

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Vol. XIX, No. 31

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

JULY 31, 2008

Slower Is Faster

This is the most urban setting ever for using a variable speed limit.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Drivers on the Capital Beltway, traveling in the area of the Telegraph Road Interchange Project, as of Monday, July 28, became technological and sociological guinea pigs. They have unknowingly volunteered their driving psyche to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

An innovative traffic management system, dubbed Variable Speed Limit (VSL), is now in effect on the Inner Loop from the Maryland shoreline through the Telegraph Road Interchange work zone and on the Outer Loop and from the Springfield Interchange through that work zone. Its primary purpose is to keep traffic moving by slowing it down intermittently as bottlenecks develop.

This will be done through the eyes of 18 strategically placed roadway sensors and cameras monitored 24/7 from a control center at the WWB Project headquarters on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria. As the specially trained observer sees a backup occurring at a given spot on their flat screen monitors they have the ability to change the

SEE SLOWER, PAGE 25

ART An Authentic Space

Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald emerges to launch a new gallery.

When you see the colorful, abstract, and sometimes surreal art of Andrew Macdonald, you know you're looking at something that's not just a painting, but a piece of his life. Macdonald, who served as the city's vice mayor from 2003 to 2007, is now launching a new gallery in the heart of the city. The gallery, which is located in a historic building, will feature Macdonald's work, as well as that of other local artists. Macdonald, who is a self-taught artist, has been painting for over 20 years. His work is characterized by bold colors and abstract shapes. He has exhibited his work in various galleries and museums throughout the country. The new gallery, which is located in a historic building, will feature Macdonald's work, as well as that of other local artists. Macdonald, who is a self-taught artist, has been painting for over 20 years. His work is characterized by bold colors and abstract shapes. He has exhibited his work in various galleries and museums throughout the country.

Other Items
New and Upcoming Exhibits
The "Old World" by Tom Aug. 8 through Sept. 14 at the Art Center, 1000 N. 1st St., Alexandria, Va. 703-448-6000.
"The World is My Canvas" by Tom Aug. 8 through Sept. 14 at the Art Center, 1000 N. 1st St., Alexandria, Va. 703-448-6000.
"The World is My Canvas" by Tom Aug. 8 through Sept. 14 at the Art Center, 1000 N. 1st St., Alexandria, Va. 703-448-6000.



Haley Maxwell tries out the hula hoops at the sixth annual Luau hosted by Amanda Jordan. The benefit was to raise money for the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research. For more see page 10.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Foreclosure Hot Spots on Route 1

There seems to be more acceptance than anger this time around.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

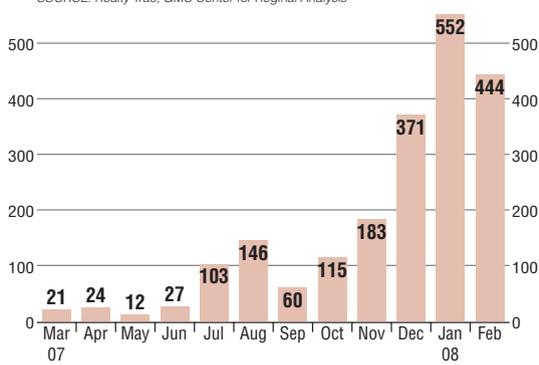
In a rare Saturday session July 26 the U. S. Senate joined the U.S. House of Representatives in passing legislation to aide home owners facing the prospect of foreclosure. President Bush has agreed to sign the bill.

However, as helpful as the legislation may be, it is not the be all and end all of the housing market meltdown. That will occur when market inventory decreases substantially, now estimated nationally at an 11 month supply, time on the market decreases in the most hard hit areas, and prices, which elevate equity, again begin to escalate without triggering a sharp rise in interest rates.

The new legislative bailout applies to the national mortgage picture. As noted in the opening sentence of a recent Washington Area Council of Governments (COG) report on the housing/mortgage situation, "The United States is in the midst of the largest foreclosure crisis in recent times."

Foreclosures in Fairfax County

SOURCE: Realty Trac, GMU Center for Regional Analysis



homebuyer base and led to home price escalation," according to the COG report. Between March 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008, more than 15,000 homes went into foreclosure throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area, COG reported.

But, it is not only the owners of foreclosed properties that suffer, according to COG, "Neighborhoods suffer as foreclosed properties often attract vandalism, crime, and unhealthy conditions." Foreclosed properties also can have an adverse impact on adjacent property values.

But, as they also note the Washington regional market is better off than many others throughout the nation. The reasons being the relatively low unemployment rate and the resilience of this area's economy, which still relies heavily on federal government activities even though it has become much more diversified.

"The foreclosure problem has been driven by subprime mortgages and speculative activity, both of which broadened the

Although most of the foreclosures in Northern Virginia have occurred in the outlying areas, western Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties, which COG referred to as "hot spots," they also emphasized, "There are several neighborhoods across the COG region where foreclosure activity was moderate in 2007 but is rising dramatically."

Among these impending "hot spots" is the SEE FORECLOSURE, PAGE 24

ENTERTAINMENT



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Gorgeous Renovation of Five-Bedroom Del Ray Home!

Beautiful, completely renovated home in the heart of Del Ray. This large, five-bedroom, four-bath home has a wrap around front porch, main-level bedroom, family room off the kitchen and a gorgeous upper level. This home is like new with everything you can imagine. Walk to everything in Alexandria's most popular neighborhood!

Sue Goodhart
703.263.8321 www.suegoodhart.com
MLS ID# AX6764716



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The WOW Factor Lives Here!

You will be amazed at how open and bright this Del Ray townhouse is! The open living room is accented by beautiful archways, granite counters and a serving bar between kitchen and dining room. Upstairs find three bedrooms and one bath. Finished basement has laundry and full bath, too. Off-street parking - walk to Braddock Metro - swing on the front porch, the works! See pics at www.jenwalker.com.

Jennifer Walker
703.675.1566 www.jenwalker.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$789,000



A Rare Find - Totally Updated Waywood Colonial

This four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home is brand new inside and out. Kitchen with Silestone counters and stainless appliances, updated baths, sunroom with winter views of the Potomac, new paint and crown molding, new windows, huge fenced level yard with custom landscaping. Perfect location one block from the river.

Vicki Binkley
703.994.0778 www.vickibinkley.com
MLS ID# FX6828812



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Urban Walkability

Freshly renovated brick townhouse with off-street parking is centrally located close to Braddock Metro and North Old Town (Trader Joe's, Blockbuster, 2 blocks from Monarch Starbucks, etc). Features reclaimed include heartpine floors, kitchen cabinets and counters. Two bedrooms and two baths. Leave your car in the driveway and take Metro to work!

Paul Anderson
703.408.0676 www.paulvanderanderson.com
MLS ID# AX6803239



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$749,000



Urban Elegance

This wonderfully remodeled free-standing townhouse just off King Street steps from Metro and Whole Foods features spacious rooms, marble baths, a Juliette balcony, an eat-in gourmet kitchen and off-street parking for two cars. Virtual tour and more information online at www.paulvanderanderson.com.

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Lynhaven	2 bedrooms/2 baths	\$1,600/mo.	MLS ID# AX6820653
Montebello	2 bedrooms/2 baths	\$1,650/mo.	MLS ID# AX6827639
Mt Woodley Manor	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$2,000/mo.	MLS ID# FX6823446
Olde Mill	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$2,100/mo.	MLS ID# FX6826017
Cameron Station	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$2,750/mo.	MLS ID# AX6757923
Kings Hundred	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$2,800/mo.	MLS ID# AX6825725
Temple Terrace	4 bedrooms/3.5 baths	\$3,200/mo.	MLS ID# AX6820669
Mount Vernon Park	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$3,500/mo.	MLS ID# AX6830083
Old Town	4 bedrooms/3.5 baths	\$6,200/mo.	MLS ID# AX6820503

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Funeral: Overflow Crowd, Heartfelt Tributes

The man and public servant, is honored for his character.

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

There is a saying, "Eagles don't flock. You have to find them one at a time." That may be true. But, eagles can draw a flock to them. Particularly if he is a natural born leader.

That was proven beyond a shadow of a doubt last Wednesday afternoon, July 23, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mount Vernon District when an overflow crowd packed the main church and an adjoining room to pay their last respects to former State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. It was truly a gathering of eagles, as well as everyday citizens. With the latter being at the heart of his 28 years of public service in the Virginia State Senate.

Gartlan died July 18 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital after a short illness. He was 82.

The 90 minute Mass of Christian Burial encompassed both a tribute to his years of service as well as to the life he lived and the standards he set, for both himself and those who would be his friends and those be befriended. In the words of William Shakespeare, describing the life and death of another Senator in his play Julius Caesar, "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man."

But Joseph Gartlan's gentleness did not impede a fiercely dedicated approach to accomplishing the goals he felt would make the world a better place, especially when it came to aiding those he viewed as inordinately vulnerable and the environment. As stated by Father Matthew Hillyard, one of four participating priests, at the outset of the service celebrating Gartlan's life, "Joe loved his Catholic faith and the Democratic Party."

The latter was attested to by the presence of two former Virginia governors, past and present cabinet members, State and local legislators, and various representatives of the Democrat establishment. The former was evidenced by the service itself.

Father Hillyard also noted that he was surprised to see the Gartlan family seated on the right side of the church. "They always sit on the left side, as would be expected of such a devout Democratic family," Hillyard stated to the crowd's enjoyment.

"Our presence here is a small

token of our support for the family. Joseph Gartlan fell in love and stayed in love with all that he championed — family and causes. The Gospel guided Joe's entire life," Hillyard told the audience.

"Joe Gartlan's life teaches us that integrity and character are always a part of both our public and private lives. At the base of what we do here today is Christian love. Love conquers everything — even death," Hillyard said.

Those sentiments were echoed by former Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles who described Gartlan as, "A public servant, private man, and friend of many. His insistence on goals often prompted me to refer to him as Saint Joe The Gartlan. He never found an adequate substitute for public service."

Referencing Gartlan's influence and pow-

ers of persuasion, Baliles noted that those characteristics sprang from his "keen intellect that exerted power far beyond" his thirty sixth Senatorial District. "I appreciated most of all his integrity and commitment," Baliles said.

"Joe Gartlan's genetic code was a man of many personal drives. His first rule was "Be a legislator of unbending principles. The first of which was remain flexible at all times," according to Baliles and drawing more laughter.

"He believed strongly that we are all stewards of this earth. None of his efforts were more significant than those on behalf of mental health," Baliles said.

He was followed to the podium by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland who recalled that his first encounter with Gartlan was as a young lawyer who faced off against the very accomplished late Senator while arguing a case in a Loudoun County Court room years ago. "That was something I will never forget," he said.

Speaking of Gartlan's involvement in a myriad of local causes following his retirement in 2000 from the Virginia Senate, Hyland acknowledged, "Joe never really retired. When he came to Mason Neck I gained a very active and

vocal new constituent."

Citing Gartlan's participation on the Citizens Alliance Rescue Effort, CARE, created to preserve and enhance Inova Mount Vernon Hospital when it was rumored that Inova Health System planned

to close it, Hyland noted the irony of the timing of Gartlan's death. On the night that IHS representatives met with CARE's off spring, the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, July 16, to guarantee the hospital's future, Gartlan was unexpectedly absent. Unbeknownst to his fellow Task Force members he was a patient in that very hospital a short walk from the Mount Vernon Government Center meeting site.

"Joe's service on the Task Force was a major factor in our success. Preserving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital was the last victory he achieved," Hyland said.

Hyland had established a special web site for people to send their remembrances of Gartlan. He read a number of them to the audience including one from State Senator Linda T. "Toddy" Puller who succeeded Gartlan in representing the 36th Senatorial District.

In closing Hyland thanked the Gartlan family for "sharing Joe with all the people." He assured them, "We love him. We miss him. But, we will never forget him."

When it came time for the family response, Father Charles McCoart, Jr., pastor, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, spoke for them. He thanked all those in attendance and those who could not be present for all "their support and outpouring of love."

SEE GARTLAN, PAGE 5



Fredona Manderfield Gartlan (center), wife of former State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr., is aided by family members as she leaves Good Shepherd Catholic Church following the Mass of Christian Burial her late husband.



A 12 member Fairfax County Motorcycle Police escort precedes the funeral procession leaving Good Shepherd Catholic Church following the Mass of Christian Burial for former State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE/GAZETTE

THE COUNTY LINE

What's in a Name?

Residents diverge on mailing address changes.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
GAZETTE

The rejection in Richard Seltzer's voice could be heard loud and clear through the receiver of the telephone July 16.

Seltzer, president of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills, lives in Alexandria. Period. He didn't seem happy to hear other people, like Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, might think otherwise.

"These homes have been here since the late '40s and '50s and they have always been in Alexandria," said Seltzer, whose neighborhood is a mile south of Old Town.

"My personal opinion is I like being part of Alexandria," he said.

OF COURSE, Seltzer and his neighbors are not, technically, a part of the City of Alexandria. Hollin Hills is located in Fairfax County, even if it has an Alexandria mailing address.

Many eastern Fairfax residents have Alexandria postal codes, a situation that causes confusion, according to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. During a meeting earlier this month, Hyland floated the idea of contacting the U.S. Postal Service and surveying his "Alexandria" constituents to see if they would like to change their mailing address to something else, like "Mount Vernon, Va."

The Fairfax County board backed Hyland's request, with several supervisors saying they understood his concerns. In addition to Hyland, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay also live in and represent county residents in the Alexandria area.

Other supervisors said they have similar problems in other communities — like Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna — which share a mailing address with a neighboring town or city.

BUT THE QUESTION over mailing addresses is about more than where taxes are sent. It is also about a community's identity.

"I think the Mount Vernon District's identity is lost with the same designation as the City of Alexandria. We are different from the city and a distinction is needed. I would love to see us have a Mount Vernon mailing address instead of Alexandria," said Mack Rhoades, president of the Huntington Community Association, in an email. Most people in Rhoades' community would probably vote for the change, he added.

Many Lee District constituents, who do not live in Mount Vernon, would also like to see a change from the Alexandria mail-

ing address because they don't feel any association with the city, said their supervisor.

