Mount Vernon Voice

Vol. 16 No. 18 | Happy Mothers' Day Mount Vernon, Lee, and Alexandria | May 10, 2017 50 Cents

Staff photo/Marlene Miller

UCM Honors Gerry

United Community Ministries honored former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, center, with its first ever Gerald "Gerry" W. Hyland Humanitarian Award Saturday night at its Give from the Heart Gala and present supervisors, Jeff McKay, Lee, left and Dan Storck, Mount Vernon, roasted and toasted him. See more gala coverage on page 7.

Staff photo/Steve Hunt

Water Main Break Closes Part of Fort Hunt Road

Fort Hunt Road was closed in both directions for roughly eight hours Monday between Belle View Elementary School and Wake Forest Drive due to a water main break. The traffic disruption began early during rush hour. Motorists were forced to detour onto Wake Forest Drive to the George Washington Memorial Parkway or to Quander Road to Richmond Highway. The Mount Vernon RECenter was forced to close due to a lack of water leaving those wishing to skate, swim or exercise to postpone their plans.

Lords & Ladies Named

Rumberger, Palmore, Knapp, Duell Chosen

A Fairfax County Public Schools principal and president of the South County Federation has been selected by Supervisor Dan Storck as Mount Vernon's Lord Fairfax for 2017.

A woman that Storck describes as "our Mount Vernon Wonder Volunteer," having been a trailblazer for women's rights and human services issues, has been named Lady Fairfax for Mount Vernon.

Dale Rumberberger and Mattie Palmore each have more than three decades of service to the Mount Vernon District, Storck noted.

"Over his 33 years as a teacher, activities director, assistant principal and principal, Dale Rumberger could always be found in the hallways talking with students, attending school plays or concerts, or cheering in the stadium stands," Storck said.

"Among his students, he is known as a caring, compassionate, and firm teacher. Among his peers, he is known as an enthusiastic leader."

Rumberger is a former principal at South County High School, and after serving 41 years in FCPS, has been named interim principal of West Potomac High School while a search is on for a permanent replacement.

Storck noted that as principal, he guided the opening of two new high schools, "an

See Royalty Page 10

File photo

'Lady' Mattie Palmore

Contributed

'Lord' Dale Rumberger

Huge Victory for WP Girls in Lacrosse

The Lady Wolverines ran away with a huge lacrosse victory despite the rain last Thursday in an away match. Here West Potomac's Theresa Willmott-McMahon (senior) takes off with the ball in the 24-5 victory over the Lady Atoms from Annandale High School. The WP girls will play South County High School in Lorton on Wednesday, May 10, at 5:30 p.m.

Photo/Nicholas Lindsey

Pets of the Week

Apollo

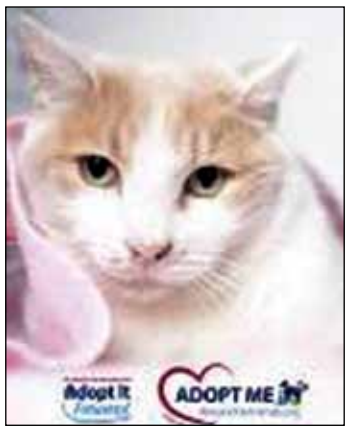
Apollo is a male bulldog believed to about 6 years old. His love of people is only rivaled by his love of tennis balls (and chewing on them). He is mellow around people but not so fond of other dogs so he would need to be an only dog. He does have some medical needs including inflammatory bowel syndrome, respiratory issues and a diseased hind limb. Thanks to a generous donor, his adoption fees have been paid. He is currently in a foster home, call the shelter to make an appointment. ID #A068496

Tempeh

Tempeh is a senior female domestic short hair who is a very shy senior cat who deep down craves attention when she allows people to give her head and neck scratches. Tempeh is quite attached to Tofu so the AWAL strongly feels they should go home together. Thanks to a generous donor, her adoption fees have been paid. ID #A069718

