

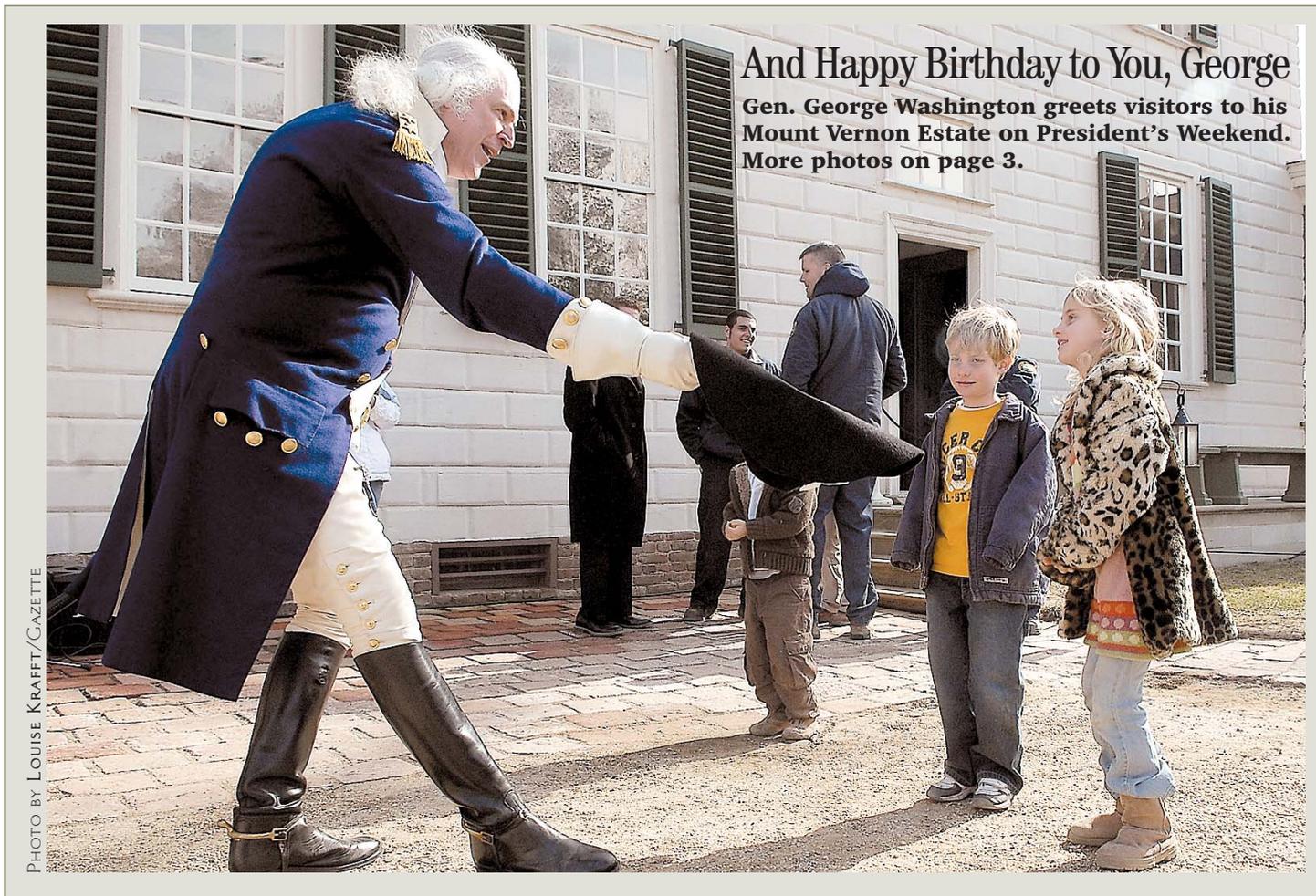
# Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 7

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

FEBRUARY 19, 2009



And Happy Birthday to You, George Gen. George Washington greets visitors to his Mount Vernon Estate on President's Weekend. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

## Hold Off On Housing Proposal

Spring Bank resolves to stop North Hill development.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

Spring Bank Community Association Monday night unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors "to direct the Redevelopment Housing Authority to immediately cease spending funds on the plans for or development of North Hill."