"I regularly get complaints about it. ... The 'Alexandria portion of Fairfax County' is a community of its own. ... When we say we live in Alexandria, we want people to know that means Fairfax," said McKay.

Still, the community is divided on the issue. There are other county "Alexandria" residents — especially those in the northeast tip — who are oriented to the City of Alexandria and like to be identified with it.

"When I say we live in Alexandria outside the Beltway, people know exactly where we live," said Seltzer.

Like Hollin Hills, Caulley Deringer's community, Belle Haven, is located right outside of Alexandria. Deringer, who is the president of Belle Haven Citizens Association, said his neighbors would probably be adverse to the change in address as well, though the community has not discussed such a proposal.



Some think that the Mantua community should have the option of using "Mantua, Va.," as a mailing address.

THE ISSUE of mailing addresses appeared less divisive in areas of Fairfax County like Herndon and Vienna.

Unlike Alexandria, residents in the Town of Herndon and the Town of Vienna are also considered county constituents and are represented by supervisors on the county board. Town citizens in both places are surrounded and outnumbered by their "county only" counterparts who share the same mailing address.

"The town is about 15,000 in population. ... And greater Vienna is about 60,000. We can't support our commercial district by ourselves," said Edythe Kelleher, a Vienna Town council member.

The town opens a lot of its services, including classes at the community center, to Vienna residents living outside the town and some residents are not quite sure whether they live in the town or not, she said.

"People are confused all the time. If they pay a second tax bill, they know they are in the town," said Kelleher.

Many residents of the "county only" portion of Herndon said they would be opposed to having their mailing address changed.

Occasionally, new residents of the Kingstowne Chase neighborhood are confused. Some assumed that they would be part of the Town of Herndon and would not have to purchase trash collection services, wrote

Silvio Krvaric, president of the subdivision's homeowner's association, in an e-mail.

"To us, the risk of confusion between the various parts of Herndon is small. ... I guess if the residents of the Town of Herndon would like to change its mailing address Herndon Town, Va. that would be up to its residents," he wrote.

UNLIKE Kingstowne Chase, another portion of the "county only"

Herndon community has already developed a different mailing address. Residents in the large section of Herndon with the ZIP code 20171 also goes by the mailing address of Oak Hill, Va.

The change took place in December of 1999, when the Oak Hill post office opened, said Joan McDonald, who works at the branch.

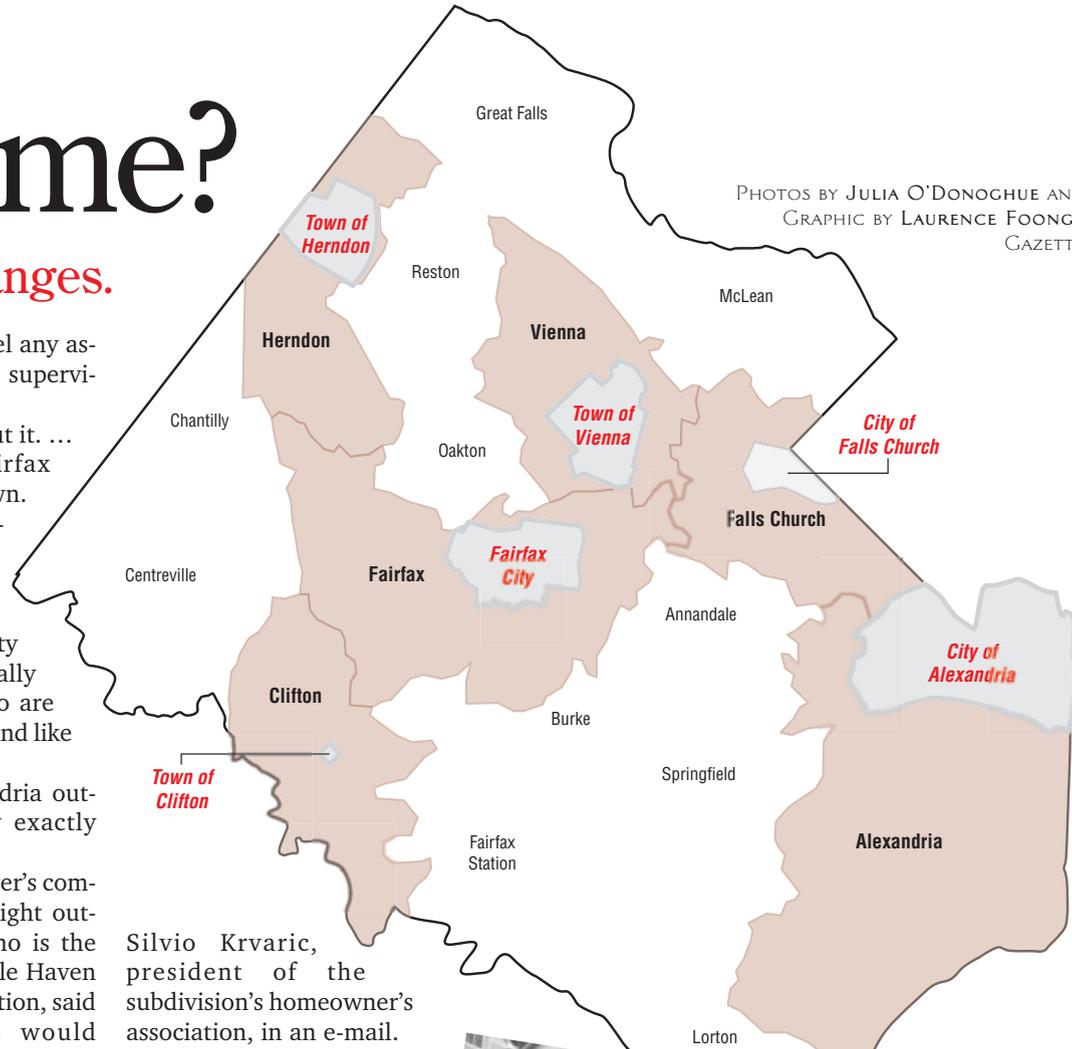
"Developers wanted it to be called Oak Hill for more prestige. ... but the utility bills still say Herndon. They don't recognize Oak Hill," said McDonald, who has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 20 years.

McDonald remembers when there was only the post office in downtown Herndon. Now there are three — Herndon, Reston and Oak Hill.

THIS IS ALSO true in one area of eastern Fairfax County.

Kingstowne, a development with an Alexandria mailing address, has been told it can use "Kingstowne, Va.," postal address because the Kingstowne development takes up almost all of the 22315 ZIP code.

"It is technically Alexandria, Va. but if you



PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE AND GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/GAZETTE



Residents who live in Belle Haven would likely be opposed to changing their address from "Alexandria" to "Mount Vernon."

write in Kingtowne, Va., it gets to the same place. It is just not that big of a deal if it says Kingstowne or Alexandria as long as it has the right ZIP code," said McKay.

Other large community developments could be interested in a similar arrangement.

Roger Cryan, president of the Mantua Citizens Association, said it would make sense for his community, which shares "Fairfax, Va.," postal code with the City of Fairfax, to be able to use "Mantua" and "Fairfax" interchangeably as a mailing address. Mantua takes up nearly the entire 22301 ZIP code, on its own, he said.

"Mantua shows up on a lot of maps, even before other places recognized by the post office," said Cryan.

He added: "This is not really an issue that deserves an awful lot of energy or expense."

Some people believe real estate values and prestige drive community discussions over mailing addresses. Yet Realtors said the name of a community rarely has a lasting impact on its reputation and a community's association with certain areas can change over time. For example, many locals used to associate the mailing address "Lorton, Va.," with the D.C. prison and trash dump 10 years ago. But now, young families have moved in and consider it an attractive place to live, said Jill Landsman, with the Northern Virginia Realtors Association.

"There was a time when neighborhoods in Lorton were depreciating and everything else was appreciating. Now, the Lorton addresses are comparable to other Fairfax neighborhoods," said Landsman.



The Oak Hill post office is a branch of the larger Herndon post office.



The casket of former State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. is lifted into an awaiting hearse outside Good Shepherd Catholic Church following a Mass of Christian Burial.

Gartlan

FROM PAGE 3

"The family feels extremely fortunate to have had Joe for all these years. As his one granddaughter described him, "he was awesome," Father McCoart said.

"His life was exceedingly well lived. And, good or bad you always knew where Joe Gartlan stood and where you stood with him," he said.

Prior to the presentation by Baliles and Hyland several of the Gartlan children and grandchildren read passages of scripture and lead prayers for many causes championed by Senator Gartlan throughout his life — both as a practicing attorney and as a public servant.

Following the service, a large funeral procession, led by a phalanx of Fairfax County Motorcycle Police, accompanied his body to Mount Comfort Cemetery on South Kings Highway where it was interred. Following the burial the family held a reception at the Belle Haven Country Club.

In addition to his wife of 58 years, Fredona Manderfield Gartlan, Senator Gartlan is survived by four sons and two daughters plus seven grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to New Hope Housing, 8407 E. Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309 or United Community Ministries (UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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Alex/Mt. Vernon \$689,900
9200 Forest Haven

One of the most admired homes in all of Mt. Vernon has finally come on the market! This beautiful 6BR, 4BA, 2FPL, Cape Cod also boasts a large 2 car gar & a stunning family rm addition. Perched on a magnificent, landscaped .5 acre lot, it overlooks both Grist Mill Pk & Washington Mill Pk & is only 1 mile from Mt. Vernon Est. A combination of solid old world construction & today's modern conveniences...Beaut refinished hdwd flrs thru-out, freshly painted, energy efficient replacement windows, top of the line 40K roof...the list goes on! Come see us this Sun during our Open House. We'll leave the door open for you.



Alex/Stratford Landing \$684,900
8604 Bluedale Street

From a charming duckling to a beautiful Swan! This lovely 5BR, 3.5BA Colonial has been totally transformed w/ a new beautiful 900 SF addition. A lg spacious kit boasting cathedral ceilings, 8' cherry cabinets, corian counters, lg center island, SS appliances, lg bay window off the breakfast rm, plus newly refin hdwd flrs. Lg formal living rm, freshly painted w/gas FPL. Finished bsmnt w/5th BR & Rec rm. Lg, landscaped corner lot w/fenced back yd.



Alex/Wessynton \$619,000
8806 Anne Tucker Lane

Lovely 4 bedrooms, 3 bath contemporary on a quiet cul-de-sac in premier water-oriented Wessynton. Pristine-freshly painted inter & newly refinished hdwd flrs. 2 FPLs in living room & family room. Tons of storage. Beautiful patio overlooks designer garden & woods. Totally serene. This is Walden Woods! Community tennis courts, pool & boat ramp. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 1 minute to Mt. Vernon Estate & GW Parkway.



Mt. Vernon \$519,000
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 & dining 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/Mt. Vernon \$368,500
8700 Oak Leaf Drive

Charming Cape Cod on a large .55 acre cul-de-sac lot abutting county park land. Best buy in Mt. Vernon. Ideal for expansion, newly refinished hardwood floors. Can't find a home in Mt. Vernon any cheaper! Come take a look.



Alex/Sacramento \$264,900
8702 Village Green Court

Owner said price it to sell-We did!! Best buy in the Villages of Mt. Vernon. Meticulously maintained home w/new carpet, newer kit appliances & a cer tiled floor. Cozy FPL in Fam rm. w/walk-out to fenced back yd. Walk to Metro bus stop & shopping. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir. A buying opportunity comes along like this once every 15 years or so - Grab it!



Alex/Riverside \$475,000
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.

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PEOPLE

Dean Norton: A Mount Vernon Treasure

The award-winning horticulturalist manages the gardens of the country's first president.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

Tropical storms, drought. Cicada swarms, foxes, hungry deer. Fungal diseases, scale, blight. Perhaps not the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, yet these challenges will test anyone caring for 500 acres of grounds and gardens. And oh yes, tend the trees and flowers while a million people a year mill about the place.

“There is no greater honor than to work at such a beautiful and historic place.”

—Dean Norton

unteers to manage both the fifty-acre parcel open to the public and 450 acres of field and forest. He also supervises the green house and the

estate's livestock operations. Moreover, he does all of this with unfailing good cheer.

“I love it here,” he admitted recently. “There is no greater honor than to work at such a beautiful and historic place.” He also confessed that he is more of an administrative horticulturalist now, often chained to his desk answering e-mails instead of tending to plants. “I still walk the grounds everyday and meet with my team, which, by the way, is the best in the historic gardens business.”

Highly regarded by his peers, Norton lectures on the subject of “historically appropriate plants” throughout the country and abroad. Now the vice president of the Southern Garden History Society and he will assume the presidency next year. The Garden Club of America presented Norton with their medal for conservation in 1994. The Daughters of the American Revolution gave him a similar award in 1999, and the American Horticulture Society gave him their 2006 Professional Award. He has appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, and each cable channel dealing with homes, gardens, and history.

“Working with Dean and his staff has been one of the highlights of my six years with the American Horticulture Society,” said Tom Underwood, the society's executive director. “His passion for his work and his sense of humor make him a great ambassador for Mount Vernon, the community, and



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BOHN

Mount Vernon's director of horticulture, Dean Norton, in front of the mansion.

American horticulture.”

Jim Rees, the estate's executive director, echoed Underwood's acclaim: “George Washington had some terrific gardeners in the eighteenth century, but none would have held a candle to Dean.”

Norton, 55, started at Mount Vernon as a Boy Scout playing taps at Washington's tomb. In 1969, while a sophomore at Fort Hunt High School, he volunteered as a garden intern. After graduating from Clemson University with an ornamental horticulture degree, he joined the staff at Mount Vernon in 1977 as the boxwood gardener. He became the estate's horticulturalist three years later.

Norton met his future wife when she hired her to be an intern. “She was too cute to let get away,” he said smoothly, likely having used that line before.

Susanne Schrage-Norton and Dean live with their four daughters in the Woodley Hills neighborhood, just blocks from his office. Maintaining that his hobbies are his children, Norton

actively supports their education. This fall will mark the eleventh year that Norton has been a PTA president—four years at Woodley Hill School, four at Walt Whitman Middle School and three at Mount Vernon High School. He nurtures his community's children as well as flowers.

