

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

25 CENTS

MAY 15, 2008

County to Fund Flood Wall Study

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently voted to fund the next, more in-depth, study phase of the Belle View Area Flood Control Project as part of the County's FY09 budget. It will be paid for from the County's Stormwater "Penny Fund," which sets aside one cent of every tax dollar collected annually.

The estimated County

Engineer, will focus on the feasibility of creating a combination flood wall/levee along the western side of the George Washington Memorial Parkway from the area of Belle Haven Road to where the Parkway crosses Dyke Marsh. The proposal grew out of the storm surge flood devastation in Belle Haven and New Alexandria during Hurricane Isabel.

"This is a very encouraging development. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Supervisor Hyland, Congressman Moran, the staff of the County Stormwater Management Office, and many others who have been working tirelessly for several years now to keep this effort moving forward," said John Giglio, Belle View Area Coalition.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland urged the County Board of Supervisors to support a request for Federal funds "to help finance a civil works project in the Belle Haven watershed" to prevent a recurrence of the 2003 disaster. The in-depth study is the next step in the process.

During a meeting at the Belle View Elementary School earlier this Spring the Corps of Engineers presented a plan that calls for a flood wall/levee with a pumping station for interior drainage. Their

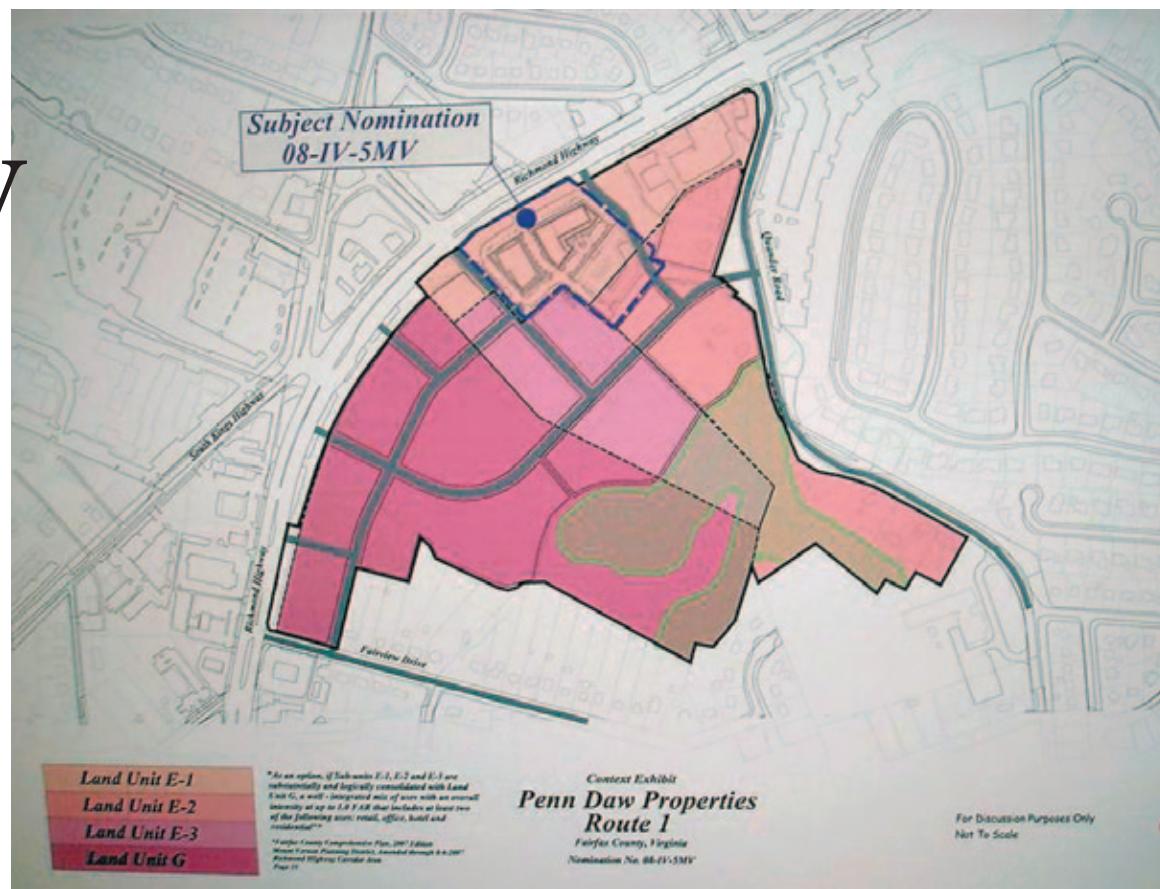
"This is a very encouraging development."

—John Giglio,
Belle View Area Coalition

funding for the study ranges from \$1 million to \$1.1 million. The actual amount will not be established until the work plan for the Stormwater Penny Fund, which now contains a total of \$22 million, is presented to the Board of Supervisors in June.

The study, to be undertaken by the Army Corps of

SEE FLOOD WALL, PAGE 4



Penn Daw Properties overall site plan for development of land along Route 1 adjacent to the Kings Crossing site.

SBCA Goes Back To The Future

Could a ferris wheel and cotton candy come to Kings Crossing?

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Yogi Berra would have felt right at home Monday night at the Spring Bank Community Association meeting — it was definitely "deja

vu all over again." Another potential developer presenting another set of plans calling for retail, office, and, yes, hotel space immediately adjacent to the King Crossing site.

This time the driving force, as outlined by Attorney Gifford R. Hampshire, representing land owner Penn Daw Properties, was all the supposed contractors and other firms coming to the Route 1 corridor as a result of the Base Realignment & Closure Report's (BRAC) im

SEE SBCA, PAGE 7

Evolve Arts + Entertainment + Leisure
Art in the Area CALIFORNIA, PAGE 6
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Toast of Time
Jazzy Day Enjoy the 5th annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival, CALIFORNIA, PAGE 2

These Are Not Your Father's Barracks

"Wounded Warrior" housing provides living independence.

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Who says one person can't make a difference? In fact, that one person in this technological/electronic age can get the attention of the powers that be a lot faster than they can react. That is exactly what happened when the

father of an 82nd Airborne U.S. Army soldier pointed out the deplorable conditions of barracks at Fort Bragg, NC, in which his son was quartered upon return from combat duty in Afghanistan. He photographed the conditions and posted those images on UTube.

In his video that father also asked viewers to contact their congressional representatives to demand that the barracks' conditions be rectified. That sent out not a ripple but a tidal wave through the military establishment to make sure the Fort Bragg example was not the normal single-soldier living conditions nationwide.

Last Wednesday afternoon Fort Belvoir

conducted a media tour of its single-soldier barracks and the upgrades underway to further improve those living conditions. This \$21 million project also includes a 276 "Wounded Warrior" room complex that is scheduled for completion by 2011.

These American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant rooms are specifically designed to aid severely wounded soldiers in being able to enjoy independent living in well designed and equipped accommodations while they are in transition to either continue their military service or reenter civilian life.

SEE BARRACKS, PAGE 4



MCENEANEY

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ALEXANDRIA/STONEYBROKE \$474,900



A Palace In Stoneybrooke!

Do not miss this fantastic palace of a home in the quiet community of Stoneybrooke! This five bedroom house has all of the space in the world... for cooking, eating, relaxing...living! Enjoy a fireplace, screened in porch & a terrific backyard. You could easily live "the good life" right here. See pictures at jenwalker.com today!

Jennifer Walker

703.675.1566

www.jenwalker.com

MLS ID # FX6644127

ALEXANDRIA/SOUTH \$615,000



JUST LISTED!!

Elegant, updated 4-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial in Hollin Brook Park. Situated on a lovely landscaped lot, this beauty boasts a gracious living room with fireplace, parquet floors, and bay window, a separate dining room with moldings and bay window, library/family room, huge country kitchen, and a wisteria-covered pergola framing the rear brick patio overlooking the very private rear yard. This one will steal your heart!

Robin Arnold

703.966.5457

[Karen Kraemer](http://www.KarenKraemer.com)

703.795.9048

ALEXANDRIA \$634,000



Welcome Home

This classic Center Hall Colonial is move-in ready with updates galore! New TRANE heating/air system, granite & stainless kitchen, newly updated and fully finished basement with bath and wet bar. Updated full bath on upper level, tons of storage. Hardwoods refinished, fresh paint throughout. Luxurious, oversized lot with lush landscape and room to expand. Must see...

Kristin Mango

571.276.0798

www.KristinMango.com

MLS ID# AX6743802



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY \$449,406



Your Favorite Cape Cod's Little Sister

Charming three bedroom Del Ray duplex. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen, wainscoting ceilings, walk out basement, HUGE fenced backyard with brick fireplace. A real retreat from all the bustle.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

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MLS ID # AX6664773

ALEXANDRIA/BEAUMONT \$375,000



Polished and Pristine in Del Ray

Charming Del Ray bungalow with brand-new kitchen and bath among many upgrades. Sumptuous hardwood floors throughout; lovely original architectural lines add distinctive flair. Professional landscaping highlights huge back yard; two-car driveway provides coveted off-street parking. Front and back porches perfect for entertaining!

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

www.LizLuke.com

ALEXANDRIA/VILLAMAY \$899,000



House Beautiful!

This stunning Villamay Colonial features 4 Bedrooms and 2.5 Baths on a beautiful nearly 1/2 acre corner lot. Premier location in the neighborhood, fully updated with marble baths, plantation shutters, in-ground sprinkler, side-load garage, brick courtyard, potting shed, all hardwood & marble floors, spacious room sizes. The perfect home for the discriminating buyer. Call today for your private showing.

Joan Shannon

703.507.8655

jshannon@mcnearney.com



ALEXANDRIA/MT. VERNON \$1,095,000



BRING YOUR BOAT!!

Stately Colonial in enclave of multi million dollar homes. Beautiful water view can't be beat from this lovely all brick updated home on 1/2 acre corner lot. Steps to community boat launch. 5 Bed/3.5 Bath, 1st flr bedroom, generous room sizes, 3 finished levels, detached garage. Circular paver driveway with lighted stone wall. Please call Owner/Agent for info or showing!

Eileen Houser

703.304.2037

ehouser@mcnearney.com



ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN \$950,000



Steps from the River!

This elegant SE Quadrant residence sits in a quiet enclave of homes just half a block from the river, park and bike path. Plenty of room for entertaining and living, the home boasts four nicely finished levels, well proportioned rooms, an enchanting garden, as well as 3-4 bedrooms and 3 1/2 updated baths.

Ginny Brzezinski
571.236.3405
www.ginnybrz.com



ALEXANDRIA/FAIRFAX CO. \$725,000



Sunny End Unit! Fabulous Location!

A sensational floor plan awaits you in this 4BR/3BA townhome that lends itself beautifully for daily living & elegant entertaining! Warm hardwood floors, an inviting patio & updated kitchen are just a few of its wonderful features.

Mason Montague Bavin

703.338.6007

mbavin@mcnearney.com

MLS ID # FX6680692

ALEXANDRIA/SOUTH \$699,000



JUST LISTED!!

This charming and deceptively spacious 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath colonial is nestled on a large level lot in sought-after Hollindale. From the gracious entry foyer to the large living room with fireplace and separate dining room with solarium, to the huge kitchen/family room with fireplace, to the large lower level family room, this house exudes warmth and charm. Cool off in the beautiful pool and revel in this tranquil oasis just minutes south of Old Town Alexandria.

Karen Kraemer

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kkraemer@mcnearney.com

SPRINGFIELD \$450,000



First offering

Be the first to see this spacious end townhouse just off Franconia Rd. Tall ceilings and light filled rooms. The premium location backing to trees. This 3 bedroom 2 full and 2 half bath home has a gourmet eat in kitchen, private deck plus a fenced yard overlooking trees. One car garage. Pool tennis tot lot. Walk to metro or use the free shuttle. Easy access to everything.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Penn Daw Homicide Eighth For Year

Michael Anthony Ross, 49, of Suitland, Md., was found shot to death Saturday, May 10, in an apartment in the 2900 block of Furman Lane in the Penn Daw area of Mount Vernon District, according to Fairfax County Police. It was Fairfax County's eighth homicide for 2008.

Police Officers found Ross after responding to a call shortly after 11 p.m. Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, crime scene technicians, a police helicopter and police K9 unit responded following the discovery. However, no suspects have been apprehended as of this writing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

One Arrest Made At DWI Checkpoint

Approximately 233 motorists were stopped on Lockheed Boulevard near the intersection with Fairchild Drive Saturday, May 10, between 11 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. during a sobriety checkpoint that netted one DWI arrest. Another person was charged with possession of a false identification card and two others were given summons for not having an operator's license.

Eight Fairfax County Police Officers and four auxiliary police officers participated in the checkpoint designed to make sure drivers were not operating vehicles while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Buckle Up Or Pay Up

Beginning this week Fairfax County Police will increase enforcement and education on the use of seat belts. During "Click It or Ticket" week motorists can expect to see officers conducting seat belt surveys at intersections throughout Fairfax County, according to police.

According to statistics there were 52 people killed in 47 vehicle crashes in 2007 on County roads, 16 of those were either pedestrians or bicyclists. Of the remaining victims, only 48 percent were wearing restraints, according to police. During 2007, Fairfax County Police issued 6,196 seat belt violations.

—CHUCK HAGEE

Lane Closed Temporarily

A small embankment failure Tuesday, May 13, has caused debris to migrate into the outside lane of the Telegraph Road ramp after the entrance from the westbound lanes of Duke Street. Because of safety concerns, the outside lane of the Telegraph Road ramp will be temporarily closed to traffic while the debris is removed and repairs are made. Lane closure warnings are posted on variable message boards near the ramp entrance. The lane closure is anticipated to last one to three days, depending on weather, and is likely to cause some traffic delays during the rush hour.

CRIME REPORTS

Incidents reported to the Mount Vernon district station of the Fairfax County Police Department through May 9.

LARCENIES

- 8600 block Beekman Place.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 1600 block Belle View Blvd.** Beer stolen from business.
- 8000 block Central Park Drive.** Radio stolen from vehicle.
- 2300 block Huntington Ave.** Beer stolen from business.
- 3400 block Lockheed Blvd.** Purse stolen from school.
- 2600 block Memorial St.** Bicycle stolen from vehicle.
- Richmond Highway/Huntington Avenue.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 6300 block Richmond Highway.** Drinks stolen from business.
- 7500 block Richmond Highway.** License plates stolen from vehicle.
- 7600 block Richmond Highway.** Beer stolen from business.
- 8100 block Richmond Highway.** Beer stolen from business.
- 8200 block Richmond Highway.** Gasoline stolen from service station.
- 6500 block Tower Drive.** Wallet stolen from vehicle.

NEWS

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE EDITOR MARY ANNE WEBER
703-917-6431 OR MAWEBER@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

DONATED PHOTOS BY LARRY FRANKLIN



A rodman installs reinforcing steel on the technical building exterior wall.

Well Underway at EPG

Work on the new NGA headquarters at the Engineer Proving Ground moving along smoothly.

BY AMBER HEALY GAZETTE

From eight sides of the Engineer Proving Ground, little evidence exists of the 8,500 employees who will call the property home in 2011.

But, according to representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, construction is well underway for a new \$1.7 billion, 2.4 million-square-foot office building.

Shortly after the groundbreaking ceremony in September, hundreds of workers began construction on the new East Coast home of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, consolidating three branches of the governmental agency on the EPG as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) mandates passed by Congress a few years ago.

"Currently, there are about 600 people working at the construction site," said Susan H. Meisner, a representative from the NGA. "This population will grow to over 2,400 workers during peak construction, in 2009-2010."

Work is expected to be completed by August 2011, with some NGA employees moving into the building as early as January 2011, Meisner said.

With the exception of recent rainstorms, she said construction has been going "very smoothly," without any major delays.

To be a bit more technical, "a lot of dirt" has moved



Construction workers place forms for the grade beams at the central utility plant building.

around at the EPG, and that is the dominating sight to see there these days, said Chris Augsburger, public information officer for the Army Corps of Engineers.

"We're starting to see lots of concrete being poured, things are slowly starting to move upwards," he said.

Thanks to a little cooperating weather, Augsburger said he is confident the construction will be completed on time.

"It's a very ambitious schedule, but you do what you have to do to get things done," he said.

OTHER INTERNAL needs, like roads and parking lots to crisscross the 800-acre property, are in the early design phases, and Augsburger said he believes installation of water service will begin in April 2009.

The new office is "the largest construction project

SEE NGA, PAGE 33

COMMUNITY

New Look in Soldiers' Barracks

FROM PAGE 1

These soldiers are part of Fort Belvoir's Wounded Warrior Unit. Presently there are 50 such personnel on base. Twelve reside in the newly designed quarters. Each of those quarters is wheelchair accessible not only as to access but also as to mobility.

"All soldiers deserve living conditions commensurate with their service to the nation."

—Col. Brian Lauritzen, installation commander, Ft. Belvoir

within the housing unit — cabinetry and sinks are lower in both kitchen and baths, bathrooms are larger, light switches and doorways are wheelchair friendly, etc.