Presented by SBCA President David Dale, the resolution was prompted by the budget deficit facing the county and opposition to the North Hill site being used for a affordable/workforce housing as opposed to being maintained as open space. The site, just off Popkins Lane in the area of Woodley Hills Trailer Park, has been the source of controversy for several years.

**"A mortgage assistance program could be better used than another mobile home park."**

— David Dale, president, SBCA

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 21

## Ducking the Law

Legislation asks state Crime Commission to investigate.

BY MICHEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

When George Washington hunted canvasback duck near Mount Vernon, he didn't have to worry about hitting the urban residents that transformed the community during the 20th century. Now that the areas around Dyke Marsh have



become neighborhoods where children play and parents garden, the tension between hunters and residents has become the fo-

cus of legislation currently being considered in Richmond.

"I know I would become concerned if I looked out the window and saw four or five guys hunting ducks," said Tim Tener, a Washington resident who has hunted ducks near Dyke Marsh. "But the hunters may have every right to be there."

Last year a debate erupted between li  
SEE DUCK, PAGE 5

## Band Touched by Tragedy To Play Benefit Show

Proceeds go toward SIDS research.

BY ROB WILE  
THE CONNECTION

The death of one's child is an unthinkable tragedy, and for the parents of victims of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), it comes without warning.

Brandon Heiner, a Mount Vernon resident, knows this. In 2005, Heiner lost his two-month-old son Brady to SIDS in the

infant's first week at daycare.

"It was an extremely difficult day," he said. "It's always a shock for SIDS parents — it was completely unexpected. You don't have any reason to believe that anything is amiss."

In the best way he knows, Heiner hopes to ensure that D.C.-area parents will not have to face a similar ordeal. On Friday, Feb. 27 Heiner and his band, Heather's Headache, will play a benefit con-

cert to raise money for SIDS research. The show will take place at Rhodeside Grill, 1836 Wilson Blvd., in Arlington.

As the lead vocalist and songwriter — as well as rhythm guitarist — Heiner says that his loss informs all his music. He described the band's latest album, "Admonition," which will officially be released at the concert, as "a warning about what can happen in life when you're not paying attention."

"There's a song called 'Ominous

Peace" about dealing with emotion, and depression certainly, relating to the loss of my son," he said. "There's also a song written about a friend of ours who killed someone in a crazy love triangle.

We chose the name "Admonition" to portray the seriousness [of life]."

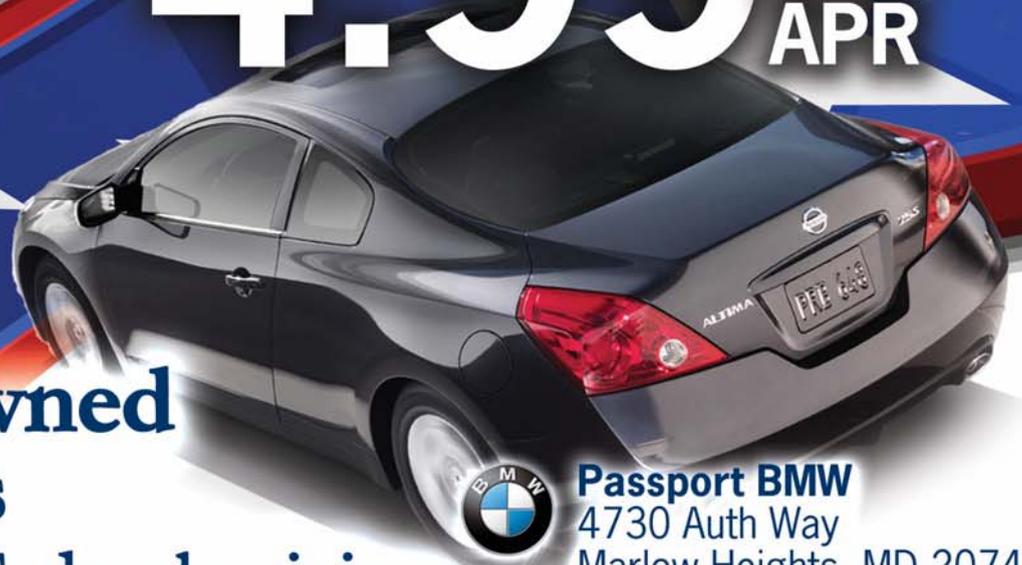
Heiner said the band began planning the benefit last Septem  
SEE PERFORMANCE, PAGE 17



