of animals above 90 percent. Last year alone, nearly 2,500 animals were adopted, which is nearly double the adoptions just two years earlier.

With more than 4,500 animals coming through its doors in 2014, the shelter implements creative ways to find homes for the many homeless cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits and other small animals. Here are just a few of the ways the shelter is finding new ways to save more lives:

* 150 foster families provide temporary housing to pets needing a break from the shelter. In addition to caring for puppies and kittens as well as animals recovering from surgery or illness, foster families can take an animal into their home for shorter time periods. Fosters take dogs on one-hour field trips or can take a dog home for the weekend, to give it a much-needed break from the stress of the shelter environment. Older cats sometimes wait many months to find a permanent home, so foster families take them home for 30 days of TLC while they're

waiting.

* In May of 2013, the shelter started a Facebook group. Today, with more than 20,000 people following the shelter on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, more than half the shelter's adopters say they first saw their pet or the shelter itself on social media. In the past, a pet with a special medical need would have previously waited months for an adopter. Now that same pet usually finds a home within days of its pictures and story are shared on social media.

* The shelter has 300 volunteers who give daily love, enrichment and exercise to homeless pets. Dogs play in groups, go on off-site walks, and get kennel breaks four or five times every day. Treat-dispensing toys, stuffed and frozen Kong toys and other enrichment items keep shelter dogs busy throughout the day. Cats and small animals get to enjoy play time in one of the shelter's cat rooms every day and are constantly cared-for by dedicated volunteers. All of this helps shelter pets be happy, healthy and ready to meet their new families.

Because the shelter has been so successful at placing animals, there are sometimes empty spaces on the adoption floor. Whenever there is space, they take in animals from under-resourced and overburdened shelters in D.C. and rural Virginia. In 2014, nearly 500 dogs and cats were transferred



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Griz was transferred to the the Fairfax County Animal Shelter from a rural rescue partner and was adopted by Jared Nieters, Tayler Clancy and her daughter Hayden.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Griz is now the well-known shop mascot at Jared Nieters' Haymarket Bicycles LLC.

view adoptable animals, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter.

Want to know how to help your local shelter? In addition to volunteering, fostering and donating, all shelters in the area have Facebook pages. By following your local shelter, you can help spread the word about all the great pets waiting to meet their forever families.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

At Westgrove Dog Park

The snow didn't stop these members of the Westgrove Pack from bringing their dogs to play. The park is open to the public and the community support has been greatly appreciated. Information on using the park can be found on displays, there, and on the Pack's website: www.westgrovepack.org.



Flynn (left) has some fun playing with a tennis ball, in the snow, along with his buddy. This half of the park is open, year round. It will get a stone dust surface, in the spring.



Sage, the cat, has been with us just over 2 years. She was a rescue, found in an abandoned home with a litter of kittens. It took a long time to earn her trust. Now, she's my shadow, sleeping at my feet while I work. The dog taught her how to beg for treats, which is pretty funny to watch. Sadie, the Sheltie, had parents who were rescued. The litter of 7 pups was a surprise to the man who took the adult dogs in. We've had Sadie since she was an 8 week old ball of fluff. When she was young, she tried to herd the boys around the backyard. She has been a terrific family dog and turns 13 this April.

— RENÉE RUGGLES

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PET GAZETTE



PHOTO TAKEN BY HIS GODMOTHER, TINA JONES

Cobi Boggs-Roys



My daughter Rebecca doesn't have her own pet yet, but she works with 45 of them at The Center for Human-Animal Interaction. Dogs like this tiny Yorkie named "Winnie" have a special jobs offering healing therapy for patients at VCU Medical Center, and even reduce stress during final exams for students at VCU. We all know the healing power of a pet, and these Dogs On Call take that job very seriously. To find out more about this wonderful program visit this link www.chai.vcu.edu.

— ANNE HOLLOWAY

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)	(en Español); 6:30 pm
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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Sam and Frodo are both rescue cats. Frodo, the big orange guy with the furry feet, came from Home Alone Feline Rescue in 2011. He is part Maine Coon and part American bobtail. Lou and I had been thinking about getting a second cat as a companion for Frodo when I ran into Lee District School Board member Tammy Koufax at a community event in Springfield in August 2013. Tammy and her kids were fostering a litter of feral kittens that had been found behind a restaurant in Washington D.C. When Lou and I saw Tammy's photo of the smallest kitten, a tiny tiger tabby, we fell in love. Eventually, so did Frodo, once he got over Sam trying to steal his toys and occasionally snatching his treats away. We love watching the two cats chase each other around. Animals add so much to your life.

— SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Keila Vernon with twin Elsa Rosser

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Tillie ponders the presence of her new friend ...

— ANN VERNON



Tillie enjoys a warm break

— ANN VERNON

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Volunteer Drexel Wallace supervises and cares for one of the rescue dogs. Wallace was one of three U.S. Navy personnel volunteering at the Adoption Center.



Michael Tomai, Petco mentor dog trainer

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Sharing Many dog and cat adoption opportunities in Mount Vernon.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Thinking of acquiring a pet dog or cat for yourself or the family? If so, then consider the dog and cat rescue organizations in the area who offer for adoption a multitude of healthy animals of different breeds, types, ages, and sizes. Through their efforts in partnership with Petco and PetSmart in the Route 1 corridor and other retail stores elsewhere in the Mount Vernon region, there are a large selection to choose from.



Judy Sowanack, volunteer for Animal Allies.

Here are a few organizations offering dog and cat rescue services, dog obedience training and, for some very motivated owners who have an interest and whose dog qualifies, there is a therapy dog training and certification program.

Last Chance Animal Rescue partners with 30 Petco and PetSmart retail stores in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia. They are a regionally-based non-profit that annually places 10,000 cats and dogs for adoption. They acquire cats and dogs by visiting high kill shelters in eight states and bring them to the metro area to display them at various retail stores and other venues to gain visibility and adoption opportunities for homeless or abandoned cats and dogs, while also feeding, housing, and caring for the animals.

Last Chance Animal Adoption Center partners with Petco at 6612 Richmond Highway. The center is located inside the Petco retail store, and is managed by volunteers seven days a week. Last Chance has similar partnership programs throughout the metro Washington area. Its mission is "to minimize the euthanasia of homeless pets through adoption and providing low cost high quality spay/neuter for both dogs and cats."

OBEDIENCE TRAINING is another type of service

offered through Petco for dog owners. For a select number of dogs and their owners, the obedience training can result in their owners being offered an opportunity for their dogs to be trained as therapy dogs who, if they pass a rigorous training program, will receive certification and authorized to visit and provide comfort to sick patients of all ages in residential homes, nursing homes, and hospitals. Certified Mentor Dog Trainer Mike Tomai, a part-time Petco employee, said that visits by therapy dogs to sick and elderly is a great source of comfort and love to a needy person. Therapy dog training takes approximately 12 weeks.

For a dog to be awarded a certification as a Canine Good Citizen, and be eligible for Red Cross Therapy Certification, the dog and his or her owner/handler must pass a 10-point certification program.

Tomai works full time as a 6th grade school teacher at Fort Belvoir. Tomai was born and raised on a farm and has been around and working with animals all his life and stated his affection for the work training dogs.

Those interested in entering an obedience training program and/or having their dog considered for training and certification as a therapy dog may contact Tomai at: mtomai@gmail.com or call 321-626-124 or visit Petco.

Norah Atchue, who has three therapy dogs, said, "I visit hospitals, nursing homes, and a kid's library reading program with my three certified therapy dogs: Mojo, Stout, and Sophie. It has been so rewarding to see how happy people are to see my dogs. People whose pain is severe smile to see the dogs; sick kids who are in-patients kiss my dogs, and military men who are in PTSD units hug my dogs. It is a priceless experience for me." Atchue and her therapy

SEE DOG AND CAT, PAGE 10

Therapy dog in training: English Bulldog, "Mack" with his owner/handler, Alba Reyes at his side.



Therapy Dogs: Sophie and Mojo, a dachshund and Rottweiler.



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Alex./Riverside Terrace
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to Fort Belvoir, 15 minutes to Huntington Metro & Old Town Alex. Contact Rex with questions.



Alex./Riverside Estates
\$474,900
8302 Bound Brook
Lovely 4 BR, 2.5 Bath Split w/large 1-car garage w/work station. Meticulously maintained; stunning hwdw flrs, beautiful cherry kitchen cabinets, 3 BRs & 2 BAs on main level. Lower level offers a warm & cozy family room

w/gas FP, den w/L-shaped wet bar, 4th bedroom, half bath plus SGD to lovely patio. Walking distance to elementary and high schools. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir; 30 mins to Nat'l Airport. Great Buy and Priced Well!



Alex./Mt. Vee Manor
\$2,200
8276 Jake Place
Spectacular 3-level brick end unit with spacious entry level garage. This home is meticulously maintained and sparkles throughout. Freshly painted and new carpet going in this week on main

and upper levels. Private deck looks out back to the woods. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S), and 15 minutes to Huntington Metro and Old Town (N). This is a GEM!



Alex./Mt. Vernon Manor
\$370,000
8717 Falkstone Lane
Builders, Contractors: A Handyman Special! Come see this 3-level Colonial in prestigious Mount Vernon Manor. Great bones, lovely lot but needs a complete makeover. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, sunroom addition plus a

small basement. Endless potential and priced to sell. 6 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 17 mins to Old Town Alexandria, and 30 minutes to National Airport. \$100,000 below tax assessment!



Alex./Yacht Haven
\$875,000
4505 Dolphin Lane
Recent VA appraisal of \$900,000. 4,000 sq ft of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split - Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hwdw floors - Great room opens to beautiful sun rm addition which opens to spectacular 35K deck

which overlooks unbelievable custom landscaped back yard. Walk to fantastic marina, clubhouse and pool. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH - the list goes on and on. Nothing better in all of Mt. Vernon!

For more information: www.RexReiley.com



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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2015 Assessments by Area

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw no change in her home assessment. This year, her home was worth \$638,100, same as last year.