PRESENTLY FORT BELVOIR has six, three story barracks buildings originally constructed in 1975. They were last renovated in 1999/2000. The present renovation began in November 2007 due to



A typical two person room in one of the present Ft. Belvoir barracks buildings prior to renovation that will convert such quarters to single person rooms with increased living area and added amenities.

"All soldiers deserve living conditions commensurate with their service to the nation, and in accordance with standards afforded those they defend. We are making great strides because the leadership is involved," said Fort Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Brian Lauritzen.

"The installation's entire chain of command and control is responsible for identifying deficiencies and taking corrective action. When resources permit, we submit appropriate work orders to get the work done. If resources are insufficient, then we identify the requirements up the chain to acquire resources," Lauritzen said.

changes in the Army's single-soldier quarters regulations.

"Right now the rooms in the unrenovated buildings, are a little less than 90 square feet each. They are designed for two soldiers to a room. They share the kitchen and bath areas," said Patricia A. Seaman, manager, Barracks Housing, Ft. Belvoir.

"When this renovation is complete we will be housing 398 soldiers in individual living quarters. We hope to have all six buildings completely renovated by early 2010," she said.

In addition to redoing all rooms throughout the complex, the project also encompasses renovations to the each building's common areas such as hallways, stairwell, and day rooms. Utility superstructure, such as water and sewage line, are also being upgraded throughout the barracks area, according to Seaman.

"The standards have changed. That is why we initiated this renovation project. Plus we added the Wounded Warrior project," said Donald Dees, public information officer, Ft. Belvoir.

When the present barracks were first constructed in 1975 the standard configuration was a three-person room with a shared bath. During the 1999/2000 renovation that configuration was changed to 808 spaces in 404 rooms.

In the past two years projects have been executed for mold abatement, replacement of floor covering, repair of safety deficiencies, HVAC systems, and common areas as well as overall painting. The exterior of the buildings were power washed and courtyard covers installed.

Following the Fort Bragg incident, Army senior leadership "order all installations to conduct inspections to determine if conditions like those at Bragg exist elsewhere" housing single active duty



Patricia A. Seaman (rt), manager, Barracks Housing, Ft. Belvoir, joins Joshua Camp, superintendent, Chamberlain Construction, Falls Church, at the entrance to a Fort Belvoir barracks building under renovation as part of a total upgrade of all base barracks.

personnel. "We looked at living conditions for our service members here and have found they meet Army standards," Lauritzen said. However, during a weekend walk-through by Belvoir command staff, one occupied room was discovered with "mold or mildew, peeling paint, and some fixture rust posing a potential health hazard. The occupant of that room was immediately moved," according to barracks management.

"It is my job to keep our soldiers in the best living environment. And, that's what I will do. We have a zero mold tolerance. But, I also need to hear from the soldiers if there is something wrong with their quarters," Seaman said.

Study Funded

FROM PAGE 1

estimated cost for the project was \$12.5 million.

At that meeting Hyland told the assembled residents of the flooded area, "Getting to this point has, at times, been excruciating. But, after we get

this report and hear your views I will go to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation." He did this during County budget deliberations.

It is anticipated that the study will be completed by the fall of 2009 thanks to funding from the

County, according U.S. Rep. James P. Moran (D-8) speaking at a school meeting. "Once we have the study complete that's when I go to work to get the federal funds (for the overall project)," Moran said.

THE COUNTY LINE

Busing Changes?

Some suggest reducing gifted and talented bus service.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Should Fairfax County Public Schools keep paying to bus tens of thousands of students around the county for special programs?

The Fairfax County School Board engaged in heated discussions about transportation service involved the busing of gifted and talented students. About 61,000 of the school system's 164,843 students are enrolled in the school system's gifted and talented program in 2008.

The school board split almost evenly when deciding whether to look at reducing transportation services to elementary school gifted and talented centers. The transportation task force had recommended that the school board eliminate gifted-and-talented bus services for elementary school students who have the same "level four" services at their base schools. Cutting the program would save the school system a little over \$325,000.

Several board members rejected this recommendation. Some schools do not have the number of gifted-and-talented students required to offer a program on the scale that of a gifted-and-talented center, said school board member Kathy Smith (Sully.)

School board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville) added that eliminating transportation to gifted-and-talented centers would result in a drop in lower-income and minority student enrollment.

"I am 100 percent certain that I am not going to vote to deny transportation to gift-and-talented centers," said school board member Ilryong Moon (At-large).

Other school board members were more supportive of giving staff the flexibility to look at reducing gifted-and-talent student transportation.

"If we are already offering a set of services in schools, I can't imagine why we would pay to send students somewhere else," said school board president Dan Storck (Mount Vernon.)

"If we are going to put money into level four funding, then why do we have GT centers?" asked school board member Liz Brasher (Springfield.)

EARLIER IN THE DAY, other questions were raised about transportation of gifted and talented students at the middle and high school level.

School staff said there wasn't a significant distinction between middle school gifted-and-talented centers and the honors program offered through the standard curriculum.

"I think it is a duplicative effort. ... We do offer a full gifted-and-talented center at every middle school but some are called gifted-and-talented centers and some are called honors programs," said Peter Noonan, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

The largest difference was the honors program offered more "flexibility," allowing students to one or two advanced classes instead of an entire curriculum. Those enrolled in the gifted-and-talented pro-

gram had also typically been taking classes together since elementary school, said Noonan.

"Most of the GT referrals are made in second grade," he said.

Noonan's statement prompted questions from board members about why the school system was paying for gifted-and-talented transportation at this level.

"If the offerings are at every middle school, why are we busing kids all over the county?" said school board member Tessie Wilson.

Some school board members said they should also take a closer look at transportation to Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology. The school system's chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said the cost of the special high school's transportation was "not inconsequential. There is no way to deal with TJ that doesn't have a resource implication."

At-large school board member Tina Hone said she thought the school board should consider reducing transportation to Jefferson given the tough budget situation.

"Maybe TJ parents are going to have to figure out how to get to TJ," she said.

"If the offerings are at every middle school, why are we busing kids all over the county?"

—School Board Member
Tessie Wilson.

school board were not supportive of the idea.

Tistadt said it would increase the number of Jefferson "depots" from 25 to approximately 80 sites, thereby costing more money. Several school board members said they also had reservations about middle and high school students sharing a bus together.

"I don't support any high school kids on an elementary school bus, even if they are TJ kids," said Smith.

Changes in Start Times?

Students at some schools around the county could end up starting school later and some could end up starting earlier as Fairfax County school officials consider some dramatic changes to its busing system.

Staff is looking to develop a three-bell schedule in which some elementary schools could start earlier in the morning and some middle and high school students could begin school later.

The Fairfax County advocacy group, Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP), has been campaigning for middle and high school students to start school later for the last 10 years. The organization cites research that show teenagers are biologically inclined to stay up late and sleep more in the mornings.

Currently, older students start class earlier in the morning than their elementary school counterparts.

The school system is also looking to increase the cost savings and efficiencies in its bus system. The Fairfax County Public Schools' transportation task force has made many of the recommendations being considered, including the change to start times.

The school board set some parameters for the schools' transportation redesign at its work session May 12. Staff is expected to return with a draft proposal later this year and the school board is gathering input through "study groups" this summer.

Residents will only be able to join the "study groups" if invited by the school board but staff intends to hold wider public meetings on the transportation plan next fall.

For more on allowing later start times for high school students, see www.sleepinfairfax.org

For more on the transportation task force, see www.fcps.edu/fts/taskforce07/



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8719 Gateshead Road
Experience nature's beauty in this lovely 2 lvl Rambler w/5BRs, 2.5BAs & over 2900 SF of living area. Totally updated: furnace, A/C, Hot H2O, Baths, Kit, replacement windows & doors, freshly refinished hdwd floors. Freshly painted interior. Contemporary open floor plan w/huge picture windows along front & back. Full fin bsmnt w/walk-out to patio. Lg deck overlooks a beautiful .5 acre yard backing to woods teaming w/wildlife - private & serene! Great location-minutes to Ft. Belvoir & GW Pkwy. This is a must see!



Prince William/Four Seasons \$519,000

17185 Four Season Drive
Gorgeous 3BR+Den, 3.5BA, 2 Car Garage Colonial backing to woods in a 55+ Community. Gleaming hdwd floors, gourmet kitchen w/granite countertops & SS



Alex/Riverwood Road \$829,900
3713 Riverwood Road

Large beautiful 6BR, 3.5BA Colonial in Prestigious river front community of Riverwood. 3 finished levels - large sun room addition w/425 SF of storage room below - updated and expanded kitchen - remodeled baths - 2 FPLs - fresh refinshed hdwd floors on MN & UL - Large wrap around deck overlooking a beautiful, fenced back yard on a .38 acre landscaped lot. Walk to Mansion House Swim & Tennis Club. Owner is Licensed Real Estate Agent.



Alex/Stratford \$694,900

8424 Porter Lane
Large Beautiful Cape Cod-Gramercy Model w/ 5BRs, 4BAs & 2 Fireplaces. 3 finished lvs including main lvl Master BR & MBA plus an office. UL boasts 4BRs & full bath. Beautiful updated country kit w/hdwd floor & lovely breakfast rm. plus a separate formal dining rm.. Lower lvl offers a fam rm., den, full bath, 2 lg utility/workshop areas & walk out to a spectacular .34 acre lot backing to woods & Little Hunting Creek. Location, size & beautiful landscaping give this home outstanding curb appeal & value!



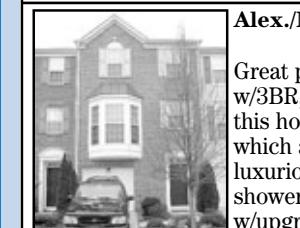
Mt. Vernon \$534,900

5114 Old Mill Road
Golfers & Nature Lovers-A sophisticated touch of country directly across from Mt. Vernon CC! Lg beaut renovated & expanded 4BR, 3BA, Cape Cod on a magnificent 2/3 acre lot. This home is bursting w/charm & offers a country front porch & 2 tiered deck w/inviting hot tub overlooking a lg fenced back yd. Updated kit w/granite counters & opens to breakfast & dinning rms. A huge great rm. w/wet bar & vaulted ceil is perfect for entertaining. 3 updated BAS, new siding & replacement windows in 2004. Walk across St to MVCC. 1 mile to GW Pkwy & 2 miles to Ft. Belvoir - This home is truly unique!



Alex/Riverside \$509,000

8318 Bound Brook Lane
Meticulous—Turn Key—Attention to Detail. 3 terms that help describe this "One of a Kind" home. Totally updated: kit, baths, HVAC, exter & inter freshly painted, new carpeting over hdwd flrs, all new energy efficient windows, new gar opener, gas fpl, beaut sun rm. addn, lovely 2 tiered deck overlooking magnificent landscaped & fenced yd. See complete list of updates in brochure at home. 2 miles to Ft Belvoir - 1 mile to GW Pkwy - walk to Ele & High schools. This is a 10.



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$390,000

8280 Jake Place
Great price on this beaut 3lvl, brick frt T/H w/3BR, 2.5BAs, gas FPL + garage. Agents* this home has the optional 3 lvl bumpout which adds 400 SQ FT LIVING SPACE! Huge, luxurious, MBR suite & spa bath w/separate shower & soaking tub. Meticulously maintained w/upgraded carpets. Hdwd flrs in kit, dr, fam rm. plus a 2 tiered deck. Great location: 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 10 mins to Metro & Alex!



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Schools Propose \$2.2 Billion Budget

With more than 3,500 unexpected students, schools will need to make some cuts.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Increases in class size, decreases in staff pay raises and freezing expansion of full-day kindergarten: these are a few of the reductions that Fairfax County Public Schools will consider for the 2008-2009 school year.

School officials had requested a \$63.7 million increase to the \$2.26 billion budget but Fairfax County Board of Supervisors only provided an extra \$40 million, leaving the schools \$23.7 million short of what it requested. According to school officials, the 2.5 percent in additional funding is the smallest percentage increase in the county transfer to the system since 1995.

Supervisors gave the schools a larger budget increase than any other agency. Fairfax County Public Schools was one of the only local government branches to receive an increase in funding at all, they said.

AN ENROLLMENT increase and rising fuel prices mean that additional funds provided by the county will mostly be used to cover existing costs and not to fund improvements or new programming, according to a statement released by schools superintendent Jack Dale.

Fairfax County Public Schools saw an additional 3,541 students in 2008, which will cost the system approximately \$22.5 million in additional funding. Transportation costs related to enrollment increase and ris-



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/GAZETTE

School board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville) disagrees with her colleague At-large school board member Jim Raney's proposals to cut the budget.

ing fuel prices will eat up an additional \$7 million.

Dale has proposed to reduce the employee salary raise from three percent to two percent and halting the expansion of full-day kindergarten and the elementary school foreign language program. He would increase class size by one half of student, likely to affect general education classes more than specialty classes.

The school system has also reduced spending by "streamlining" several programs aimed at at-risk or low-income students, including summer school, Project Excel, QUEST, the Student Accountability program, the Summit program, and Young Scholars program.

WITH UNPOPULAR CUTS proposed, the School Board is looking at other options. Several board members said they would like

to find a way to continue with expansion of the full-day kindergarten and foreign language in elementary schools.

School board members

Brad Center (Lee), Jim Raney (At-large) and Liz Bradsher (Springfield) asked the staff to take another look at implementing an "activity fee" for athletic participation. In earlier budget discussions, the superintendent had said such a fee could produce at least \$2.5 million but the school system's chief financial officer Deirdre McLaughlin said the revenue to be generated was most likely overstated.

Raney proposed some more dramatic cuts. He said the school system should look at closing Gifted-and-Talented education centers and moving those services into every student's base elementary school.

"We could generate \$2.5 million by charging for AP and IB courses."

— Jim Raney

also expressed concern about budget cuts to schools that serve a lot of poor and at-risk students.

Staff said about half of the approximately 35 schools that qualify for extra money to help at-risk students, called Title I funding, would see a reduction in this assistance from the federal government this year. Gibson said he did not want the school system to "pile on" by also cutting money for other programs found in these schools. "Obviously we have some schools in that category and we don't want to rub salt in the wound. What are we doing so that we are not adding insult to injury?" said Gibson.

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

More Algebra for Eighth Graders

Fairfax County Public Schools will start offering a standard Algebra I class in addition to its honors Algebra I class to eighth graders in two middle schools next year.

The school system wants to increase middle school enrollment in Algebra I so that more students will have the opportunity to complete calculus by the end of high school.

It is difficult for students to fit in all the prerequisites for calculus if they wait until ninth grade to take Algebra I, said staff.

Currently, about 47 percent of students complete Algebra I by the end of eighth grade, according to Peter Noonan, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

Like honors Algebra I, standard Algebra I will be an "open enrollment" class, meaning that it will be available to anyone who wants to take it. The class will resemble the standard Algebra I currently offered to ninth graders.

Hughes and Thoreau middle school will be the first to offer standard Algebra I through a pilot program next year. Noonan said the school system wants to expand the offering to other middle school programs in following years.

Fairfax County middle schools typically offer standard grade six, seven and eight math as well as Algebra I, Geometry and sometimes Algebra II, according to Noonan.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

2008 Special School Program Enrollment

Fairfax County Public Schools provided a breakdown of specialty program enrollment based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic factors and special education needs in January 2008. When compared with overall enrollment figures, students who are poor, black, Hispanic, English-language learners or who qualify for special education services are underrepresented in gifted and talented and accelerated academic programs. The same groups of students appear in higher numbers in the U.S. military's JROTC programs.