Hope

Hope is an adult female Tosa Inu who was rescued from a South Korean dog meat farm in December 2015. She has spent six months in a foster home where she started to open up and trust people. She has made incredible progress, but she still has a long road ahead of her to learn what it means to be a dog and a member of the family. Hope LOVES other dogs and would benefit from having a canine brother or sister in her new home. ID #A066509



Tofu

Tofu is a senior male domestic short hair who is a very shy fellow. He'll allow petting but he does show a fair amount of fear. He is best suited for a quiet adult home with a patient and experienced companion who can help him come out of his shell. Tofu is quite attached to Tempeh so the AWLA strongly feels they should go home together. Thanks to a generous donor, his adoption fees have been paid. ID #A069717

The Hollin Hall Animal Hospital is proud to sponsor the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Pets of the Week. For information on adopting this week's pets go to www.alexandriaanimals.org. (703) 746-4774

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Community Life

Courtesy photo

Opioid Abuse Epidemic Discussed by Panel

The Colonial Republican Women's meeting included a panel discussion on the opioid abuse epidemic. The speakers included Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, center, and 2nd Lt. Jimmy Cox of the Fairfax County Police Department's Organized Crime and Narcotics division. The panelists spoke of the impact the abuse of opioids has on the community and a discussion about treatment and prevention. Erika Dyer was the moderator.

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Photos/Mary Paden

Tisha Deeghan, Exec. Dir. of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board introduces panelists: Betty Petersilia, LCSW, Mgr., Children's Behavioral Health Systems of Care; Dede Bailer, Ph.D., Coordinator, Psychology Services, FCPS; Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager, Fairfax County Dept. of Neighborhood & Community Services; Lyn Tomlinson, Asst. Deputy Dir., Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board; Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH, Dir. Fairfax County Health Department; Roger Harris, The Imaginarium; and speaker Lisa M. Horowitz, of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Screen for Suicidal Thoughts By Asking Youth about Them

By MARY PADEN
Contributing Writer

The best way to prevent a youth from committing suicide is to ask them if they are thinking about it. If the answer is yes, follow up with a professional assessment and treatment.

That was the take-home message from Lisa M. Horowitz, of the National Institute of Mental Health, who was the lead clinician on several suicide screening instrument development studies that included children and adults. She presented the keynote lecture on detecting suicide risk among youth at the annual NEXUS forum sponsored by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and the citizen's advisory board of the CSB's Gartlan Center.

About 50 social workers, teachers, and others who work with youth attended the forum at the Virginia Hills Center on Diana Lane April 27.

Horowitz noted that suicide is the second most common cause of death among youth worldwide and a major public health issue for all ages. While other causes of death, such as AIDS, heart disease, and stroke, have declined over the past decades, the rate of suicide has remained steady with 800,000 deaths annually worldwide, and 44,000 in the United States.

In Virginia, she said there were 2.4 suicides for every homicide in 2012. Even children under age 12 plan, attempt, and carry out suicide, she said: in 2015, 413 children 5-14 years old died from suicide in the United States.

Some of her research revealed why suicide is so hard to prevent. Of youth who had made suicide attempts or had suicidal thoughts, 85 percent had not revealed their suicidal thoughts to anyone; 30-60 percent did not reveal past suicide attempts to anyone; 90 percent of the suicide attempts were unknown to parents; and – alarmingly – 69 percent of the youth surveyed had less than a 30-minute interval between their suicidal thoughts and making a suicide attempt.

Although a number of risk factors are known — such as a previous attempt; mental illness; symptoms of depression, anxiety, agitation, impulsivity; exposure to suicide of a relative, friend or peer; physical/sexual abuse history; drug or alcohol abuse; lack of mental health treatment; suicide ideation and so on — many people with those factors do not kill themselves, Horowitz said.

See Suicide Page 9

Horowitz, a pediatric psychology with the NIMH, spoke on screening suicidal intent among youth.