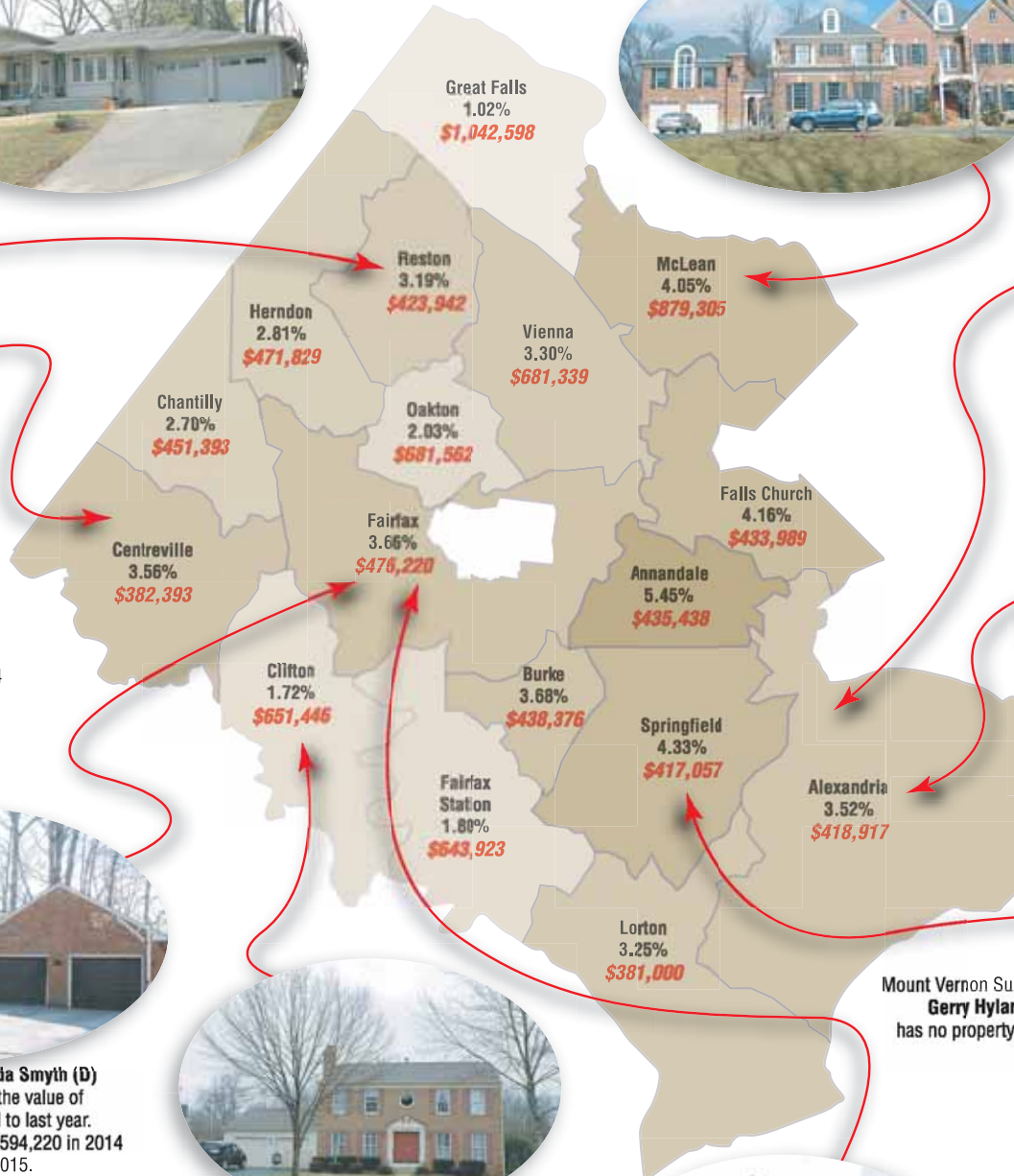
Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 0.75% increase in his property value when compared to 2014. The county valued Foust's house at \$2,917,660 last year and \$2,939,290 this year.



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)** saw her home value go up 4.91% from \$440,970 in 2014 to \$462,630 in 2015.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 8.57% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$252,830 in 2014 and \$274,500 in 2015.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw his assessment go up 9.07% from \$710,220 in 2014 to \$774,620 in 2015.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw a 2.87% increase in the value of her house when compared to last year. Smyth's home was valued at \$594,220 in 2014 and \$611,280 in 2015.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)** saw a 4.57% gain in his property value when compared to 2014. Last year, his home was worth \$573,460 and this year it is valued at \$599,660.

Mount Vernon Supervisor **Gerry Hyland** has no property listed.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** saw a 4.68% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Cook's home was assessed at \$634,760 in 2014 and \$664,480 in 2015.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw her home value go up 7.36% from \$601,550 in 2014 to \$645,380 in 2015.

0% 6%

2015 County Average (Percent Change)
 Single Family Detached **\$620,080 (3.27%)**
 Townhouse **\$385,338 (3.81%)**
 Condos **\$259,752 (4.48%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2014 MEAN	2015 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	404,687	418,917	3.52
Annandale	412,942	435,438	5.45
Burke	422,815	438,376	3.68
Centreville	369,253	382,393	3.56
Chantilly	439,525	451,393	2.70
Clifton	640,436	651,446	1.72
Fairfax	459,412	476,220	3.66
Fairfax Station	632,518	643,923	1.80
Falls Church	416,666	433,989	4.16
Great Falls	1,032,117	1,042,598	1.02
Herndon	458,919	471,829	2.81
Lorton	369,023	381,000	3.25
McLean	845,113	879,305	4.05
Oakton	668,009	681,562	2.03
Reston	410,846	423,942	3.19
Springfield	399,742	417,057	4.33
Vienna	659,582	681,339	3.30

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a single family home in Fairfax County for 2015 is \$620,080, up 3.27%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

NEWS

Dates Set for Trial Of Jesse Matthew

Jesse Matthew, the man charged with abducting and murdering West Potomac High School alumna Hannah Graham, will have his day in court.

After being indicted by a grand jury in Albemarle County, Virginia on Feb. 2, Matthew appeared on video in Albemarle County Circuit Court Feb. 18, facing first degree murder, abduction and reckless

driving charges. He was being held elsewhere in the county.

Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Higgins granted the request for a jury trial by Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney Denise Lunsford, setting the date for June 29 through July 17 of this year, according to a statement from the office of the county executive.

— TIM PETERSON

Found Body Identified

With the assistance of the Office of the Medical Examiner, Fairfax County police detectives have identified the body found in the wooded area in the 7500 block of Vernon Square Drive on Friday, Feb. 13.

The deceased was Leonardo Orellana, 30, of the Lorton area. His body was found about eight feet down in a drainage ditch. The

investigation is ongoing. The medical examiner will determine cause and manner of death.

Anyone with information is asked to call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131 or contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/84777, e-mail at <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

FEB. 1-APRIL 15

Free Tax Preparation. Monday-Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 5-8 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Documentary Screening. 1-3 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Join in the launch of the international "Education is Not a Crime" campaign, with screenings of Maziar Bahari's new documentary film, "To Light a Candle." Some of the Baha'is in Mount Vernon are of Iranian background and were denied the right to higher education at universities solely because of their religious beliefs. There will be a moderated discussion and refreshments after the presentation. Contact William Collins, 703-679-0805 or moutvernon.bahainfo@gmail.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 2

Scholarship Application Deadline. Noon. The Military Officers Association of America Educational Assistance is accepting application for the 2015-16 school year. Students under age 24, who are children of former, currently serving or retired commissioned or warrant officers and children of currently serving or retired enlisted military personnel, who are graduating high school seniors or full-time college students working toward their first undergraduate degree, are eligible to apply. Apply online at www.moaa.org/education.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Comment Deadline. The National Park Service is accepting public scoping comments on the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan and Environmental Assessment (SDP/EA) to identify an overall direction for park management of Fort Hunt Park while defining specific resource conditions and improvements to visitor experience. Members of the public and organizations are encouraged to provide comments online, go to parkplanning.nps.gov/forhunt, navigate the menu on the left hand side of the page to Document List, then 2015 Public Scoping Materials, and Comment on Document. Comments may also be submitted in writing to: Attn: Fort Hunt Park EA, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Business Roundtable. 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express, 6055 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation presents "Successful Networking" as part of its monthly Business Roundtable Speaker Series. All sessions include presentations, a light breakfast, and time for networking. Free. RSVP to info@sfdc.org or visit www.sfdc.org/whats-happening for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 9

Citizens Group Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 104 A/B, at the Martha Washington Public Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc. meets monthly. Visit virginiaccpa.com, email virginiaccpa@aol.com, or call 703-768-6700.

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Family Matters

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OPINION

Managing Mental Illness in Jails

Natasha McKenna's death provides window on national concern.

A national report released on Feb. 11 highlighted the prevalence of people with mental illness incarcerated in local jails.

"Serious mental illness, which includes bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression, affects an estimated 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women in jails — rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population.

... While most people with serious mental illness in jails, both men and women, enter jail charged with minor, nonviolent crimes, they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time." See vera.org.

Natasha McKenna, a woman with a long history of severe mental illness, died on Feb. 8, five days after being repeatedly shocked with a taser, restrained, hooded and forcibly removed from her cell by six deputy sheriffs "pursuant to its protocols for managing combative inmates."

McKenna, a small woman according to press

reports, had been held in the Fairfax County Detention Center since Jan. 26, on a warrant from the City of Alexandria. Fairfax deputies were forcibly extracting her from her cell so she could be transported to the Alexandria jail.

Here is part of the police release on the incident:

"During the struggle to restrain McKenna, a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team deployed a conducted energy weapon (Taser) on McKenna. While being restrained, deputies placed a spit net (which is designed to restrict and prevent spitting) on McKenna.

A nurse from the ADC medical staff was present at that time to check on her prior to transport and cleared her for transport. Deputies attempted to put her in a medical transport chair, but McKenna continued to be combative and was moved to a restraint chair for transport."

To understand a little of what was happening, search for images of "spit net" and "prisoner restraint chair."

When the emergency response team was getting ready to load McKenna into a vehicle, "medical personnel from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office checked McKenna and determined she was experiencing a medical emergency."

McKenna never regained consciousness.

The incident was recorded on video, but "the video is currently retained as evidence by detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department and will not be released at this time."

Less than two weeks after McKenna's death, the public knows a lot more about the details of this incident than previous cases involving the Fairfax County Police, but questions of what happened, how and why, greatly outnumber answers.

It is standard operating procedure in the United States to warehouse disruptive people with mental illness in jails. A 2006 Special Report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that 705,600 mentally ill adults were incarcerated in state prisons, 78,800 in Federal prisons and 479,900 in local jails, according to the National Institute for Corrections.

We have to ask what constitutes humane, effective treatment for people with mental illness, and often substance use disorders, who end up in jails. Are the brutal images of Natasha McKenna's handling a common experience for people with severe mental illness in jails? While deaths resulting from such incidents are rare, they do occur. What can be done to provide treatment?