Coincident with its recent expansion of exhibition buildings, the estate dramatically increased the landscaped portions of the public area. Norton created a list of historically appropriate plants for the landscape architect, and the results are spectacular. Sixty-five large trees form focal points in the newly planted areas. Arlington real estate executive and philanthropist Robert H. Smith funded the “Big Tree” project. “I traveled with Mr. Smith to a nursery in New Jersey during the winter of 2005 to select the trees,” Norton said. “Each was about thirty feet tall and weighed over four tons, including the root ball. We paid between \$17,000 and \$25,000 for each tree. They gave the new areas instant maturity.”

Norton seems as comfortable with public visitors as he is with visiting royalty and dignitaries. He has a ready smile and kind word for everyone, yet is a rigorous and devoted steward of the General's gardens.

His influence pervades the grounds and all recognize his contributions to one of the area's most visited landmarks. “Dean is a true Mount Vernon institution and his green thumbprint is evident everywhere on the estate,” praised Boyce Ansley, Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

Thinking of the old story about the cobbler's wife, I asked Norton what sort of garden he keeps at his home. “A simple one,” he said. “I naturalized it with native shrubs and plants. That's about all I have time for.”



Norton observes while two of his staff trim hedges in the parterre (ground level garden with gravel paths) in Mount Vernon's “pleasure garden.”

Moran Discusses Nation's Debt

Residents say they are concerned about a "debtors culture."

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
GAZETTE

Alexandria resident Marilyn Schimpf has concerns about the United States economy.

Americans and the federal government need to stop sending money overseas. Elected officials also need to find a way to reduce health care costs, she said.

"If you don't curtail medical costs, the [country's] debt is going to continue to grow," said Schimpf.

Her sentiments echoed those of many people in the crowd attending U.S. Rep. Jim Moran's town hall entitled "An Economy on the Brink: A Legacy of Debt, Its Impact on Our Children, and How We Can Break the Cycle," at T.C. Williams High School July 28.

Several people said Americans have to change their mindset when it comes to consumption and saving.

"People have got to get interested in doing something. The crunch is coming soon,"

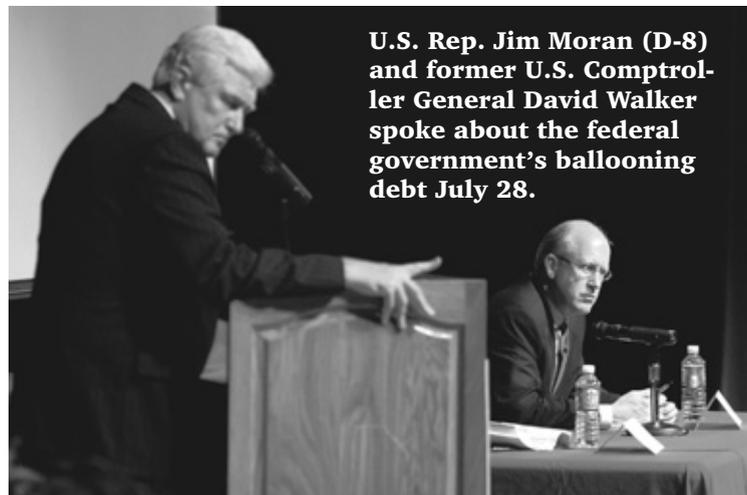
said Don Mela, another City of Alexandria resident.

MORAN (D-8) agrees with Mela, Schimpf and other residents critical of the federal government and Americans personal spending habits.

"The United States has 4.5 percent of the world's population and consumes 26 percent of the world's resources. China has 20 percent of the world's population and consumes two percent of the world's resources," he said.

The congressman invited David Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General and head of the Government Accountability Office, to speak about the impact of the federal government's growing debt on the future. Walker is president of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to addressing financial problems that could threaten the United States well being, he said.

Since March, Walker has traveled to 40 cities and over half of the states educating people on what he believes is the possibility of American financial meltdown. He promoted a new documentary about the



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) and former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker spoke about the federal government's ballooning debt July 28.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

country's fiscal situation called "I.O.U.S.A.," that will be released locally in August.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, Walker said the largest threat to the United States economic stability is rising health care costs.

"This is the thing that could bankrupt America. Health care costs," said Walker. The growth of Social Security is only a minor problem by comparison and, even if the United States pulled out of Iraq entirely tomorrow, it would only reduce the United States financial problem by about five percent, said Walker.

Walker said the Medicare program would start to run deficits this year and projects its trust fund will go entirely dry by 2019.

"In 11 years, Medicare will not be able to pay for its benefits. ... I want you to think about what you were doing 11 years ago. I remember what I was doing and it wasn't that long ago," said Walker.

Fewer businesses are offering health care and those that do have cut back on other kinds of benefits because of the rising cost of insuring employees, said the expert. He advocates that

the government develops over time a universal health care plan that covers "basic and essential health care costs."

He added: "We are the only country on earth that has no budget for health care."

Walker also advocates a ban or severe restrictions on prescription drug advertisements. The federal government is already buying prescription drugs at higher price for some of its health care programs because of companies' advertising programs.

"We are paying for prescription drugs and we know some of the cost is attributable to advertising," said Moran.

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EVENT DETAILS

Sunrise at Lorton Station
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Wednesday, August 6th • 12:00pm
RSVP to Joan at 703-550-2400

Sunrise of Alexandria
With speaker Charles Lanman
Wednesday, August 20th • 12:00pm
RSVP to Diane or Christine at 703-212-9192

Sunrise of Springfield
With speaker Charles Lanman
Tuesday, August 26th • 7:00pm
RSVP to Carla or Stacey at 703-922-6800

Sunrise at Mount Vernon
With speaker William S. Fralin
Wednesday, August 27th • 7:00pm
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OPINION

Seeking More Diversity at TJ

Start by nurturing passion for science in young students from all backgrounds.

Why does it matter how many students of different ethnic or racial groups apply or are accepted to Fairfax County's world-famous math and science magnet school?

The problem isn't so much what happens at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. In a county of more than a million people, and more than 165,000 public school students, the population at TJ is a drop in the bucket.

What matters is how the county is nurturing passion and talent for math, science and other subjects in all 137 elementary schools and then in its 26 middle schools.

In 2004, a Blue Ribbon Commission addressed concerns about under-represented minority groups at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The under represented groups are African-American and Latino students, who do not apply for admission in numbers proportional to their enrollment in the school system.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Navigation Dangers

To the Editor:

As an avid boater on the Potomac River, I am alarmed by the pilings located in the middle of the channel on the south side of the Wilson Bridge. The problem with these pilings, other than being an eyesore, is that they are not lit at night. They are an accident ready to happen to any boater who cruises through the channel at night.

I would prefer that these large, rusting steel posts be taken out of our river but if that is not possible, at least put some lights on them for the safety of night-time boaters.

LaDonna Hale Curzon
Alexandria

Metro Under Stress

To the Editor:

With gas prices over \$4 a gallon, many people are looking to public transit to meet the region's future transportation needs.

That commission recommended that admissions look at students more holistically and depend less on strict cutoffs of grade point averages and test scores.

We don't really know how that "holistic approach" has worked in the admissions trenches. The initial pool of applicants to be considered has about doubled, but the number African-American and Latino applicants has, if anything, decreased.

EDITORIAL

The 2004 commission found black students accounted for 1.1 percent of TJ's students and Hispanics making up 2.4 percent. And though one out of five students in Fairfax County is poor enough to qualify for free and reduced-price meals, only one out of every 100 students at TJ is poor by the same standards.

The student population granted admission for fall 2007 was about 1.86 percent African-American (nine students) and 2.06 percent Hispanic (10 students).

It's time for schools to consider each individual student. Every first grade teacher in every elementary school should be asked to identify a half-dozen to a dozen students who have interest in math and science. All

Unfortunately, increased expectations do not always lead to increased funding. Our region's Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems are under stress and running near capacity. With Metro ridership surging, I question Metro's ability to respond to even minor disruptions in service. Take my experience on Metro Bus last Saturday as an example:

I exited the Pentagon Metro Station at around 11:15 am Saturday, July 19 to board the 11:26 am 10A bus to Hunting Towers. When the bus arrived, a Metro field employee approached the bus before any of the waiting passengers could board and told the driver that the bus was being diverted to provide shuttle service to passengers stranded at Ballston station because it had to be temporarily closed due to a train malfunction. The Metro field employee announced to me and the other waiting passengers that the 11:26 am departure was being cancelled and that the next bus would leave at 11:56 am.

This was not an appropriate solution to

students should be exposed to hands-on science, field work in the natural world and experiments that will light up the interests of young minds.

Of course we know that the current curriculum is supposed to accomplish this, and that high stakes testing in elementary school has also put more focus on certain areas. But we wonder whether the focus on testing has forced more of an academic, paper and pencil approach, rather than investing in the excitement of discovery.

But by having a list starting in first grade and moving forward through elementary school of students with passion for science, the schools will have data and resources to nurture these students. It's a powerful motivator for a teacher to tell a student as young as six or seven or eight that he or she has a special talent or love for science, or math, and that the student might want to consider being a scientist when he or she grows up.

Focusing on individual children in elementary schools that have the highest percentage of poor children is also essential.

This sort of approach will result in more students, of all races and economic background, excelling in math and science across the board, not just at TJ.

But in addition, half the slots at TJ should be assigned by middle school, on a percent-

age basis, so that students from different geographic locations in the county have guaranteed access to the school. And encouraging students who qualify for free-and-reduced meals, students who are from poor families, is also critical.

Real passion for science, the kind of passion that results in young men and women choosing careers in science, is not measured in test scores and grades. It's measured in enthusiasm and attention. If as school board members say, they want to see TJ add to the number of people who go on to be leaders in math and science, they'll have to find a way to foster and measure passion and interest.

A recent proposal to have a 3.0 grade point cutoff for applicants is not a step in that direction.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Applying to TJ

Eighth grade students who live with their parent or legal guardian who resides full-time in a participating school district (the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, or Prince William or the city of Falls Church) are eligible to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/tj.htm>, or <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions/>

the problem at Ballston. First, Metro had no way to communicate the cancellation of this bus to passengers waiting at the many stops along the route, and this diversion also prevented the bus from making its next scheduled return trip from Hunting Towers. The bus that was diverted would require at least 20 minutes to travel from the Pentagon to Ballston Station and would be able to carry at most 55 passengers, when hundreds of people were stranded. Since Metro has a bus yard in the Ballston area that doesn't operate on weekends, it would have made much more sense to open up that yard and use the empty buses there to provide shuttle service. Additionally, Metro was running Blue and Yellow line trains between Pentagon City and Braddock Road once every 36 minutes because of scheduled track maintenance, so passengers left stranded by this bus diversion did not have the option of riding the train farther south to catch a bus in the opposite direction.

Metro's response to the problem at

Ballston caused major delays on bus routes where problems did not before exist and was a poor solution to the underlying rail service problem. I depend on Metro service because I choose not to own a car. I want our region to have a reliable, flourishing public transportation network. Without a combination of better oversight and management, full funding commitments by all regional jurisdictions, and a willingness of citizens to pay into the system, the future of Metro looks bleak.

Kim Herter
Alexandria

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
Call: 703-917-6431.

By e-mail:
maweber@connectionnewspapers.com

Mount Vernon Gazette

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PHOTO BY BRITTNEY FERGUSON

The interior of Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream

Mom and Pop Shop Welcomes Neighbors

A locally owned business attempts to still give a mom and pop feel to the Mount Vernon area.

BRITTNEY FERGUSON
GAZETTE

Mom and Pop's restaurants are the locally owned food stops where people look for a family oriented atmosphere. Among these locally owned Mom and Pop restaurants in the Mount Vernon area is Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream located on the corner of Cooper Road and Richmond Highway.

This Mom and Pop venue has been in business for over 20 years, as the menu describes, and remains to be the local stop that people know.

Mike Elliott, a customer, said "we come here frequently...since they have been open. But I have known them since I was a little kid."

The locally owned restaurant has had "two or three owners and we took it over" said Mike Hill, who is a co-owner of Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream. "We just took over the first of May," said Claudia Hill, his wife and co-owner.

said "I worked for a guy who built restaurants" and this was one of them. In fact, "a lot of people around here know him" said Claudia Hill referring to Ralph Roof, a retired business man.

But this restaurant is among many businesses which are locally owned by the Hills. For instance, Claudia Hill said she also owns Johnny Mac's Rib Shack, which is a couple miles down the road, and Crazy Cuts, which resides within the same shopping center as Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream.

Its "a comfortable place" said Mike Hill acknowledging the room. Claudia Hill said "It brings people back to the 1950s thoughts" from the bar stools and tables. With the atmosphere of the small restaurant and the family management, including their son Jimmy Hill, Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream provides a very personal experience.

Where and When

Tubby's Chili Parlor and Ice Cream is located at 8723 Cooper Rd Alexandria. It is open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"20 years ago it was strictly ice cream and we changed it over," said Claudia, "we can't do ice cream only." But "we follow the Tubby's receipt, the original Tubby's receipt" that is made with "a batch freeze machine" said Claudia. Ice cream flavors include chocolate, vanilla and strawberry but "we do serve smoothies" said Claudia.

The restaurant also gives a little southern taste with the chili, hamburgers, hot dogs, and Barbeque that can be found on their menu along with their homemade desserts.

When asked their specialization, Claudia said "North Carolina Barbeque" made with vinegar and spices. Mike said "We bake our bread too."

When asked what he normally orders, Elliott said "The Chili Mac or the hamburger... [or] the chocolate custard." The Chili Mac Claudia said includes "chili with Spaghetti noodles, sour cream, and cheese" and can be customized by the diner's preference.

Claudia Hill said it is "a place for people to go that's not very expensive. We try to keep our price down." As an example, she said the "cheapest thing is like a hamburger [\$ 4] or a chili dog [\$ 2.50] combo." When asked the most expensive item, she said "there really isn't...We really wanted to do something people could afford."