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Community Notes

South Flow Alliance Meeting May 10

The South Flow Alliance, a coordinated campaign of Mount Vernon residents who live south of Reagan Washington National Airport, will hold a kick-off on Wednesday, May 10, at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane.

The South Flow Alliance are fighting for quieter skies over the district and changes to the airplane traffic over Mount Vernon neighborhoods.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck will explain what residents can do to help and a resident aviation expert will speak on recent flight path changes.

Sandburg Pantherlon Set for May 13

The Sandburg Middle School Annual Pancake Pantherlon 5K will be held Saturday, May 13, at 8 a.m. at the school located at 8428 Fort Hunt Road.

It is a low-key race open to runners of all ages and experience. The route starts in front of the school through the Waynewood neighborhood.

A pancake breakfast will follow the race in the school cafeteria.

To register go to http://www.active.com/alexandria=va/running/distance-running-races28th-annual-pancake-pantherlon-2017?int=.

Volunteers Needed for Quander Brook Cleanup

Volunteers are need to help clean up Quander Brook on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.

People can access the area by parking in the Kings Crossing Shopping Center at 6303 Richmond Highway and walking to the rear of the center on the Chuck E. Cheese Restaurant side to a gate opening directly behind the restaurant and following signs and orange flags to the cleanup site.

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoots or boots as removing trash requires wading in the stream and climbing over rocks.

Quander Brook in the Spring Bank neighborhood is being studied by CLEAN FAIRFAX where seasonal trash tallies are conducted to gather data and to try to pinpoint the origin of the trash that accumulates in the stream.

Gloves and trash bags will be provided to volunteers.

Genealogical Society to Meet May 16

The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society will meet on Tuesday, May 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

Shannon Combs-Bennette will give a talk entitled "Let Me Tell You About Your Genes." The reason for taking a genetic genealogy (DNA) test varies from person to person but what most will have in common is confusion about what it all means.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information go to www.mvgenealogy.org.

Crime Log

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department for the period May 8 - 2.

ROBBERY

*Audubon Avenue 7800 block — May 3 around 7:47 a.m. A man grabbed a 71-year-old woman's purse and fled. Her purse was located nearby, but her wallet was missing. The suspect was described as black wearing a black hoodie and black pants with a white stripe. The victim did not require medical attention.

BURGLARY

*Janna Lee Avenue 7900 block — May 2 between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. A resident left her home briefly and returned to find items had been moved around. Cash and a bluetooth speaker were missing.

BURGLARY

*Richmond Highway 7800 block (Boost Mobile), between 6 p.m., April 30 and 10 a.m., May 1. An employee reported someone had entered the business after hours and took an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no signs of forced entry.

LARCENIES

*6200 block of North Kings Highway, tools from residence

*2500 block of Parkers Lane, jewelry from residence

*6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

*6400 block of Virginia Hills Avenue, jewelry from residence

*2400 block of Midtown Avenue, gun from residence

*7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

*5300 block of Bedford Terrace, suitcase from residence

*7100 block of Fort Hunt Road, jewelry from residence

*8400 block of Frye Road, beers from business

*2500 block of Parkers Lane, license plate from vehicle

*6500 block of Richmond Highway, laptop computer from vehicle

*7200 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business

*7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

The following incidents were reported by the Franconia District Station of the FCPD.

LARCENIES

*9400 block of Cherwek Drive, property from residence

*8000 block of Lorton Road, property from vehicle

*7200 block of Bona Vista Court, package from residence

*6600 block of Frontier Drive, merchandise from business

Delegate Report

Opposing Plastic Bottles

By Del. PAUL KRIZEK
(D-44th)

On Monday, I joined local environmental organizations to protest the use of plastic bottles at the headquarters of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA). There were about 30 people, and the protesters brought their energy and enthusiasm to the protest early in the cold morning.

The protesters brought bags of plastic water bottles retrieved during the frequent stream cleanups, creative homemade signs, messages, and chants.