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop the Stonewalling

To the Editor:

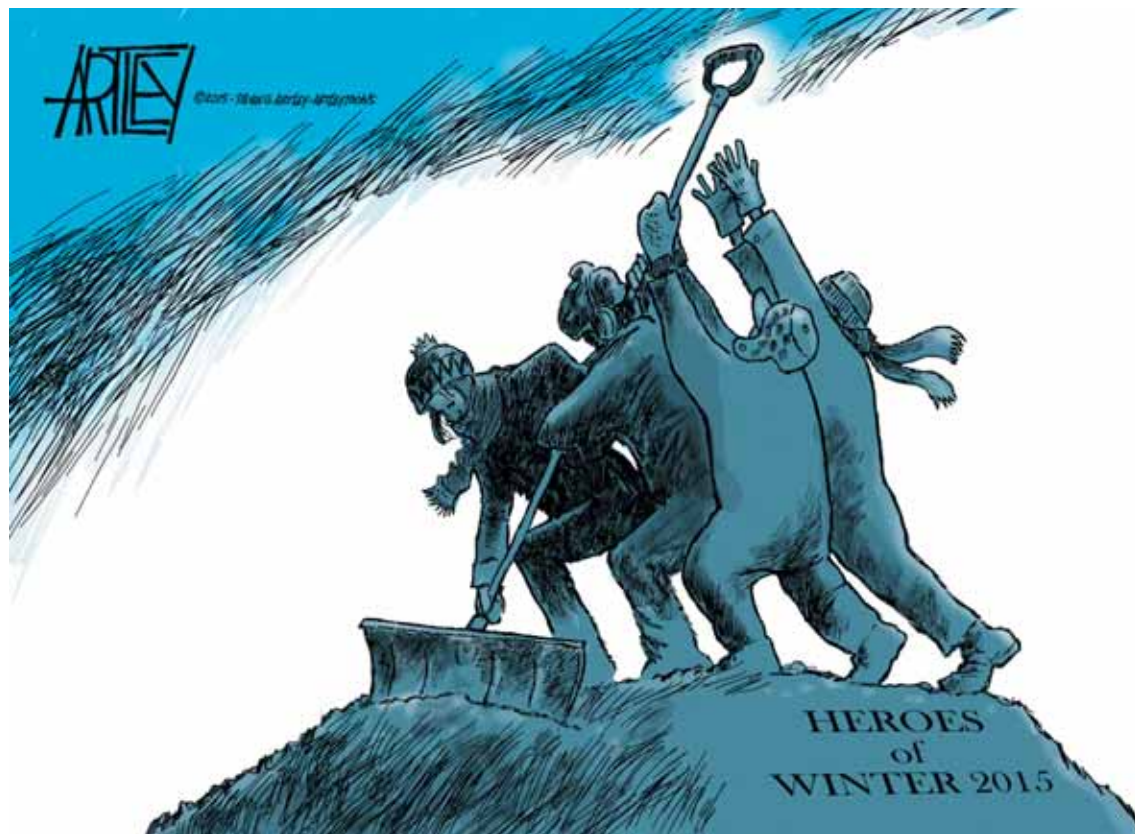
The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors must do their own job. They continue to look elsewhere for answers to the lack of leadership instead of within themselves. The long tenure and lack of politi-

cal competition for these board seats is a major contributor to the passive approach to the lack of police accountability taken by the board. 2015 is an election year for the Board of Supervisors. All 10 board seats, including the chairman's, are up for election or re-election. The citizens of Fairfax County must make the right choices come the election.

Four conditions contributed to this stonewalling that, without changes in policy and procedures, the stonewalling will merely continue when the next unarmed police shooting occurs and the board will wring its hands and continue to avoid accountability and responsibility for a lack of leadership. What is the saying? We have met the enemy and it is us! I rec-

ommend the following steps be taken:

- ❖ Establish a Citizen Police Oversight Board. Chairman Sharon Bulova means well, but continues to say they are using their auditor to investigate police complaints. No oversight board is needed and she refers to rubber stamp district citizen boards hand-picked to support the police with no agenda or authority to investigate citizen complaints. This is sad. Clearly the police chiefs (one retired but reemployed as a deputy county executive for public safety; the other hand picked by the re-employed former police chief) run the show with little or no accountability to the board. There are 150 Citizen Police Oversight Boards operating in the U.S. If one form of these were operating in Fairfax County today it could have resulted in recommendations for a grand jury to investigate the Geer case, or pursue another option to speed up the process and do it in the open. The oversight board would be a useful political and substantive vehicle to avoid stonewalling and move forward the case of John Geer and others that never were resolved to the satisfaction of the victim's families and friends who were killed by police. Is Fairfax County so elite that it can't stoop to operate in the sunshine



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

OPINION

Ninja Weapons and Shotguns

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



COMMENTARY

In the fifth week of the General Assembly session, several of my bills moved toward passage and a few controversial bills are being debated.

First, my legislation to protect Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit proceeds, plus child support and spousal support arrearages from creditors, passed the full Senate Courts Committee and should clear the full Senate on Monday as I write this column. Second, my legislation to simplify the process of continuing lawsuits when parties pass away cleared the Senate last week and was sent to the Governor.

Third, my bill to waive Standards of Learning tests for elementary and secondary students with high scores on Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests was added to another bill to grant greater flexibility to school systems to waive Standards of Learning tests. That legislation will likely pass the Senate as well.

Fourth, Republican Del. Manoli Loupassi and I crafted legislation providing new remedies for people whose criminal charges are publicized by private data companies after the individuals are found not guilty and the charges have been expunged from their record. We also proposed to create a remedy against companies who post criminal conviction information on websites and will only remove the information after extorting a payment of money. These companies have been popping up around the world and republishing information from Fairfax County.

The Senate modified our bill to remove the expungement cause of action, and we will continue to refine the legislation. The legislation creating an action for extortion passed the Senate Courts Committee and will move through both bodies as modified this week.

ON TUESDAY, the House of Delegates passed legislation legalizing the sale of switchblades, ballistic darts and throwing stars. After a public outcry, the House reconsidered the bill the following day and killed it.

That same day, the House, on a 62-34 vote, approved legislation allowing individuals who hold concealed weapon permits to carry loaded shotguns in vehicles even if local ordinances ban this conduct. I led the floor debate against this legislation, arguing

that the last thing Virginia needs is loaded shotguns in Northern Virginia traffic. I highlighted numerous road rage incidents involving shotguns, including one that took place just 20 hours before we debated the bill.

Also, all of Virginia's hunter education courses specifically teach hunters not to transport loaded shotguns and all shotgun manufacturers specifically advise

shotgun owners to never transport loaded shotguns. We heard testimony about a Virginia state trooper who was killed when a vehicle was rolled over and the shotgun went off.

You can watch my speech on my You Tube channel.

I discovered that Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun Counties have not taken advantage of their authority to enact local bans on transporting loaded shotguns. Supervisor Gerry Hyland has started work on a Fairfax County ordinance.

EACH YEAR, we debate legislation to allow home-schooled athletes to participate in public school sports programs. I routinely vote against this because I feel that it is unfair to public school athletes who must meet grade and conduct standards when it is impossible to enforce the same standards with home-schooled students. Also, public education cannot be a la carte or the entire system will become dysfunctional. This legislation normally dies in the Senate, but this year, it was amended to allow the policy to become a local option instead of a state mandate. The bill is heading for a likely veto.

BOTH HOUSES voted to repeal A through F grading of public schools and former Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity Education Institute" (OEI), an effort to allow state takeover of local schools. In hindsight, school grading was seen as potentially destructive of communities and the OEI was held to be unconstitutional.

We should conclude writing the budget this week and complete work on all legislation in joint conference committees. We appear to be heading for an on-time conclusion, which has been a rarity since I have been in office.

Please continue emailing me your feedback at scott@scottsurovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

CRIME REPORT

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

ROBBERY, 2400 block of Byrd Lane, Feb. 20, 8 p.m. The victim was walking and was approached by a man from behind. The suspect assaulted the victim and demanded property. The suspect took property and fled on foot. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as black, about 6 feet tall and wearing dark-colored hoodie and blue jeans.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, 5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive, Feb. 23, 12:40 a.m. The victim was walking and approached by two men. The suspects assaulted the victim and searched one of his pockets, then fled on foot. The suspects were described as males of unknown race, about 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall and wearing dark-colored coats with hoodies.

BURGLARY, 1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, Feb. 20. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 2400 block of Phillips Drive, Feb. 17, 12:05 a.m. The first victim was outside of an apartment building and observed a man being assaulted by two men. The first victim went to assist the man being assaulted and was subsequently assaulted by the one of the suspects. The suspects took property and cash and fled on foot. The victims incurred non-life threatening injuries. The first suspect was described as black, about 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall, thin build and wearing a hoodie with a jacket over it. The second suspect was described as black, about 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, shoulder-length hair and wearing a beige jacket and jeans.

BURGLARY, 5800 block of Cameron

Run Terrace, Feb. 16. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 6300 block of Old Towne Court, Feb. 17. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

PURSUIT/ASSAULT ON POLICE, Richmond Highway/Sherwood Hall Lane, Feb. 9, 11:42 p.m. A police officer attempted to stop a vehicle for traffic charges. The driver of the vehicle sped away and attempted to flee but eventually was stopped on Richmond Highway near Arlington Drive. The driver refused to cooperate and when ordered from his vehicle, he rolled his window up on an officer's arm. Officers deployed pepper spray and used a baton to break the window and free the officer's arm. Police said the driver then assaulted an

SEE CRIME, PAGE 10



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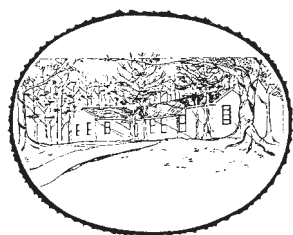


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OPINION

Addressing Campus Sexual Assault

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



COMMENTARY

With only a few days left in this year's legislative session, the General Assembly has finished much of its business. Republicans have defeated commonsense proposals to raise the minimum wage, close the health care coverage gap, and my bill to keep guns away from toddlers. Negotiators from the House and Senate are inching closer to a final budget deal. Governor McAuliffe has already begun signing some bills into law.

Even so, a handful of high-profile issues have yet to be resolved. Notably, we are still working towards a final compromise on how best to prevent and respond to sexual assaults at our colleges and universities. In both the House and Senate, multiple pieces of legislation were introduced to address this critical issue; those bills were eventually rolled into two vehicles. As of this writing, those remaining bills — SB712 and HB1930 — differ slightly, but the basic outlines are very similar.

Both bills strike a careful balance between protecting the rights and privacy of victims and keeping college communities as safe as possible. Each proposal would require colleges to establish memorandums of understanding with local victim support services, ensuring that students who have been assaulted are aware of and able to access resources to help them. Both bills require university employees who become aware of a sexual assault to report it to their school's Title IX coordinator. Each bill establishes review teams to promptly assess the cases that are brought to that coordinator. Based on those proceedings, each bill provides for team members to determine whether to release identifying information about the victim and begin a law enforcement investigation.

It's important to me that the final legislation explicitly protects victims' anonymity during assessments, and leaves post-assessment decisions about how to proceed in the hands of the Title IX coordinator. (These have been points of dispute between the House and Senate.) In any event, we need to make our students safer and prevent future tragedies.

Passing a compromise measure, however, will not mean our work is done. As we strive to prevent fu-

ture crimes, we must also seek justice for those who have already been hurt.

Last year I co-sponsored SB658, a bipartisan bill that required state and local law enforcement to inventory the untested physical evidence recovery kits (PERKs) in their possession — that is, the kits used to collect and preserve physical evidence following a rape or sexual assault.