Program	Overall Enrollment	Economically Disadvantaged	Limited English	Special Education	black	Hispanic	white
FCPS Enrollment (All Schools)	164,843	31,320* (19.9%)	21,771 (7.6%*)	24,000 (14%)	18,133* (10.8%)	26,374* (16%)	80,421 (50.2%)
Career and Technical Education (Middle, High Schools)	55,942	12,855 (22.98%)	8,622 (15.41%)	7,641 (13.66%)	6,802 (12.16%)	8,873 (15.86%)	27,321 (48.84%)
Foreign Language (Middle, High Schools)	44,543	342 (.77%)	3,568 (8.01%)	3,081 (6.92%)	3,855 (8.65%)	4,946 (11.1%)	25,189 (54.76%)
Gift and Talented Services (Kindergarten – 12)	61,775	5,180 (8.39%)	7,595 (12.29%)	Not Available	2,041 (6.83%)	2,475 (8.29%)	16,593 (55.55%)
JROTC (Seven High Schools)	823	302 (36.7%)	142 (17.25%)	229 (27.83%)	216 (26.25%)	203 (24.67%)	283 (34.39%)
2007 Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate enrollment (High Schools)	17,994	1,264 (7.02%)	748 (4.21%)	459 (2.55%)	945 (5.25%)	1,269 (7.05%)	11,006 (61.16%)

*approximate figures computed by The Connection Newspapers

—JULIA O'DONOGHUE

NEWS

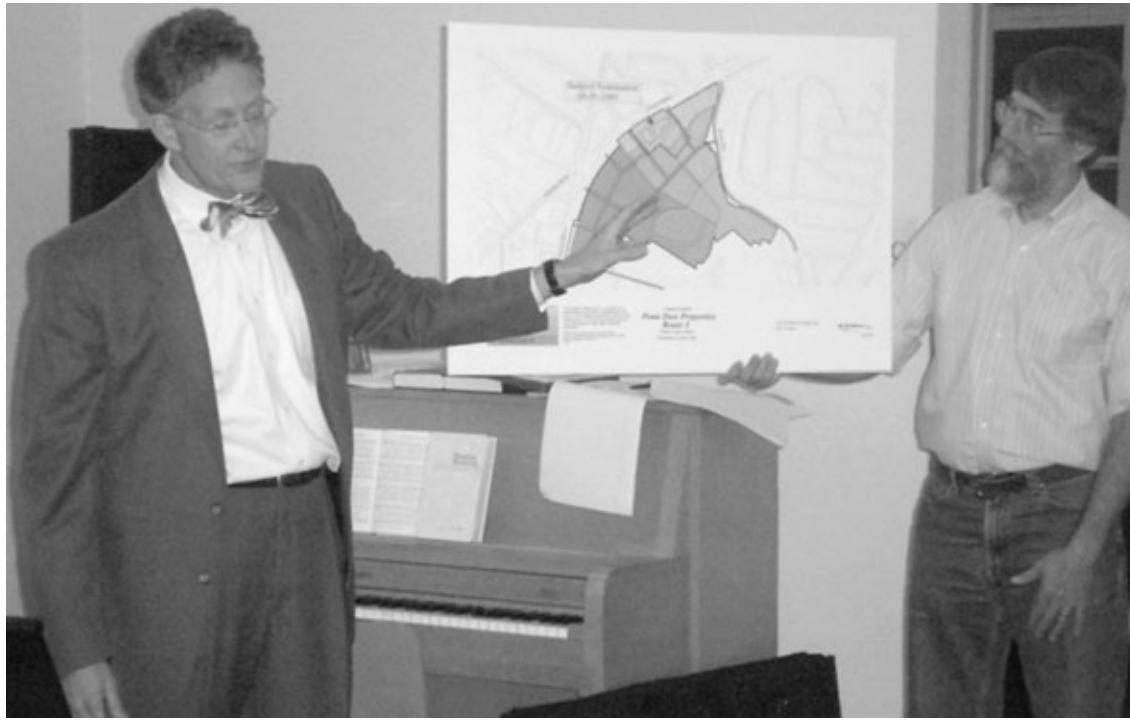


PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE

Attorney Gifford R. Hampshire, left, Blankingship Keith, representing Penn Daw Properties, explains the organization's plans for development of land adjacent to the Kings Crossing site to members of the SBCA with the help of SBCA President David Dale.

New Plans For Kings Crossing

FROM PAGE 1

pact on Fort Belvoir. "This development can serve as the stimulus to entice other development along the corridor," Hampshire told the SBCA members assembled at Groveton Baptist Church.

The 4.39 acre site owned by the Fenton family is composed of 11 parcels with the potential of a twelfth parcel in the works. That final parcel is presenting in foreclosure, according to Hampshire.

The area, situated just north of Shields Avenue, presently contains the St. Claire appliance store and several residences. It is bounded by Route 1 on the west, Shields Avenue on the south, a limited wooded area on the north, and a portion of the Penn Daw Mobile Home Park and additional woods on the east.

Monday night's presentation to the association was a preliminary step in Penn Daw Properties' BRAC Nomination under the Fairfax County Area Plan Review process. It also falls in line with one of the primary goals of Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation to stimulate additional office development along Richmond Highway from the Capital Beltway to Fort Belvoir.

Prior to the collapse of JPI's plans to develop the Kings Crossing site, Penn Daw Properties was "being courted by JPI" to be part of that large mixed use vision, according to Hampshire. Now, due to the BRAC nomination process, Penn Daw Properties has decided they prefer to be "uncoupled" from JBG Rosenfeld, new owners of the Kings Crossing site, Hampshire explained.

TWO POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT scenarios were presented to SBCA members:

An office/retail alternative calls for an eight story 176,000 square feet office building that would have 22,600 square feet of retail space on the ground floor with 154,000 square feet of office space on levels two through eight. In addition there would be a separate, single story, 14,200 square feet retail structure.

A hotel/retail alternative calls for a 10-story, 164,800 square feet, high-end hotel with approximately 10,800 square feet of retail space on the ground level. The second structure in this alternative would be a two story, 26,000 square feet retail/

office structure.

Both alternatives call for a separate parking garage structure. Alternative one has a four and a half level garage with 555 plus spaces internally and another 45 plus on the surface for a total of 600 plus spaces. Alternative two's parking garage is three and a half levels with 450 plus spaces internally and 50 plus externally for a total of 500 plus spaces.

According to the Area Plan Review application, the anticipated time for development of the project is "between three and five years, consistent with the anticipated time frame for the relocation of DOD jobs to Fort Belvoir."

However, the application cited the total anticipated incoming BRAC personnel at the 19,000 level. It did not seem to take into account that only approximately 4,000 will be coming to Fort Belvoir proper.

The vast majority of the 19,000 are not anticipated to be relocated to the primary base. The Geospatial Intelligence Agency of 8,500 personnel will be relocated to Fort Belvoir's Engineering Proving Grounds in the Springfield area. Construction is presently underway for their new campus complex.

The Washington Headquarters Service contingent of approximately 6,300 will probably be relocated to either the General Service Administration Warehouse site in Springfield, a potential Mark Center site adjacent to I-395 in Alexandria, or the Victory Center Building on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria. The final decision on WHS's relocation is due in June, according to BRAC planners.

Of the two scenarios presented by Hampshire to SBCA members the majority of those present favored the office/retail alternative to the hotel/retail/office alternative. However, they were not opposed to either.

As Dale told the membership, "This could be the seed for more retail development." The entire presentation was reminiscent of the early days of the Kings Crossing discussions. And, it concluded in much the same manner as most of those presentations — a plan on the table and details in limbo.

SEE PLANS, PAGE 34



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OPINION

Trouble with VDOT

Taking down acres of trees with no warning and no good reason.

It's possible that it happened on Earth Day, but it was definitely sometime within a week of that day. The Virginia Department of Transportation, without notice, bulldozed more than five acres of trees in at least three locations as part of preliminary work on widening the beltway for HOT lanes.

These trees were cleared in McLean, Tysons Corner and Springfield.

Apparently these trees were clear cut in order to make way for "staging areas," that is to say a place to park their equipment.

It's an example of the kind of reasoning that takes place at VDOT, and apparently there is more of it to come.

"The construction is going to start by us tearing down trees," said Nick Nicholson of

VDOT at a public meeting about the HOT Lanes on April 30.

There is no shortage of parking lots anywhere around the Beltway. With a little creativity, and a little notice, VDOT could probably have leased an already-paved "staging area." The loss of the trees is no small thing, especially in consideration of widening a road like the

EDITORIAL

Beltway.

A single tree with a 26-foot canopy can absorb the emissions of a vehicle driven 11,500 miles every year. Or so said Fairfax County officials in October 2007 when they launched the laudable goal of blanketing 45 percent of the county with tree cover by 2037. The county will plant 400 trees a year on county property to re-

duce pollution and energy costs.

Too bad the county apparently has no say on what VDOT does with property it "owns." VDOT officials should realize that property "owned by VDOT" actually belongs to the residents of Virginia. The tree cutting last month for "staging areas" probably set Fairfax County's efforts back by more than a year. And we'll note again that VDOT says there's more to come.

"We have held meetings five times in McLean and each time we mentioned the staging area. Did we say we would be clearing trees to construct that staging area? No," Nicholson admitted.

Those trees would also have had the effect of buffering residential and business areas from the noise and view of the Beltway traffic and construction. Three acres alone were across from a middle school, where the trees could have helped clean the air from hundreds of thousands

of vehicles a day passing by on the Beltway.

The additional tree canopy envisioned in Fairfax would have the capacity to absorb more than 10 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, which could eliminate the need for \$1 million in greenhouse gas reduction services each year.

VDOT officials should undertake an immediate analysis of the way it operates. It must communicate better with local officials and residents. And it must realize that trees have value and take steps to preserve them whenever possible. Even if these sites were the only possible "staging areas," which we do not believe, at least a ring of trees should have been left around the perimeter to act as a buffer.

Construction for the "high occupancy toll lanes" is under way. We can only imagine what surprises lay ahead.

— MARY KIMM,
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privatizing Schools

BY NATALIE MALONEY

The class begins with the ring of a bell, students sluggishly walk to their appointed seats, and Sarah, an AP student at West Potomac High School, explains "that the desire to learn is not present when you are forced to go to a school you do not like." Now if school was not mandatory, students would not attend. However, rather than mandate that students attend the school regulated to their household, allow them to choose their school. This option would eliminate many problems with the educational system, and is known today as "privatization."

Some may argue that this is unfair to the poor; however, according to the District of Columbia Public Schools website the cost for each student at a high school level is about \$9,500. Sadly, these schools receive some of the lowest test scores in the US. In contrast, the cost for a student at Bishop Ireton High School, a private Catholic school, which receives much higher test scores, is \$10,400 a year. The difference in cost is less than a thousand dollars, and the

difference in test scores is worth every penny. The question is how would this work? The tax money that is received for education would be given to the family based on the number of children, meaning that if a family had one child they would receive \$9,500. The money given to them could only be used for the education of the child, and could always be supplemented by the household based on the school the child decides to attend. The cost for attending the school that was once public would be the exact amount of money given to the family.

This different approach to education could potentially separate the eager to learn versus the uneager. Families who could not afford private schools earlier because of financial difficulties would now receive a boost in financial help. Children would gain a better education because they would have the option to choose a school where they could receive more one on one attention resulting in an increase of good test scores.

A question that bothers many is what if too many children move to other schools,

and the public schools end up not receiving enough money to be maintained. Many universities and colleges rely mostly on the donations received from alumni and surrounding citizens. Fundraisers put on by the school, and donations received from fellow citizens could help improve both the maintenance and education of the school. Hopefully these donations will result in more students attending the public schools rather than private; therefore enhancing the schools reputation.

A perfect example of this society ("privatization") is college, a world surrounded with choices galore of both public and private schools. If high schools and elementary schools were also based on this premise then maybe the eagerness of stu-

dents to learn would increase, and the need for constant testing would decrease. Tests would still be instated but because of the enhanced results the state would not have to test as often, and teachers could focus more on individual needs to improvement rather than state's necessities.

Students need a more interactive one and one environment to learn and better themselves, and "privatization" can provide this. Testing of this theory has already begun, however the transition will be dreadfully slow based on the pace citizens are taking now. People need to step up and inform others of the goodness this can bring. The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow and without excellence in education now, what will become of our society's future?

Felications

May you have rainbows, may you have sunsets,
May you have raindrops, may you have zephyrs.
Sun streams and dew drops and waves lapping your toes.
Ice straws and melodies and flowers at your nose.
Many more mornings, many more noons,
Many more dusks, and many more moons.

— JULIE CARVALHO
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LETTERS

Survive If You Can

BY GRACE POWELL

"Education!" Students are told this is the only key to a successful life. Without education, we will ultimately be left working the 9 to 5 at McDonalds. With only few more school days to go however, anything sounds better than another day in a disintegrating system that has made me more its' prisoner than pupil.

Not to say that the system is bad *per se*, it just needs some revamping. A lot of revamping. One problem lies in the dissemination of the information itself. For example, my AP history class spent no more than two hours covering World War Two, and then we simply moved on. The graves of the Holocaust remained unearthened, the heroes, villains and victims of the war became mere facts and statistics. My heart sank in the knowledge that the "never forgets," were simply not as important as the AP test.

Students are left with three options: fail, get by or succeed. To do the latter, a student must work virtually day and night. Just ask my friend Amazing Grace Danso. She earns straight A's, and by earn I mean she works for it. She works so much, in fact, that she often sleeps for only a couple of hours before starting the next school day. I however, slide into the system the best way I can.

Let me describe it for you: At seven o'clock in the morning I wearily drag myself into the school library. Head throbbing, I drop my brick of a backpack to the floor and reach into it for the homework that was not completed in the wee hours of the morning. I will pass only because I turn in the homework and know just enough information to get by. It's not that I don't stay up late and work hard also; however; I'm too tired to put forth any more effort. I wasn't always like this, but then again this is what the system can do.

Yellow tape strangles the educational system. While students are encouraged to "think outside the box," we have very little room to do so. Creative thinking is thrown out the window when there is a test to take each week and five hours of homework to complete each night. Teachers are confined by regula-

tions and testing curriculums. Students are left trying to learn for themselves the information a teacher hastily goes over. As a result, students learn to grovel and beg for their grades; worn out teachers may give in, others will not.

If only school could be more like the *Magic School Bus*. The educational cartoon airing in the late 90's, taught students science in a fascinating way. I remember Mrs. Frizzle the teacher in the *Magic School Bus*; her very name sparked a contagious curiosity. She'd come into the classroom with majesty, the first thing you'd hear was her bubbly, "*Hellooo Children!*" Her flaming red hair bounced with a body that seemed to never stop moving. She wore brilliant dresses and earrings that sparkled before she took her students on a field trip. Mrs. Frizzle not only taught her students about science, she took them there.

Likewise, the key to getting students enthusiastic about education is to take us to the core of the information itself. Instead of having us memorize a litany of mathematical formulas, let us see how those formulas are used practically in every day life (and not to simply calculate ones grocery bill). Instead of defining communism and mentioning some of its most momentous events, take us to the more obscure chapters of history such as the Argentinean *Desaparecidos* where a communistic regime terrorized thousands of lives. We do not want to be mere students of history, we want to learn how to make history, how to connect history to our lives, how to make sure that the same mistakes aren't repeated over and over again.

Sometimes I feel as though I am only a number in a system too eager to push me through and move on to somebody else. A few months ago our school published t-shirts with the phrase "survive if you can" etched on the back. It's unfortunate that education has become a matter of survival, yet the days of care-free education are over. The system is weakening. The administrators in charge of the education system can either enact change, or continue to stare at us poor students looking casually out the windows, waiting for some magical school bus to whisk us away.

Teaching to the Test

BY MARBURY JACOBS

"Go to bed early, eat a healthy breakfast, and just remember what we've practiced in class. You'll do great on the test."

How often have I heard that from my teachers? More than twenty times since 3rd grade. As an 11th grader at West Potomac High School in Fairfax County, I have become perhaps a little too familiar with the state's standardized tests like the Standards of Learning (SOL). The problem with these tests isn't actually taking them, but rather how our teachers prepare us for them.

As a result of the No Child Left Behind act, each year public schools are required to administer standardized tests to all their students in an attempt to measure the schools', teachers', and students' achievement. Bruce Myint, author of the article *Testing the Limits of No Child Left Behind* for Education Update Online, interpreted President Bush's NCLB as a new reform "intended to revamp the distribution of federal funds and improve education for traditionally underserved populations." Basically, how well we do on these tests determines the school's

funding from the government. Teachers and administration are constantly under a great deal of pressure to ensure that all of their students do well on the standardized tests. If the school's test results are not favorable, it is almost guaranteed there will be negative consequences – unwanted publicity, school officials sitting in during classes, and the dreaded cut in the school's funding.

So if the teachers know what these state tests will be like, why don't they just create a curriculum around them? Well, they do. And this is the problem. Tests like the SOLs are intended to assess the most basic concepts and materials each student should have mastered in a subject - not to be the basis of instruction. Yet teachers are so focused on the state test that they just gloss over topics because they don't have enough time or need to go in-depth. My U.S./Virginia History teacher recently told my class that we weren't going to study Francisco Franco because we weren't going to be tested on it. However, at the time we were studying the World Wars and leaders such as Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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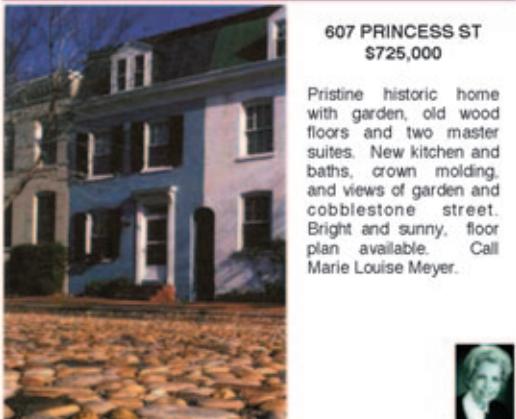
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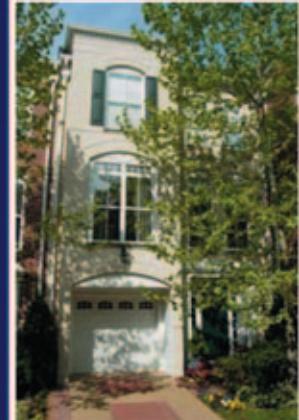
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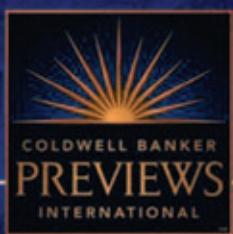
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AlexMt. Vernon. Unique opportunity on Potomac! Historic Herbert Springs Lodge, carefully gutted, on 1.12 ac. Innovative Arts&Crafts plans, County approved, allow rebuild w/in org footprint plus additions (3500 SF). Hilltop w/120' prime river frontage & unparalleled views! Riverside pool overlooks new 120'dock w/in 4 mi from Old Town. Price includes house AS IS, all plans, approvals, & benefits of extensive research. From Old Town: So on Pkwy, L on Collingwood, L on East Blvd Dr, R on Herbert Springs, follow signs to breathtaking, one-of-a-kind, spot on the Potomac River. \$4,500,000. Call Ed Pagett: 571-237-4753/4751.