Reducing the impact of trash in our waterways is important because a healthy coastal ecosystem supports almost 1.4 million jobs along the eastern seaboard alone, and contributes over $95 billion to our GDP through fishing, tourism, and recreation.

Plastic bottling is the low-hanging fruit for our conservation efforts because there are biodegradable alternatives, including "plastic" made from cellulose. In January 2017, The Procter & Gamble Company announced that Head & Shoulders (H&S), the world's #1 shampoo brand, will produce the world's first recyclable shampoo bottle made from up to 25% recycled beach plastic.

Also on Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed 11 bipartisan bills that promote the use of solar and other renewable energy options and aim to reduce energy consumption across the Commonwealth.

Some of my favorite bills included in this package are HB 1565 from Del. Michael Webert (R-18), which allows localities to establish "green development zones;" SB 1393 from Sen. Frank Wagner (R-07), which Authorizes Community Solar Pilot Programs; and SB 1258 from our local Mount Vernon Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30th), which changes the Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority to the Virginia Solar Energy and Battery Storage Development Authority.

For me, conservation is about jobs. Whether it's developing, harnessing and implementing new or existing sources of alternative energy, or developing, manufacturing and selling biodegradable and recyclable materials, the "green revolution" will not just keep our planet clean and healthy, they will employ American workers and create a new industry to make our country a better place to live. That's why I patroned two studies, one to analyze the economic impact of litter on our waterways, and another one to find areas of major green infrastructure investment where Virginia could capitalize on the new technologies coming online.

This was the NOVA Trash Action Work Force's first Day of Action. I am thrilled to see the grassroots energy that will create a global impact fostered here in Mount Vernon and Lee. The NOVA Trash Action Work Force consists of Friends of Accotink Creek, Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows, Lake Accotink Park, Little Hunting Creek, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, Clean Water Action and the local Sierra Club chapter.

Alleged Armed Carjacker Caught in Penn Daw Area

Shortly after 6 a.m. Tuesday, a man approached a 36-year-old woman driving a blue Nissan Rogue at the intersection of Telegraph Road and East Drive.

The man pulled out a gun, threatened the woman and told her to get out of her car, Fairfax County police reported.

She complied and the perpetrator fled the vehicle. Police were called and lookout was broadcast for the perpetrator and the vehicle.

Officers quickly located in the vehicle in the 5900 block of Edgehill Drive, still being driving by the perpetrator. They initiated a traffic stop, but the suspect fled striking a tree and four cars as he sped away, stopping at the dead end on Edgehill Drive.

He bailed out of the vehicle and fled on foot. Patrol officers, the K9 unit and police helicopter Fairfax 1 began an intensive search.

Schools nearby were notified and went into "Secure the Building" status, or delayed opening.

A resident in the area provided officers with an image of the suspect they captured on their home security camera.

The media relations bureau sent that and numerous additional messages out via social media.

Shortly after 8 a.m., a suspect matching the description given earlier in the lookout was stopped while walking near the intersection of North Kings Highway and after being positively identified was arrested and taken to the adult detention center.

The suspect has been identified by police as John Holomon Russell, 23, no fixed address.

He has been charged with carjacking, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, felony speed to elude, four counts of misdemeanor hit and run and driving on a suspended license.

Anyone who witnessed the carjacking or has additional information about the incident is requested to call the major crimes division at 703-246-7800.

— FCPD report

Deserving Honor

United Community Ministries honored longtime former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland last Saturday night at its annual Gala and created the Gerry Hyland Humanitarian Award of which he was the first recipient.

Future recipients will have huge shoes to fill.

Gerry was our supervisor for 28 years. He was omnipresent at events and tragedies, big and small, in all parts of Mount Vernon, lightening the situation with puns but providing all the help and support those involved required.

Beginning his "public career" as PTA president at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, Gerry was also on the board of UCM, including a term as chairman. As supervisor, among his many accomplishments, he led the fight to save Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and secure a levee to help end flooding in the Huntington neighborhood.