The findings were troubling. Virginia has a backlog of at least 2,279 unanalyzed PERKs — and I expect the final total to be above 4,000. Evidence from these kits is often the key to putting rapists behind bars. If we're truly going to crack down on sexual violence, it's not enough to pass new protections. We also have to ensure that existing laws are working as they should. That means giving our Department of Forensic Services the resources it needs to work through this substantial backlog.

In 2014, I carried a successful budget amendment to do exactly that. My proposal provided \$600,000 over two years so the Commonwealth could hire new forensic scientists to work through these untested PERKs.

The original budget as introduced would have sharply reduced that funding. I have worked to protect it, and the budget put forward by the Senate Finance Committee restores much of the money the Department of Forensic Science was slated to lose. I have every hope that the final budget — the compromise to which both the House and Senate will eventually agree — will do the same.

The legislature this year meets for just 46 days. That isn't enough time to solve all the problems we face — especially in the face of partisan gridlock on so many critical issues. Still, I take heart in knowing that on this issue, at least, Democrats and Republicans have been able to come together to do what's necessary and right. It's a path I hope my colleagues will follow on many, many other issues when we reconvene next year.

You can email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov and sign up for my weekly email updates at www.AdamEbbin.com. I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

Dog and Cat Adoption Opportunities

FROM PAGE 5
dogs regularly visit U.S. military personnel assigned to the PTSD unit at the Fort Belvoir community hospital.

ANOTHER NON-PROFIT animal rescue organization visiting the Belle View Shopping Center in Mount Vernon, Animal Allies, was presenting rescue cats at the retail store, Pro Feed. Animal Allies is an all volunteer organization concentrating on placing cats for adoption. Last year they placed 204 cats for adoption.

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 9
officer before he was taken into custody. A 28-year-old man from Burke was charged with driving on suspended driver's license (DWI related), speed to elude, obstruction of justice, assault on

police and defective equipment. **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**, 6000 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 7, 4:10 a.m. The two victims were walking and approached by a group of six men. The suspects assaulted the victims and fled on

foot. The victims were treated for non-life threatening injuries at the scene.

BURGLARY, 7700 block of Ridgcrest Drive, Feb. 8. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

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'We Were Annihilated' WWII veteran remembers The Battle of the Bulge.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

It was one of the best kept secrets of World War II. When 20-year-old U.S. Army Medic Robert Wineland arrived in the village of Laudersfeld, the wooded countryside of far eastern Belgium was relatively peaceful, a quiet buffer zone disrupted only by occasional artillery fire and brief skirmishes between opposing infantry patrols. But on Dec. 16, 1944, the sleepy Ardennes front was about to wake up. The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

"I was having a conversation with my captain and two young cooks outside the farmhouse we were staying in when I realized I had forgotten my wool cap," recalled Wineland. "I darted inside to retrieve it and noticed a window was ajar. Just as I reached up to close it, a loud explosion shattered the glass and blew me backwards. I thought to myself, 'Good going, Bob. Here it is, the first day of action and you got shot.'"

"The war left me all the more convinced that I wanted to go into medicine and help people."
— Robert Wineland, co-founder of Mount Vernon Hospital

When he realized he was not injured, Wineland made his way back outside. As he looked for his captain, he saw something on an adjacent hilltop that stopped him dead in his tracks.

"I knew what it was immediately," Wineland said. "A German King Tiger tank, one of the biggest tanks ever



Army Medic Robert Wineland, in Belgium in late 1944, was part of the 106th Division during the Battle of the Bulge.

built and nearly twice the size of our Sherman tanks. It had fired an 88mm shell, blowing off the heads of those two young cooks."

Despite the danger, Wineland crawled on the ground to tag the two casualties then, still on his belly, made his way to a nearby barn to hunker down. Under cover of darkness that night, he made his way through the Belgian countryside, at one point getting lost in the Ardennes Forest for several days. Reunited with his comrades in Vielsalm just before Christmas, he remained on the front lines as the battle continued throughout January 1945.

"Germany's surprise attack had thrown the Allies into disarray," the Alexandria resident recalled as the 70th anniversary of the battle's end neared on Jan. 28. "In a single brief engagement, my 106th Division suffered more losses in casualties and captured than any other American division in World War II. We were annihilated."

The Battle of the Bulge — so nicknamed



The idea for Mount Vernon Hospital began in 1959 in the Hollin Hills living room of Dr. Robert Wineland.

because of the "bulge" in the map where German forces broke through the Allied line — was the last major offensive on the Western Front during WWII.

But despite the success of the initial attack, timely reinforcements and improving weather that allowed Allied air forces to take to the skies reversed the fate of the Germans.

"It was the largest battle fought by American forces during World War II," Wineland said. With 840,000 troops committed, it was also among the bloodiest with more than 186,000 casualties.

Discharged in December 1945, Wineland returned home to Anacostia to continue his pre-med studies at George Washington University. He went on to complete his medical degree there in 1951, the same year he married Stuart de Murguiondo. Following residencies at the Children's Hospital in Washington and University of Colorado Hospital in Denver, the two settled in Alexandria in 1955.

"When I first started my practice in 1955, there were no hospitals in Alexandria or Fairfax County other than Alexandria Hospital," said Wineland, who was the sole pediatrician between Alexandria and Richmond. "So when the Alexandria Hospital announced its

move from Old Town to the far West End of the city in 1959, a small group of doctors decided to search for a site for a new, more local hospital."

Meeting in the living room of Wineland's Hollin Hills home, the "Doctors Group," as they called themselves, began seeking support for their idea. The Mount Vernon-Lee Citizens Association became strong supporters of the drive for a new hospital and after much debate, the Fairfax County government approved the creation of a new hospital to be built in the Mount Vernon district.

"That was also the start of many meetings and long hours when we tried to plan a hospital and hold our families and practices together," said Wineland, by now a father of four.

Wineland's efforts came to fruition on Oct. 26, 1976, when Mount Vernon Hospital opened its doors. The next day he was named the first president of the medical staff. Throughout this time, Wineland also made medical mission trips to treat children in Algiers and Honduras.

The couple's love of exotic travel took the family all over the world, including a trip to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Although I am still active, some things are different than they used to be," said Wineland, who will turn 91 in July. "But Stuart and I have had full lives and aim to enjoy watching the progress of our family as long as the Lord allows."

Still known to many as "Dr. Bob," Wineland remains an active member of the Alexandria Rotary Club and shared his WWII recollections with club members Tom Roberts and Drew Carroll, whose fathers also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

"I was very lucky to get out," Wineland said. "As I look back, it was a profound learning experience. I saw the collapse of an empire and people reacting under every imaginable situation. The war left me all the more convinced that I wanted to go into medicine and help people."



Stuart and Robert Wineland in the Hollins Hills home they have lived in since 1955.



With a French priest as a translator, Dr. Robert Wineland treats children during a mission trip to Algiers.



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Most home for the \$\$ in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood! Exceptionally spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with bright, open floor plan in pristine "move-in" condition! Major updates include roof, windows, HVAC, kitchen & more! Other features: hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, gas cooking, heat & hot water heater. Sunroom and custom deck overlook magnificent grounds. We invite comparison—nothing like it on market for close to this price! **OPEN SUN. 3/1, 1-4!** GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Cherrytree.



8826 Black Alder Dr \$588,000
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Stunning Value—seems too good to be true! Spacious three level Colonial in beautiful neighborhood for under \$600,000! Features inc: 3 fin levels, 5 bedrooms including main level master suite, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open kitchen to family room and oversize 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous yard. Thousands below comps—move quickly! **OPEN SUN. 3/1, 2-4!** GW Pky S; R-Old Mill Rd; R-Black Alder.



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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF LTA

Chuck Dluhy and Karen Shotts star in The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "God of Carnage."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LTA

Allison Block and Jack B. Stein star in The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "God of Carnage."

LTA Stages 'God of Carnage'

Parents behave badly as the gloves come off in this side-splitting free-for-all.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "God of Carnage" Feb. 28 to March 21. The Tony Award-winning play centers around a playground altercation between two boys which brings two sets of parents together for a meeting to resolve the matter.

At first all is well, but as the evening progresses, the rum flows, the gloves come off, and the night becomes a side-splitting free-for-all with the parents behaving badly.

"What happens next is that we find out that the parents are worse than the kids in dealing with each other," said Director

Christopher Dykton.

He said "God of Carnage" follows in the literary traditions of black comedy and satire.

"I think this play gives a chance to look at how we behave at times in not the best way, while at the same time allowing us to laugh at ourselves. We know that underneath our social self is that Neanderthal waiting to pop out," Dykton said.

Co-producer Sharon Field has seen both the play and the movie and liked it very much. She had also worked with Christopher Dykton previously and proposed that Rance Willis consider producing with her. After seeing the movie and reading the script, he agreed.

"We knew the director and the quality of

his work. We were fortunate to be able to get the best designers and production staff to assist in creating just the right setting for this production," she said. "Seeing rehearsals, we have gained a greater insight into the writing and the subtle characterizations brought out by the director and actors. We think the audiences will come away with a greater appreciation of the comedy and a significant appreciation for each of the characters."

Allison Block plays the role of Annette Raleigh, the reserved, tightly-wound wife of Alan and mother of Benjamin.

"The subject matter is close to the heart (I am a mother of two school-age children), but very dark, so it often takes me places that I am reluctant to feel as a parent," she said. "The premise of the play is also deceptively simple and the challenges of sometimes playing a darker moment filled with oddly comic elements are everywhere in the script."

She said, "It's a moment in time. An evening when four people are not at their best, but are meeting for a noble purpose — for the sake of their children."

Jack Stein plays Alan Raleigh, a bulldog of a corporate lawyer who likes to be in control of his situations.

"As a social worker by profession, I'm pretty much the antithesis of Alan, particularly with respect to his ethics and attitudes. It's been an interesting challenge to tap into what makes him tick and find some humanity in the man."

Stein said, "Humans are unique beings but there's only a fine line separating us as such. We need to keep reminding ourselves of this uniqueness, especially when witnessing so many unfortunate savage atrocities going on in the world."

The Little Theater of Alexandria is staging "God of Carnage" Friday, Feb. 28-Saturday, March 21. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22. For tickets, call 703-683-0496. The Little Theater of Alexandria is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Celebrates Black History Month. Through February at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Throughout the month, a daily Slave Life at Mount Vernon Tour explores the lives and contributions of the slaves who lived

at Mount Vernon at 11:30 a.m. The tour will conclude with a wreath laying at the Slave Memorial site. Black History Month activities are included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Annual Student/Faculty Show - Art League School. Through March 1, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-6 p.m., at The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show showcases faculty works alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by students. Visit www.theartleague.org. Call the gallery at 703-683-1780 or the school at 703-683-2323.

"Bessie's Blues." Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features

Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org or call 800-494-8497.