Ed Pagett
703-518-6161
epagett@cbmove.com



GREAT VISIBILITY

\$549,000 | Old Town



123 S. FAYETTE STREET

Perfect for a business desiring excellent exposure on heavily travelled Prince Street, this two level brick office building offers 1,321 square feet. Located only four blocks to the King Street Metro, this bright and sunny building features hardwood floors, skylights and exposed beams. Building can also serve as a combination of home and office. Priced to sell at \$549,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute
703-518-6156
dwintermute@cbmove.com



STATELY COLONIAL

\$1,350,000 | Malvern Hill



504 CANTERBURY LANE

Located in a highly sought-after neighborhood, this solidly constructed brick colonial offers a gracious circular flow perfect for entertaining. Among the many special features of this lovely four bedroom plus three and a half bath home are spacious room sizes, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, a delightful screened porch, plentiful storage plus a one car garage. Enjoy the upcoming summer months in the wonderful swimming pool. Reasonably priced at \$1,350,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute
703-518-6156
dwintermute@cbmove.com



ONE OF A KIND!

\$3,195,000 | Old Town Alexandria



216 & 218 NORTH ROYAL ST

One of Old Town's largest detached homes in the historic district, this home unites two circa 1840 & 1880 townhomes to create a grand single family residence with deeded parking for 3+ cars, shimmering pool and year round garden views. A unique floor plan of two homes combined provides grand scale entertaining flow with a spacious living room, formal dining room, mahogany library and entry parlor, enormous kitchen with a butler's pantry and adjoining family room all on the main level.

Susan Gray Chambers
703-203-9900
schambers@cbmove.com



VIEWS OF LAWN & TREES

\$1,325,000 | Old Town



649 FIRST STREET

Spectacular large brick home on the edge of Old Town. Brick serpentine garden walls, garage parking, garage parking, three/four bedrooms, four bathrooms, hardwood flooring, and true quality throughout. Floor plans available upon request. Contact Marie Louise Meyer for more information or to schedule a showing.

Marie Louise Meyer
703-836-2080
mmeyer@cbmove.com



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

\$1,995,000 | Belle Haven



2003 GLEN DRIVE

Be the first to visit this wonderful home. Perched on the top of the hill in a grand setting, this classic beauty exudes the grace and charm of old with a sophisticated blend of today's comforts. Beautifully renovated with six bedrooms, five full bathrooms and five half bathrooms, plus two fireplaces, au-pair suite with full kitchen and bathroom and grand living and entertaining spaces. Dir: GW Parkway South, Right on Belle Haven Road, Right on Ft. Hunt Road, Left Glen Drive to 2003 on the left.

Karen Leonard
703-328-7041
kleonard@cbmove.com



COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

310 KING STREET • ALEXANDRIA • VIRGINIA 22314 • 703.518.8300

SCHOOLS

"Torry and Harry" by Woodley Hills Elementary and directed by Della Sandor.

Nimra Bilal, Lillian Chong and Kalvin Gonzalez.



"Torry and Harry"

Morrata Kaba (Marcy), Carl Thomas (Taylor), Gerald Gomez (Sam), Nimra Bilal (Kelly), Lillian Chong (Francis) and Kalvin Gonzalez (Alex).



"The New Kid"



The cast of **"The New Kid"**: Israel Vigil Estrada, Johanna Leon, Leontre Bennett, Cerita Fair, Estefany Perez, Estephani Romero, Cynthia Guerra Umana, Michael Anderson and Rashay Leach.

"The New Kid" Hybla Valley Elementary and directed by Melanie McCleerey.

Director Melanie McCleerey gives some last-minute cues to the Hybla Valley cast before the performance.



"The Not So Happy Kingdom"



The rest of the cast of **"The Not So Happy Kingdom"**: Azjah Clark, Kane Baughman, Kaleigh Winner, Aleah Beale, JeNelle Tucker, Timeia Hubbard, Brain Lizama, Leo DeLao, Brandon Grayson, Macarena Palacios, Tamela Fleetwood, Kayla McCormick and Fatima Gadiaga.



"The Not So Happy Kingdom" by Woodlawn Elementary School and directed by Chris McGriff



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre Performs

Some 49 fifth-graders from Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Woodlawn and Woodley Hills Elementary Schools have been creating original plays on themes of importance to them and rehearsing them once a week since February. The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre received a \$11,920 grant from the Arts Council of Fairfax County to conduct a 10-week after-school theatre program. Students were selected who could benefit from the life-long skills that theatre imparts and who might not otherwise have access to such activities. The four participating Fairfax County Elementary Schools are located in the West Potomac and Mount Vernon High School pyramids and have significant populations of students on free or reduced lunch.

The program's instructors and directors include Chris McGriff, Della Nikol Sandor, and Melanie McCleerey who also serves as coordinator for the overall program.



Patrick Jean-Gilles

"A Bad Decision"



"A Bad Decision" By Mount Vernon Woods Elementary and directed by Chris McGriff

Kyree Bess (Appaula) and A'Lexus Johnson (Artemis)

LIFE UCM Celebrates



A gathering of 'Miss Raffle girls' Bailey Braun, Taylor Robinson, Marcy Hoath and Olivia Wren meet for a taste of the food.

United Community Ministries hosted its annual Spring Gala on May 10 at the Belle Haven Country Club.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Pat Dickson, Kathy Harris and Beverly Turner check over the raffle items.



Lauren Robinson and Nadine Wren



Nancy and Danika Hawkins and Beverly Turner

Gale Curcio, President of Friends of UCM Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Kristen Keckeisen and Executive Director of UCM Cynthia Hull.



Music and entertainment at the annual gala was provided by 'pto' (paid time off) of Booz Allen Hamilton.

PUPPY DOG TALES

Good Education Matters

BY DAISY MAE DEL RAY

As a seizure alert dog, I am able to go anywhere my person does. Federal and state laws give me permission to do that. My person and I must follow all the rules of good behavior when I go into someone's place of business and so I have been taught how to sit quietly, not to make any noise and to be as unobtrusive as possible when I am around people, especially inside. My education in good citizenship helps me do my job better. For you non-working pets, a good education still does matter. It can lead to an opportunity. My new pal Maggie Mae found that out last month. I met Maggie Mae and her person, Sharon Edwards, as I was leaving work to go home. Maggie is a Yorkshire Terrier, about six months of age and about knee high to me. Sharon and Maggie Mae were walking in search of dogs to meet and they stopped to talk to me and my person. Maggie Mae had just been accepted by the Animal Planet Television Channel to participate in Puppy Games 2008. (This is like the Puppy Bowl program that I've seen at football game half-times). One of the requirements for being a participant was to be comfortable around other dogs and so Maggie Mae was meeting other dogs. I wished her luck and Sharon promised to let me know how the taping went.

While waiting to hear from Maggie and Sharon we did a little research on the original show, Puppy Bowl, which first aired in 2005, is one of Animal Planet's most popular shows and that doesn't surprise me. I could spend hours watching puppies just be puppies. There is a youth requirement, which makes sense because the program is called "puppy:" Olympics and a size limitation for the smaller participants. There is also a height and weight requirement so a photo is requested with the applicant standing or seated next to a soda can. That is why the accompanying photo of Maggie Mae shows her sitting beside a soda can.

Finally I got the call. Maggie Mae and Sharon went to the taping and were ready to sit down and talk about their brush with show business. "What a long, exciting day", Sharon told us. "We humans were not allowed in the studio for most of the shoot, but we were able to come in a couple of times. Maggie was very good and we had fun. The other pet owners were so nice and we humans were fed very well so it was a long day but fun for all."

All the participants were told in advance that they needed to be on their best behavior. Sharon told Maggie Mae that she was going to be on TV. "We practiced fetch and dancing and her sit and ringing the bell to go outside. When we got there her Positive Training helped her interact with the set and the other pups" she told me. Maggie Mae would not have even heard about the program if her trainer Sandy Modell had not seen something very special in her apt pupil and recommended that she try out for the role.

We talked to Sandy Modell who is the

owner of Wholistic Hound and Maggie and Sharon's trainer. Sandy recommended that Maggie Mae try out for this part. "She is an adorable and very smart little girl. She is a quick learner and I just knew that she would do great if she was selected to participate in this event. And, she was!" Sandy teaches owners and pets to be better companions through a joint education process that uses reward based training and positive reinforcement. "It teaches you and your dog how to communicate with each other and heightens your dogs thinking capabilities" Sandy said. "By training your dog using positive reinforcement techniques, you can build a wonderful, loving, and fun relationship with your dog by teaching them good behaviors and to communicate with you and learn what is expected of them in the home and in the community."

Now we wait to see the program in August. I will let you know when it is set to air and how much of Maggie Mae you will see. Melissa Barry is with Animal Planet so we talked to her about the show. "We haven't reviewed all the tape from the shoot so we won't know until the end of May how much you will see of Maggie Mae when the show airs in August" she told me. Cross your paws. We will get back to you with more details as we get them.

So the story here is to get a good education. If Maggie Mae's person Sharon had not sought training, she would never have heard about Puppy Games 2008. There are many sources and places for training here in Alexandria. One example: The All Alexandria Reads Program, hosted by the Alexandria Library will have a demonstration of Clicker Training at the Duncan Library on May 17th at 10:am. Also, the City of Alexandria offers positive reinforcement training classes. The next group class begins on June 21st at the Warwick Village Club House.

After our interview, I got an e-mail from Sharon that I want to share with you my gentle readers. "Maggie has brought me so much comfort in my grief over Maxwell Smart. Maxwell Smart was very well known around the coffee shops and streets of Del Ray. Many people stopped me on the street and came by the house to offer their condolences. This is the way the residents of Del Ray are. It was heartwarming and a blessing to be living in such a caring community. I hope you add some of this to your article. Thanks"

Thank you! Sharon and Maggie Mae
Keep you feet dry and your tail high.
LOVE, DAISY MAE

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
607 S. Washington St. | Alexandria, VA 22314
703.535.3610 | fax 703.535.3611

AGENT ON CALL:
703.837.4944

WWW.KW.COM

Open House Sunday!
\$324,900
Woodstone

7111 Strawn Court

All the work has been done for you. Cozy townhouse in quaint, quiet community awaits your personal touches. Large living room with fireplace and sliding glass doors to deck. Eat-in kitchen and breakfast bar and new appliances enhance the spacious kitchen. The upper level features vaulted ceiling in all three bedrooms and the laundry area. Fresh paint, new carpet and new ceramic tile; move in ready!!! Storage shed and fenced yard. Text KW49 to 88150 for additional details and photos. Open House Sunday, May 18, 1-4PM.

SHERYL LAMBSON 703.217.7012

Charming Colonial
\$745,000
Beverly Hills

413 Tennessee Avenue

This classic Beverly Hills home sits on a large, level lot and features three bedrooms, four full baths on three fully finished levels. Gracious formal rooms, renovated kitchen, main level den, and master retreat with full bath are just some of the highlights. Call today for more information or for a private showing or text KW52 to 88150 for additional details and photos.

ALLISON JENSEN 703.200.3120

2519 King Street

Beautiful & classic brick colonial with stunning views of Alexandria. Sited on a professionally landscaped lot, the meticulously renovated home features four bedrooms, two and a half baths, two fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, exquisite sunroom, finished basement, and detached garage. The oversize patio and lush backyard provide the perfect setting for outdoor entertaining and relaxation. Text KW51 to 88150 for additional details and photos.

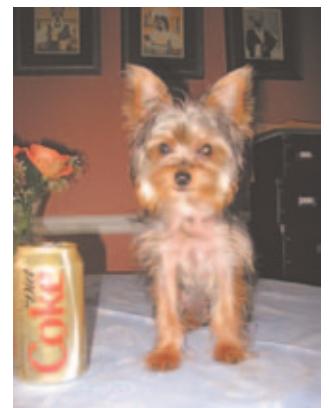
DAYNA BLUMEL or KERRY ADAMS 703.535.3652

Alexandria City
\$1,109,000
Rosemont

1502 Dogwood Drive

Wow! What's new... EVERYTHING! Chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, hardwood floors throughout, new windows, new bath, and three bedrooms. Walk to George Mason Elementary! All of this and NO HOA FEE—A MUST SEE!

SUSAN O'CONNOR 703.606.9756



Maggie Mae



LONG & FOSTER • ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

500 MONTGOMERY STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
WWW.OLDTOWNALEXANDRIA.COM • 703.548.3700



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



MT VERNON
\$1,300,000
Spectacular!
9320 Ludgate Dr

4BR/4.5BA home across the Potomac river. Expect the unusual when you walk into the marble center hall and beyond! Professionally designed and decorated with luxury and comfort in mind.

Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



ALEXANDRIA
WAYNEWOOD!
\$624,900
8509 Crown Pl

Freshly painted adorable home. 3BR, huge family room addition, oversized garage, impeccable fenced yard with professionally landscaping and sprinkler system. Old charm, fresh touches, move in condition!

Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



MANASSAS
\$569,000
QUALITY
SOUTHERN
LIVING

Attention to detail in this beautiful home set on over an acre. Quiet. Private 3 fin.



lev. 4BR/3.5BA with oversized 2 car garage. Immaculate. Gleaming HWDS throughout. Hi-tech kit/quality stainless appli. Screened porch and more.

Connie McKeen (703) 866-8118



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



ALEXANDRIA
\$724,900
AWESOME!
8921 FT HUNT RD

3BR/3BA open space with soaring ceiling. Completely remodeled & updated incl. all systems in 2005. Huge kitchen, great room, large lot adjacent to Fort Hunt Park.

Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



FALLS
CHURCH
\$375,000

This home is situated on a quiet street, but is close to everything you will ever need. Short walk to Loehmann's Plaza

and transportation to DC. Enjoy the Spring time in the comfort of the rear solarium. Fresh, clean and bright this beautiful home is move in ready and ready to move!!

Jim Crowe (703) 856-8244



OAKTON
\$1,170,000
SERENITY
AT LAST

Located in an enclave of only 7 homes, this community is set apart from the rest. From a private drive, this home is



Maude Dixon (703) 628-0096



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



ALEXANDRIA
WAYNEWOOD!
909 DANTON LN
\$884,900

Beautiful & renovated large 'Claremont' model, 6BR, 3BA, garage, privacy fence, walk to pool! 3 fireplaces, huge French country kitchen, new bathrooms, new windows, siding, furnace, hot water heater & more!

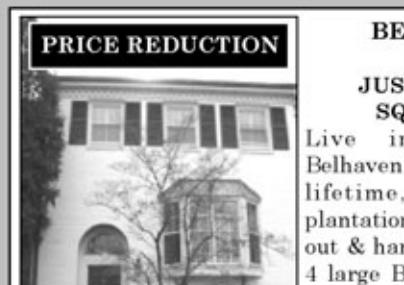
Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



ALEXANDRIA CITY
\$579,900
IDEAL LOCATION

535 TOBACCO QUAY
Beautiful 2 BR / 2 BA townhouse located 2 blocks from the Potomac River & Founders Park in the heart of Old Town. Kitchen completely renovated in 2007 including opening walls. High-end materials, appliances, hardwood floors thru-out. Living room fireplace & private garden

Bob Skinner (703) 585-6683

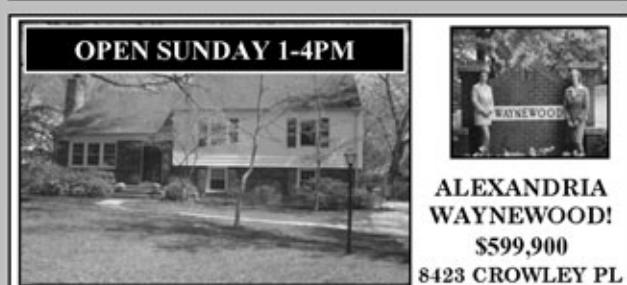


BELLE HAVEN
\$599,000
JUST SHY OF 3000
SQUARE FEET!

Live in upscale Olde Belhaven Towne. All brick, lifetime, concrete roof, plantation shutters throughout & hardwoods on all 3 lvs. 4 large BRs & 3 baths. 2 car spaces, large all-brick patio. Freshly painted neutral colors. Close to DC, Old Town and METRO!