Present Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, praised Gerry for his deeds and teased him about his puns.

Lee DIstrict Supervisor Jeff McKay, a longtime sidekick of Gerry's as they worked together for both sides of the Route 1 corridor, called him the "moral compass" of the board of supervisors.

We are proud to call him "friend" and delighted to have the opportunity to thank him for all he has done for us here in Mount Vernon, and to congratulate him on his award and wish him all the best in future.

Kudos to Gerry!

Correction

In the May 3 issue of the Mount Vernon Voice it was incorrectly reported that the Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services gala raised $60,000 to help prevent homelessness in Fairfax County. That amount was just what was raised during the live auction. The gala itself raised $260,000. For more information about Good Shepherd Housing please visit www.goodhousing.org.

What We Think

By Mary Paden

What is the most important thing your mother taught you as a child?

Kevin Kreeger
Huntington
"Respect others."

Ausley West
Rose Hill
"Have a big heart."

Stan West
Rose Hill
"Laugh well."

Sloan Davis
Woodbridge
"Prepare well and do my best at whatever I do."

Tony Williams
Arlington
"Be confident."

Asma Rabeh
Beacon Hill
"Listen to people, and if they want advice, give it."

MOUNT VERNON VOICE

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Visit our web site at
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BLACK, WHITE & Read ALL OVER

The Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC) wishes to thank its event planning committee, board of directors supporters and sponsors for an unforgettable spring benefit. All funds raised directly support CFNC's mission to provide free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families.

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Photos/Kel B Pics Photography

No. VA Urban League Awards Scholarships

The Northern Virginia Urban League honored six champions in the community for leadership and community service and awarded $50,000 in scholarships to local minority Northern Virginia high school seniors at its 27th Annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala on April 28.

Top photo: NVUL Scholarship Winners pose with Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green; from left to right: Oshae Moore, Aaron Moorer (MVHS), Abigail Darko, Matthew Ritchie, Darrell Green, Morgan Hobson, Christian Clark, Miranda Merritt, Nicholas Conklu, and Jessica Brisco. Not pictured from MVHS: Yosaph Boku.

Bottom photo from left: Lavern Chatman (Director Fund Development, NVUL), U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (VA - 3rd District), Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg , Diane McLaughlin (Gala Co-Chair), Christopher J. Lewis (Alexandria School Bd.), and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam.

Engaged? Just Married? Wedding Anniversary?

Share your news in the Mount Vernon Voice.

For just $25 per announcement, you can share your special news with friends, neighbors and former classmates in the Mount Vernon Voice. Submit your news (no more than 300 words) by the Thursday prior to the week of publication to:

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You may include a color or black and white photo which will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included. Photos will appear in black and white in the newspaper.

Please include a contact telephone number.
A check for $25 payable to the Mount Vernon Voice must be included.

UCM board chair Ken Disselkoen

Alison DeCourcey, exec. dir.

NBC4's David Culver, emcee

Courtesy photo

Event chairs Margret Murphy, left, and Donna Jarvis-Miller

UCM Gala Honors Former Mt. Vernon Supervisor

Gorgeous centerpieces adorned the tables.

Board chair Ken Disselkoen, left, talks with new exec. dir. Alison DeCourcey and husband Marc.

Honoree Gerry Hyland talks with guests.

WPHS Jazz Trio: Ben Irwin, Carl Questad and Sam Williams. played at the reception.

UCM's Give from the Heart Gala drew a large crowd to the PTO in Alexandria last Saturday to raise money for the organization and to honor former longtime Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland. UCM's new executive director Alison DeCourcey also had a chance to meet UCM supporters and renew old friendships. The event was hosted by Friends of UCM who have raised over $2 million for UCM since their inception. The gala raised "nearly $190,000," according to UCM.

Photos/Marshall and Marlene Miller

Friends chair Elin Bohn, left, and Marlene Miller, MV Voice editor.

Guest Mattie Palmore who just learned she had been named MV's 2017 Lady Fairfax.