Besides their customer-based community, the Hills also want to help the Mount Vernon community. Claudia Hill said "We try to do things to support the local schools. It helps the school and helps the kids." As an example, she said she was helping schools sports by participating in a discount card for local businesses which can be purchased through school athletes for sports such as basket ball.

Mom and pop bring a personal touch to customers. And they show us the bits and pieces of the historical community that remains. Claudia said "It brings friendliness in."

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COMMUNITY



Scott Walton dances with his daughter Amber.



Jeb Brewer greets party hostess Amanda Jordan at the gate.



Calabash served up a feast for the luau, roast pig, cole slaw, fresh fruit salad and more.

Luau Night

Amanda Jordan hosted her sixth annual Luau last Saturday evening, this time to raise funds for the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research. The luau offered food including the traditional pig roast, hula dancers, Lionel Ward and the New World Band, plus games for the children. By the time the party began they had raised \$5,100.



Amanda Jordan dances with her dad Edward "Bud" Jordan of Alexandria/Collingwood.



Raymond D. Robinson and his daughter Rachel.



James Brewer Jr. and Addley Saimbert Jr. try their skills out on a rocking surfboard at the luau.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE

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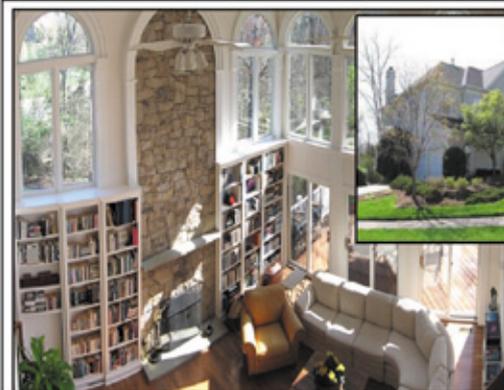
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CRIME

Home Rental Scam Info Sought

Richard K. Hiner, 31, of 1585 Kacy Court, Catlett, VA, was arrested by Fairfax County Police in connection with a series of rental home scams between July 13 and 18, according to police. The alleged scams involved properties in the Franconia, Rose Hill, and Huntley Meadows areas.



Richard K. Hiner

Police were notified of four separate incidents where potential renters were defrauded of money after signing contracts on rental homes. In each case the victims found the rentals advertised on Craigslist, according to police.

After reportedly contacting Hiner, the person identified in the Craigslist advertisement, the victims toured the home, signed a rental contract, and provided payment toward the rental. They later learned that Hiner was not affiliated with the properties and that the homes were actually bank-owned and in foreclosure, according to the police report.

Detectives, posing as potential renters, responded to the ad and arrested Hiner when he arrived for the meeting after determining that he had no affiliation with

the property. He was charged with four counts of grand larceny by false pretense and three counts of burglary.

With the investigation ongoing, detectives would like to hear from anyone who may have additional information on these rental home scams.

Police Seek Citizens' Aid

Captain Michael Kline, commander, Mount Vernon Station, Fairfax County Police, is seeking the public's assistance in locating a witness to the attack of a off-duty police officer on July 13. The witness apparently recorded the incident and subsequent arrest of the accused on their cell phone but left the scene before they could be identified.

At approximately 9:40 p.m. on July 13 an officer from the Mount Vernon District Police Station was assaulted at the Route 1 Ladson Lane bus stop on the Springfield Gardens side of Route 1, according to Kline. The suspect was arrested.

"During the course of the investigation, one witness indicated that there was another witness who appeared to be recording the case on a cell phone video camera. The witness left without providing information on who they were or how to contact them," Kline said.

Police are requesting that this witness contact Sergeant Robert Blakley at the

Mount Vernon District Station, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon District, or call him at 703-360-8842. He can also be reached via email at Robert.Blakley@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

Convenience Store Robbed

Two employees of the Super High Mini-Mart, 7708 Gunston Plaza, were robbed at gunpoint on Thursday, July 24, at approximately 10:32 p.m., according to Fairfax County Police. The suspect fled on foot from the rear of the store after forcing one of the victims to open the rear door.

The suspect was described as white, in his 20's, about five feet seven inches tall and weighing an estimated 165 pounds. He was wearing dark jeans and a black mask.

Suspects Sought In 7-11 Robbery

Police are seeking two suspects in the robbery of a 7-11 store at 8010 Richmond Highway on Friday, July 25, at approximately 12:30 a.m. Two men entered the store armed with a handgun, demanded money, assaulted the 52 year-old clerk, and fled with an undetermined amount of cash. The victim was transported to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and treated for non life-threatening injuries, according to police.

The suspects, between the ages of 18 and

20, were described as black wearing black T-shirts and blue jeans. One was between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall with an average build. The other was between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall with an average build.

Arrest Made In Hybla Valley Armed Robbery

Wilfredo Rodriguez-Quinteros, 31, of no fixed address, was arrested by Fairfax County Police and charged in the armed robbery of a 30 year old man as he walked in the 3300 block of Sparrow Court around 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 24.

Rodriguez-Quinteros allegedly approached the victim with a hand gun and demanded money. When the victim acknowledged he did not have any money, the suspect slapped the victim and fled, police reported. The victim was not injured, police said. The suspect was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

In each of the crime cases police are asking that anyone with information contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or email at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIME/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

—CHUCK HAGEE

Washington's Whiskey Available Aug. 4

George Washington's whiskey will once again be available for sale beginning Aug. 4. The commemorative whiskey sets contain a shot glass and a 50 mL bottle of whiskey consisting of 11 different whiskey brands blended and aged at Mount Vernon Estate in 2005.

The gift set, at \$25 each, is available for purchase in person with a valid ID at the Shops at Mount Vernon or at Washington's restored distillery next to the Gristmill on Route 235, three miles from the Estate. It makes its debut just in time for the "Whiskey Rebellion" reenactment at the Distill-

ery and Gristmill on Aug. 9 and 10.

Due to Virginia ABC laws, the Estate is allowed to sell the whiskey only from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The re-enactment of The Whiskey Rebellion occurs just two days after the anniversary of President George Washington's proclamation that called out the militia in 1794 to enforce the law and quell the Pennsylvania rebellion which occurred due to opposition to a tax on whiskey production. It includes a military encampment, military drills, music, open-hearth cooking, and cos-

tumed dramatic performances.

Visitors will witness young men debating at the Gristmill whether to take up arms against their fellow citizens of the new nation. See what happens when the irascible miller tries to convince the young patriots to stay home.

When President Washington ordered up militia forces to enforce taxation on whiskey distillers in Pennsylvania, it was the first test of federal authority in the nation's young history. The defense of the constitutional powers of the federal government was at stake, and, gristmills, which served as community centers in the 18th century,

would have been the setting for debate when people took their grain to be ground and exchange information.

Fast forward in time and meet Washington's distiller, who reflects five years after the rebellion on how the Whiskey Rebellion solidified the laws of the country. Tour the Gristmill and Distillery as costumed workers operate both buildings. Enjoy the tastes of food made from cornmeal, and purchase cornmeal ground at the Gristmill.

It's all included in the regular admission to Washington's Distillery and Gristmill at \$4 for adults; \$2 for youth ages six to 11; and free for children age five and younger.

MOUNT VERNON BULLETIN

To have a notice listed in the Bulletin, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, the **Mount Vernon Genealogical Society** (MVGS) will meet in room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The meeting will feature a presentation entitled "Trades, Occupation, Business: How Did They Make A Living." 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.

The **Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary** is currently accepting applications for adult volunteers. A variety of positions are available and every effort is made to match the volunteer's availability, interests, and abilities. The hospital is located at 2501 Parkers Lane in Alexandria. Call 703-664-7260

or visit www.inova.org for more information.

Seniors 50 years of age and over are eligible to enter the 2008 **Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** to be held Sept. 20-Oct. 2. Registration information is available now at local senior centers, community centers, senior residences or by calling 703-228-3600, ext. 9996. They can also be downloaded online at www.novaseniorolympics.com. Registration deadline is Sept. 5.

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 further information and to obtain an application, call 703-324-5422, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman.

Sign-up for "Master the Art of Reading," the

Fairfax County Public Library's 2008 Summer Reading Program. The library invites kids from preschool to high school to enjoy the magic of reading this summer. The program runs through August 30. Preschoolers through sixth graders read 15 books. (Children can have books read to them.) Students in grades 7-12 read eight books. Visit the library's Web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library>.

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. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance 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.

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. Washington created the garden during his 1775 redesign of the Mount Vernon grounds, transforming a circa 1760 rectangular garden into an elliptical space bounded by a brick wall as well as a greenhouse and slave quarter to the north.

Opportunities to volunteer are available Monday through Friday; in addition, we will be working on Saturdays during the months of July and August. Work hours are between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. A typical week includes lab work on Monday and field work Tuesday through Friday; lab work is also carried out on rain days. Contact Curt Breckenridge at cbreckenridge@mountvernon.org or 703-799-6303 if you would be interested in volunteering.



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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



3806 WESTGATE DRIVE | \$625,000
Classic brick colonial on beautiful half acre lot on one of George Washington's original farms. The 6BR/3BA home features an eat-in kitchen, formal dining room and living room with fireplace. The lower level has a large family room with fireplace. The Master BR suite has its own bathroom and walk-in closet.

CINDIE FISH | 703.201.4451 MT VERNON

REDUCED PRICE!



1101 CROSS DRIVE | \$449,900
An amazing value! This charming three level, brick, detached home is larger than it looks! Offering room to grow in a full basement, large upper level loft, sunroom with fireplace and exposed brick, newer gas furnace & replacement windows. Private, fenced lot with two decks, mature trees. Mins to Old Town, 395, Metro.

JOY DEEVY | 703.930.5198 www.JoyDeevy.com

JUST LISTED



**4639 KEARNEY CT
\$619,900**
Stunning, light filled, 4 LVL, end unit brick townhome in convenient Stonegate. 3 BR, 2 Full and 2 Half Baths, gourmet eat-in kitchen w/ granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Sep formal dining room, luxurious master suite with vaulted ceilings, MBA w/ soaking tub, 2 car garage, mins to 395, Pentagon, DC. View photos on www.JoyDeevy.com

JOY DEEVY | 703.930.5198 STONEGATE

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



9891 CHAPEL BRIDGE ESTATES DR | \$829,900
Morris Construction builders model. 4 BR, den, 4 BA, 2 car gar, cedar siding, trex deck overlooking 3/4 acre, hw floors thru main leve & master, kitch w/ center island, granite, ss GE Profile appliances, w/o lower lv, main level br/bath. Dir: FF County Parkway, L Lee Chapel, L Chapel Bridge Estates Drive into cul-de-sac.

PHYLLIS PATTERSON | 703.408.4232 FAIRFAX STATION

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



7402 ELGAR STREET | \$444,000
Solid home in North Springfield with over 1900 sq. ft. offers one level living in convenient location. Features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, separate living and dining rooms, fireplace and terrific fenced landscaped yard with huge wrap around deck for great outdoor enjoyment. Home includes in-law suite with private entrance.

YVONNE S. CROFT | 703.973.1540 SPRINGFIELD

BETTER THAN NEW! - CONTRACT



**1111 N. ROYAL STREET
\$775,000**
Delightful 4 lv brick townhome, one block to Potomac River. Light-filled and spacious, 3 BRs including 4th lv master suite w/designer bath, 3.5 BAs, gourmet kitchen w/ granite counters + adjacent fam rm and deck; 2-car garage. Upscale features, high ceilings, tasteful moldings, hrdwd flrs, et al. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

OLD TOWN
HEARTHSTONE MEWS

VAUGHN & DIANE PADDOCK | 703.628.2828

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



5621 GLENWOOD DR | \$719,000
Quality home by Morris construction in Clermont. Cedar siding over 3300 sq ft 4/5 br 3.5 ba 2 car garage, fenced yd, trex deck, hw floors, open floor plan w/ cooks kit with granite counters, new black appliances and center island breakfast bar. Lush Landscaping. Best buy in area. Dir: 495 to Telegraph, Right Franconia, Right Claremont, Left Upland, Left Poplar, Right Glenwood.

PHYLLIS PATTERSON | 703.408.4232 S ALEX

NEW LISTING



6603 NETTIES LN #1708 | \$340,000
Comfortable and sunny 2 BR condo w/ 2 lvs of open living space. Updated kitchen with granite, black appliances and decorator wall colors, plush neutral carpeting, dining room with sliding doors to private patio backing to community pool. Master suite with vaulted ceilings, private dressing hall and master bath with dual vanities. Pool, tennis, jogging paths. Photos at www.LarryLaRoche.com

LARRY LaROCHE | 703.927.5953 ISLAND CREEK

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



4860 EISENHOWER AVE #181 | \$299,900
Spacious 2 bd/2 ba condo features 1128 sq. ft. of living space w/large master suite, second bedroom or den/office & 2 full baths. This light filled home features hardwoods in living & dining areas, kitchen w/ granite counters & breakfast bar, stainless appliances & wood cabinets; plus a cozy patio, 2 garage spaces; free shuttle to Metro! www.LarryLaRoche.com

LARRY LaROCHE | 703.927.5953 VAN DORN

Information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Equal housing representative. Not a solicitation of another broker's listing. Owned and operated by NRT,LLC.



CUSTOM COLONIAL

\$1,499,000 | Alexandria South



1203 ESSEX MANOR COURT

Remarkable 5 bedrooms, four full and one half bath home on a large private lot with custom wood deck and mature trees. Grand foyer, formal living room and dining room, two story family room that opens to chef's kitchen with breakfast room and sunroom with vaulted ceilings and floor to ceiling windows. 6000 fin sq ft. Dir: S on G W Pkway, R Morningside Lane, L Admiral, L Essex Manor Ct.

Phyllis Patterson
703.518.6158
PPatterson@cbmove.com



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

\$1,099,000 | South Alexandria



9017 VERNON VIEW DRIVE

Stunning colonial on 1/2 acre with 3 car garage, 5 br's 3.5 baths, almost 5500 fin sq ft., hw floors, kitchen with viking, subzero and granite. Sun room and fam rm with Plasma TV, plus recently finished lower level. New master bath with sep shower, Upper level laundry rm, Private trex fenced back yard with brick patio. Dir: S on Geo Washington Pkway, R on Vernon View to 9017.