Marcy Covarrubias (703) 772 - 6569



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



ALEXANDRIA
WAYNEWOOD!
\$599,900
8423 CROWLEY PL

Charming 'Haddon' model with big beautifully renovated screened porch. 4BR/2.5BA, 4 finished levels, fenced yard, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room. Walk to school, park, pool. Open, bright & inviting!

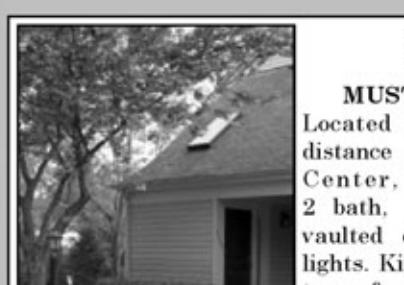
Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



ALEXANDRIA
\$399,000
IDEAL!

Perfect family neighborhood in desirable school district. Walk to Rec Center/pool. Large fenced lot. Beautiful new kitchen cabinets and kitchen appliances. New and refinished hardwood floors, new carrier furnace, new shingled roof, new high efficiency windows & entry doors. 3BR 2 full baths, fully finished basement.

Heidi Kohler (703) 609-7367



FAIRFAX
\$357,000
MUST SEE INSIDE!
Located within walking distance to Fairfax Town Center, this 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 level condo has vaulted ceilings & 3 skylights. Kitchen has granite c/tops & SS app. Separate dining room, large living room w/wood fp. Spiral staircase to loft w/custom closet. Huge MBR, WIC & upgraded MBA.



Cristin Patti (703) 638-8395

THOS. MOSER special savings event



OPENING WEEKEND MAY 16TH-18TH AND REMAINING OPEN UNTIL JUNE 29TH

This is a rare chance to select from hundreds of pieces of Thos. Moser furniture including floor models, prototypes and first quality pieces at reduced prices, all available for immediate purchase.

Selection includes: seating, tables, beds, sofas, desks, and cases.
Inventory will be re-stocked throughout the duration of this event.

OPENING WEEKEND HOURS:

Friday, May 16 9am-8pm | Saturday, May 17 9am-7pm | Sunday, May 18 10am-5pm

LOCATION:

Adjacent to our Georgetown Showroom, located at 3300 M Street NW (33rd St.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

800.708.9061 or visit us online at thosmoser.com or stop by our showroom

MOUNT VERNON BULLETIN

E-mail notices to the Gazette at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is seeking persons who are diplomatic, assertive, and good communicators to serve as volunteer ombudsmen. Volunteers are assigned to a specific local nursing home or assisted-living facility in the City of Alexandria and make weekly visits, meeting one-on-one with residents. For an application, 703-324-5422, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman.

Shenandoah Road at 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The meeting will feature a presentation entitled "Anatomy of a Civil War Pension File." Additional information about the meeting and MVGS can be found at <http://www.MVGenealogy.org/>. Any questions about the program should be directed to Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway starting June 6. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.

The Northern Virginia Habitat ReStore, located at 7770-G Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA (behind Gold's Gym), sells new and used building and home improvement materials to the general public. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. The ReStore is run by volunteers that dedicate their time and energy to the work of Habitat and we are in need of more volunteers. Call the store today at 703-360-6700 or stop by. For more information visit: www.restorenova.org.

Are you concerned about the safety of your home, business, neighborhood and community at-large? Come share your concerns with **The Fairfax County Police Department at a Safe Community Forum**. The department is seeking residents who will share their input on how police can best protect and serve. A series of Safe Community Forums will be held locations across the county. A forum will be held at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, VA on Thursday, May 22 from 7 - 9 p.m. Spanish interpreters will be available on site.

Mount Vernon is currently accepting applications through May 21 for its History Teacher of the Year award from Washington, D.C., metropolitan area history teachers. For more information and to download an application, visit georgewashingtonwired.org.

On Tuesday, May 20, **the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society** (MVGS) will meet in room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

This year, from March through September, **Mount Vernon Archaeology** will be excavating in the Upper Garden, one of two walled gardens that flank the western approach to George Washington's home. Opportunities to volunteer are available Monday through Friday; in addition, work on Saturdays during the months of June, July and August. Contact Curt at cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org or 703-799-6303.



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OPEN SUNDAY 1-5



ALEXANDRIA

- First Open – Potomac River Views
- Fabulous, quiet, cul-de-sac location
- Freshly Painted – New Carpeting – New Hall Bath
- Four Bedrooms – Three Full baths
- Generous Formal Rooms – Two Masonry Fireplaces
- Breezy Screened Porch with Storage Room Beneath
- Hardwood Floors throughout Main Level
- Brick Paver Walkways, Patio and Driveway

Dir.: S. on GW Parkway, from Old Town, R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace – follow signs to 1113 Gatewood Drive.

Offered at.....\$835,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-5



VILLAMAY

- Close-in location – non-subdivision property
- One-of-a-kind custom-built home
- Landscaped, manicured grounds of almost $\frac{1}{3}$ acre
- Three bedrooms – Two full baths – Garage
- Totally Remodeled Interior – Two Masonry Fireplaces
- Granite Kitchen with Cathedral Family Room Addition
- Sunroom – Recreation Room – Exercise Room
- Full Custom Wet Bar on Lower Level

Dir.: S. on GW Parkway, from Old Town, R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace – follow signs to 7209 Marlan Drive

Offered at.....\$749,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-5



MARLAN FOREST

- Less than a Mile to Metro and Beltway
- Turnkey Property – Totally Remodeled
- Spacious New Granite Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms – Two Full Baths
- Formal Living and Dining Room
- Fifth Bedroom/Office on Lower Level
- Recreation Room Walkout to Rear
- Hardwoods on Main and Upper Level

Dir.: S on Telegraph from Beltway, R Sharon Chapel to 3313 on Left.

Offered at.....\$550,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-5



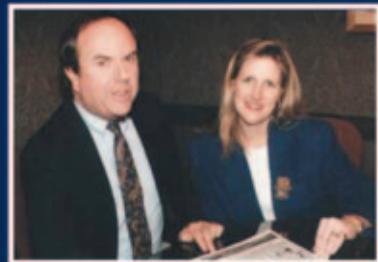
ALEXANDRIA

- One Block to GW Parkway and Bike Trails
- Waynewood Elementary School Area
- Inground Pool – Great Outdoor Summer Parties
- Three Level Split w/Nice Curb Appeal
- Sunroom Addition spans depth of House
- Expanded Master Bedroom and Bath
- Oversized One-Car Garage w/Storage
- Covered Porch/Patio at Rear

Dir.: S on GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, Immed. L On W Blvd, Immed. R on Lilac to 8304.

Offered at.....\$589,000

COLLINGWOOD



CHRIS WHITE

#1 Individual Long & Foster Agent in VA & WV for 2007!



Mount Vernon Grove
Premier New Home Community!
Now Priced from \$998,900

By Wakefield Homes - the Area's Leading Builder!
New Home Amenities with Prime Close-In Location!

- Stunning value - thousands below other area new homes!
- Spacious room sizes and bright, open floor plans
- Stone and hardiplank exteriors
- High ceilings
- Gourmet kitchens with upgraded appliances & granite countertops standard
- Numerous energy conserving features
- Gas heat and hot water
- Oversized two car garages
- Only three sites remain
- Special incentive programs available!



8824 Stratford Lane
\$1,275,000
Rare 2 Acre Lot!

Brand new Wakefield Home to be erected on gorgeous over two acre tract just off the GW Pkwy in prestigious Stratford Landing. Three finished levels, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen with 42" cabinets and granite counters, walk-out lower level & 2 car garage. Pre-construction offering provides maximum opportunity to customize one of the few multi-acre properties left in close-in Alexandria!



1901 Westfield St
\$559,000
Updated Home!
By far the best price on a spacious four level home in the Stratford area! Fabulous property

offers updated kitchen & baths, family room off kitchen, garage, recently installed concrete driveway and brick front walk. Prime location just two blocks off the GW Pkwy and bike trail. Unique opportunity to obtain premier property at a rock bottom price! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Vernon View Dr, L Westfield St.



5306 Mt
Vernon Mem
Hwy
\$899,999
Perfection!!

Classic Colonial with many updates throughout shows like a brand new home! Open floor plan, updated kitchen with granite, spacious master suite with luxury bath, newly finished hardwood floors, updated baths, huge garage & more! Multi-tiered custom deck with hot tub & screened gazebo on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R Patton Blvd, immed R on service road.



2215
Cavendish Dr
\$554,950
*Fabulous
Stratford
Property!*

Cape Cod features a bright and open floor plan and exceptionally spacious rooms! Features include: custom sun room, hardwood floors on two levels, four bedrooms (two on main level), eat-in kitchen, thermal windows, covered parking and gorgeous fenced level lot. Sparkling move-in condition! Super value!



3302
Clayborne Ave
\$290,900
*Bank's Loss is
Your Gain!*

Bungalow sold for \$445,000 in March 2006! Many major upgrades include: thermal windows, maintenance-free siding, roof, hardwood floors & large deck. Prime location on large level lot in Groveton area convenient to Metro and shopping. Needs some finishing touches but presents a rare opportunity to purchase a detached home for less than the price of a condo with no condo or HOA fees! Financing incentives available!



4307
Sheridan's Point
\$979,000
*Georgian
Colonial!*

Classic Colonial in prime Mt Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! 3 finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Stately home has been updated and is in pristine condition.



3805
Riverwood Rd
\$625,000
Great Deal!
The deal of the year! Unheard of Riverwood price! Lowest price in years! The house

directly across the street recently sold for \$807,000! Stately colonial with three finished levels, spacious room sizes, hardwood floors and two car side load garage. Spacious home with huge potential in one of the area's most prestigious waterfront communities at "give away" price!



9216
Presidential Dr
\$578,400
Bright Rambler!
The best of one story living and loaded with features, including:

large room sizes, 4BRs, 3BAs, 2 fireplaces, first floor master suite, hardwood floors and updated kitchen. Finished lower level with bedroom, full bath, brick fireplace, full walkout and large storage area. Numerous windows on both levels overlook natural beauty of half acre grounds.



Halley Farm
\$849,500
*Mount Vernon's
Newest
Community!*

Six fabulous new homes to be erected in a gorgeous park-like setting where almost 50% of the site will be preserved as conservation land! Spacious new homes are loaded with the latest amenities now available at unprecedented low prices! Prime location within walking distance of Mount Vernon Country Club. Pre-construction sale allows maximum customization.

CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

LONG & FOSTER OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT • 400 KING STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
WWW.CHRISANDPEGGYWHITE.COM





LONG & FOSTER OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

400 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 703-683-0400




Alexandria South
\$560,000
GATED COMMUNITY
Spacious "Almost New"
Townhouse located minutes
from Old Town & Hunting-
ton Metro. Hardwood floors, extensive moldings, fire-
place are just a few of the fine appointments. There are
3 finished levels, 3 BR, 3.5 BA, stainless and granite in
kitchen, family room, recreation room, fabulous master
suite, 2 car garage, fenced yard & deck backing to trees.
See me on www.marylousage.com

3784 Elmwood Towne Way



MARYLOU SAGE 703.851.5441


HERNDON
\$429,000
**WELL MAINTAINED
HOME IN PRIVATE
SETTING**
4 bedroom and 3 full bath, single family home, open
floor plan, spacious family room with fireplace, sun-
room with hot tub, large fenced yard with deck adjac-
ent to parkland.

1403 Cuttermill Court



CATHY SMYLES 571.274.1190


Alexandria/
Seminary Road Area
\$774,900
JUST LISTED!!
Spacious 4-5 bedroom, 3.5
bath, 3 level Colonial, 2 car garage, fully finished lower
level, 2 fireplaces, 2 story entry foyer, backs to trees,
situated on Cul-de-sac and easy commute!!!

5921 Reservoir Heights Avenue



GARY ANSLEY 202.288.7946


Alexandria
\$565,000
**NORTH RIDGE
ON A BUDGET**
3 BR Colonial is realistic-
ally priced but boasts all the "I Wants" including
foyer entry, main level den, butler's pantry plus hard-
wood floors, moldings and trim. Come see for yourself.

2419 Central Avenue



JOHN RANDOLPH 703.307.4182


Old Town North
\$489,900
**NORFOLK LANE
GEM**
Fabulous 2 BR, 2 BA Light-Filled,
Brick End Unit in Quiet Heart of Old
Town Greens. Beautiful Hardwood
Floors, Unique "Deux Tabl Dans
Une" Kitchen, Garage, Pool and Tennis Courts. To View 700A
Norfolk Prior to Open House Call Philip G. Matyas at 703-518-
8727.

700A Norfolk Lane



PHILIP G. MATYAS 703.518.8727


Historic Mt. Vernon
\$989,000
**GRIST MILL WOODS
GEM**
Stunning 5 BR, 4.5 BA Bal-
moral Model overlooks
Washington's historic gristmill from the grand deck or
the half-arched-window sunroom. Show room perfect,
gourmet granite/stainless kitchen, 2-story family room,
custom upgrades/paint, main level library, hardwood
floors & huge finished lower level with workshop &
walk-out to beautiful yard.

5423 Grist Mill Woods Way



JAN MUNNINGHOFF 703.201.3730


Alexandria
POTOMAC RIVER WATERFRONT LAND
Rare opportunity to own Potomac River Waterfront land located in prestigious enclave off East Boulevard Drive just minutes from Washington, DC. Dir: From Old Town Alexandria, GW Parkway South, Left at the East Boulevard Dr. sign, Right on East Boulevard Dr towards Arcturus/Herbert Springs, Left at gated Andalusia Drive. The land is located to Left of the manor house on Potomac River.
No sign on property.
884 Andalusia Drive

KAREN HILL 703.608.2654


Parker Gray Historic
\$469,900
JUST CHARMING
• 3 Level Brick townhouse with Finished Basement
• Spacious Rooms/Sep. DR
• Updated Bath & Kitchen
• Sunroom opening onto a deep yard
• Walk To Metro
A Must See!
OPEN SUN 1-4
402 N. Fayette Street

MARTINE IRMER 703.346.7283


Alexandria/Fairfax Co.
\$875,000
**GREAT VALUE
CUL-DE-SAC**
Crafted by renowned builder, NV Homes, this luxurious home offers 4,100 Sq. Ft. of living and entertaining space. 4/5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 finished levels with walk-out lower level. The classy gourmet kitchen and family room offer soaring views of a glorious wood lot. Come See.
5759 Bush Hill Drive

ANNE HAMBLEY 703.946.7266


Old Town
\$599,900
**BEST VALUES AT
THE CARLYLE**
3BR/2.5BA residence, 1605 SF of
fabulous living space. Master suite
with luxury MBA with Jacuzzi tub
and separate shower. Views of Poto-
mac from MBR, breakfast nook, liv-
ing/dining area & open air balcony.
Close to 2 Metros, Old Town shop-
ping and restaurants. EZ commute. Extra large PS, big enough
for a Suburban. Extra storage. Also, 2BR/2BA/2PS \$519,900, also
with glimpses of Potomac.
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2121 Jamieson Ave. #2006
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Visit www.brianandjerry.com


Alexandria
\$689,000
SWIM AT HOME..
in the beautiful pool or pass
the time away on 2 front
porches situated on a 1/2
acre south of historic Mt.
Vernon. Features include 4 BR, 3.5 BA w/spectacular
kitchen opening to patio & pool. LR boasts a fireplace
framed by pretty mantle. Main level has study/office w/
French doors opening to patio & pool. Beautiful hard-
wood floors throughout. LL Rec. Rm & storage rm. 5
minutes from Ft. Belvoir. Dir: GW Pkwy South, past Mt.
Vernon Estate, to Old Mt. Vernon Rd, L at
light, R Cherrytree, R Congressional.
9110 Congressional Court
MARY BOURKE 703.906.5825


Alexandria
\$749,000
**SPRING TIME IN
HOLLIN HILLS**
JUST REDUCED AGAIN!
Back on market- Moti-
vated sellers say bring all
offers! Wonderful opportunity to buy spectacular home
on one of the prettiest streets in Hollin Hills! Beauti-
fully renovated for today's lifestyle—Sleek, Sophisti-
cated—Gourmet kitchen, Viking, Subzero, Granite
countertops —Master Suite/Spa bath— Media/Family
Room—Main level BR/BA, private deck,
patio—Half acre woodland beauty!
4 BR, 3 Full Baths.
2114 Whiteoaks Drive

FRANKI ROBERTS 703.898.0840


Alexandria/Van Dorn
\$259,900
2BR/1.5BA
**JUST UPDATED!
QUIET & SERENE
COMPLEX LOTS OF
TREES**
Move Right In! This
lovely condo was com-
pletely updated in 2006. Freshly painted. Balcony for
grill/table/chairs just off DR. Large LR has office nook
near foyer. W/D in unit. Nicely sized bedrooms. Metro
stop 1 mile away. Bus at corner. Short distance to Old
Town, 395 into DC. Low condo fees include
utilities. Unit backs to treed area. Plenty of
parking. delaine@lnf.com
6155J Edsall Road
DELAINE CAMPBELL 703.518.8740