UCM's Herb Lea and wife Anita enjoy the evening.

Sen. Adam Ebbin, with others, contributed GW's whiskey to the Silent Auction.

The team huddles under umbrellas during a timeout; the rain never dampened their enthusiasm.

Wolverines Drown Atoms in Rainy 24-5 Victory

The West Potomac Lady Wolverines lacrosse team held a dominant lead over the Annandale Atoms on Thursday night. Despite the rain, fans came out to cheer the the ladies to a 24-5 victory.

Photos/Nicholas Lindsey

Below left, Tess Moore (freshman); below right, Madison Smith (junior); at right, Abbie Weissman (junior).

Attention Sports Fans, Coaches and Parents

The Voice welcomes photos and write-ups of all high school sports events.

Please make sure to include captions for all photos (and a contact phone and email which will not be published).

Email the information and photos to:
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ENTERTAINMENT

Two Gere Choices — Good and Bad

By MICHAEL CASTLEBERRY
Contributing Writer

Yep, you're seeing film releases to see what films can find traction to make a lasting impression in the summer season. There will be a bunch of new flicks, some for the kids, like this week's *My Entire High School Sinking Into The Sea,* which might actually appeal to junior and high school students, and a whole range of films to whet the movie-going tastes of adults.

Two of them star veteran film actor Richard Gere and, while very different films, they certainly run the gamut of appeal.

The most enjoyable of the two is ***Norman: The Moderate Rise And Tragic Fall Of A New York Fixer***. That's a long title to describe a film about an old geezer who always, always has his eye on the prize, e.g. the prize he feels he and he alone deserves!

To that end, he hustles all the time, chatting people up, looking for deals, dropping names, always looking for an edge ... and a score. He is always, always working, he always has a hustle going, and he's never off-duty! He may get on your nerves, actually, he's bound to get on your nerves, it's considered part of his 'charm'. And if you're not careful, he'll rope you into his schemes.

You watch him lay out the rope to pull in money-makers, politicians, upper class, man-on-the-street types, you name if, he's got the hustle for it!! You may be wondering where the appeal is in this character and this film? Trust me, it's there!!

MOVIE TALK

Gere is a revelation as the huckster and part of the charm is the in-your-face cinematography and the furious pace of Joseph Cedar, an Israeli writer and director and visual stylist who has pulled together a very entertaining film.

When you make a film about New Yorkers, you always bring a comparison to the great filmmaker Woody Allen. Since he has a bunch of Oscars for films and writing, it would be high praise to compare Cedar to Allen but — at least with this film — it's a comparison that would be apt.

Not to mention the fact that he gets a terrific performance out of Gere, a man who has not always seemed comfortable in front of a camera. As Norman, he comes off as totally authentic in a role as far from some of his past work as he could possibly get.

It's a very impressive performance and a film worth seeing. On the other hand, there is Richard Gere in ***The Dinner***, a film structured into the different courses of a meal. It's a conceit that could make you throw up and Gere's performance doesn't help.

He's a congressman wanting to be a governor who goes out for dinner with his wife and his socially phobic brother and his wife. How bad could this be, you say??? Bad. The conceit of the meal collapses under the sheer unappealing group of people in front of you. You sit and watch and listen and then you start looking at your watch.

And it only gets worse. Please — it's just a mess.

If you're absolutely determined to see a Richard Gere film this week, well, it might not be a tough decision to make!!

Happy Viewing!!

NEXUS Panel Tackles Teen Suicide

Suicide from Page 3

To zero in on youth that are actually at considerable risk, she helped develop and test a screening questionnaires that can be administered in a doctor's office, a school nurse's office, or an emergency room.

The resulting five-question screening survey focused on the youth's thoughts and intent by asking if they have recently wished they were dead, thought their family would be better off without them, had thoughts of killing themselves, tried to kill themselves, or are having thoughts of suicide now. In research testing these questions revealed suicidal intent as well as much longer vetted screening questionnaires in use.