Phyllis Patterson
703.518.6158
PPatterson@cbmove.com



JUST LISTED

\$1,645,000 | Kings Cloister



632 KINGS CLOISTER CIRCLE

This spectacular five bedroom plus four and a half bath brick colonial boasts soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, detailed moldings and two fireplaces. Offering 5,700 square feet of luxurious living space, this bright and sunny home features a fabulous chef's kitchen, fully furnished lower level, two car garage and beautifully landscaped gardens. This truly fantastic home is perfect for the most discriminating purchaser! Reasonably priced at \$1,645,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute
703.518.6156



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\$1,695,000 | Annandale
5116 KENWOOD DRIVE



Nantucket Estate with wrap-around porches and cupolas on nearly 1 acre only minutes to Fairfax Hospital and Tysons Corner. Natural distressed hardwood floors, heated stone floors, see-thru fireplace, custom roll out windows, copper roof and custom wainscoting/crown molding, 10 foot ceilings, handcrafted archways, Wolf range, Subzero refrigerator, 3 kitchen sinks, exercise/media rooms, private patios, decks and sitting areas. Stone walkways w/ mature landscaping.

PHYLLIS PATTERSON
703.518.6158



**THE CLOSEST PRIVATE DOCK TO OLD TOWN!
NEW LISTING**

\$3,600,000 | Alexandria South
7607 SOUTHDOWN ROAD



Terrific floor plan, high ceilings, spectacular views, three bedrooms, three and one half bathrooms, two car garage, large rooms, kitchen/family room combo, hardwood floors, gas fireplaces, custom built. Next to parklands and on the water! Call Marie Louise Meyer for appointment.

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703.836.2080 MLM1606@aol.com



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4003 Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,800,000

Riverfront Estate!

Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft of living space with five bedrooms including river view MBR suite on main level with enormous luxury bath & huge closets. Dramatic river views from every corner of the home! Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!



OPEN SUN!

9101 Peartree Landing
\$859,000

Classic Colonial! Gorgeous Pool!

\$110,000 Price Reduction! Stately Georgian Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac just off the GW Pkwy. Three finished levels, bright and open floor plan, stunning master suite and oversized two car garage. Spectacular open kitchen/family room leads to gorgeous back yard with custom pool. **Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R Peartree Lndg.**



4417

Tarpon Lane
\$550,000

Huge Potential!

This exceptionally spacious home was custom built to capitalize on the natural beauty of its wooded grounds. Fabulous open floor plan and large room sizes provide bright, airy environment. Five bedrooms include three, including MBR, on the main level. Stunning 18x12 upper level room with cathedral ceiling provides unique artist's studio or home office. Oversize two car garage. Walk to community Marina.



4307

Sheridan's Point
\$939,000

Georgian Colonial!

Large Price Reduction! 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 updated home is in pristine condition.



2215
Cavendish Dr
\$545,000
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!



4212
Dandridge Terr
\$619,000
Classic Center Hall Colonial!

Great New Price! Spacious 4BR home has master suite with private

bath, open kitchen/family room, granite counters in kitchen, updated baths, replacement thermal pane windows, hardwood floors, walk-out lower level and oversized 2 car garage. Prime location on large fenced lot on quiet Southwood cul-de-sac.



NEW LISTING

8620
Curtis Ave
\$495,000
Large Home! Small Price!

This is one of Mount Vernon's most exciting opportunities!

Spacious four bedroom home in great condition with large room sizes, gorgeous hardwood floors, three full baths, master suite with private bath, eat-in kitchen, masonry fireplace and full walk-out lower level. Prime location on exceptionally large lot convenient to everything!



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8824 Stratford
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\$1,275,000

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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!



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SOLD!



SOLD!



SOLD!

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single family home in Vernon Heights community. It has everything: 2-car garage, 3 finished levels, center island, oversized MBR & soaking tub. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with a room in basement with full bath that could be 5th bedroom.

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\$344,000

STUNNING RENOVATIONS IN THIS...
3 level, end-unit townhouse in convenient Woodstone.

Featuring 2 Master Suites with updated full Bas, 2 half Bas, & gorgeous renovated/expanded kitchen. Finished LL boasts wet bar, rec. rm, computer area & tons of storage. Oversized fenced yard backs to common area w/custom deck for outdoor enjoyment! Mins. to Metro, Ft. Belvoir & Old Town.

7183 Fairfield Court
KIM MUFFLER 703.282.7739



Alexandria
\$353,900

IN THE HEART OF OLD TOWN

Plaques building with cozy floor plan & 10 ft. ceilings. LR has crown molding, chair rail, brick FP with beautiful wood mantle & floor to ceiling bookcases. 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.

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703.929.5764



The Royalton
\$447,000

EXCEPTIONAL 2BR/2BA CONDO SHOWS LIKE A MODEL!

Wonderful 2BR/2BA great roommate layout. En-suite baths. Granite countertops in kitchen & Bas. SS appliances, hardwood floors throughout. Open balcony w/access from LR & 1 BR. Lots of outdoor space in common area. Whole Foods Grocery downstairs. Metro just up the street & Old Town is right there. Restaurants, Nite life, Ya got it all. Excellent location ready for you.

309 Holland Lane #123
BRIAN HONG & JERY BEAMER
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Hdwds & Granite!!

Alexandria
\$414,900

TOO MANY UPGRADES TO LIST!

WATERVIEW FROM EVERY ROOM! Watch the boats go by in the 2 BR, 2 FB, 1,195 SF. Totally updated, tons of closets, huge master bedroom. Open floor plan, glass walled LR with 14' glass balcony. HOA inc. all utilities. Fitness center, Convenience Store, 24/7 front desk, security, plenty of off street parking, waterfront pool/deck/grill area. Private access to bike path. Bus stop at corner to DC/Metro. Close to everything, 1 stop light into DC.

501 Slaters Lane #910
DELAINE CAMPBELL 703.518.8740



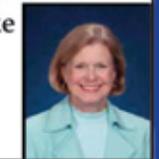
Alex/Mt. Vernon
\$649,000

JUST LISTED

Lovingly updated Wellington split level

on professionally landscaped lot. Updated eat-in kit. w/SS appliances & gas cooking. 3 full updated baths (including master bath). 4BR, gas FPs in LR & Fam. Rm. Hdwd, crown molding, wainscoting & chair rail. Garage. Sun porch leads to slate double patio. LR, sun porch, & patio are wired for sound. 3 blocks to bike trail.

1130 Cameron Road
RUTH GUIRARD 703.609.3343



Belmont Bay
\$414,900
YOUR NEIGHBOR HAS A HELICOPTER YOU CAN HAVE THE BOAT

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440 Belmont Bay Drive
DELAINE CAMPBELL 703.518.8740



OPEN SUN 1-4

Alexandria
\$625,000

PICTURE PERFECT
Owners have done it all! Luxury upgrades!

Kitchen with granite, convection oven, living room w/FP, formal DR where French doors open to deck, brick patio & backyard. 4BRs & 3 full lavishly remodeled baths. Family room w/FP, lush landscaping & mature trees allows you to enjoy your own private park. Dir: Ft. Hunt to Paul Spring Rd, cont to bear R until sharp L on Devonshire to 7119.

7119 Devonshire Drive
JULIA MARTIN 703.850.5543



Alexandria
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CRIME

Incidents reported to the Mount Vernon district station of the Fairfax County Police Department through July 25.

LARCENIES

7900 block Bluebird Lane. Dirt bike stolen from residence.
8000 block Candlewood Drive. Bicycle stolen from residence.
4200 block Corcoran St. Candy stolen from vehicle.
2900 block Furman Lane. CDs, CD player and tools stolen from vehicle.
2300 block Huntington Ave. Beer stolen from business.
6200 block North Kings Highway. Laundry detergent stolen from

business.

4400 block Pembroke Village Drive. Purse and iPod stolen from vehicle.
6700 block Richmond Highway. Tools stolen from vehicle.
7800 block Richmond Highway. T-shirts stolen from business.
8200 block Russell Road. Purse and cell phone stolen from business.
7400 block Vernon Square Drive. License plate stolen from vehicle.
8800 block Richmond Highway. 850 feet of welding lead stolen from a truck.
3900 block Stone Mansion Court. Moped stolen from residence.

8700 block Richmond Highway. Purse stolen from vehicle.
8200 block Russell Road. Bicycle stolen from in front of store.
7600 block Richmond Highway. iPod stolen from business.
3700 block Nalls Road. Bicycles stolen from residence.
7400 block Poinsettia Drive. Music case and stuffed animals stolen from vehicle.
4100 block Keswick Road/Russell Road. Traffic counter stolen from business.
6000 block Richmond Highway. Catalytic converter stolen from vehicle.
900 block Croton Drive. Thermos and moped stolen from residence.



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ART

An Authentic Space

Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald emerges to launch a new gallery.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

What was once the cluttered office of an elected official has been transformed into Alexandria's newest art gallery, a space where former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald can launch the next incarnation of his public persona — art mogul. Over the past few months, Macdonald has been quietly finding his way back into public life after his unexpected resignation from City Council last year, renovating his old office into a gallery and filling a vacant position on the board of the Old Town Civic Association. He's also hard at work with friends from the Athenaeum to document the history of the building. On Aug. 8, he will host the grand opening of AHM Gallery, a quiet second-floor over Old Town Coffee, Tea and Spice that takes its name from Macdonald's initials.

"Once I got rid of all the clutter — the political clutter — I started to think about how I could create an art gallery that had a real perspective," said Macdonald, an Alexandria native who was a member of the City Council from 2003 to 2007. "It took a long time to decide what I wanted to focus on."

The tagline of AHM Gallery is "celebrating authentic places," a mission statement Macdonald said will inform the choices he makes in terms of what kind of art will be displayed. He's already talked to some friends from Greenpeace about displaying an exhibit featuring photographs of whaling. And he recently spent some time in Antarctica documenting the ravages of global warming. Other potential themes could include some of Macdonald's longtime passions, such as environmental conservation and historic preservation. The first show will take place in August, with an opening reception slated for Aug. 8.

"The gallery is a business, but I also have a perspective about it," Macdonald said as a Van Morrison CD played quietly in the background. "I have a particular love of photography, but I don't want the gallery to necessary be limited to photography."

MACDONALD IS a well-regarded photog-

rapher in his own right who made a name for himself as an artist before launching a political career with an unsuccessful campaign in 2000 and then getting elected in 2003. When his personal life began falling apart in early 2007, the strains of public life became too much for him and he abruptly resigned, prompting a special election in which Justin Wilson was elected to fill the remainder of Macdonald's term. After the resignation, Macdonald's wanderlust took him to Antarctica, where he met an Australian photographer named Valery Muhin on a cruise ship.

Macdonald was lecturing on geology; Muhin was driving zodiacs. Both were working on the ship so they could spend their free time photographing the Antarctic wilderness. The two struck up a friendship, and now Muhin's photographs of aboriginal life in Australia will become the pre-



Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald opens up his gallery with a reception on Aug. 8.



Valery Muhin will be the artist for Macdonald's first exhibit.

miere show at the AHM Gallery. The show opens with a 6 p.m. reception on Aug. 8 and will run at the gallery through Sept. 15.

"A lot of these traditional communities are collapsing," Macdonald said as he scans a series of Muhin's images. "These photographs have an authentic quality to them that captures the kind of perspective I want that gallery to have."

The gallery is located in a building known as the "Carriage House" although that was never the purpose of the structure. It was built in 1830 by the Atchison Lumber Company as a storage warehouse for windows and sashes. Macdonald first acquired the second-floor studio space in 1998. Although he intended to use the space as a gallery, he ended up using the space as an office as his public career dominated an increasing amount of his time.

"A gallery is a retail space," said Frank Poland, who owns the first-floor Coffee, Tea and Spice. "Someone needs to be there, minding the store or it's not going to work."

MACDONALD INTENDS for his gallery to be a successful retail venture, and he has installed new hardwood floors and a lighting system to properly display the art. Although he plans to show his own work about once a year, most of the art displayed

at AHM Gallery will be the work of others. To empty his gallery space of personal clutter, he acquired another room upstairs to use as an office and installed a professional-grade printer — one that

he used to print all of Muhin's images for the premiere show.

"Andrew took some time to focus on himself and do the things he needed to do," said Boyd Walker, who managed Macdonald's 2003 campaign. "So I'm looking forward to the re-emergence of Andrew Macdonald into public life."

"The gallery is a business, but I also have a perspective about it."

— Andrew Macdonald

FINE ARTS

Other Items

Elizabeth Stone Gallery is closing its Old Town Alexandria location and moving all sales to the Internet. Visit www.elizabethstonegallery.com to view items for sale. Call 703-706-0025 to request additional information or images of art not currently on the site.

Call to Artists: Springfield Art Guild invites all artists to exhibit in the The Greenspring Garden juried art show from Aug. 25 through Oct. 27. Need to receive work by Aug. 25. Go to www.Springfieldartguild.com or call Donnalyne at 703-644-6677.

New and Upcoming Exhibits

See **"Juried Member Show" from Aug. 5 through Aug. 31** at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. See photography by Arlington residents Kit and Gary Putnam. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

See art by **Yasuko Riggs and Ginny Oetjen-Gerdes from Aug. 20 through Sept. 17** at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Free. 703-339-4610.

See **"All Fired Up" from Aug. 5 through Sept. 1** at Enamelists Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Look for red and movement. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

See **"Where in the World Is..." from Aug. 5 through Sept. 7** at Fiber Gallery in Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

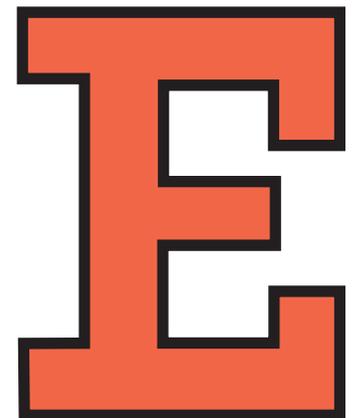
See **"Board Walk: An Art and Technology Journey" from Aug. 8 through Aug. 31** at Del Ray Artisans

Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Art and technology merge in this exhibit. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Ongoing Exhibits

Multiple Exposures Gallery presents the member show **through Aug. 3** in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-683-2203.