"Front and Back." Through March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists' imagination plays with Items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two

different visuals. Free admission. See www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

"Considering Harm." Through Saturday, March 21 at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Artist Pamela Flynn presents an exhibition titled "Considering Harm." This art project focuses on the issue of gun violence and bringing awareness to our community. Visit www.ourconvergence.org or www.pamelaflynnart.com for more.

"In and of the Land." Through Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land" is a two person

exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery for more.

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. Through May 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are on view. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit.

ENTERTAINMENT

Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

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

George Washington's Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org for more.

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. Registration opens Wednesday, March 18 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 20 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

Tavern Toddlers. Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria.

PETS

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. "Paws 'N Claws for Art," Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria show animal-themed art with UpCycle's Fur-Vor student-created dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Fun Dog Show. March 7, 11 a.m., Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Register your dogs to win the contests ranging from Best Tail Wag to Best Irish Costume. The show starts at 11:15 a.m., and afterwards all dogs are welcome to walk in the annual Old Town Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. Register at www.ballyshanners.org/parade/ParadeInfo_dogshow.htm.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 27-29

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. The Super Pet Expo is the largest, most amazing event for animal lovers in the DC Metro. Learn, shop and be entertained with hundreds of vendors and fun activities. Before the expo on Saturday morning, join us and hundreds of other dogs and the people who love them to attempt to set a doggie-kissing record in the Dulles Expo Center parking lot, 9 a.m. Visit www.superpetexpo.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

City Walks. Four-week session begins Saturday, March 28 at Villages of Shirlington. This class is for the dog that responds really well to basic obedience cues at home or in the classroom but could use more practice around everyday distractions. This class is also great way to continue socializing your dog to new surroundings and helping them to feel comfortable with a variety of visual stimuli and sounds. It is a class that is well worth repeating to perfect good manners in public settings. Four-week session, \$165. Visit www.furgetmenot.com.

Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 26-SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Robert Cwiok / Enveloping Time. 12-4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Sunday; 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Paintings, collage, and mixed media works representing all phases of Cwiok's 40-year career lead visitors on a tour through the development of an artist. Visit nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for

youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Admission, \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280 for more.

Gala Benefit. 7-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 South Union St., Alexandria. Gala will benefit The Center for Alexandria's Children, the City's primary resource for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse. Attendees will "Get Up and Boogie" to the disco sounds of the 1970s, enjoying an evening that includes a cocktail buffet, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and "Be A Superstar" booth where patrons can purchase items to benefit the Center. Tickets start at \$150. Available online at <http://2015cagala.eventbrite.com>. Call 703-746-6008 or visit www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org.

Mike + The Mechanics 30th Anniversary Tour. 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Their first American tour in almost 25 years. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

2015 Generation to Generation Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Join Senior Services of Alexandria at the 2015 Generation to Generation Gala to celebrate honorees Christopher Campagna and his mother June Geoffray; John and Bea Taylor and their daughters Karen Taylor Chandler and Rhonda Taylor; and the first recipient of the SSA Philanthropist Award, Ronald M. Bradley. Cocktails, silent auction, dinner and dancing. Black tie optional. Tickets at www.seniorservicesalex.org or 703-836-4414.

Andrew O'Day. 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.



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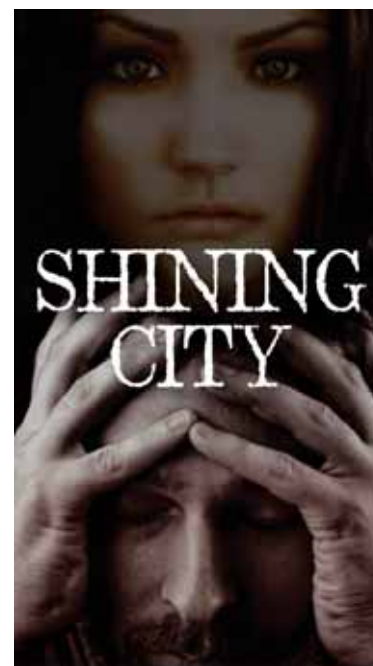
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written by Conor McPherson
directed by Becky Patton
produced by Jim Howard

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ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Play Reading/Fundraiser. 2-5 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Beth El Hebrew Congregation Women are performing a reader's play, "Love, Loss and What I Wore," written by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron based on a book by Ilene Beckerman. This is a collection of funny, powerful monologues about women and memories. \$15/per person at the door. Guest Readers will include Hillary Howard, WTOP anchor and host of TV's It's Academic. Other readers will be Catherine Weinraub, Suzie Shalewitz, and Joanne Rhodes all members of the Beth El Sisterhood. Visit www.bethelhebrew.org for more.

Author Event. 2-4 p.m. in the Great Room of the Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd., Alexandria. The Alexandria Branch of American Association of University Women will present "Presidents' Gardens," with a discussion and a slide presentation by author Linda Holden Hoyt. Email danielleaauw@gmail.com or 202-331-3074 for more.

Closing Reception. 2-4 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show, on view through March 1, 2015, showcases work by faculty alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by the student body. Visit www.theartleague.org or call the gallery at 703-683-1780 or the school at 703-683-2323.

Barbershop Harmony Concert. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The 30-member Harmony Heritage Singers present "Forward March," a concert of familiar patriotic and popular music. The men's acapella chorus presents more than 25 performances a year in the Washington area. No tickets required, offering taken for United Community Ministries. Call 703-765-4779 or email brandtron@verizon.net.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Opening for "Enveloping Time," an exhibition of the works of Robert Cwiok in the Athenaeum gallery. Cwiok's paintings, collage, and mixed media works lead visitors on a visual tour through the development of an artist. Text, print ephemera and envelopes are visual leitmotifs throughout his career. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

PLTI Fundraiser. 5:30 p.m. at ABACA, 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria and MetroStage. The Parent Leadership Institute of Alexandria

will hold its annual fundraiser at MetroStage and ABACA. The evening will begin with a dinner buffet and a silent auction at 5:30 p.m., followed by "Bessie's Blues" at 7 at MetroStage. \$85 per person for the dinner and show. Visit www.plti-alex.org or contact Fay Slotnick at 703-409-6872 or fay@plti-alex.org for tickets.

SUNDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 1-29

"Four." Through Sunday, March 29 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery, Studio 319, at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory's newest gallery presents the fantastic "Four," featuring photographer Julie Patrick, mixed media artist Kara Hammond, painter Jill Finsen and painting/mixed media artist Barbara Muth. TAG will present a new show each month. Visit torpedofactory.org for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 2

R.E. Lee Camp Dinner. 6:15 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron St., Alexandria (behind Gatsby's Tavern on Royal Street). Social hour is followed by a catered dinner. Hear speaker Philip Schreier, the senior curator at the National Rifle Association talk about "The English Enfield in Confederate Service." \$25 per person; \$12.50 for those 17 and under. RSVP with a check made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Must be received by Feb. 27. For additional information, visit www.leecamp.org.

Film Screening and Discussion. 7 p.m. at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria. Following a screening of "The Raising of America," hear from early childhood experts on early childhood and the future of our nation. Free. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/1wQjFF>

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

National Pancake Day. Participating local IHOPs celebrate by giving away one free short stack of pancakes with the hopes that patrons will make a donation to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Capital Area Chapter in lieu of payment for pancakes. Visit www.ihop.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "Iron Confederacies: Southern Railways, Klan Violence and Reconstruction," by Scott Nelson,

Port City Stages 'Shining City'

Set in Ireland, play tells of troubled human relationships and a ghost story.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Port City Playhouse in Alexandria is staging "Shining City," a story of troubled human relationships overlaid with a hint of a ghost story. Set in Dublin, the play by Irish playwright Connor McPherson tells how a man comes to a psychiatrist for help after he starts seeing a ghost since his wife's death in a car accident.

Director Becky Patton said the play is about relationships and how we communicate (or don't) with them. "The parallels between the character's experiences in their relationships brings the message home that honest communication in even casual relationships is key, but incredibly hard to achieve and maintain," she said. "We can hear the words when they are said, but it is how we choose to accept or reject them that makes all the difference. I hope people will listen more intentionally."

Producer Jim Howard decided to produce "Shining City" because he liked its intense dialogue and subject matter. "Secondly, I owe the director (Becky Patton) a lot for her help in many projects over the past several years, and I think she is one good director. Her vision is always clear on what she wants out of her production staff, and especially her actors."

Tom Flatt plays John, a recently widowed salesman who is visited by the ghost of his wife, and then seeks therapeutic counseling. He said the most challenging aspect of the play was the lan-

guage.

"The writer has composed the piece very poetically to simulate the broken rhythms of everyday speech, so my challenge is to turn the fractured prose into a natural and emotionally transparent performance," he said.

Andy De plays Ian, a man who cares deeply for others but often ignores his own needs. He said the challenge was that Ian's emotional growth takes on wild shifts from scene to scene.

"And on top of that he has quite a bit of trouble expressing himself and getting complete thoughts out due to his own insecurity," he said.

Ashley Amidon plays Neasa, Ian's girlfriend and the mother of his child. She said the role was emotionally challenging for her.

"Neasa has built her life into a partnership with Ian, so when he out of the blue says that their relationship is over, she feels devastated, and like she should have seen this coming," she said. "I've been in that place where you know that this person that you love is leaving no matter what, but you want to walk away having been totally honest. Neasa doesn't want to ever look back on her breakup with Ian and wonder 'what if?'"

Port City presents "Shining City" Friday-Saturday, Feb. 27-28, March 6-7 and 13-14, and Tuesday, March 10, at 8 p.m.; with Saturday matinees March 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Port City Playhouse is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302. Tickets are \$18 regular and \$16 for students/seniors/military. Visit the website at www.portcityplayhouse.org.

The College of William & Mary. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4994.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum History Museum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players concert featuring eclectic music for Tuba-Euphonium Quartet. Concert subject to cancellation due to inclement

weather. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

"Family Paint Night." 6-8 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Explore the arts with featured artist Teresa Brunson guiding participants through painting their own masterpiece. No experience needed. Art supplies, pizza and soda provided. \$15 per adult, children under 12 years old are free and must

be accompanied by one adult. For reservations, stop by the Durant Arts Center, call 706-746-5560, or email durantcenter@alexandriava.gov.