Arlington/Addison
Heights
\$615,000
**WALK TO
METRO...**
from this charming well
maintained 3 bedroom, 2
bath home. Recent upgrades include wood floors, carpet,
kitchen, deck, fresh paint, gutters, down spouts and profes-
sionally landscaped yard and patio. PRICED \$24K BELOW 2008
ASSESSMENT! An exceptional value!
2205 S. Grant Street

ANN LOGSDON 703.568.8433


Alexandria
\$353,900
**IN THE HEART
OF OLD TOWN**
Plaqued building with cozy
floor plan & 10 ft ceilings. LR
has crown molding, chair rail,
brick FP with beautiful wood
mantle & floor to ceiling book-
cases. Updated bath, kitchen
with granite counters, tile
backsplash, under mount sink, stainless appliances,
maple cabinets. Beautiful hdwd floors & patio in rear.
Close to Metro, shops, restaurants & river.
1012 Prince Street #1
BRIAN HONG & JERY BEAMER 703.929.5764
Visit www.brianandjerry.com


Alexandria/Kingstowne
\$549,900
**THE KING'S
CROWN JEWEL**
Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 full
bath, 2 half bath, Dunwich
Square townhome SHOWS BETTER than when it was
the model home. Updated kitchen granite counter tops,
custom floor tile, hardwood floors, brand new carpet
throughout, 2 wood burning fireplaces, grand 2-story
foyer with circular staircase, garage with storage ARE A
MUST SEE!
6031 Westcott Hills Way

PHILIP G. MATYAS 703.518.8727


Springfield
\$440,000
**WELCOME
HOME!**
To this 2,700 SF brick
townhome. Nicely up-
dated with new doors &
windows. 4 bedrooms on upper level, living, dining,
kitchen and 5th bedroom on main level. Lower level rec-
reation room walks out to a beautiful brick patio which
leads to assigned parking. Wood floors, custom paint,
upgraded lighting, storage, great schools and quick
commutes add to this special home.
8409 Willow Forge Road

MICHAEL MANUEL 703.615.6317


Alexandria
DOUBLE OPTION
2 unique 1 BR units available for rent
in the heart of Historic Old Town.
113 N. Fairfax Street - \$1,850
Features a spacious & updated kitchen.
Watch all the activity in Market Square
from the oversized windows. Wood floors thru-out &
lots of storage & closet space in this light filled home.
213 Ramsey Alley - \$2,150
2 level detached house w/ off street
parking place. Built circa 1800, it fea-
tures a 6 ft wide cooking fireplace &
wide plank floors. Walking distance to
all restaurants, shops & galleries.
Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



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Alexandria \$335,000
 Sun-filled 2-level end unit TH/Condo w/2 MBR suites in the heart of Island Creek! Freshly painted. All new flooring thru-out. Vaulted ceilings, patio, garage & fenced backyard.
 6603 Netties Lane
 Marianne Welds 703-869-1320



Alex./Jefferson Park \$1,675,000
 Wow! Warm & spacious home on quiet cul-de-sac w/nearly 5,000 s.f., including 5 bedrms, 3.5 baths, library & family rm. Huge dream kitchen, finished LL, 2-car garage & fenced yard.
 301 Columbia Road
 Mary Hurlbut 703-548-4741



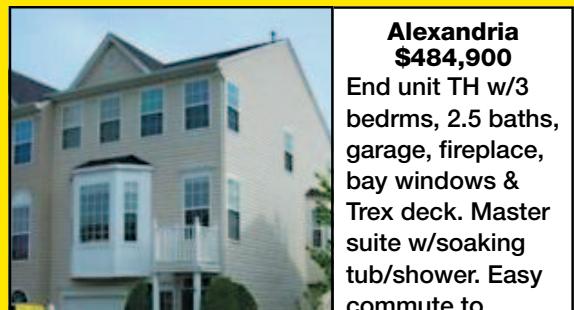
Alex./Rosemont
 Elegant custom colonial w/5 bedrms, 3.5 baths, 2-car garage & elevator. One-of-a-kind w/4 finished levels. Convenient to metro, Old Town, Arlington & D.C.
 207 W. Glendale Avenue
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$375,000
 Perfect 1st home! Ready-to-move-in 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath home w/new paint thru-out, all new carpet & renewed hardwoods. Huge fenced lot and carport parking.
 6412 Willowood Lane
 Hal Sadler 703-677-7515



Alexandria \$254,900
 One bedrm, 1 bath condo w/private patio, open floor plan, wood-burning fireplace w/antique mahogany mantel, WD in unit, walk-in closet & small condo fee. Amenities include, pool, party room & clubhouse.
 245 Pickett Street #101
 Fred Smith 571-215-3733



Alexandria \$484,900
 End unit TH w/3 bedrms, 2.5 baths, garage, fireplace, bay windows & Trex deck. Master suite w/soaking tub/shower. Easy commute to anywhere.
 5238 Ballycastle Circle
 Hal Sadler 703-677-7515



Alexandria \$418,500
 Spacious brick end unit Townhome w/all the upgrades! Fabulous community & minutes to Metro, Old Town & more!
 8232 LaFaye Court
 Lisa McCashill 703-615-6036



Alex./Old Town \$575,000
 Fully renovated brick TH w/2 bedrms, 2.5 baths & curb appeal galore! Nearly everything has been replaced. Kitchen with granite, SS, new cabinets & ceramic tile. Lovely landscaping & new patio.
 530 Alfred Street
 Eva Damelin 703-625-2382



Old Town \$799,000
 A new listing at Yates Gardens in Eden! Relax & enjoy this charming 3 bedrm, 2.5 bath home close to cafés & shops.
 825 S. Fairfax
 Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



COMING SOON
Alexandria \$575,000
 Huge TH. Bigger than it looks! Walk into a bright open floor plan thru the renovated kitchen to a delightful deck. Upstairs are 3 bedrms, each w/ its own bath & walk-in closets. Skylight, garage parking, fireplaces, decorator touches & colors.
 6358 Brampton Court
 Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria \$429,000
 A Perfect "10". Gorgeous garage TH where everything old is now new again! Separate-level office. Beautiful hardwood floors. Deck backs to trees & energy-efficient heat-o-lator fireplace.
 18 Fendall Avenue
 Mary Smith 703-626-9207

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HEALTH & FITNESS

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

Yoga classes for all levels on the tented terrace at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Old Town. Thursdays at 4:45 p.m. for one hour. Beautiful outdoor setting. Only \$10 per session, pay as you go, come when you can. Call 703-549-2997 for more information.

Learn about Medicare on Friday, June 13 at 2 p.m. at NOVA's Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. 703-845-6222.

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church offers "Moms In Motion" dance fitness classes on Friday mornings from 9:15-10 a.m., and on Tuesday evenings from 7:45 p.m. "Moms In Motion" is designed to boost your fitness routine and release your inner dancer. Mount Vernon United Methodist Church is located at 2006 Belle View Blvd. To register or receive further information, contact Dawn Meadows at 703-799-0543, or studigolddance@starpower.net.

Capital Hospice is starting a Grief Support Group at the Hollin Hall Senior Center on Mondays, from 2-3 p.m. to talk with others who have also had losses. Carol Mansfield of Capital Hospice will facilitate. Call Senior Center at 703-4573 or sign up on their Bulletin Board.

The **Alexandria Mental Health Family Support Group** of NAMI/

FOCUS is open to all families dealing with mentally ill family members suffering from depression, bipolar or schizophrenia. Alison Malmon will be the guest speaker at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Call 571-451-0773 for date.

Dr. Corey Wallach, orthopedic surgeon, will discuss treatments for various spinal disorders, Thursday, May 22 at 7 p.m., Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria. To attend, contact Inova HealthSource at 703-204-3366.

Dr. John Albrigo, orthopedic surgeon, will discuss hip and knee replacements that are minimally invasive, Wednesday, May 28 at 7 p.m., Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road. To attend, visit www.inova.org and click on "Health Info & Classes" or call Inova HealthSource 703-204-3366.

Body in Balance Center, 1423 N. Powhatan St., offers fusion flow for parents and babies, a class specifically designed for parents with babies who are crawling and beginning to walk as well as pre-crawlers. Classes are offered Thursdays at 11 a.m. and Saturdays 11:30 a.m. \$20.00 drop in fee or 6 class pass for \$90.00. Visit www.bodyinbalancecenter.com or 703-518-4434.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has scheduled a series of free Confident City Cycling Classes for 2008. The classes, which are free and open to all, regardless of residency. To register visit waba.org/events/education.php. The classes are

offered:

*Wednesday, May 28 from 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria

CrisisLink has been helping people deal with anxiety, stress and crisis throughout the entire metropolitan area for 35 years. Call 703-527-4077 or 1-800-784-2433, or learn more about the confidential, free hot line and crisis response services at www.crisislink.org.

Yoga Classes are offered by YogaKala at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., on Saturdays, 10 a.m. for intermediate and 11:25 a.m. for beginners, and at the Carlyle Towers, 2151 Jamieson Ave., on Thursday 6 p.m. for intermediate and 7:15 p.m. for beginners, as well as Fridays, 10 a.m. gentle yoga. Cost: \$15 per class or \$96 for eight classes. For more information, call 703-549-0484 or e-mail YogaKala@aol.com.

His Kingdom Ministries, 2707 Dewitt Ave., Alexandria, will be teaching "Your Best Life Now," on Sunday mornings from 10-11 a.m. Free. 202-409-4761 or 703-329-1594.

Haven of Northern Virginia is offering the following support groups at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale:

* General Bereavement Group: First and third Wednesday evening of each month, 7:30-9 p.m.

* Suicide Survivors Bereavement Group: First Tuesday evening of each month, 7:30-9 p.m.

* Widow/Widower Support Groups: First and third Thursday evening of each month, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month, 7:30-9 p.m.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Send announcements to the Gazette-Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

The Alexandria Workshop of Ikebana International meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Citizen Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month from September through June. Ikebana is the Japanese art of floral arrangement. The group makes ikebana floral arrangements, studies the history of the art and learns new techniques. For more information call Joan Allan at 703-360-3532.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. On site baby-sitting is provided. A ministry to mothers of young children, the group offers fellowship and the opportunity to work on crafts and listen to speakers on a variety of subjects. Visit www.MOPS.org.

The Washington DC Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America invites all stitchers to join them on second Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m., at the Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Be part of a local community of stitchers and to learn about and participate in embroidery-related programs and events. Visit www.embroidery-marega.org/washingtondc.htm.

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¹ By Thomas Fahey, EdD ² Susan M. Kleiner, PhD, RD, FACN, CNS, FISSN

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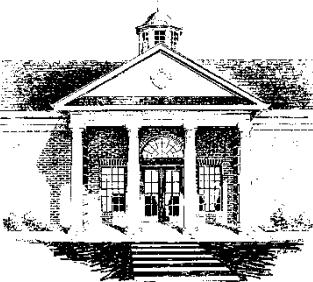
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Prime Location Near Old Towne Alexandria
Three Car Garage
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FAITH

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, has a special learning session from 9:45-10:45 a.m. every Sunday starting June 1 through Aug. 24. Children and adults will have the opportunity to learn about traditional Bible-times family life by playing authentic games, being apprentices in the Carpentry Shop, chatting with shopkeepers and tax collectors, participating in Synagogue School, and sampling food. For more information about this exciting program, or to pre-register, call 703-765-6118 or e-mail mvpca@aol.com. Visit www.mvpconline.org.

Enjoy a **pancake breakfast** May 17 from 7-10 a.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. 703-549-2088.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road has activities. 703-360-4220:

There is also a group of moms and pre-school kids that meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. for coffee, muffins, and fellowship and moves into the church at 9:30 a.m. to take part in the Day School's chapel service, which is a short child-friendly service full of singing and silliness.

Habitat for Humanity is Building on Faith! All are invited to a Service of Prayer on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. As part of the service, Habitat homeowners will share experiences of being a first time homeowner. Also, we will write blessings on lumber that will be used in the framing of doors and windows at the next Habitat project. For more information on the service, contact Rev. Jeri Fields at 703-765-6118. Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church is located at 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.mvpconline.org.

Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith at 1801 N. Quaker Lane, gathers each Sunday at 5 p.m. for a worship gathering. All are welcome. Visit www.convergenceccf.net, or call 703-998-6260.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1509 Collingwood Road, Mount Vernon, is now holding Wednesday evening meetings at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 703-768-2494.

The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers classes in Buddhist Meditation at the Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 North Alfred St. in Alexandria. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Buddhist Nun Kelsang Varahi will be teaching. \$10/class. For more information visit www.meditation-dc.org or call 202-331-2122.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation holds services at 8:15 p.m. on Fridays and 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Religious school is on Wednesdays evening and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat on first and third Saturdays. Kolot Shabbat (musical service) the first Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Beth El is located at 3830 Seminary Road in Alexandria. For more information, call 703-370-9400 or visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)
Sunday
7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
(6:30 pm Mass)

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cs.org

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Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am followed by Rosary)
Children's Liturgy of the World

Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am

Mass (English)

Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

(6:30 pm Mass)

St. James' Episcopal Church

5614 Old Mill Road, Mt. Vernon, Virginia



8 AM - Holy Eucharist

10:15 AM - Holy Eucharist - music

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ALEXANDRIA CHURCH OF CHRIST...703-836-3083

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH...703-765-5003
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH...703-549-4766

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SCHOOLS

Teen Raises Funds to Stop Child Abuse

Glasgow Middle School student Alexamarie Allen has a real passion to end child abuse. While researching on the internet, she came across the heart-wrenching story of Kelsey Briggs, a child who died of abuse before her third birthday. "She really touched my heart," says Alexamarie, "It's not right! I just knew I had to do something to help children like Kelsey and stop them from being hurt."

She took action by making flyers and blue ribbons, the symbol for child abuse prevention, and brought awareness at her school and to her friends. Since April was Child Abuse Awareness Month, Alexamarie organized a fundraiser. On April 26-27, she and her supporters manned the corners of Sleepy Hollow Road



(From left): Alexamarie Allen, Alexa May, Dakotah McGinlay, Elizabeth Burr, Ethan Goldberg, and Jamie Cherwek.

and Kerns Road in Falls Church, armed with their homemade posters, flyers and ribbons.

A local youth group, Junior Youth Empowerment, joined in Sunday afternoon and reignited everyone's spirits. All the efforts

were rewarded with over \$500 in donations!

The money raised will go to SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia, a non-profit organization, located at 1705 Fern Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria.



Margaret Panik

Panik Is Named VEA Support Pro of the Year

Margaret Panik, an instructional assistant at Bren Mar Park Elementary in Alexandria, has been named the Virginia Education Association's (VEA) Support Professional of the Year for 2008.

Panik has worked for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) since 1998, when she was hired as an instructional assistant to work with students in grades K-5. During her 10 years at Bren Mar Park, Panik has served as the advisor to the Student Council Association, created the Baghdad Buddies program to support a school volunteer who was sent to Iraq, and become an advocate for her fellow instructional assistants and colleagues as a member of the Fairfax Education Association and the VEA.



The Aquinas Montessori School Performs 'Aladdin, Jr.'

The upper elementary students of The Aquinas Montessori School will do a revival of "Aladdin, Jr." for their May Fête celebration. The Aquinas Montessori School will be celebrating "Our Planet Earth" at its upcoming May Fête on Friday, May 30 (rain date, May 31) from 6-8:30 p.m. at The Aquinas Montessori School. The school is located at 8484 Mount Vernon Highway in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. Go to http://www.aquinasmontessorischool.com/may_fete.

Case Is First-Year Teacher of the Year

Alexander Case, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) government and World History at West Potomac High School, has been named the 2008 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) First-Year Teacher of the Year.

Case's nominators commend him for being a proactive problem solver, a collaborative worker, and a go-to person. They praise his organizational skills and his ability to communicate with colleagues, students, and parents. In his short time at West Potomac, he has been drafted by his peers to coordinate the school's Advanced Placement (AP) program and has accepted responsibility to coordinate the school's 65 clubs as the assistant director for student activities.

"By being 'everywhere all the time' as my students often jest, I witnessed the power of presence and its potency for reaching learners," he says.

In his classroom, Case requires his freshmen World History students to keep interactive note-



Schools Superintendent Jack Dale congratulates Alexander Case (right).

books, which he checks and makes comments in frequently. He is skilled at individualizing instruction to challenge each student on a level appropriate to him or her.

His AP students work collaboratively on projects while analyzing and synthesizing information while he serves as facilitator, encouraging them to think on a higher level.

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Their dedication and commitment to nursing exemplifies the quality care provided to our patients each and every day. Congratulations to Julia Warner, RN, Ann Vandervort, RN, and Sarah Mossburg, RN.

In addition to these finalists, four **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital** nurses received honorable mention for their outstanding contributions to the profession of nursing.

Phillip Eaton, RN

Clinical Director
Nursing Administration

Jacqueline Wavelet, RN

Clinical Specialist
Nursing Administration

Diane Swengros, RN

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- A new **Business Advantage** program extends the benefits of budget billing to small- and medium-sized commercial customers and most non-profits. Eligible customers will be able to sign up beginning July 1.
- "More Than 100 Ways To Improve Your Electric Bill," published by the Edison Electric Institute, provides **easy-to-use tips** on practical ways to cut electricity use and save money. To download a copy visit www.dom.com (keyword: 100 ways).
- \$5 million in additional funding for **EnergyShare** to help elderly customers and families in need with heating and cooling assistance.