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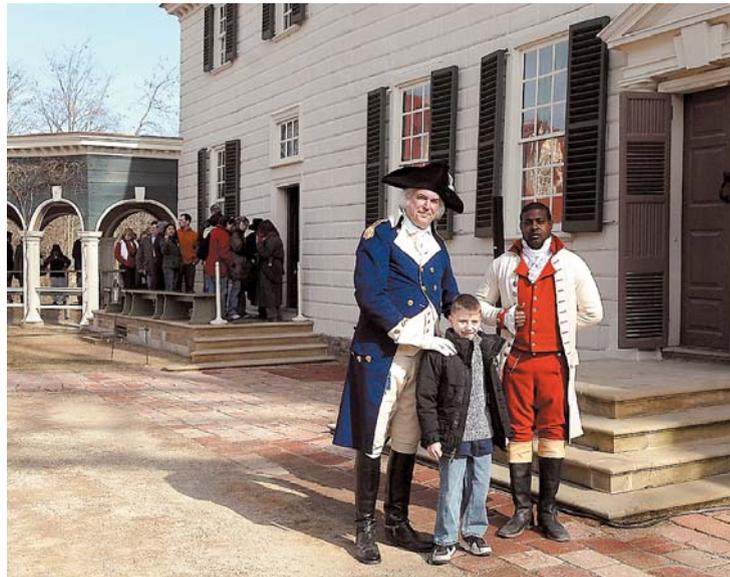
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

## Mount Vernon's Smallest Hometown Parade

General Washington welcomes visitors to the annual birthday celebration. The General recalled that the first time his birthday was celebrated, he was wintering at Valley of the Forge in 1778. His wife Martha had joined him. As he was preparing to retire for the evening, to his surprise he heard music coming from outside his quarters. It seems Martha had arranged for a birthday serenade for him.



Dr. James Craik, George Washington's personal physician, attends the birthday festivities.



Benton Stivali poses for a photo with General Washington and his constant companion and manservant, William Lee.



Horses, sheep and oxen are featured in the estate parade.



The local tradesmen on the estate, including the distiller, participate in the annual parade.

# The Future Is Now

Author explores assisted living retirement from the inside.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

changed on Monday, Feb. 9.

Giving up or losing one's home can be gut-wrenching — no matter whether it's a mega-mansion or a one-room apartment. For most, it is their safe haven and comfort zone from the world.

The most stealthy eviction notice is age. It can turn a stairway into a mountain climb, a kitchen into an awaiting inferno, a bathroom into a drowning pool, and everyday surroundings into a military obstacle course.

When that happens, how does one make life more secure? Does anyone really understand the emotional trauma of leaving one's personal sanctuary?

Those are some of the questions a well-known author and publisher is attempting to learn firsthand. For 20 years Steve Gurney has been publishing "Guide To Retirement Living SourceBook," a comprehensive resource for senior-living options throughout the mid-Atlantic states.

There was only one problem. It was all facts and no emotion. It was how to, why to, where to, and when to. But he came to realize it lacked one "W" — the "who."

"I realized I that I have spent my entire career helping families and elders make these choices, but I have never experienced the transition first hand as a resident of a retirement community or assisted living facility," he said. That

**ON THAT DAY**, the 43-year-old Reston resident, husband, and father of young children moved into Mount Vernon District's Paul Spring Retirement Community on Fort Hunt Road. For one week he immersed himself in the life and personalities of its residents.

He had no cell phone, no blackberry, no car. But, most of all he had no actual concept of the emotional reality of what his fellow residents had faced when the time came for each of them to leave home.

The inspiration for this project grew out of taking his children to their first day of school last September; he realized that they trusted his judgment about school

because he had experienced it himself.

"My assurances were authentic because they knew I had been through the same experience," he said. "This made me realize that I needed to be more authentic by going through the same experiences that the readers of our publication and Web site are facing," Gurney said.

He had been at Paul Spring for a lecture and suggested the idea of living there as a resident for a week to Paul Spring Executive Director Barbara Sullivan. He was not interested in evaluating Paul Spring operations. His goal was to focus on "the feelings and emotions that an individual faces when moving to a new and different liv

SEE EXPLORING, PAGE 17

**"I've come to realize ... this is a neighborhood."**

— Steve Gurney, founder, Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook

### THIS WEEK IN MOUNT VERNON

## Grand Opening for Anytime Fitness

Anytime Fitness, a 24-hour co-ed fitness franchise, is open for business in the Engleside Plaza Shopping Center located off of Richmond Highway. A grand opening celebration will take place on Friday, Feb. 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. which will include the Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. The grand opening is free and open to the public.