"Gifts from the Sea" will be on display **through Aug. 3** at Fiber Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Artwork features animal, vegetable and mineral. Free. 703-838-4565.



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THEATER

Who 'Blinked' in '62?

**Theater recreates mis-
sile crisis on stage.**

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE

Anyone who was old enough in 1962 to be aware of the possibility of nuclear war still remembers the way the whole world held its breath as John Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev struggled with the issue of Soviet missiles in Cuba. It may seem like ancient history to people under the age of around fifty-five, but it remains burned in the memories of their elders, just as the memories of September 11, 2001 are indelible for today's generations.

That is why the current offering of the American Century Theater is so compelling. It is a docudrama of the first order, a quality piece of theater that, at the same time, is a way to recapture the emotions of a moment now long past and to examine events that determined the futures of so many millions.

Jon Townson plays a youthful John Kennedy opposite Kim-Scott Miller, whose more senior Khrushchev is a revelation. So many people know so much about JFK (or at least think they do) that he's a familiar quantity even now, half a century after his rise to political prominence. Khrushchev, on the other hand, is a distant memory. For most, the image of him banging his shoe on the table at the United Nations may be all that is known of the man besides the fact that he was the Soviet leader during the tense days of October, 1962.

Miller provides a fully fleshed-out portrait of Khrushchev as a committed communist whose faith in his cause and the strength of his homeland is admirable. It is a remarkable piece of acting, turning a cartoonish memory into an understandable person.

The play presents some of the people surrounding the principals as well. John Tweel captures Robert Kennedy's ability to make a serious point with a flippant comment, and, together with Townson, gives a fine rendition of the rapport between the brothers. Brian Razzino is less successful turning Khrushchev's advisor and sounding board, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, into something more than a functionary but the script doesn't give him a lot to work with.

It falls to the fifth member of the cast, William Aitken, to portray all the others on both sides of the struggle. On the U.S. side, he is Adlai Stevenson, who delivered the famous "I am prepared to wait until hell freezes over for an answer" speech at the United Nations, and Air Force General Curtis LeMay, whose faith in the use of air power to prosecute policy was clearly belligerent. On the other side of



Cast from left to right: John Tweel as Robert Kennedy, Brian Razzino as Andrei Gromyko, John Townsend as John Kennedy and Kim-Scott Miller as Nikita Khrushchev.

the stage where Khrushchev's office is located, he's Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin and Marshal Malinovsky. In all roles, he takes full advantage of the opportunity to deliver sharp lines in striking situations.

Playwright Robert M. McElwaine built this tense drama on the public record, the many memoirs and histories that have been published and personal interviews with many who were party to the events. He has crafted a chronological play that takes the events one step at a time from the first time Khrushchev and Kennedy met, which was before Kennedy was elected President, right on through the moment when the two — in the famous quote attributed to Secretary of State Dean Rusk — went "eyeball to eyeball" and "the other guy blinked."

(A superfluous final scene captures the reaction of Khrushchev to the news of the assassination of President Kennedy a mere 13 months after their confrontation.)

The production has a no-nonsense, substantial feel to it under the efficient direction of Jack Marshal. It is an opportunity for some to revisit the emotions of forty-five years ago and for others to grasp in human terms a vivid moment in Cold War history.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, a Web site covering theater in the region (www.PotomacStages.com). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

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CALENDAR



FILE PHOTO

This year's Irish Festival is on Saturday, Aug. 2 from noon-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, near Prince Street. This photo is from last year's event.

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

OTHER ITEMS

The Alexandria Choral Society announces auditions for the Adult Chorus. Auditions will be held Aug. 5 from 6-9 p.m. and Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Sign up for an audition time at www.AlexChoralSociety.org. If you have any questions about the audition process, e-mail AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.org.

ONGOING

Every Monday and Friday through Aug 11-15 and 18-22 Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having **Butterfly Lab** to teach children ages 6-12 to raise their own butterflies. \$ 135 for students, includes supplies and light snacks. Call 703-642-5173 to register. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Every **Tuesday and Thursday** through October from 5- 8 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, enjoy **Doggie Happy Hour**. Enjoy doggie treats and human treats.

On **Sundays** from noon-5 p.m., visit the Waterfront and see **history-inspired performances** near the Torpedo Factory; do a "meet and greet" of early Alexandria residents and travelers near the Waterfront and lower King Street. Free. Visit www.historicalexandria.org for more.

On Saturdays **through Aug. 16** from 1-3 p.m., children ages 8-12 years can learn how to **create a garden** with hands-on activities and will be able to grow a garden. \$10/student. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. To register, 703-642-5173.

See Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., in a whole new light - **lantern light**. Tour the 1785 tavern

and 1792 City Hotel during the summer season with costumed guides as you experience the tavern as patrons did more than 200 years ago before the advent of electricity. Tours are every Friday night, **June through August**, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person ages 5 and up. Tours last approximately 30 minutes, with the last tour starting at 9:15 p.m. Call ahead to confirm tour date. For more information, call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

On Mondays, Aug. 25, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens will be having **Family Story Time** for children of all ages where there will be stories and activities. Free. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during **Mount Vernon's** outdoor storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon", held every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **through Sept. 27** at the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00; youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Historic **Mount Vernon** will have special commemorative whiskey sets available for sale beginning **Aug. 4!** The set includes a shot glass and a 50 mL bottle of whiskey consisting of 11 different whiskey brands blended and aged at Mount Vernon in 2005. The gift sets are \$25 and are available for purchase in person with a valid ID at the **Shops at Mount Vernon** or George Washington's Distillery. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

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. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.
Friday Flicks. Noon at John Marshall

Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy a short movie and stories. Free. 703-971-0010.

Lunch Bunnies. Noon at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 1-5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Free. 703-765-3645.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear SingCo Rhythm Orchestra perform. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).

The Fruits of Summer: Tomatoes and Peppers. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn gardening secrets from Cindy Brown, Green Spring Horticulturist, and taste some tomatoes and peppers. \$18 for Adults. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Gadsby's Tavern Day. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Free. Take tours, dance and more. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Railroad Days. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Browse through miniature towns, valleys and more. Free. Hand-on Thomas the Tank engine area. www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the firehouse, 100 block S. Alfred St. Free. Look at antique and modern fire equipment, booths, food and more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear music by Doug Bowles and His SingCo Rhythm Orchestra. Free. Visit www.singcomusic.com or 301-927-0133.

Fruits of Summer: Tomatoes and Peppers. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to grow tomatoes from a local horticulturist. \$18/person. Register at 703-642-5173.

Martial Arts: Family Affair. 11 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. All ages can enjoy demonstrations and more. Free. 703-339-4610.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

Housewarming 1753. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Enjoy moving day and the birth of John and Sarah Carlyle's son. Free. 703-549-2997.

Irish Festival. Noon-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Celebrate with everything Irish including food, music and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov or 703-838-4844.

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

Railroad Days. 1-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Browse through miniature towns, valleys and more. Free. Hand-on Thomas the Tank engine area. www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

MONDAY/AUG. 4

What's the Matter? 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 6-12 can learn about fizz, foam and flash. Free. 703-768-6700.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

Theater Fundraiser. See "1776" at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Benefits Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre. Reception at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. \$20/person www.mvccct.org or 703-360-0686.

Dog Days of Summer. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-971-0010.

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt

Road. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy songs and stories. Free. 703-768-6700.

Martha's Movie Madness. 2 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 6-12 can enjoy film and popcorn. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road. Hear Citizen perform. Free. 703-922-9841.

Benefit Concert. 6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring canned or nonperishable food to benefit UCM. www.mvpconline.org or 703-765-6118.

Anime Night. 6 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 13-18 can watch anime and discuss favorites. Free. 703-971-0010.

Day at the Beach. 2:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can learn about the beach and see creatures from the shore. Free. 703-339-4610.

Forensics 101. 1 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 9-12 can dust for fingerprints and look for evidence. Free. 703-768-6700.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

Garden Sprouts: Green, Green Grasses. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children (3-5 years) with accompanying adults can visit a variety of ornamental grasses in the gardens and then make their own. \$6 for participants. For more

information visit

www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp
Music Performance. Dagmar and The Seductones will perform at 7 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road. Free. 703-883-4686.

Theatre Performance. Morningstar Productions presents "Cheaper by the Dozen" at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. \$7/adult; \$4/child, senior or student. 703-577-3966.

Garden Stroll and Tea. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a relaxing stroll through the gardens and enjoy a tea at the Historic House. Individuals and groups are welcomed. \$25 for individuals. For more information visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. See "Cheaper by the Dozen." \$7/adult; \$4/child. 703-577-3966.

Book Discussion. 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults discuss "Ciao America" by Beppe Severignini. Free. 703-339-4610.

Let's Play. 2:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can learn how to play games from around the world. Free. 703-339-4610.

Books: Passport to the World. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-12 can enjoy stories and activities from other countries. Free. 703-765-3645.

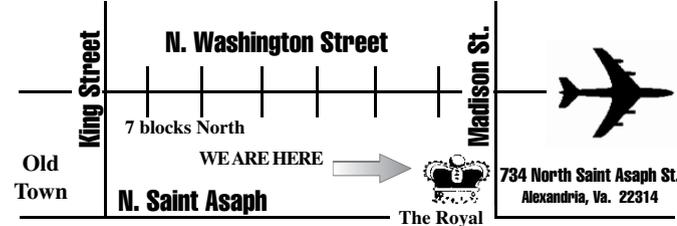
Purple Heart Ceremony. Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, honors all recipients of the Purple Heart and their families. Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

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SCHOOLS

T.C. Williams' class of 1998 is holding its 10-year high school reunion on Saturday, Aug. 2 at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge in Arlington. For details, call 1-800-655-7971 or go to www.GreatReunions.com.

Morningstar Productions presents "Cheaper By The Dozen" Aug. 7-9 at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church. Showtimes are Aug. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee at 2 p.m. Cost is adults/\$7 and seniors/Children/\$4. The church is located at 8523 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Gina Smithers at Smithersgm@aol.com or 703-577-3966.

Lauren Cook of Alexandria was named to the Dean's List at St. Olaf College for spring semester of the 2007-08 academic year. The Dean's list recognizes St. Olaf students with a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4-point scale. Lauren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven W. Cook of Alexandria.

Some 14 Fairfax County Public Schools graduates from the class of 2008 were named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

❖ **Neal Norman** of Lake Braddock Secondary School (international political economics), National Merit Fordham University scholarship.

❖ **Olivia Bonin** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (art-communication), National Merit University of Southern California scholarship.

❖ **Emily Feeny** of TJHSST (music performance), National Merit University of Rochester scholarship.

❖ **Stephen Houck** of TJHSST (music), National Merit University of Rochester scholarship.

❖ **Mohit Iyer** of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Washington University in St. Louis scholarship.

❖ **James McAtamney** of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute scholarship.

William McGrath of TJHSST (electrical engineering), National Merit Purdue University scholarship.

❖ **Robert McMullin** of TJHSST (physics-environmental science), National Merit New College of Florida scholarship.

Geoffrey Miller of TJHSST (medi-

Academic Boosters Elect Leaders

Ron Fitzsimmons has been elected president of Mount Vernon High School's Academic Boosters Corporation (ABC) for the 2008-2009 school year. He is joined by Gayle Wood, first vice president; Jill Carrick, second vice president; Meg Knemeyer, treasurer; and Tara Whitworth, secretary.

A non-profit organization founded in 1985, ABC's mission is to enhance the school's academic environment, according to Fitzsimmons. Composed of parents, students, teachers and administrators, one of ABC's most popular initiatives is the Teacher Grant Program, which provides money to teachers and administrators for various projects that might otherwise go unfunded.

"This is going to be another tough budget year for the school and we hope to raise even more money to supplement the fine work of our teachers," said Fitzsimmons.

cine), National Merit University of Oklahoma scholarship.

❖ **Rathna Ramamurthi** of TJHSST (law), National Merit New York University scholarship.

❖ **Melanie Szwajkowski** of TJHSST (law), National Merit Northwestern University scholarship.

❖ **Cayla Wallwork** of TJHSST (chemistry), National Merit New York University scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 8,300

students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2008.

Community and Recreation Services' Teen Services Division is offering five summer camps for Teens. While basically free, attending teens will need to provide their own lunch and there is a small fee for field trips. The camps run now through Aug. 7, running from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tentative sites are at the following middle schools — Poe, Hughes, Liberty, Irving and either Sandburg or Twain. Each camp is limited to 60 participants. Call 703-324-TEEN (8336), TTY 711.

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Foreclosure Hot Spots on Route 1

FROM PAGE 1

Route 1 corridor, known locally as "The Highway," from the Capital Beltway to Lorton. It encompasses portions of both Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. However, most of the downturn is on the western side of the corridor in Lee District with relatively little in Mount Vernon District on the eastern side.

One of the maps included in the COG report shows a heavy concentration of foreclosures situated in the area from Hybla Valley in the north to the edge of Fort Belvoir in the south. And, by far, the greatest number of these properties are condominiums. In several cases entire buildings have gone into foreclosure.

"Obviously, the foreclosures are primarily impacting two primary groups. Those who have a lower income than the overall economy and those that took on mortgages that they could not afford in the first place," said Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay.

"Although there are some groups of new housing in certain areas that have been hit by the foreclosure situation, many of the homes in Lee District are older, smaller homes that were viewed as starter homes," he said.

That fact became obvious by driving through the area of Lee District bordering the Route 1 corridor with the greatest number of foreclosures. In surveying 12 single family and townhouse properties, identified as foreclosed in a 22 page property listing supporting the COG report, none was a new home and most were single story homes.

However, none was identified on the sign outside as a foreclosed or bank owned home. Those identification had been removed. Each had only a regular real estate company sign near the curb stating "For Sale."

Also none of the homes surveyed were boarded up or had an unkempt appearance, both of which, as pointed out by the COG report can lead to undesirable results. "If homes are boarded up that can present a variety of problems," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland.