Scottish Social and Tasting. 7-9 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N Washington St., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria's Sister City Committee is holding a fundraiser to support educational and cultural exchanges. The program includes discussion, whisky tasting instructions, and a Q&A led by a Scotch whisky expert; there's plenty for the non-whisky

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ENTERTAINMENT

drinkers: dinner, wine and other beverages will be served. \$40. RSVP to roberthayjr@gmail.com. Send checks to Robert Hay, ASCC, 300 N. Washington St #205, Alexandria VA 22314 or visit <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/> to make payment.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Local area artists express their dreams through their art in "DREAM ON!" Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

MARCH 6-29

"DREAM ON!" Runs through Sunday, March 29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Local area artists use any media to explore and express their dreams in the "DREAM ON!" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery. Using their imaginations, artists interpret their dreams—from weird to wonderful, scary to surreal. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with a lesson at 6:30 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Live Music. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Focus presents folk singer/songwriter Peter Mayer, with guest Doug Alan Wilcox. \$18 general, \$15 in advance at www.focusmusic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 7-8

Thomas Lynch, Poet-Undertaker. Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, and 11:15 a.m.

at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Thomas Lynch, author and inspiration behind the HBO series "Six Feet Under" will speak at Aldersgate Church. There will be a question/answer session and book signing at Aldersgate on Sunday, March 8, 12:30 p.m. \$10 per person, pre-registration required at www.aldersgate.net/lynch.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 7-22

March 150. Through Sunday, March 22 in the Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The exhibition will feature 200+ works of original art by local artists, all created on 10" square panels and sold for \$150 each, until the night of the Art Party on March 20, when all the work is discounted to \$100. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march-150/ for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

International Women's Day at Ten Thousand Villages. Noon-6 p.m. at 915 King St., Alexandria. Shoppers can find the perfect fair trade gift for the women in their lives; that gift was most likely made by one of the thousands of female artisans working with Ten Thousand Villages; on March 8 the store will donate a portion of the day's sales to the City of Alexandria's programs combating domestic violence. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Illustrated Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. First Ladies of the Civil War, an illustrated lecture exploring the lives of Varina Howell Davis and Mary Todd Lincoln as First Ladies, wives, mothers, and widows, will be presented by Kelly R. Hancock, Manager of Education and Programs, The American Civil War Museum and White House of the Confederacy. Free. Call 703-746-4554.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

and, when necessary, seek the counsel and debate the merits of a citizen police oversight board? If you ask other city and other county governments and police departments that have citizen advisory panels you will readily see that they can be helpful and lead to strong police-community relationships. Right now in Fairfax County the police are viewed by many in a negative light. Rogue cops, cowboys, arrogant, unapproachable and ultimately scary. That is very unfortunate and unnecessary. The last time I looked, as a retired homicide detective, our country is still a democracy and not a banana republic dictatorship. An oversight board with adequate authority to look into complaints can be a valuable tool for the police and the board. The board should at least try it; limit its life to two years and do a public review to determine if it should be retained or abolished.

❖ Revise the Virginia Freedom of Information Act regulations to allow for a judicial appeal when a FOIA request is denied and there is little or no justification for the denial, or the release of information, such as classically in the John Geer court order. Without the intervention of an outside authority figure we would still be watching the police and county stonewalling. In the absence of a change in the Virginia FOIA law that now grants police a blanket exemption for an unlimited time period the police in Fairfax County and elsewhere in the Commonwealth will continue to operate as secret police with no incentive to release police incident reports or internal investigation reports in order to inform the public about the truth of what happened in a particular police action.

❖ Hire a new police chief and deputy county executive for public safety from outside the county government. Start with a new team with no baggage. No police chief has ever been selected from outside of the Fairfax County Police Department in modern times. This is a breeding ground for stonewalling. A secret fraternity that even the board, who is supposed to oversee them, can't crack the vice lock they have on information. The board, in desperation, is hiring outside attorneys, information management consultants and advice from the state attorney general. What are they thinking? The last time I looked, the police were supposed to be working for the board; they have a stable of attorneys; and their budget is approximately a billion dollars; half goes to the School Board but the other half goes to probably a bloated bureaucracy that has long ago circled the wagons for the police department which from an outsider's point of view in watching the lack of leadership on the Geer case reports to no one and is neither responsive nor accountable to no one.

❖ Reduce the presence of Fairfax County SWAT teams. Responding to calls on domestic disputes, delivering warrants for petty crimes, is not something new and perhaps the Obama administration will tackle this issue in their policing task force. Examples of "overkill" abound; the latest example is the ramming of the hapless John Geer's townhome. Lacking police incident reports

to verify the authenticity of circumstances that justified the police shootings, one can't validate the use of lethal force or justify SWAT team involvement in the shooting of unarmed citizens. Nevertheless here is a list of eight people who were shot and killed by police since 2006:

❖ 2006: Dr. Salvatore J. Culosi - Shot and killed by a SWAT team member who claimed he accidentally bumped his elbow on his vehicle door and shot Culosi in the chest. The SWAT team was delivering a warrant for Culosi's arrest for sports gambling. Fairfax County settled out of court on a wrongful death suit.

❖ 2007: Randall Leroy Collins - Shot 11 times and castrated; killed by a SWAT team. African American; no police incident report released.

❖ 2008: Heilu Brook - Ethiopian; shot multiple times in the back; allegedly robbed a bank with a gun (toy gun) and fled area; killed by Fairfax County police. No police incident report released.

❖ 2009: David Masters - Shot in the back while sitting in his car unarmed on a service road and surrounded by armed police. He was suspected of stealing a flower plant from a retail store. He fled in his car. Unarmed. No police incident report released. After more than a year, the shooter was identified.

❖ 2010: Ian C. Smith - Known mentally ill patient shot in his own home in the basement; had a toy gun and refused to drop it. Family called mental health personnel who were not available to come to the home so the police went on the call. No police incident report released. Patient permanently incapacitated as a result of the gunshot wound.

❖ 2012: Nicholas Allen Kaelber - Shot multiple times in the back and killed. Police stated he looked suspicious and when they asked him to stop, he fled and they shot him.

❖ 2013: John Geer - Shot in the chest while standing in the doorway of his own home speaking to a police negotiator; no crime had been committed. Left to bleed to death. SWAT team arrived with a battering ram vehicle that caved in the front of the house. Geer found dead lying in the foyer by the door. No police incident report released until pressure from the U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley caused the Fairfax County court system to order release of documents. Internal investigation documents still not available.

❖ 2013: James Bryant - Homeless shelter resident who went into a rage; unarmed. Shot and killed inside the homeless shelter. Police stated he resisted arrest and was uncontrollable. Police also said use of non-lethal equipment was not successful in subduing him. African American.

SWAT team availability and need is questionable. Perhaps a regional unit that mobilizes when called upon as back up or the need for a major police presence is something that could be looked into. However, the incidences of crime committed that need military-style operations is at the least excessive and probably overkill.

Thank you for considering these thoughts as the legal process slowly continues on the John Geer case. Instead of the end, the Geer

case we believe should be the beginning of a detailed investigation of the county board and police by the civil rights division of the justice Department to determine if there is a pattern and practice of the use of excessive force. One solution to reform the police department and end the excessive use of force is to appoint an outside monitor to implement recommendations to end the use of SWAT teams for minor incidents and to end the practice, in violation of their own general orders on the use of force, to shoot unarmed individuals who pose no threat of harm to the police.

Nicholas Beltrante

Executive Director
Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police
Accountability, Inc.

Matter of Judgment

To the Editor:

In my letter published in the Feb. 12, 2015 Gazette, I highlighted several votes taken by Del. Scott Surovell (D-44th) that he needs to explain as he seeks to be elevated to the State Senate. Jeff Carver responded to my letter last week. After describing himself as loathe to quote himself from earlier letters, he did so.

Mr. Carver quoted himself from a letter sent three years earlier claiming, at that time, it had appeared I had just discovered that Delegate Surovell votes to the left of center in the House of Delegates. Of course, I knew it then and certainly know it now. Mr. Carver believes voters should just bury their heads in the sand and ignore reality, voting without regard to the practicalities of the results of their votes.

In fact, most of the examples I gave concerning Surovell votes have less to do with his ideology than they have to do with what appears to be just a lack of good judgment. Which ideology would cause a politician to consistently vote against permitting home-schooled children to participate in public school extracurricular activities? Among the numerous people who have been home-schooled are Susan B. Anthony, Alexander Graham Bell, Lewis Carroll, Thomas Edison, Robert Frost, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Florence Nightingale, Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Tim Tebow. Delegate Surovell says his opposition is because (1) he thinks it is unfair to public school athletes who must meet grade and conduct standards, and (2) turns public education into an "a la carte" situation. Regarding (1), does anyone really think the public school athletes would find it unfair that a home-schooled athlete can help their team win? Regarding (2), the percentage of students who are home-schooled is small. They save the county money since they don't take up classroom space while their parents pay the same taxes as those attending public school classes. Preventing home-schooled children from being able to participate in public school activities, where their parents are paying taxes like everyone else, makes no sense.

Another example I gave was a bill op-

posed by Delegate Surovell that would authorize the House of Delegates or Virginia Senate to intervene as a party representing Virginia if the Governor or Attorney General refused to defend in court an enacted Virginia law or Constitutional provision. This issue is devoid of ideology, equally applying to any political party. Another example I gave is Delegate Surovell's consistent opposition to requiring voters to identify themselves with a photo ID. Ironically, when the N.A.A.C.P. conducted a meeting in which they took the position that photo IDs should not be required for voters, they required attendees to show a photo ID to enter the meeting hall.

Other examples I gave included his opposition to bills providing civil immunity for use of force against intruders in one's home and authorizing physical force against such intruders. I am confident if someone breaks into a person's home, the resident won't be thinking about his ideology when he decides what he needs to do. Delegate Surovell's opposition to keeping court records confidential concerning those whose have obtained permits to carry concealed weapons is equally devoid of politics and logic. What societal benefit accrues from outing those permittees?

I did discuss Delegate Surovell's political party pertaining to the local desire for extension of Metro's Yellow Line to Fort Belvoir, with which I agree. The reality of life is that Democrats are the minority party in the Virginia General Assembly. This means that Democratic transportation priorities for Northern Virginia are unlikely to see the light of day, even though Northern Virginia is Virginia's economic engine. A citizen can keep his head in the sand and continue driving down vehicle-choked Richmond Highway or he can gain a dose of pragmatism and vote for a state senator more likely to be able to convince the General Assembly of the value of an extended subway line to the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The evidence shows that, ideology aside, Scott Surovell lacks the good judgment necessary to deserve elevation to the Virginia Senate.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

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

Letters to the Editor

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OBITUARY

Robert A. Clark: World War II Navy Carrier Ace

Robert A. (Bob) Clark, 91, born Jan. 17, 1922, New York, N.Y., retired U.S. Navy carrier fighter ace and 48-year resident of Mount Vernon, died on Jan. 21, 2015, of pneumonia.

Clark, a child of the "Roaring Twenties," grew up in a New York City orphanage. Upon graduation from high school, he got his first job with Look Magazine.

It was from a later job at the Alcoa Aluminum Company in Fairfield, Conn. that Clark entered the U.S. Navy in December 1942. Qualifying for naval air training, Clark spent 16 months as a naval cadet. Assigned to the Bombing/Fighter Air Group 17, flying the F6F Hellcat, Clark spent a month on Guam Island before boarding the aircraft carrier Hornet (CV-12) on Feb. 1, 1945. Hornet completed a 10-day shakedown cruise on the way to Ulithi Atoll, a then secret naval base in the Caroline Island chain. From there she steamed as part of Task Force 58 toward Japan. On Feb 16, Clark participated in the first carrier air strikes on Tokyo since the Doolittle raid three years earlier.