Club tours will be available during the grand opening celebration. Membership information is available at the club, by calling 703-780-1436, or by visiting [www.anytimefitness.com](http://www.anytimefitness.com).

## To Help Delaney O'Hagan

In "Gathering at Vigil for Delaney O'Hagan" [Gazette, Feb. 12], contact information should have also included an address for contributions. To make donations on behalf of the O'Hagan family, send to: Friends for "D", c/o the Bannon Family, 8530 Gallahan Ct., Alexandria, VA 22309.

# Connolly: Economic Stimulus a 'Must'

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

**T**his economic recession is "as serious as anything we have seen since the Great Depression. In fact many are referring to this as the Great Recession," newly elected 11th Congressional District Congressman Gerald Connolly told members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Addressing their Business Networking Breakfast last Thursday morning at the Belle Haven Country Club, Connolly said, "Every economist we have talked to all agreed that we [Congress] must do something or the country will go over the economic precipice. The economy is worsening on a daily basis."

Connolly, who won the 11th District seat vacated by the retirement of Republican Thomas M. Davis III, stated that he would have preferred the bill to have had bipartisan support. "There is a \$1 trillion constriction this year and another \$1 trillion constriction forecast for next year. These are Great Depression figures and we must do something," he said.

"There are things in this stimulus package dealing with investments because those are the gifts that can keep on giving. There are



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

**Newly elected U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11) gives his appraisal of the Economic Stimulus Bill to members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.**

also items dealing help for both the housing market and the automobile industry," Connolly said.

**ALTHOUGH THERE** were three and a half million jobs lost in the last year, according to Connolly, the Greater Washington Area "in many ways is cushioned from the worst of those losses" by the federal government. "Here in North-

**"We must do something or the country will go over the economic precipice."**

— U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11)

ern Virginia the things that drive our economy are government and IT. But, this area is not immune," he stated.

One potential aid to the banking industry cited by Connolly was the creation of a "toxic asset bank" following the Swedish model. "In their case the bank held the so-called assets until they began to turn around and eventually they were able to sell them with no loss," he said. He noted the federal government followed a similar model during the Savings & Loan crisis.

He also told the audience that he will be traveling to Iraq and Afghanistan in the near future. "I feel that I need to see the actual action on the ground if I'm going to vote on these issues," he said.

When asked how success of the stimulus package would be measured, Connolly said, "By how quickly things turn around and when credit begins to flow to small businesses again."

He told the audience of business people that he supports employee free choice in unionization and that he believes legislation to enable that will pass the Congress. "We have had eight years of an administration hostile to labor," he said.

He also noted that, in this business experience, if employers provide good wages and benefits for their employees there is no need for them to organize. Connolly pointed out that, even with that stance on "employee free choice" he received the backing of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in his bid to replace Davis.

Connolly called for strengthening Social Security by lifting the cap on wages subject to Social Security deduction and increasing the retirement age. He also cited health care as a "major problem" that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

**ON A LOCAL SUBJECT,** Connolly called for the US Army to revisit their decision to place the 6,400 personnel contingent of the Washington Headquarters Services Group at the Alexandria Mark Center site. "I think that BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure] 133 can be revisited," he said. However, he gave no specifics.

## McKay, Bulova Ask Obama To Revisit BRAC 133

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
THE GAZETTE

**T**rees have been clearcut. Bulldozers have moved substantial dirt. And the first signs of serious construction are under way.

But, all that has not stopped Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova from writing a letter to President Barack Obama seeking to reverse the U.S. Army's decision to relocate 6,400 personnel of the Washington Headquarters Services agencies to Alexandria's Mark Center. McKay and Bulova are still touting the GSA Warehouses in Springfield as the better site.

Known as BRAC 133, the 6,400 personnel is the final contingent in the overall plan to relocate 19,300 jobs to Fort Belvoir as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report. In addition to BRAC 133, 8,500 personnel will be based at Belvoir's Engineering Proving Grounds just off

the Fairfax County Parkway in Lee District, 3,400 personnel will be on the main post, divided between various entities and the new DeWitt Army Community Hospital, and 1,000 personnel will be based at Belvoir's Rivanna Station in Charlottesville, Va.