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Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 5-9 p.m.

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Find out about the latest design plans to construct four HOV/Bus/HOT (high occupancy toll) lanes on the Capital Beltway from the Springfield Interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) to just north of the Dulles Toll Road at Old Dominion Drive (Route 738). Virginia Department of Transportation project managers will be available to answer your questions.

Project information may also be viewed at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly, VDOT's Project Office, 6400 Commerce Street, Springfield, or call toll free (877) 495-VDOT (8368). Property impacts and relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above addresses and will be available at the public hearing.

Give your written or verbal comments at the hearing, or submit them, by June 5, 2008, to Roger Boothe, Project Manager, VDOT, 6400 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150. You may also e-mail your comments to: Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Capital Beltway HOT Lanes" in the subject heading.

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LETTER

FROM PAGE 9

How is it possible to skip over Franco in such lessons? Because these standards are set, many teachers seem afraid and unwilling to go beyond what is necessary to help students expand their knowledge.

How can we expect to keep these underprivileged from being "left behind" when we can't find an enriching way to teach and engage them? The Washington Post's

education writer, Jay Mathews, explained in his article Let's Teach to the Test that a teacher preparing his/her students for a standardized test is "forced to adhere to someone else's views on teaching ... [and] is likely to present the material too quickly, too thinly, too prescriptively, too joylessly — add your own favorite unattractive adverb." I couldn't have said it better myself. If the teachers are indifferent about what they are presenting to the class, how are we

supposed to care?

Although doing well on the standardized tests is important, what is more important is that we are learning for the sake of learning! So what if I can recite a few facts that have been drilled into my head since the first day of school? Have I developed an interest in what I am studying, or am I too worried about just passing the test? Can I apply what I have learned to anything other than the test or out of the classroom? "Jamestown: First permanent English colony settled in the New World in 1607. Sponsored by the Virginia Company of London." Throughout the year, this fact has shown up on almost every so-called "SOL based test" in my history class. Alright alright, I get the picture!

In a January 2002 news release, President George W. Bush signed the No Child Left Behind law designed to "[strengthen] teacher quality by providing \$2.8 billion for teacher quality programs...[and] to use additional federal funds to hire new teachers, increase teacher pay, improve teacher training and development or other uses." With this amount of money going towards teacher training under the No Child Left Behind act, I would hope, no, I would expect that teachers could figure out a better way to prepare us for our futures, not simply a standardized state test!

POEM

Listen to the Mockingbird

Spring arrives amazing in the marsh

It comes in a rush and rushes

Rise to meet the blazing sun,

Loft, blaise and gazing, that one —

The mockingbird — seizes scraps,

Songs and things heard, bits bending

On the wind to his hearing, sending

Them aloft again, lilting to the ear, while

Zeal unbounded tilts the singer,

Springing him into Spring's air

As if sheer delight beyond our ken

Flings him there, again and again

To testify to Spring, to sing.

— JACK SULLIVAN

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PEOPLE

Welcome Home

Members of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team had an emotional homecoming Friday, April 25, when they arrived at the Leesburg Armory after serving a tour in Iraq. The 150 Guardsmen were activated in June 2007, after being home for just over a year from a tour in Afghanistan. "Charlie" Company was one of five companies called up, which represented the largest battalion task force the Virginia National Guard has mobilized in support of the "War on Terror."

The battalion first reported to Camp Shelby, Miss., for training before shipping out to Iraq in September 2007, where the infantry companies were assigned escort duty. C Company operated in the areas in and around Mosul and Kirkuk. Nine soldiers from the company were injured, but there were no fatalities.

"You've done yourselves proud and made all of Virginia proud," Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman Jr., adjutant general of Virginia, said at the homecoming ceremony.

— JENNIFER LESINSKI



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI/THE CONNECTION

Brenda Parker of Fort Belvoir hugs her husband, Sgt. James Parker, after his dismissal Friday while their son, William, waits his turn with dad.



Celebrating Cinco de Mayo

The parents and staff of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Preschool of Alexandria, raised \$18,000, a 20 percent increase from last year, at the Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta & Silent Auction held on May 2, at the historic George Washington Masonic Memorial Members of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta & Silent Auction Committee, included from left: (Karen Smith, Leslie Teitel, Arienne Reilly (co-chair), Sara Petretich (co-chair), Becky Finn, Diane Moery, Gina Almeida, Jennifer Krieger, Michelle Nachnani, Lara O'Connor, Erica Leahy, Anne Alfonzo, Kari Cafeo (Preschool Director), Kara Cosby, Tara Smith, and Elizabeth Shea. Not pictured: Jennifer Costanzo, Kellie Cronin, Anne de Dios, Kathy Innis, and Kristin Matheis.

MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Pfc. Christopher M. Counts, son of Mary J. and Kenneth L. Counts of Alexandria, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Army Pvt. David P. Selby has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the grandson of Marian Selby of Alexandria, and Catherine Barber of John St., Suitland, Md. Selby is a 2004 graduate of Thomas Edison High School, Alexandria.

Navy Seaman Jermie D. Harris, a 2000 graduate of West Potomac High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Air Force Airman Hasan Bilal has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Bilal is the nephew of Mohammad Ali of Arlington.

Paul Chenevert has been promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Army National Guard. Chenevert, an infantry operations officer with 19 years of mili-

tary service, is assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, Fort Belvoir, Fairfax, Va. His wife, Michelle, resides in Alexandria.

The captain graduated in 1989 from Catholic High School, Baton Rouge, La., and received a bachelor's degree in 1996 from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Marine Corps Pvt. Geoffrey L. Hughes, son of Vicki L. and John V. Hughes of Alexandria, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

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SPORTS

Saints Lacrosse Teams Prevail In States

Girls lax vying for ISL championship, while boys looking for IAC title.

BY ERIC J. GILMORE
GAZETTE

Halfway through the season, the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys lacrosse team had only one win. The same school that went on an unlikely run to the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association tournament title, the Saints were a pitiful 1-10.

Then SSSAS won at home against Collegiate, then-ranked in the top five in the state, and even then sensed they had turned the corner.

And boy they have. Heading into a mid-week tilt, the fifth-seeded Saints were vying for the Interstate Athletic Conference tournament title, a feat that seemed so improbable a mere three weeks ago.

Having won six straight games, fifth-seeded SSSAS ousted Bullis in the first round and then shocked top-ranked Georgetown Prep in overtime in the semifinal last Saturday.

Because the IAC works on a point system that splits the regular season and postseason tournament, the Saints can't conceivably win the league crown. But the fact that SSSAS, at 7-10 is even in the hunt for a tournament championship, explains how far they've come.

Sophomore Peter Labovich notched the game-winning goal in overtime, ousting the Little Hoyas for the second straight season. Last year, behind 14 seniors, the Saints tainted Georgetown Prep's undefeated season in the IAC tournament before winning its first-ever VISAA crown.

As the fifth seed in the eight-team tournament, SSSAS started its title defense, actually before the IAC championship, by defeating Woodberry Forest, 10-9, on the road Tuesday.

In the IAC, the Saints play Landon, who SEE SAINTS, PAGE 29



The SSSAS girls lacrosse team is undefeated and ranked third in the nation according to www.laxpower.net



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/GAZETTE

The fourth-seeded Saints downed Woodberry Forest, 10-9, in the first round to take a step closer to defending their state title

Close, But No Cigar In Championships

Ireton's girls lax, baseball fall in WCAC tournament title games.

BY ERIC J. GILMORE
GAZETTE

Bishop Ireton knew it was going to have to pull something special—or magical—to end up with a rare and much-coveted Washington Catholic Athletic

Conference tournament title. In both baseball and girls lacrosse, the Cardinals couldn't muster any more mystique when it counted.

The girls lacrosse team dropped an 11-8 decision to Good Counsel on Tuesday at Ludwig Field on the University of Maryland's campus. Not having won against the Falcons since 2003, it was the Good Counsel's fifth straight WCAC title.

But second-seeded Ireton still had its chances, especially early. The Cardinals, led by George Mason signee Julianne Tela,

scored the game's first four goals, and then held a 5-1 advantage before giving up five straight to close the half.

Ireton, behind sophomore Janet Tela's (Julianne's younger sister) three goals, regained the lead in the second half, only to have it once again disappear. Junior Chesney Hellmuth pulled the Cardinals within a point in the fourth quarter, but Good Counsel's Mary Swarthout, the WCAC Player of the Year scored the last of her game-high four goals to preserve the win.

Brittany Barnwell had two goals for

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR ERIC GILMORE
703-917-6438 OR ECILMORE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Huey Half Of Top-Ranked Doubles Tennis Team

Treat Huey, a 2004 St. Stephen's & St. Agnes graduate, helped top-seeded Virginia's men's tennis team advance to the round of 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the fifth consecutive year, defeating Penn State 4-0 Sunday.

Teaming with Somdev Devvarman (Chennai, India), Huey clinched the opening point with an 8-2 win at No. 1 doubles over Michael James and Brendan Lynch.

"I thought that was as good as we have played all year in doubles," said head coach Brian Boland. "That gave us a lot of confidence and a lot of momentum that carried over into singles."

Huey is making his second NCAA singles appearance, as Virginia ties its 2005 school with three players in the singles draw. Huey is 32-5 in singles and is ranked No. 28 in the ITA rankings.

In doubles, Devvarman and Huey, ranked No. 1 in every week of the year in the ITA rankings, are the No. 1 seed for the NCAA Doubles Championship. Last year, the duo was the No. 2 seed and fell in the semifinals.

This season, Huey and Devvarman won both the ITA All-America Championships and the ITA National Indoor Championships in the fall, and are looking to be just the second team to win all three major tournaments in the same season, joining California's Doug Eisenman and Matt Lucena who won all three during the 1989-90 season.

Huey is already Virginia's all-time career doubles win leader, a mark he set as a junior. The Cavaliers are 30-0 and have been ranked No. 1 in the ITA rankings every week of the season. They recently won their fourth ACC championship in five years.

As a Saint, he was a three-time All-Met Player of the Week, and was ranked No. 1 in the USTA boys' 18s singles rankings during his senior year.

Virginia will travel to the NCAA Championships, held at the University of Tulsa. The Cavaliers will meet No. 16 seed Michigan on Friday.

Williams Sets Meet Record

In the ISL track championships this past week, junior Danielle Williams finished first in the 100 and 200 meters, setting a new meet record. She also anchored the first-place 100-meter relay with Tatiana Bull, Mya Reid, and Olivia Hooper. The same relay, with sophomore Brianna Richardson replacing Reid, set a new school record of 51.22 at the Penn Relays recently. Reid also won the high jump, helping the Saints to a sixth place finish.

Ireton, but received a second yellow in the waning moments of the first half. Junior Allie Fife and Julianne Tela each scored once.

Under first-year head coach Cara Hurrin, Ireton currently has a 16-4 record, and will play in the quarterfinals of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) state tournament on Thursday. The Cardinals will take on Paul VI, a team they beat 15-8 on April 16.

SEE IRETON, PAGE 29

SPORTS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'KEEFE

The Thomas Jefferson Men's First 8 receives gold medals.
Front, holding Eric Rothstein trophy, coxswain Raj Goel (Herndon). Back row, from left, Stephen Mathews, Chris Rutley, Chris Gear, Nolan Pollack, Nader Al-Naji, Patrick Collard, Colin Haas, Phil Griselda.

Jefferson Crew Wins Gold at States

For the Jefferson Colonials, last Saturday's Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship had a special significance. The regatta included a ceremony in memory of former Jefferson rowing coach Eric Rothstein, who was killed in 2001. Driven by their desire to honor Rothstein and to continue their decade long winning streak, Thomas Jefferson's Men's Varsity 8 quickly took the lead in the finals and raced to a gold medal finish. Also finishing in first place for Jefferson were the Women's 2nd 8 and the Men's 3rd. Taking home silver for the Colonials were the Men's 2nd 8 and Women's 3rd 8. Next week, TJ will compete in Philadelphia for the prestigious Stotesbury Cup, with the Men's Varsity 8 and Women's 2nd 8 defending their championship titles.

Saints Lacrosse Prevail In States

FROM PAGE 28

downed St. Albans 8-4 to advance to the finals on Thursday. With a win, Landon will win the IAC, but will share the league title with Georgetown Prep if the Little Hoyas down Bullis in the consolation game.

Regardless, SSSAS will take on top-ranked Norfolk Academy, who displaced Episcopal 14-2 in the first round at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, Va. The game will start at 5:30 p.m.

SSSAS' NATIONALLY RANKED girls la-

crosse team started its title defense in the VISAA tournament, pounding Flint Hill, 16-1, on Tuesday.

Because of the constant rain cancellations, the undefeated Saints are also undergoing some creative scheduling.

In the Independent School League (ISL) final, SSSAS faced third-seed Georgetown Visitation on Wednesday at Bullis School. Considered the heavy favorites, the Saints (22-0) haven't lost a league game in more than a decade, and downed their league rivals 16-3 earlier this

Ireton

FROM PAGE 28

IN BASEBALL, the fifth-seed Cardinals weren't even expected to make it past the first round, much less the WCAC championship game against third-seeded DeMatha. After dispatching O'Connell and Paul VI over consecutive days, the Stags won handily, 11-3, in the tournament title last Thursday at Shirley Povich Field in Rockville, Md.

With both team's best pitchers fatigued, DeMatha got to Ireton junior starter Dan Nicoll. The Stags scored three runs in the third, then added another run in the fifth, before exploding for seven runs in the sixth.

Ireton (13-13) struggled at the plate, mostly in part to outstanding DeMatha defense, before tacking three runs in the seventh.

First-year coach Mike Gallagher, selected as the league coach of the year last week, had five juniors in the starting lineup, and none on the first-team all-WCAC. If the Cardinals had won, it would have been their first WCAC boys' championship in any sport. Ireton reached the VISAA state title game in football playing an independent schedule.

"I think it speaks real well to where we're going," said Ireton athletic director Bill Simmons. "We're headed in the right direction and we've put a lot of money into the facilities. And we have some great coaches right now — when you put that combination together, it makes you better."

Ireton failed to make the eight-team (VISAA) state tournament, which began Tuesday.

season.

The Saints (23-0) displaced Holton-Arms, with a 16-3 defeat, in the semifinals, when senior Cassie Pyle notched five goals and had an assist. Junior Charlotte Davis had two goals and an assist, and senior school-record assist holder Hadley Lankford had a goal and yet another assist.

The Saints are eyeing a repeat of last season, when the 2007 team won the ISL regular season title and tournament title, and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association championship.

WEEK NINE



Northern Region Lacrosse Poll

Presented by TripleEDGE Lacrosse

Boys Lacrosse

Rank	(First Place Votes)	Points	LW
1	Chantilly (12)	120	1
2	Langley (1)	117	3
3	Oakton	96	4
4	Madison	84	2
5	Westfield	68	6
6	Robinson	63	5
T-7	Annandale	57	8
T-7	WT Woodson	57	7
9	Lake Braddock	34	9
10	West Springfield	10	10

Also receiving votes: South County 6, Falls Church 3

Coaches participating: Annandale, Chantilly, Hayfield, Thomas Jefferson, Lake Braddock, Langley, Madison, McLean, Robinson, Stuart, West Potomac, W.T. Woodson, Yorktown

Girls Lacrosse

Rank	(First Place Votes)	Points	LW
1	Robinson (8)	113	2
2	Chantilly (3)	104	1
3	Stone Bridge (1)	93	5
4	Oakton	74	3
5	WT Woodson	72	6
6	Westfield	57	4
7	Annandale	55	7
8	Langley	36	8
9	West Springfield	17	NR
10	South County	16	9

Also receiving votes: Yorktown 13, Herndon 4, Madison 4, Thomas Jefferson 2

Coaches participating: Annandale, Chantilly, Edison, Herndon, Langley, Madison, Marshall, Robinson, South County, Stone Bridge, Westfield, Yorktown

Boys Lacrosse First-Team All-Region

Name, Position	School
Bryan Bayliss, Attack	South County
Matt Johnson, Attack	Annandale
Ross Fernandez, Attack	Woodson
A.J. Cybulski, Attack	Madison
Tyler Ott, Attack	Chantilly
Ian Mills, Midfield	Chantilly
Paul Gaski, Midfield	Woodson
Dilon Brothers, Midfield	Yorktown
Jake Nolan, Midfield	Chantilly
Stephen Kowalski, Midfield	Jefferson
Owen Masters, Midfield	Langley
Dylan Grimm, Defense	Oakton
Brett Burnette, Defense	Langley
Patrick Pembroke, Defense	Langley
Mike Quigg, Defense	Chantilly
Danny Conlin, Defense	Mount Vernon
Derek Keggerreis, Goalie	Chantilly
Ross Lavin, Goalie	Westfield

Coach of the Year: Kevin Broderick, Chantilly High School

Assistant Coach of the Year: Dennis Stewart, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Sportsmanship Award: Marshall High School

Northern Region Man of the Year: Bill Blaustein, Langley

— Girls lacrosse all-region team will be released next week.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Area Basketball Coaches to Hold Camps

Even though it's still spring, the area basketball coaches are already gearing up for summer basketball camps.