Throughout February 1945, braving intense Japanese air defense fire and highly adverse weather conditions, Clark flew combat air cover and strafing attack missions on enemy military installations, aircraft and ships in Tokyo and Kyushu. Clark next flew missions in support of the U.S. Marine invasion of Iwo Jima.

On March 4, Clark got a brief respite from combat operations. Hornet returned to Ulithi for a short rest period. As part of a select group of 12 pilots, however, Clark was chosen to ferry some severely battle damaged "flying dud" aircraft back to Guam for repair or cannibalization. The fighter assigned to Clark had taken a hit from a Japanese 5-inch anti-aircraft gun at Iwo Jima. It had many shell perforations on the starboard side, holes in the cockpit and seat, and an engine which Clark wrote, "... sounded like Hell. Popped like corn ... Glad to be out of that pile of junk." After the 350-mile flight to Guam, Clark was back aboard Hornet at Ulithi three days later.

In mid-March, Hornet resumed attacks on the Japanese mainland, this time against Japanese airfields on Kyushu. Clark was part of a 20 fighter attack group heading for Kure naval base when the force encountered a flight of about 60 Japanese fighters heading toward the Hornet's task force. The American fighters immediately engaged the enemy in a dogfight above an inland sea. Clark was attacked by an enemy "George," Japan's most capable fighter which entered service only at the end of the war. After the enemy turned into him, firing all the way, Clark maneuvered his Hellcat into a tail-shot position and fired his machine guns. The "George" smoked, splintered, burned and crashed; Clark's first kill. Soon after, Clark heard a loud crash and realized he had been hit in the starboard wing by a trail-



Robert A. Clark

ing Japanese "Zeke (Zero)." Clark rolled his Hellcat and split out, coming around for an attack from the side against the "Zeke." He saw tracers hit the engine and shatter the cockpit canopy of the enemy plane which crashed into the sea. This was Clark's second kill on the same day. Out of ammunition, and with only a handful of enemy planes remaining, he returned to the Hornet with 12 other Hellcats from his group as still another Kamikaze attack against the task force was underway. Clark was awarded his first Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions that day.

USS Hornet then began preparations for the invasion of Okinawa. Clark flew missions against the Okinawa mainland as well as troopships and supply ships enroute to Okinawa. On April 1, Clark flew ground support missions, dropping napalm on enemy targets as marines were landing on the island. Strikes in support of Okinawa operation continued until April 7 when Clark and his unit joined a group of 360 carrier aircraft to attack a Japanese fleet off the main island of Kyushu. It was during this raid that the Japanese super-battleship Yamato was sunk as well as an aircraft carrier and six destroyers.

After a few days of routine patrols, on April 12, the fighters of USS Hornet intercepted numerous enemy aircraft including one flight of "Kate" torpedo bombers and "Jack" fighters attacking the task force. Three of the "Kates" were downed by Clark's fellow fliers as Clark chased a "Jack" at 500 feet in close proximity to the U.S. carriers. He shot the "Jack" out of the air, his third kill, but a 40 millimeter shell fired from his own ship almost blew the tail off his Hellcat. Despite the damage, he managed a safe landing.

Two days later, Clark scored his fourth and

fifth kills, both "Zekes," during a 90-minute dogfight. Clark qualified as a Fighter Ace and was awarded a second Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism.

The following day, as other Hornet aircraft struck ground targets on Okinawa, Clark was part of a fighter sweep of 220 planes launched against Kyushu Air Base, some 240 miles distant. The force accounted for nine more enemy planes, contributing to the Hornet's daily total of 42 destroyed. One day later, April 16, Clark again headed to Kyushu on another fighter sweep. The group encountered a flight of 20 "Zekes" over the attack area, of which 13 were shot down, including Clark's sixth kill.

After more almost daily strikes on Okinawa, Clark and Hornet arrived back at the Ulithi base for repairs and re-provisioning on April 30. The day after the German surrender in Europe (VE Day) on May 8, Hornet began her last combat sortie of the war, returning to Okinawa to support ground operations. Her pilots then flew numerous missions against the Japanese homeland. On May 19, Clark was awarded his third Distinguished Flying Cross for his overall service in the Pacific campaign.

In September 1945, after 33 months of active service, Ensign Robert A. Clark left the Navy in Jacksonville, Fla. and returned to civilian life, although he remained in the U.S. Naval Reserve. From 1946 to 1950, he took advantage of the GI Bill and attained a degree in English literature from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.

In February 1951, Clark was recalled to active Navy duty for the Korean conflict. He returned to flight school to be checked out on jet fighters; then he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 831, Air Group 15 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Antietam (CV-36) in January 1952. Piloting a F9F Panther fighter jet, Clark began flying combat missions over Korea the following month. By mid-March 1952, he had completed 20 combat missions. From October through December 1952, Clark completed 20 more combat missions launched from USS Antietam.

With so much active and reserve service under his belt, Clark decided to make the Navy a career. In July 1955, Clark rejoined the crew of USS Hornet for a cruise to the western Pacific. Hornet encountered 13 severe typhoons which extensively damaged the ship, forcing an early return to San Diego. The damage spurred the development of a new "hurricane bow" which is a feature of all modern carriers. In 1957, Clark served as Officer in Charge of the aerial reconnaissance unit aboard the carrier USS Randolph (CVA-15).

By 1961, Clark had been promoted and assigned to Washington D.C. He met and

married his "Farm Girl," Darlene, who was from Rheatown, Tenn. but worked in D.C. for the Navy Department.

Shortly after their marriage, Clark was assigned as Executive Officer, and later Commanding Officer of the VU-10 Fleet Utility Squadron at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The unit operated combat and support aircraft to assist the fleets during training operations and provided escort services for unarmed U.S. aircraft flying in the vicinity of Cuba. With the start of the Cuba Missile Crisis on Oct. 22, 1962, the squadron was called upon to perform to the maximum of its capabilities. The first order of business for Clark's unit was the evacuation of all U.S. dependents from the island. The unit took on the role of primary air defense for Guantanamo and flew continuous combat air patrols over the base. Working closely with the Navy's VFP-63 light reconnaissance squadron at the Jacksonville, Fla. Naval Air Station, F8U Crusader aircraft of Clark's unit flew numerous photo-recon missions over Cuba to document the Soviet missile buildup. This photography was flown immediately by couriers in the supersonic Crusaders to Andrews Air Force Base where they were met by helicopters which delivered the film directly to the White House. These photos are now an important part of American history. Clark said that it got mighty lonely flying up the east coast at 2 a.m. with just himself "and the Man in the Moon."

Clark retired from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander and almost 22 years of active and retired service in February, 1964. During his Navy career, he amassed three Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals, two Presidential Unit Citations, the Asia/Pacific Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, The World War Two Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations service Medal, the Navy Occupation Medal, the Naval Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the American Campaign Medal.

Deciding that he and Darlene would settle in the Washington area, he bought a home in the Mount Vernon area and began a new career as a Navy civilian employee, writing and producing Navy training and documentary films for a number of years. His last film was entitled "Kamikazi." He later worked for 10 years in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as a foreign military sales specialist. Clark retired for the second time and last time in 1984.

In retirement, Clark continued to enjoy flying in his WWII vintage, open cockpit Fairchild PT-23 Navy trainer. He would also hitch the occasional ride with his "Hurricane Hunter" buddies in Isla Grande, Puerto Rico. He relished going to the "getaway house" he and Darlene acquired in her hometown of Rheatown. Until the age of 90, Clark loved to take walks along Mount Vernon Parkway and play tennis with his friends.

Clark is survived by Darlene Clark, his beloved wife of 53 years, their daughter, Terry Clark, son-in-law, Robert S. Clark, and grandsons Trey and Tyler Clark, all of Alexandria.

Bulova To Create Transparency Review Commission

FROM PAGE 1

as much info as possible.”

Amid U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, writing letters to the county as to why Geer’s investigation has taken so long and how it’s been handled, as well as public pressure from organizations such as the Justice for John Geer Facebook group and Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Bulova previously announced the board would seek outside expertise to examine its policies for releasing information on police action.

AT THE FEB. 17 MEETING of the board, District Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) introduced a draft policy for trans-

parency that had been making its way to the Fairfax City Council.

“You don’t have to look far to find a good policy on transparency,” said Herry. “If this had been enforced, we wouldn’t have had a lot of the problems with the Geer case.”

That Fairfax proposal mandated a release of basic facts, any conflicting information and confirmed identities of individuals involved with the incident — all within 72 hours of the incident itself.

“There were some good recommendations,” Bulova said, “but I’m not sure that is the only thing that we want to consider. We’re prepared to take a look at a number of models and best practices, to include the one the City of Fairfax is considering.”

On Feb. 20, Bulova took another step and

announced the creation of a new commission, made up of citizens, members of the legal community and other organizations such as the NAACP, to review police policies.

“This gives the community an opportunity to take part in our review,” said Bulova.

In her release, the chairman named Michael Hershman, founder of the Fairfax Group and a citizen appointee to the Board of Supervisors Audit Committee, chair of this commission. She plans to bring it before the board in its March 3 meeting for endorsement. At that time, Bulova has said she will also announce the rest of the commission’s membership.

Though the commission is a step, Herry remains critical of the board’s lack of open

discussion on the Geer case and others involving excessive and or lethal force by police officers.

“The most disturbing thing to me is we haven’t had a Public Safety Committee meeting in well over a year,” he said. “I don’t know why not, there’s not a good answer. And too much of the board’s discussion has been in closed session.”

We need to get out into open session and have a dialog on our policies and practices and get them fixed.”

Bulova’s commission will have the opportunity to review both the county’s search for “independent expertise” on releasing information on officer-involved incidents and the Police Department’s policies and training regarding use of force.

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce to Install New Chairman

FROM PAGE 1

different chambers of commerce because the area is so diverse,” said O’Connell, referencing everything from mom-and-pop shops and other retail to restaurants and Walmart. “It would never be served by one chamber.”

He acknowledged the greater Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, but whereas they’re geared more to larger bus, “we’re typically more connected to owner-managed businesses,” he said.

O’Connell was formerly president of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce but took on the role of chairman at the beginning of February. He’ll be installed formally at the group’s March 11 “Biz Breakfast” networking event at Belle Haven Country Club, featuring commentary from the new Hilltop Village Center Wegmans store manager Mike Dempsey and service manager Matt Spath.

Engaging with more of those diverse businesses are among O’Connell’s goals for his term as chairman.

“We see the area growing, with a lot of additional businesses and folks that haven’t been a member of any chamber,” he said. “We need to reach out to them, get them to understand what we can do for them and their business. That rises everyone’s boat, if we have a larger membership.”

One of the changes already taking place in the chamber is the shift from a system of dues based on the size of the business to tiers of sponsorship for the combination of services the business wants from its membership. These include access to networking opportunities, having the chamber advocate for business positions and work with legislative affairs.