The direct questions received some pushback from parents — especially those of young patients waiting for non-psychiatric treatment — who though that mentioning suicide might put the thought in their child's head. Horowitz said there is absolutely no evidence that this happens.

Horowitz pressed for widespread use of the short screening questionnaire in medical settings, recommending erring on the side of caution. "Even if we catch youth who weren't really going to commit suicide, anyone who answers yes to these questions is probably under tremendous stress and in pain, so there is no harm in getting them treatment," she said.

Horowitz described her work with a Richmond pediatrician who used her questionnaire in his practice. He was surprised to find that over a period of time 13 percent of his patients reported previous suicide attempts that he had not known about and one reported feeling suicidal at the time of his visit (he was referred to further treatment immediately).

Following the lecture, Tisha Deeghan, Exec. Dir. of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, facilitated a panel discussion addressing concerns about youth suicide in Fairfax County. Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager at Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services brought up the 2015 Fairfax County Youth Survey which showed that 13 percent of students reported considering suicide, 26 percent reported depressive symptoms, 6 percent reported attempting suicide, and 36 percent reported high levels of stress.

The survey found that students with three assets had dramatically reduced risk behaviors. The three assets are: having high personal integrity; having adults in the community to talk to, and performing community service.

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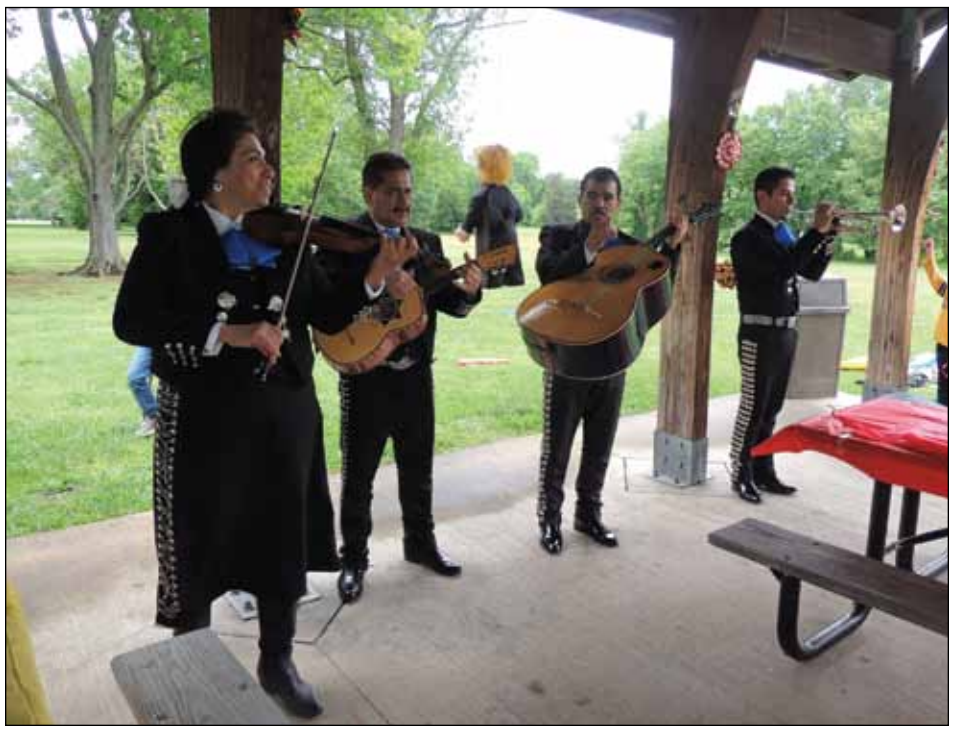

Photos/Mary Paden

Las Mariachi Estrellas provided mariachi music for the event and Surovell speaks to assembled Democrats.