"Fortunately, in Mount Vernon District we have not been as adversely affected as other areas. The main challenge is finding ways to assist people to stay in their homes. That's what we are attempting to do at the Board of Supervisors," he said.

THIS FORECLOSURE cycle is different from others, according to Steve Dougherty, a ReMax real estate agent whose territory includes the Route 1 corridor. There doesn't seem to be the anger that normally goes with being foreclosed, according to Dougherty.

"Before, when someone lost their home to foreclosure, in many cases, they would deliberately damage the property before leaving. We aren't seeing that now. There doesn't seem to be the same level of emotion as in previous foreclosures" he said.

"Many of the foreclosures now seem to be people who figured they would be in the property two years or less. They seem to have known they couldn't afford a mortgage rate increase and treated the home more as a two year rental than an ownership," Dougherty said.

However many of the foreclosed properties are deteriorating and that is exacerbating the neighborhood situation, according to Dougherty. One of the biggest problems is mold forming on the walls of the basements.

"In many cases, banks are letting the properties

decline. Banks are not necessarily good at property maintenance. They are letting some of them just deteriorate," he said.

"I may start carrying a face mask when going into some of these properties. One I went into recently, an entire basement wall was covered with mold," Dougherty said.

"Many of the properties look like someone had just given up and moved out. In fact, some were being improved and the work just stopped. They probably ran out of money," he said.

"Many of the buyers who are interested in these homes seem to be first time buyers. They are primarily younger couples," Dougherty said.

THERE ARE OTHER factors affecting the housing situation as well.

The price of gasoline is definitely impacting the decision making process of home buying — how far people have to drive. Being close in, such as Mount Vernon and Lee districts, is viewed as a definite plus by many potential home buyers, according to COG.

Many of the homes now in foreclosure were sold on the subprime model to immigrants who may not have fully comprehended the economic realities of their mortgage. This combined with the crackdown, in some areas, on illegal immigrants has exacerbated a deteriorating phenomenon.

However, in the case of BRAC and the projected estimate of 19,000 plus incoming personnel, this entire scenario may prove to be a plus for Prince William County, one of the highest foreclosure jurisdictions in the metropolitan area. It has been speculated from BRAC's inception that many incoming personnel would move to Prince William County rather than Fairfax County due to lower home prices.

With an estimated 6,000 to 7,500 homes now in foreclosure in Prince William County, coupled with its proximity to Fort Belvoir, that predicted preference for Prince William over Fairfax county could become even more attractive to many incoming BRAC personnel. It could change the entire foreclosure equation in favor of Prince William County in juxtaposition to Fairfax County.

In recent weeks the sale of existing homes has begun to increase in Prince William County compared to the same period in 2007. However, there is no indication of whether or not the new owners are connected to the BRAC.

Assessing the overall economic picture before the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce in March 2008, John McClain, director, Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University, speaking on the topic, "Washington Area Economic Outlook," cautioned his audience, "Things are not always what they seem. We have to be careful about perceptions."

Whether the nation was in a recession at that time or fast approaching one would not be known until all the figures are in about this time — midway through the year. And, that evaluation will include a variety of benchmarks ranging from oil to food to housing, according to McClain.

Looking ahead from now to 2011 McClain identified five key economic indicators to watch: consumer spending; a shortage of qualified workers; oil prices; an increase or decrease in federal spending; and changing strengths and weaknesses in the real estate market.

As COG stated, "The Washington, DC region ultimately will emerge from this foreclosure crisis, in large part due to its resilient economy. The regional economy is fundamentally strong."

Foreclosures

The greatest number of foreclosures in southeastern Fairfax County for the period March 1, 2007 to February 28, 2008 according to COG were in the following areas:

Mount Vernon/Lee districts: 438
Springfield: 228
Lorton: 101

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NEWS

Slower Is Faster

FROM PAGE 1

speed limit several miles before the congestion thus allowing traffic to filter out rather than continue to gridlock.

Known as the "Go with the Flow" Variable Speed Limit System, this procedure, hopefully, will keep traffic moving rather than sitting. "At least that's the theory," said Ronaldo T. "Nick" Nicholson, VDOT Wilson Bridge project manager and regional transportation program director, introducing the experimental VSL system at a press conference July 24.

"VSL has proven successful in Europe, moving drivers with greater efficiency and safety. Implementing VSL at the Telegraph Road Interchange promises to ease the way for travelers during construction and will serve as an excellent test bed for possible deployment elsewhere," Nicholson said.

However, he readily admitted this was an "experiment," not only in the use of the technology but also in trying to change the driving mentality of regional motorists. That, he conceded, may prove more of a challenge than implementing the technology.

"We are trying to change the habit of drivers rushing to the front of a back up when they see a lane loss coming up. If we can change that habit there will be fewer crashes and both the drivers and our construction workers will be safer," he said.

Nicholson also admitted, "This is the most urban setting in which this technology has been tried. We decided to apply it to this project to see if we can re-educate area motorists on how to drive through this construction corridor."

Using a funnel and a cup of rice, John Undeland, WWB Project spokesperson, demonstrated the VSL concept. "If I pour all the rice into the funnel at once it clogs up and nothing gets through. But, if I pour the rice slowly the grains pass through quickly," he said.

"We are trying to avoid instant gridlock. The ultimate pay off will be that traffic will get through the construction area faster and safer," Undeland said.

The safer part involves the Project's partners in this experiment — the Virginia State Police as well Maryland State Police and Alexandria and Fairfax County police. They will be enforcing the changing speed limits.

"VSL has the potential to move traffic effectively and safely — but only if drivers comply. Posted varying speed limits will be strictly enforced by officers working within the VSL zones. But we will not be operating speed traps," said Lt. Eric Reiley, Virginia State Police.

THE VSL SYSTEM will be used only during temporary lane closures and will not be operative during inclement weather, recurring congestion, an incident management situation or peak hours of traffic, according to an explanatory presentation by Nicholson.

The minimum speed reduction will be to 35 miles per hour. It will be announced to motorists through a series of signs well before the point of congestion, according to Marcelino Romero, VSL operations chief. "We will also have overhead flashing signs to draw motorists' attention," he said.

Drivers will be informed of varying speed limits through changeable highway signs posted along the



John Eckert, Renaissance Technologies, Inc., explains the visual monitoring operations center that will oversee the new Variable Traffic Improvement System.

seven mile portion of I-95 between the Springfield Interchange and the Maryland shore. When congestion begins to build, the VSL system will offer current delay-time estimates on the strategically placed highway signs, according to VDOT's plan.

A new "Go with the Flow/Stay In the Know" section on the bridge project Web site, www.wilsonbridge.com, will inform motorists prior to departure about real-time travel speeds via a color-coded map, estimated delay times and other information to aide travelers in making route decisions.

This system is "adaptive" in that it responds to real-time data in making adjustments to speed limits. Most other VSL systems are "time of day" systems, they meter traffic speeds at pre-specified times of day when volume typically increases.

Under this system the speed limit will change in five to 10 mile per hour increments. Once changed, the speed limit will not change until at least 20 minutes have elapsed, according to the VDOT plan.

CONTROL CENTER OPERATION responsibilities, emanating from the WWB Project headquarters, will include: automated speed limit posting; police notification of speed limit changes who will then enforce the new speed limit five minutes after the change, sharing information with VDOT's Smart Traffic Center; and collecting data to share with the Virginia Transportation Research Council to evaluate VSL effectiveness and implementation

Instituting the \$3 million VSL system is seen as an opportunity to provide active traffic management in a very congested work zone and enhance safety for motorists by reducing the potential of rear-end type collisions and overall traffic at any given moment in a work zone. The cost includes hardware, software, installation, training and operations support.

The system is leased and maintained by the provider, Renaissance Technologies, Inc., Mechanicsburg, PA., for two years, with the option to renew for a longer period or to purchase the system, according to VDOT.

But, the greatest VSL challenge will be changing motorists' mindset, according to Undeland, who emphasized the need for Project and community information outreach. "This won't work unless the motorists comply," he said.

"We need them to understand this system will actually get them to their destination faster and safer. We are also getting the word out on this up and down the eastern seaboard because we know we are not only dealing with local drivers," Undeland said.

"We see this as a unique opportunity to manage traffic since all the major Northern Virginia highway projects are now underway. VDOT really jumped at the opportunity to implement this technology as a way of increasing safety for everyone," Nicholson said.

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SPORTS

Wilson Plays in U.S. Junior Amateur

Virginia downs Carolinas team behind strong local showings.

By MICHAEL K. BOHN
SPECIAL TO GAZETTE

Forrest Wilson, an Alexandria resident, played in the 2008 United States Junior Amateur Championship on July 21-26. While he didn't make it into match play, he certainly enjoyed himself.

"It was the greatest golf experience of my life," he said after returning home from Shoal Creek Golf Club in Birmingham, Ala.

"I thought I played pretty solid," he said, "but putting, my caddie, and the course length were the biggest problems. I used one of Shoal Creek's regular caddies and I took his advice on the greens, which were fast. Looking back, that was a mistake. I should have trusted my own reads."

The caddie arrived late with Wilson's clubs for second-round tee time, costing the player an immediate two-stroke penalty. "He also dropped a club in a hazard that day. That was another two strokes. The two penalties sort of threw me off."

The USGA set up the course at a pro-level 7,251 yards for the event, which was open to boys under eighteen with handicaps 6.4 and under. "It was a long, hard course," Wilson said. "I had to hit driver and 3-wood into some of the par 4s. Worse, the Bermuda grass rough was five or six inches deep. It just grabbed the ball."

"I really learned a lot about championship golf, though," Wilson acknowledged.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL K. BOHN

Alexandria's Forrest Wilson, 16, recently played in the national junior golf championship.

"Also, I was amazed at the talent of some of the players. A lot of them already have sponsors and get free equipment." The atmosphere and player perks impressed Wilson as well—brand new Titleist ProV1s on the practice range, private player locker room, free Smoothies and food, free housing in private homes. "It was the real deal. I felt like a pro on the PGA Tour."

Forrest and his father Scott, a wealth management advisor, drove to Alabama in time for the practice rounds. His mother, Linda, and sister Elizabeth flew down for



The 24-member Virginia team won the 52nd annual Virginia-Carolinas women's team matches —its fifth victory in the last six meetings.

Forrest's two medal rounds. The family lives in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

At a sectional qualifier at the Naval Academy golf course on June 17, Wilson earned his way into the championship field. He shot 74-71-145 to tie for medalist honors, and finished five strokes ahead of Brinson Paolini, winner of the 2007 Virginia Junior and 2008 Virginia Amateur.

Wilson played well during the 2007 high school season last fall, but did not finish high in district and region individual competition. He credits his dramatically improved play on maintaining a positive attitude on the course, and two lessons with PGA professional Steve Bosdosh. One of Golf Magazine's top one hundred instructors in America, Bosdosh schools many of the top area juniors at the Member's Club

at Four Streams in Bealsville, Md. "Steve worked on my set-up and posture, and also had me make my swing plane more vertical."

SIX NORTHERN VIRGINIA players contributed to the Commonwealth's victory over a combined North and South Carolina golf team July 21-23 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Virginia won with a 55.5-43.5 margin at The Dunes Golf and Beach Club. Springfield's Mimi Hoffman was the team's playing captain during the three-round tournament. Alexandria residents Linda DiVall (6.5 points) and Shelley Savage (6) paced the local contingent in two four-ball rounds and one of captain's choice (scramble). Joan Gardner (Alexandria), Susan Podolsky (Alexandria), and Kay Tyler (Springfield) also contributed points.

Post 24 Loses in First Round

After winning eight games to acquire the seventh seed in the American Legion District 17 tournament, Alexandria Post 24 dropped its single-elimination play-in game on July 24. Alexandria Post 129 ousted Post 24 with a 7-6 victory, before bowing out in the first round on Saturday.

The tournament championship game is scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m. at Lake Braddock and a possible winner-take-all game would be Saturday at 7 p.m.. The winner advances to the state tournament in Stuarts Draft, Va.

Earlier this month, Post 24 was represented by pitcher/centerfielder Basil Badley (Mount Vernon), in the league's all-star game. Up the road, Post 129 had four players in the all-star game Pitcher/shortstop John Roberston and T.C. Williams' Marc Grosser, Pike Brynildsen and Sam Alexander were the Post 129 stars.

Post 129, comprised of players from Bishop Ireton, T.C. Williams and St. Stephens's & St. Agnes finished eighth in the league standings with a 12-17 record. Post 24, comprised of players from Hayfield, Edison, Mount Vernon and West Potomac, finished 8-20, good enough for ninth in the 10-team league.

—Eric J. Gilmore

Cardinal AAA Girls Team Wins Florida Tournament

The Cardinal AAU Junior Division girls recently won the Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) National Championship in Polk County, Fla. The Mount Vernon-based Cardinal AAU club defeated the Georgia Blue Heat, 59-45, in the championship game on July 10.

Coached by former Mount Vernon girls coach Stan King and assistant Carroll Payton, the team, comprised of 16 and 17-year-olds, went undefeated throughout the five day tournament.

Tracy King, an all-district standout for Mount Vernon last season and the daughter of the head coach, was named the tournament's most valuable player. Her high school teammate, Janae Jackson and Paul VI's Jalinda Venable were selected to the all-tournament team, while point guard LaNia Charity, from Yorktown, was honored with the Hustle Award.

The core of the Cardinal team finished as

runner-up in the same national tournament last years as 15-year-olds. Two AAU seasons ago, the girls have also finished as runner-up in a Division II national tournament.

The Cardinal team concluded the AAU season, which runs throughout the spring and summer, with a 53-17 record. During the past three seasons, they have a combined record of 165-40.

The roster consisted of players almost exclusively from the Northern Region. Yorktown's Charity, Lee's Patricia and Priscilla Moseh both played, along with Edison's Brittney Speller, Meagan Chesley, Ayrielle LeGrande and Ashley Potts.

Locally, West Potomac's Kiara Artis played, as did Jackson and King.

Mountain View's Abrishiel Lockett and Venable were the only players not from a Northern Region school.