“We’re seeing this as the future of the chamber,” said O’Connell, “something that fits more into their budget.”

The new chairman is also committed to



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Sean O’Connell will be installed as the new chairman of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at its March 12 “Biz Breakfast.”

increasing the dialogue among board members and the 317 member organizations. Typically feedback about the services members receive has occurred informally, O’Connell said, but, “For those not on the board, we want to systematically have discussions with them to get their input on what they’d like to see, changes they’d like to explore, touching base and reporting back.”

FRANCONIA RESIDENT

Tony Riolo is a community lender with Burke & Herbert Bank, and sat on the board of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce for 20 years. Becoming chairman is the structured progression from vice president and president of the chamber’s

board, but he also believes O’Connell is very well suited to the position.

“He has an even temperament, I don’t think ever seen him upset about anything,”

said Riolo. “Maybe that has to do with being a CPA, you roll with the punches. I’ve worked with Sean on the budget committee and he’s just a nice person to deal with.”

Riolo has seen O’Connell’s even keel help draw a consensus numerous times on the chamber’s board, a quality he thinks will continue to serve him as chair.

“When you have 20 people on a board, it’s like herding cats,” Riolo said. “It’s rare to get everyone to agree to everything. I think the chamber’s in very good hands with him.”

Mark Adams of west Alexandria owns an information technology services company working with the federal government. He’s worked with O’Connell and his firm for accounting services over the course of managing three smaller similar companies.

“He’s very imaginative,” said Adams, “to come up with solutions to problems you thought may not have had solutions and still stay on the right side of the deal. It’s unusual to have a number-cruncher guy, so high in his profession, to be able to add a high level of imagination.”

Adams thinks O’Connell’s highly nuanced

approach to helping his businesses grow should benefit the larger community through his role as chair.

“I have a high level of trust and confidence in his recommendations and suggestions,” said Adams.

“He would give me the right suggestions and alternatives for what we were doing in a tax sense and I think that will all carry over.”

O’Connell sees the need for imagination in finding new ways to grow with the membership and community, interacting not only with businesses, but also charity groups and historical resources.

“We have issues with people who speak English as a second language,” he said, “in gaining life skills, transportation, workforce, the fact that there are plenty of jobs, plenty of need in the community, it’s just matching up the workers with the positions.”

“We hear from the charities involved with the chamber,” he continued, “their experience with homelessness, poverty and health challenges right around our community.”

O’CONNELL is also a leader in his faith community, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Keith Davey of Mount Vernon is the stake president of the same church and has seen O’Connell’s leadership from both a business side and in the faith-based context.

“He’s very professional, very calm, methodical and detailed,” said Davey.

“He has a clear vision of where he wants to go and lays out a good action plan to get there. He has not an overly effusive demeanor, but a quiet confidence and trust and respect.”

Davey recalled a recent example when O’Connell coordinated the field trip of 30 12-18-year olds and 10 adult leaders to visit and worship at the Mormon Temple. Managing the logistics was no small task, he said: “Sean was very careful to elicit the opinions and insights of those that would be directly involved in delivering that to a successful conclusion.”

For more information on the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, visit www.mountvernon-leechamber.org.

“It’s rare to get everyone to agree to everything. I think the chamber’s in very good hands with him.”

— Tony Riolo

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon junior Bill Adusei-Poku wrestles Kempsville's Kobe Laxa in the 5A 138-pound final during the VHSL state meet on Feb. 20 at Robinson Secondary School.



Mount Vernon wrestler Bill Adusei-Poku won his second state title in three years, capturing the 5A 138-pound championship on Feb. 20 with a 5-3 decision over Kempsville's Kobe Laxa in the final at Robinson Secondary School.

Mount Vernon Wrestler Adusei-Poku Wins 138-Pound State Title

Mount Vernon wrestler Bill Adusei-Poku used his loss in the 2014 132-pound state championship match as motivation entering his junior year.

He hasn't lost a VHSL match since.

Adusei-Poku capped an undefeated junior season by winning the 5A 138-pound state title on Feb. 20 at during the VHSL state meet at Robinson Sec-

ondary School. Adusei-Poku defeated Kempsville's Kobe Laxa via 5-3 decision in the state final.

The win improved Adusei-Poku's 2014-15 record to 33-0.

"[It] just made me more motivated to win," Adusei-Poku wrote in an email, "and to work harder to accomplish my goals."

The state championship was Adusei-Poku's second in three years. As a freshman,

he won the AAA 126-pound championship.

"It felt great being back on top of the podium," Adusei-Poku wrote, "and I can't say that it felt better than the last because they're both great feelings."

Matoaca won the 5A team championship with a score of 78. Broad Run finished runner-up (67), followed by Hickory (52), Great Bridge (51) and Mountain View (43).

Mount Vernon tied for 14th place with

19 points.

In the 6A tournament, West Potomac's Joshua Carter placed fourth in the 160-pound bracket. Carter, a 6A North region champion, lost to Riverbend's Alex Miller, 9-3, in the third-place match.

The Wolverines finished 26th in the team standings with eight points.

— JON ROETMAN



To the Championships

West Potomac senior Lozie Goolsby will compete in the 500 meters, 300 meters and high jump during the VHSL 5A/6A state indoor track championships March 5-6 at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Swimmers Shine at States

Friends and teammates from West Potomac (from left, sophomore Alexandria Puskar-Beckett and freshman Cassidy Bayer) and W.T. Woodson (from left senior Leah Rogers and sophomore Allison Goldblatt) link up after an awards ceremony at the Virginia High School League 6A swimming championship meet in Richmond on Feb. 20. For final results of the meet, visit www.swimtechusa.com/Vhsl.

Fort Hunt Youth Basketball Players Honored

The Fairfax county travel basketball organization has named their MVP and all-league players for the 2014-2015 season.

Briana Johns (seventh-grade division two girls), Ebony Bordley (eighth-grade division two girls) and George Rizzo (sixth-grade division two boys) were named MVPs.

The following players were selected for all league honors: Kyra Hopper (fifth-grade division two girls); Kaitlyn Lee (seventh-grade division two girls); Reilly Casey (eighth-grade division two girls); Gabby

Hopper (eighth-grade division two girls); Aidan McClanahan (fifth-grade division one boys); Ben Chambers (sixth-grade division three boys); Chris Knight (sixth-grade division three boys); Ben Wayer (seventh-grade division one boys); and Malik Johnson (eighth-grade division two boys).

Fort Hunt coaches nominated 24 players, 12 of whom were selected for honors. Each team could nominate three players, and coaches could not vote for players on their respective teams.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Audrey Sisel, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, was named to the Creighton University (Omaha, Ne.) dean's list for fall 2014.

Francesca Gilley graduated from Southwestern College (Winfield, Ks.) with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education.


Natalie Felice and **Isabelle Marie**

Marquez have been named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2014 semester.

Tommy Cheung, a third-year student in the computing security program in Rochester Institute of Technology's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences (Rochester, NY), made the dean's list for the fall 2014-2015 semester.

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Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

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LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
RFP No. 00000515: Title: Architectural Design Services, Engineering Services and Construction Administration Services for Fire Station 203 RFP Closing Date and Time: April 2, 2015, 4 p.m., prevailing local time
Pre-Proposal Conference: March 10, 2015
For general inquiries contact Michel F. Hauer, CPPB, CPPB, Acting Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

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21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-02-07**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Network Switching and Wi-Fi Equipment. Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-02-07 Network Switching and Wi-Fi Equipment, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>
All questions must be submitted before 5:00 p.m., March 13, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-01-07**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for the replacement/repair of the Stage Curtains at the following locations: John Adams Elementary School, Samuel Tucker Elementary School, Charles Barrett Elementary School, William Ramsey Elementary School, and Francis Hammond Middle School. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-01-07 Stage Curtains & Related Equipment will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 24, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php. All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., March 13, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
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21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-02-10**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Internet Service. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-02-10 Internet Service will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>
All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., March 10, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No Proposal may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements


**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-02-04**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Roof Maintenance Services. There will be a non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on March 4, 2015 at 10:30AM at Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Conference Room 620-1, on the 6th floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in submitting a proposal for Roof Maintenance are encouraged to attend.
Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is five(5) years.
Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-02-04 Roof Maintenance will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00pm, March 23, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.
All questions must be submitted before 4:30pm, March 13, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS website.
No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety(90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.
ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Sharon T Lewis MLS, VCO, CPM, CPPB
Director of Procurement & General Services

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21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-02-06**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Network Switching and Wi-Fi Equipment. Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-02-06 Wide Area Network Infrastructure Equipment will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>
All questions must be submitted before 5:00 p.m., March 13, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-02-06**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Network Switching and Wi-Fi Equipment. Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-02-06 Wide Area Network Infrastructure Equipment will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>
All questions must be submitted before 5:00 p.m., March 13, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

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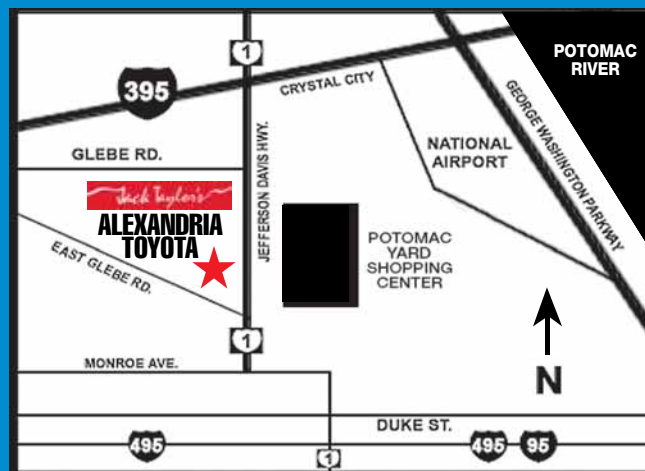
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WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL
\$119⁹⁵

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

GENUINE TOYOTA
15% OFF
WIPER INSERTS & WIPER BLADES

SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WINTERIZATION SPECIAL
\$59⁹⁵

Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump.
Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more

SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL
\$5⁰⁰ OFF

Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WE WILL MEET OR BEAT
ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
NITROFILL SPECIAL
\$39⁹⁵

We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

Sales Hours: Mon – Fri: 9am – 9pm | Sat: 9am – 6pm | Sun: 12pm – 5pm **703-684-0700**

Great Savings

Great Security

Great Service



New 2015 Prius Liftback
\$1,250 Cash Back



Peace of mind with every new vehicle. Receive a no-cost maintenance plan* and roadside assistance** with the purchase or lease of every new Toyota. For two years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first, you and your new Toyota will be covered.



Finance a New 2015 Corolla LE Auto at 0.9% APR for 60 months.

*Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. See Toyota dealer for details and exclusions. Valid only in the Continental U.S. and Alaska. **Roadside Assistance does not include parts and fluids. Valid only in the Continental United States and Alaska. 1-800-444-4195.

Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/2/2015.

Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/2/2015.



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