Cinco de Surovell Raises Funds for Other Democratic Candidates

Nearly 60 Democrats braved a rainy Saturday to celebrate Sen. Scott Surovell's (D-36th) eighth annual Cinco de Surovell picnic fundraiser at Ft. Hunt Park. Although Surovell is not up for election this year, he said he is fundraising for "the unprecedented number of excellent Democratic candidates running to take over the state legislature." Surovell noted that 84 state delegate seats are contested this year — five in his senate district — and 21 of them have Democratic primaries. "A couple years ago I could not get anyone to run against Del. Tim Hugo (R-49th) and now Democrats are fighting each other for the opportunity." "People call me all the time about how to resist the change in Washington" Surovell said. I tell them the resistance begins with state politics. We can pass legislation on reproductive rights, environment, minimum wage … we can do anything that the federal government can do except national defense. If you want to change things, get involved in these state delegate races and help us take back the legislature."

Storck Crowns Palmore, Rumberger

Royalty from Page 1

enormous task that earned him The Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award."

Since retiring from FCPS, Rumberger has returned as a consultant to FCPS including his current stint at West Potomac.

"There are very few students, teachers, administrators, or families in Fairfax County who have not been touched by Mr. Rumberger's passion for academic excellence," Storck said.

Palmore has worked as an advocate for housing for homeless individuals, for assistance for physically and mentally challenged persons and on behalf of the youth and senior citizens.

She is a former director of Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services' homeless transition program, and co-founded the Women's Group of Mount Vernon which provides a safe environment for victims of abuse.

"She has worked tirelessly on domestic violence prevention and service coordination with local government agencies, the judicial system and area non-profit organizations," Storck said. "She now serves as the Mount Vernon representative to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and continues to contribute her time, energy, caring and loving help to others in her community.

"She has made a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of persons in need," he added. "She is SPECIAL!"

For Lee District, Supervisor Jeff McKay selected Richard Knapp and Michelle Duell as the district's Lord and Lady Fairfax.

"Richard Knapp is a truly dedicated citizen of Fairfax County, working tirelessly to reinvigorate and preserve Fairfax's past while also bettering the future," said McKay.

He noted that Knapp has been working hard on the former Mount Vernon High School Reutilization Task Force and its steering committee, helping to bring a county landmark back to life.

He also serves as co-chair of the Embark Advisory Group and has "revealed a great guiding hand in easing transit in Lee District" while continuing his work with the Pinewood Lake HOA and as the Lee representative on the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation which shows his dedication to his neighbors.

Regarding Duell, McKay stated, her "commitment to improving the standard of living for the residents of Lee District is hard to match."

He noted that her service with the Friends of Richard Byrd Library helps maintain and expand one of Springfield's greatest public resources, while her dedication to pedestrian safety led to the installation of the county's HAWK pedestrian crosswalk signal.

"Her work with the Springfield Civic Association helped give a voice to residents and their needs within local government, and her active support of her FCPS neighborhood schools contributed to student enrichment initiatives," McKay said.

— Staff report

Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the rooftop and participated in a live auction.

Designers Help Violence Victims

Room to Rebloom's Third Annual Rebloom on the Roof cocktail fundraiser was held May 3 at The Heyburn – Grand Apartment Residences in Washington, DC. Room to Rebloom is a 501c(3) organization which centers on the restorative impact of interior designs. The mission is to design and create healing environments for survivors of domestic violence in the National Capital Area. For more information go to www.roomtorebloom.org.

Staff photos/Steve Hunt

Alexandria resident Madeleine Mitchell, right, with Dr. Thom Mayer and Maureen Mayer.

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home located on King Street in Old Town Alexandria, donated a ginger jar for the live auction.

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Area Residents Push for Route 1 Funding

Snakeheads Invade Huntley Meadows

Surovell Dons' Nominee; Brown, Krizek on Ballot for June 9 Primary

See Our Year in Review 2014 for Mt. Vernon & Lee Beginning on Page 5.

MOUNT VERNON VOICE

Surovell Sobers Up Democrats

Delegate Gets Serious on the Issues

Herb Harris's Huge Legacy Recalled at Funeral Monday