—ERIC J. GILMORE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon Hires New Girls Basketball Coach

Terry Henderson, a former boys junior varsity coach and varsity assistant has been hired as the varsity girls basketball coach at Mount Vernon, according to reports. Henderson replaces Dwight Trimmer, a former two-time state championship winner at Robinson who resigned after the season. Trimmer coached for only one season, replacing Kenny Farmer for the 2007-2008 season.

Trimmer led the Majors to the district title game, only to be upended Edison, 77-61, in the Lady Eagles' fifth straight National District title. Mount Vernon, led by a core of underclassmen dropped the opening round game in the Northern Region Tournament to eventual finalist W.T. Woodson at home. The Majors ended the season with a 15-10 record, a three-win improvement from the 2006-2007 season. It was the second time since 2004 that the Majors had eclipsed the 15-win mark.

Henderson becomes a head coach for the first time. He spent two previous seasons as boys varsity assistant at Edison before transferring to Mount Vernon last season.

—Eric J. Gilmore

SPORTS

Swimmers race in the 50 Meter Freestyle during the NVSL District meet at Lee-Graham pool on July 26.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/GAZETTE

Only The Strong Survive

Local pools compete at districts, ready for all-star meet.

The Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) held their division championship meets on July 26, with various Mount Vernon and Alexandria-based swimmers qualifying for the upcoming all-star meet. The NVSL also hosted divers from 47 teams in the league's Division 8 championships, which included first-place showings from divers at Mansion House in Division 2, Hayfield Farm in Division 3, and Stratford Recreation Association in Division 7.

Three swimmers set various NVSL records — recorded over a 53-year period — at the meets.

In the Division 10 Championships at Mosby Woods, Janet Hu swam the 11-12 girls 100-meter individual medley (1:07.81), breaking the former record of 1:07.93 set by Ashley Danner of Cottontail in 2003. The record was Hu's 13th NVSL record.

In the Division 2 meet at Tuckahoe, Eva Greene swam the 13-14 girls 50-meter backstroke in a new record time of 30.59. Greene bettered the former record of 30.64 set in 2003 by Katy Hinkle of Donaldson Run. A little while later at Tuckahoe, Sean Fletcher swam the 15-18 boys 50-meter butterfly in 25.28 breaking his own record time of 25.49 that he established earlier this year on June 28th.

In the Division 9 Championships at Walden Glen, Elizabeth Hall of Poplar Tree swam the 15-18 girls 50-meter butterfly in a time of 28.94, tying the record set by Mary Quinn of Forest Hollow in 1984.

Locally, the Waynewood Dolphins sent six teams to the recent All-Star Relays on July 16. The girls 8-and-under medley relay of Abigail Grillo, Haleigh Hopper, Jenna Martin and Meaghan Corridon finished fourth, as did the 8-and-under girls freestyle relay. Nicole Alderman, Martin, Grillo and Hopper were included on the freestyle team.

The girls 13-14 medley relay, comprised of Brittany Alderman, Samantha Clifford,

Reanna Dona, and Dale Lescher, also finished fourth (2:14.86).

IN THE NVSL diving meet, Mansion House's Jim Kuhn won the senior boys division title, while Kaylyn Krzmien (Senior Girls), Ian Thompson and Luke Cochran (freshmen boys) and Hailey Fisher (freshman girls) qualified for the upcoming all-star meet, which will be held on Aug. 3 at the Dunn Loring Pool.

Divers competed in the following four age groups, with freshmen (10-and-under), juniors (11-12), intermediates (13-14) and seniors (15-18).

In Division 4, Hayfield Farm's Eliot Barnhart (intermediate boys) was the lone winner and automatic all-star qualifier. Anise Muir (junior girls) and Kelly Kalkus (intermediate girls) both finished in third place and are all-star alternates.

In the Division 7 meet, Stratford's Louis Litchford set a new intermediate boys standard with a 129.95 score. Marina Endahl (freshmen girls) and Colleen O'Hara (intermediate girls) both finished second in their age categories and will head to Dunn Loring, while Monica Thompson (freshmen girls), Ian Thompson (junior boys) and Jillian Kelly (intermediate girls) all finished in third and are all-star alternates.

FORMER HOLLIN MEADOWS swimmer Chad Chadbourn, a 2006 Mary Washington College graduate met Jenna Balkus, a graduate of the College of William & Mary, who swam for the Hiddenbrook Hurricanes while both were serving for the Peace Corps.

So the NVSL alums spent three days teaching children swimming techniques in the small community of Buenos Aires, Costa Rica. Chadbourn and Balkus recently organized a swim camp for 7-12 year-olds during the annual school vacation. With the help of six Peace Corps volunteers, the Northern Virginia natives taught basic aquatic skills to 50-plus youth in the small town, approximately six miles from Puerto Limon and the Atlantic Ocean.

—ERIC J. GILMORE



Matthew Kuhlik of the Chesterbrook Swim Team competes in the 50 Meter Freestyle.



The Mount Vernon-area Riverside Gardens Tsunami coaches celebrate their NVSL Division 10 co-championship trophy.

COURTESY OF DELIA SULLIVAN



A swimmer competes in the 50 Meter Freestyle during the Northern Virginia Swimming League District meet at Lee-Graham pool on July 26.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/GAZETTE

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Alex. Dept. of Social Services, Attn: DHS Personnel, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22301. Call (703) 838-0810 or <https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov>

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29 Misc. for Sale

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21 Announcements

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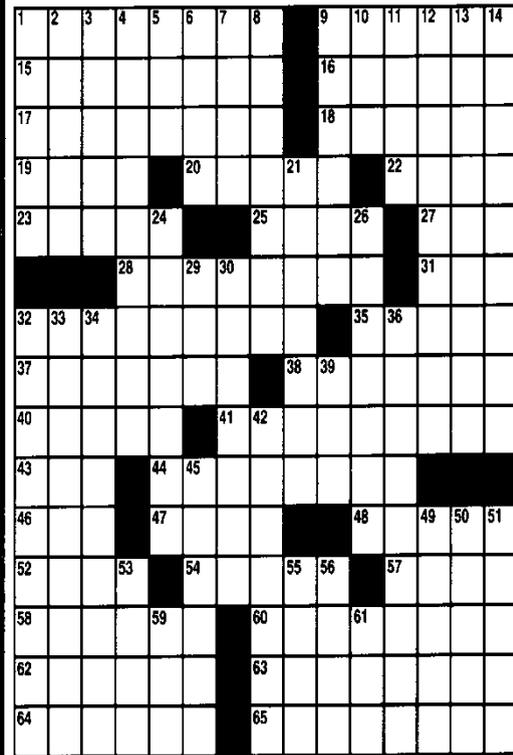
AUCTION Construction Equipment & Trucks Friday, August 8, 8 AM, Richmond, VA Huge 700+ Lots Expected Featuring 50+ Lot Site Contractor Liquidation of Equipment, Trailers & Trucks, & 20+ Lots General Contractor Liquidation of Equipment & Trucks! Equipment: Hitachi AH250 Articulated Off-Road Dump Truck, '01 CAT 963C Crawler Loader, '98 Komatsu D31P Crawler Dozer, '98 CAT D6M XL Crawler Dozer John Deere 455G Crawler Loader, '97 John Deere 270LC Excavator, '01 Bobcat 331 Mini-Excavator, 'Case 580 Super L Backhoe Loader, '01 Komatsu GD650A Motor Grader, '05 Bobcat T-300 Compact Track Loader, 2 Grove Hyd. Cranes, '94 Barber-Greene BG240B Paver, Bowmag BW213 Vibratory Compactor. Trucks: (2) Kenworth T800 Quad-Axle Dumps, '05 Mack Granite 9189 WiFinn Hydroseeder, (3) 2004 Volvo Quad Axle Dump Trucks, '05 IHC 7400 Single Axle Dump (23711 Miles!), '97 Oshkosh 6X6 Self Loading Log Truck, '06 Ford F450 Single Axle Dump Truck. PLUS MUCH MORE! PLUS: Equipment from Virginia Department of Transportation, Dominion VA Power, Sunbelt Rentals & Others! 804.232.3300 VAAL #16 NCAL # 5914

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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0320-3



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

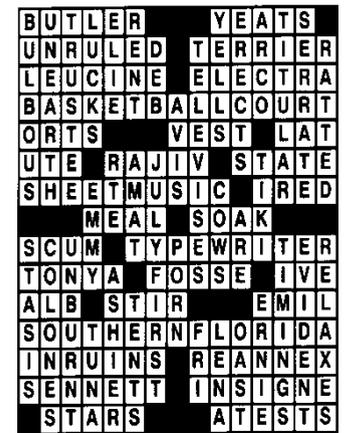
ACROSS

- Best-selling novel set in ancient Rome
- Like salon customers
- Rigor
- When surfing is possible?
- Béarnaise ingredient
- Computing timesavers
- Germs might grow in it
- Catchall reason for failure
- Quartermaster's post
- Overhaul
- Ward heelers
- Pitch
- Cat's covering
- Sequel tag
- Leaner
- The Osmonds' birthplace
- Philosopher
- Gary's "Desire" co-star
- Scouting outing
- David and others
- Telegraph ender
- Word after family or detail

DOWN

- Subject of psych. experiments
- Uses a shuttle
- Homme — (French V.I.P.)
- Letters for nine-to-fivers
- The "Little Ol' Band From Texas"
- Quince, e.g.
- Pied
- Heathen of sorts
- Key of Beethoven's Seventh
- Gay old time
- Accounters anew
- 1945 Cahn/ Styne tune
- Where to spend dirhams
- Meter reader's concern
- Sofia's portrayer in "The Color Purple"
- First European to enter New York Bay
- Southern Hemisphere constellation

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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The winner of puzzle #0319-3 is:

F. J. Pepper

Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

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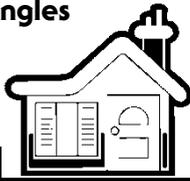
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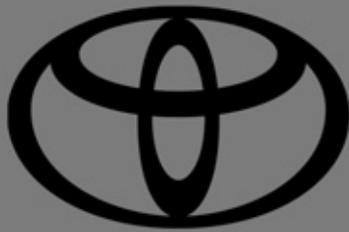
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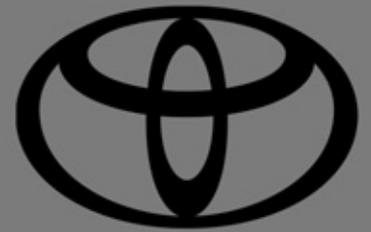
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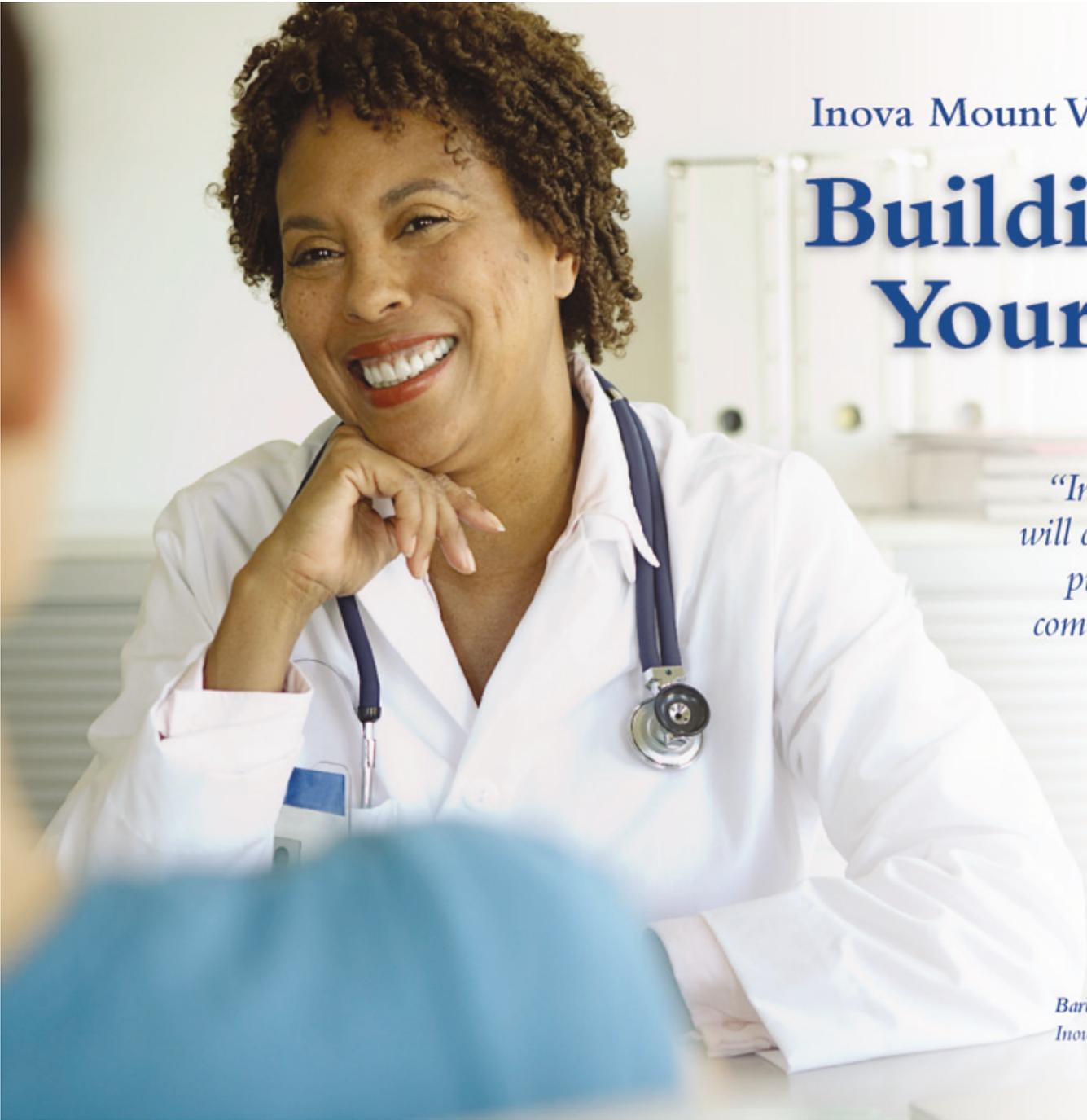
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