At Bishop O'Connell, head coach Joe Wootten will continue his Coach Wootten basketball camp, with a boys and girls overnight camp, as well as a boys day camp and separate coaches clinic.

The boys and girls overnight camps are five-day, four-night sessions, located at Frostburg State

University in Frostburg, Md., with ages ranging from 9-18-year-olds. There are five sessions, starting on a weekly basis on June 15, with tuition set at \$475.

The two sessions of boys day camp at O'Connell starts on July 21, with hours ranging from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday. Tuition is \$220.

Wootten will oversee a two-day coaches clinic Oct. 3-4, with tuition set at \$80. Past speakers have included Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, Minnesota's Tubby Smith, Syracuse's Jim Boeheim and Maryland's Gary Williams. The coaching roster will be announced in July. All slots are currently open.

For more information, visit <http://www.coachwootten.com> or call

301-805-4667.

Sportsman's Club To Hold Annual Banquet

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will host its 2008 Annual High School Athlete Awards Banquet at the Hilton Mark Center Alexandria Hotel on Wed., May 21. Mount Vernon alum and former NFL offensive lineman Ed Cunningham featured as the guest speaker.

Individual tickets prices are \$50, with a corporate sponsorship table going for \$750.

A reception hour will be at 6 p.m., with a dinner to follow at 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, mail checks payable to Alexandria Sportsman's Club at P.O. Box 1011, Alexandria, Va. 22313.

The Sportsman's Club, which was founded in 1947, has themed monthly meetings at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Social Hour begins at 7 p.m. followed by the regular meeting, which starts at 7:45 pm. Each meeting features a guest speaker, and an award presented to the high school and recreation department athlete of the month. The meetings are followed by a casual dinner.

For more information regarding the club, visit alexsports.org.

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Manager of General Accounting

The Manager of General Accounting reports to the Chief Financial Officer, and is responsible for all financial statement, general ledger and accounts payable activities. The individual is also responsible for insuring appropriate internal controls, both within the Finance department and within the rest of the organization.

Specific Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- Minimum of 8 years of accounting experience, including at least three years in a supervisory role

Staff Accountant

The Staff Accountant reports to the Manager of General Accounting, and is responsible for preparing journal entries, reconciling and analyzing general ledger accounts, and understanding and maintaining internal controls.

Specific Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- Minimum of 3 years of accounting experience, including bank and account reconciliation work in an automated system environment

General Qualifications for both positions include:

- Excel proficiency
- Must be organized, analytical, accurate, detail-oriented, able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously, and able to complete work assignments in a timely manner
- Must have good communication skills, both verbally and in writing
- Must interact with others at all levels in a courteous, professional manner
- Previous experience in an automated accounting environment is required; experience with Microsoft Dynamics (Great Plains) is helpful
- Previous experience with fund accounting is helpful

Development Assistant: reports to Manager, Membership and is charged with providing administrative support functions in the Development Office.

Specific responsibilities: Answer dept. calls and inquiries; Record actions in "RE DB"; Filing; Direct requests from staff, prospective guests, and potential and current donors / members including "concierge" type projects; Support special events and prep for board meetings; Various Data Entry responsibilities including maintenance and tracking of donor / member programs and events; Update, maintain online membership calendar; act as back up for departmental data entry of contributions; Assist in processing and mailing membership notices; enhance departmental collaboration; record minutes for various meetings, committee functions and support groups; work as liaison w/other MVLA depts. to coordinate donor needs; Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Outgoing, interactive demeanor, enjoys working with diverse groups
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- Excellent customer service and telephone etiquette required
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Ability to manage multiple priorities along parallel tracks and meet deadlines
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Fairfax County Park Authority seeks an assistant pool manager and lifeguards for MLK outdoor pool in the Mt. Vernon/Gum Springs area - \$12.00 & \$8.63 respectively. Lifeguard training is free. Contact John McCarthy at john.mccarthy@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-8549.

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Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads is seeking a part-time driver to provide shuttle service for staff on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Applicants must have a good driving record, excellent interpersonal skills and feel comfortable driving a 14-passenger van. To apply, visit www.goodwinhouse.org or call 703-578-7204/ EOE

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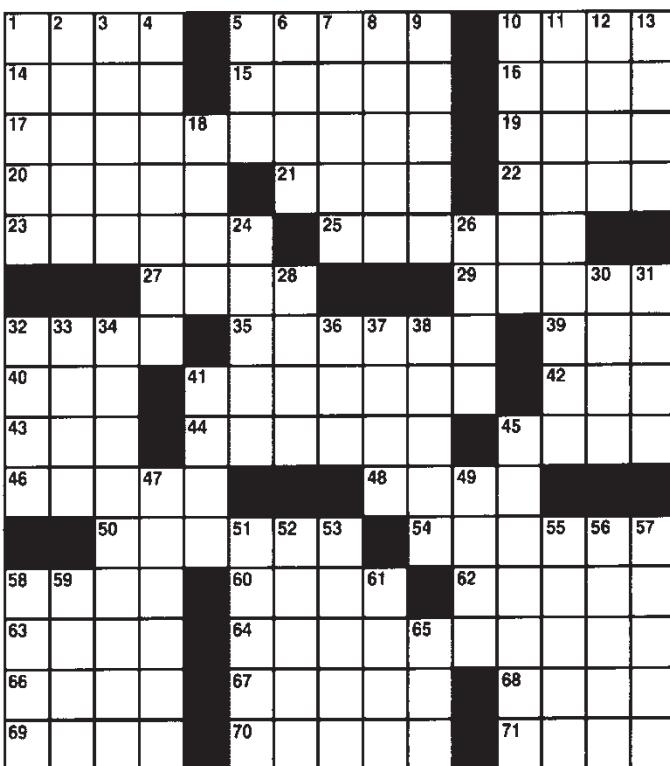
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0308-3



Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

ACROSS

- 1 German river to the North Sea
- 5 Houston N.L.er
- 10 Fictional captain with an ivory leg
- 14 Fishing rod attachment
- 15 Oarsman
- 16 Malcolm X, for Denzel Washington
- 17 Where the President works
- 19 Minute amount
- 20 Jeans material
- 21 Regarding
- 22 Dick and Jane's dog
- 23 Skipped the wedding
- 25 Coin flips
- 27 High-hatter
- 29 Cockeyed
- 32 Seldom seen
- 35 Zoo inhabitants
- 39 Ill temper
- 40 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 41 Sewing groups
- 42 L.B.J.'s successor
- 43 Bed-and-breakfast
- 44 Scrabble unit
- 45 Yards in passing, e.g.
- 46 Accepted doctrine
- 48 Shrink—
- 50 Yellowbelly
- 54 Draw out
- 58 Auto racer A. J.
- 60 Sticky stuff
- 62 Hole— (ace)
- 63 "That hurts!"
- 64 Camelot fixture
- 66 Iwo Jima, e.g.
- 67 Hot coal
- 68 Study for finals
- 69 Lustful look
- 70 — Park, Col.
- 71 Makes bales for the barn
- 6 Davenport
- 7 Chubby Checker's dance
- 8 Front of a sheet of paper
- 9 Nabisco cookies
- 10 Crops up
- 11 Dress for Scarlett O'Hara
- 12 Choir voice
- 13 Tuckered out
- 18 Harbinger
- 24 "The Many Loves of — Gillis"
- 26 Words of disrespect
- 49 Came down to earth
- 51 Be in harmony
- 52 Motel units
- 53 Harbor suspicions
- 55 Snake charmer's snake
- 56 Dental filling
- 57 Abounds
- 58 Aluminum sheet
- 59 River in England
- 61 Where gramps jounces junior
- 65 A.M.A. members

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



DOWN

- 1 Wear away, as earth
- 2 Carpenter's tool
- 3 Community gambling game
- 4 Area south of the White House, with "the"
- 5 Poodle's bark

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers each week, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name and the puzzle number, to Paula, fax #703-917-0998!

The winner of puzzle #0306-3 is:

F.J. Pepper

And an extra special nod to GALE Pierce!

Write On!

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I have never been a knight in shining armor. Nor have I ever been a man in uniform (Cub Scouts and organized team sports notwithstanding). Certainly I have been a fish out of water and on occasion, I will admit to having been a bit of a wallflower. I may not be the most memorable character you'll ever meet, but nor am I totally forgettable, either. I try not to take up too much space (figuratively speaking) and require very little attention as well. Left alone, I will not wither and die.

Basically, I need to be fed and watered daily, just like our mini rex rabbit, Chester; he seems fairly content to nibble his kibble, crinkle his nose, drink his water, inhale his kale, and toss his toys from side to side and seems not bitter at all when he uses his litter. When out and about (about 30 minutes a day), he hops and chews everything in sight, and a few things we can't see so he needs to be monitored at all times (not unlike some people I know).

Left well enough alone, he will cause goat-like carnage in the house (he's an indoor bunny). He's already chewed Comcast cable wires, "Monster" brand stereo cables, newspapers and magazines, the fringe on Oriental rugs, upholstery and anything and everything he can get his buck teeth on. As simple and mundane as his routine/life appears to be, he seems content, so far as we know. I mean, we haven't received any complaints as yet, and he's been a member of the family going on five years.

It seems like the responsibilities I have — and fulfill — with respect to care-giving our animals (four at present; two cats, one dog and of course, Chester), are the closest I'll get to wearing shining armor. And yet, I'll likely never know if that's how my actions are perceived. Will a cat rubbing his hind quarters against my leg or curling his tail under my nose mean love, gratitude and appreciation? Or will he merely be scratching an itch and I'm the closest thing around? Does my dog Bailey's close proximity to my body indicate his love for me or am I simply protection from a nearby draft or is it a non-verbal queue to "treat" him as soon as I get up? Is Chester's licking of my hand yet another sign of love and affection or is it, as my wife, Dina, has suggested, merely his need for salt and moisture (a salt lick is a recommended in-cage necessity for rabbits)?

Obviously the animals can't talk to me (unless this was a Disney movie), but their actions speak volumes, right? I am their hero, their universe, their savior. Without me (and Dina, too) their life would be difficult, incomplete you might say. Their eyes, their focused glares, tell me all I need to know. And though they are not blood relatives, they are family nonetheless and providing their cradle to grave needs gives me a certain stature — and pride — that I don't think I would otherwise have, nor have ever had not having been in uniform — or armor — in my life (not counting Halloween, either).

Granted, there's more to life than animal magnetism, but given my modest demands and familial associations, I'm fairly content to walk quietly — and write weekly — as to my comings and goings, misgivings, faults and foibles and stick it to the man; that man most often being me. It's easy to take shots at others, anybody can do that. I'd rather stick to the subject matter I know best; me, myself and I. It may not be much but it beats the alternative.

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

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DONATED PHOTO BY LARRY FRANKLIN

Excavation is in process for underground mechanical, electrical and plumbing for the central utility plant building.

New NGA Under Construction

FROM PAGE 3

east of the Mississippi, at least for the military," Augsburger said.

An estimated 8,500 employees will relocate to the EPG from their offices in Bethesda, Reston and the Potomac Navy Yard.

All this construction work has been underway without any complaints from residents near the site, said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

"The good thing is, the site is big and heavily wooded, so much of the construction activity is isolated," he said. "I haven't had a single complaint from anyone who lives near there."

McKay said the new NGA headquarters is one of only a few projects he believes will be completed on time, by the September 2011 deadline established by Congress.

"I think the work at the EPG and the work on the hospital are the only things that are moving along and can complete the original schedule," he said. "The

right of way is in place for the rest of the Fairfax County Parkway (which will run through the EPG), and all the environmental work is done."

One major project still awaiting resolution is the future home of the Washington Headquarters Services, which just signed a three-year lease at its current location in Crystal City, McKay said. With about one-third of all BRAC-related employees transferring from that location to an as-yet-undetermined future site, that piece of the BRAC puzzle will most likely not meet the September 2011 deadline.

"We're starting to see lots of concrete being poured, things are slowly starting to move upwards."

— Chris Augsburger

right of way is in place for the rest of the Fairfax County Parkway (which will run through the EPG), and all the environmental work is done."

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Comm Yard Sale 5/17, 8-1
r/d 5/18 Raceway Farms, Newington, VA off Telegraph Rd. bet Beulah & Ffx Co Pkwy.

Kingstowne/Alexandria Community-wide Yard Sale
Sat 5/17, 8am-5pm. Rain Date 5/18, 8am-5pm. Off Beltway bet. Franconia/Beulah and Franconia/Springfield.

Mt Vernon Manor/Mt Zephyr Community Yard Sales.

Sat 17 May 8 am. Over 350 S GW Pkwy. R Old Mill Road. R Gateshead

Multi-fam yard sale, Sat 5/17, 9-1, 3591 Stephens ct, off Rt 235 baby items, furn, powr wash, h/h goods rugs, jewelry

29 Misc. for Sale

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7 PC Cherry Sleigh Bedroom set - Brand new in boxes, Worth \$1200+ (Can help deliver) Asking \$575 571-926-1990

4 RE for Sale**4 RE for Sale****29 Misc. for Sale**

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New Plans For Kings Crossing

FROM PAGE 7

ANOTHER PROPOSAL brought to the group Monday night sought their approval for having a carnival on the Kings Crossing site in June to benefit the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce fundraising efforts. JBG Rosenfeld gave the Chamber their approval "if the community approves," ac-

cording to Holly Dougherty, Chamber executive director.

"We have had carnivals along the Route 1 corridor before but most of the sites previously used are now built out and there is not enough room. The carnival needs 80,000 square feet of space," Dougherty explained.

Known as "Jolly Shows," the carnival is a family business based in

Annapolis, according to Dougherty. It would be located on the site for one or two weeks and would close weekday nights at 10 p.m. and weekend nights at 11:30 p.m., Dougherty said.

She acknowledged that both Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland and Mount Vernon District Substation Commander Mike Kline, Fairfax County Police,



One potential use of the Penn Daw Properties' land on Route 1 is for development of mixed office/retail space.

have expressed objections to bringing the carnival to the Kings Crossing site. Hyland stated he was not in favor of the idea during the Chamber's recent "State of the Districts" luncheon but gave no reason. Jolly Shows brings its carnival to Alexandria City each year. It is usually located in the front parking area of Landmark Mall on Duke Street.

After a series of questions to Dougherty on various aspects of the carnival, SBCA members voted 11 to six in favor of having the carnival at the JBG site with several caveats to prevent impinge-

ment upon nearby neighborhoods.

But, as Dale pointed out, "This does not mean that there is any guarantee this will go forward." As Dougherty noted, "Carnivals are tightly regulated by Fairfax County."

The carnival is being proposed this year to aid the Chamber's fund raising efforts due to the fact that one of their primary events had to be canceled, according to Dougherty. Each year the Chamber provides approximately \$6,000 in college scholarship aid to deserving high school graduates.

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OPEN FORUM PUBLIC HEARING
Rolling Road (Route 638)
in Fairfax County

will be held on Thursday June 12, 2008 between 5 and 8 p.m.
West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road, Springfield (zip 22152)

Find out about a proposal to widen Rolling Road to four lanes from 0.369 mile north of the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) northerly to the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road (Route 644). The project length will be approximately 1.40 miles of Rolling Road.

Review the proposed project plans depicting the major design features and the environmental documentation, prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the form of a Categorical Exclusion, at the public hearing or before the hearing at VDOT's Northern Virginia District office located at 14685 Avion Parkway in Chantilly, telephone number (703) 383-2000 or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to assure the appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. Property impacts, right of way policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above addresses and will be available at the public hearing.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be available at the hearing.

Give your written or verbal comments at the hearing or submit them by June 22, 2008, to Mr. Doug Miller, VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly, Virginia 20151-1104. You may also e-mail your comments to us at: Meeting_Comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Rolling Road, Fairfax County, PH Comment" in the subject heading.

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State Project: 0638-029-156, PE-104, RW-204, C-504;
UPC: 5559; Federal Project: STP-5401(691)

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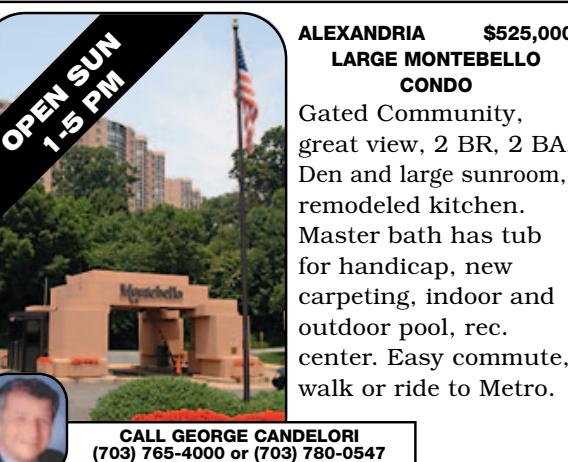
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