The acreage at Mark Center, when fully developed and constructed for BRAC 133 will become a part of Fort Belvoir. The requirement, that any BRAC territory become part of the military base to which it pertains, is part of the 2005 BRAC law.

In September 2008 Mark Center was picked as the new home of BRAC 133 over the Victory Center on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria and the GSA Warehouses in Springfield. Both of the other sites have immediate access to rail mass transit; Mark Center does not. That fact has been the major complaint of those favoring the GSA site.

"The jobs being moved to the Mark Center currently are from the Pentagon and Crystal City — locations with transit readily avail-

able. Now employees at the Mark Center site will be moved away from direct transit services," McKay and Bulova stated in their Feb. 13 letter to President Obama

**"The BRAC 133 decision was a perfect example of old policies."**

— McKay and Bulova in letter to President Obama

and U.S. Representatives James P. Moran (D-8) and Gerald Connolly (D-11).

**"TRANSPORTATION SHOULD** have been a key component of the BRAC 133 decision; however, it does not appear to have been sufficiently factored into the decision. We believe the Army's decision will put more cars on the road, and pull more people off mass transit," they stated.

"The Army explanation is that the BRAC deadline of 2011 drove their decision and that the Mark Center was the only location that met the Congressional deadline," McKay and Bulova said.

"Now that we have a new administration with a transit-friendly agenda, we must take another look at this decision. The BRAC 133 decision was a perfect example of old policies; where instead of looking at the long-term effects of a decision, a premature one was made to meet a paper deadline. New leadership should take a fresh look at utilizing the GSA site for BRAC 133," they stated.

Moran's office said they had received the letter but as far as they were concerned the matter was closed as far as BRAC 133 was concerned. "We did everything we could to have the GSA site become the new home of BRAC 133. But, we will continue to pursue the GSA site for use in the future by other government agencies," said Moran's Press Secretary Austin Durrer.

## Constituents Respond To Hyland

Each year at his annual Town Meeting, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland has mock voting booths set up where those attending can register their opinions on a variety of subjects. Most of the questions deal with political issues and county services.

Here are the results from this year's survey from those attending the Jan. 31 Town Meeting:

❖ The issue of most concern facing Fairfax County is: Transportation-18; Taxes-10; Education-3; Immigration-5; Development-6; School funding-3; and BRAC-2.

❖ Are you professionally or personally feeling the effects of the economic recession? Yes-33; No-14.

❖ Do you support or oppose a meals tax with the revenue going to support the county school system? Yes-32; No-15.

❖ Do you believe the Board of Supervisors should enact legislation regulating the height and size of new homes in existing subdivisions? Yes-38; No-4; No opinion-5.

❖ Do you believe Fairfax County schools are adequately funded? Yes-26; No-12; No opinion-1.

❖ Should high schools start later in the day? Yes-20; No-17.

❖ Do you support or oppose a local income tax with the revenue going toward transportation projects? Yes-25; No-15; No opinion-7.

❖ Do you support lowering the speed limit on Richmond Highway to 35 mph? Yes-16; No-31.

❖ In the event the county receives funding from the federal stimulus bill, on what local program areas do you most prefer to see it spent? Transportation improvements-22; Increased social, health and human services programs-17; Implementing "green" building design in county buildings-5; Construction and renovation of county schools-3.

❖ Do you support the continuation of the real estate tax set aside of one cent for affordable housing and one cent for storm water management? Yes-40; No-4; No opinion-3.



# Duck Hunting Near Dyke Marsh

FROM PAGE 1

censed duck hunters and Mount Vernon residents who had become increasingly concerned for their safety. Opponents said that duck hunting in this area is dangerous while advocates said residents joggers and preservationists have nothing to fear. Those who began pushing for an end to duck hunting in Mount Vernon last year said the time had passed for this kind of activity near the federally protected land at Dyke Marsh.

"It's just not appropriate to have duck hunting where people are walking, jogging, working in their gardens or playing with their children," said Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh, in an April 2008 interview. "Erection of a duck blind near a community makes people feel unsafe."

**WHEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** gavelled into session this year, two separate measures addressing the lingering dispute. The first was a resolution introduced by Del. David Englin (D-45), which established a six-member legislative subcommittee to study waterfowl hunting in urban and suburban areas. The legislation directed members of the subcommittee to evaluate whether current guidelines were adequate, analyze how state hunting laws relate to local ordinances and evaluate whether sufficient resources were being directed to enforce waterfowl hunting laws in urban and suburban areas.

"The Rules Committee has a natural bias in favor of hunters," said Englin, whose bill was never even considered by the committee. "So it was a tough sell."

Although state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) introduced a similar bill on the Senate side, she was concerned that her resolution would meet a similar fate when the Senate Rules Committee took it up. After state Sen. Ken Stolle (D-8) suggested that the effort might have more success if the measure directed the Virginia Crime Commission to investigate the matter, Puller redrafted the legislation. Gone was the creation of a joint subcommittee in favor of directing the Crime Commission take up the matter.

"Part of the logic was that the House made it clear that they would not be funding any studies," said Kate Morosoff, legislative aide to Puller. "So asking the Crime Commission to investigate became the best way to address the issue without having the House throw it out without even considering the merits."

**ALTHOUGH ASKING** a joint subcommittee to investigate the issue of waterfowl hunting would cost a maximum of \$6,000, asking the Crime Commission to investigate the matter would not require any specific allocation. Earlier this month, Puller's Senate Joint Resolution 322 passed the Virginia Senate unanimously. On Feb. 16, it was referred to the Studies Subcommittee of the House Rules Committee. Puller said she has not yet scheduled a time to testify in favor of the resolution, but she is ready to make the case when that day arrives.

"The main thing was to avoid having the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries take the lead on this because they are always looking out for the interest of the hunters," said Puller. "That would be like asking the fox to guard the hen house."



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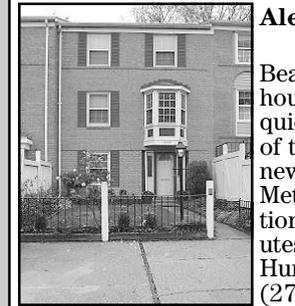
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# OPINION

## No to Gatehouse II Second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to

Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated in-

side the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this in closed session next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelmingly supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### EDITORIAL

## More to Hearts Than Valentine's Day

BY A. L. WILLIAMS  
THE GAZETTE

As Valentine's Day has just passed by, we all have hearts on our mind: Candy hearts, hearts of our loved ones and cards filled with pictures and messages of the heart. But why not do something for your own heart this February? February is not only the month we celebrate Valentine's Day, but also

### ONE TEEN'S VOICE

American Heart Month. The following information from the American Heart Association and family doctor Eric Hart can set you off on the

right foot this year to make sure we, as teens, are taking all the right steps to ensure a healthy heart now and into adulthood. Some of the facts may be things you already know but just need to be reminded of and some may simply surprise you.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; it accounts for more deaths than all cancers combined. Take control of your heart future today by following a few easy tips, and making these simple and easy lifestyle changes.

If we are careful while we are young and our bodies are still resilient, we will be less prone to heart disease, when we are older. The first thing you should know is your family history. Fortunately, 63 percent of teens said that they did know their family's heart health background. (Thirty Mt. Vernon area teens were polled).

Being physically active can be very advantageous, and the benefits it yields are manifold. Exercising regularly may seem difficult at the moment, but it is actually a simple change that

will improve not only the health of your heart but also your overall health. It can be as simple as taking your dog on an extra walk.

Managing your weight and keeping your stress levels low will also help reduce your risk. Both these things can be accomplished through regular activity; exercising will keep your weight balanced and the endorphins released can keep stress to a minimum.

**THE OTHER CHANGE** involves diet; cut back on fatty foods, limit salt intake, and decrease your consumption of processed and packaged foods (like fast food). Not smoking and monitoring your alcohol intake can also drastically decrease your likelihood for future heart complications.

"The main thing is, we have an obesity epidemic in youth. Many [heart] diseases that typically and historically have appeared in adults are being seen in youth," said Hart. "The best thing to do in young age," he said "is to have a well-balanced diet and to exercise."

Linda York of American Heart Association agreed and also stressed the risk factors of smoking for teens, particularly those who are already overweight. Teens, she said, "are almost five times more likely to be affected by a heart disease if they are around second-hand smoke and almost six times more likely if they actually do smoke." Hart said "bad genetics are like a little fire in the background, but smoking is like throwing gas on that fire."

One thing York warned against was the belief that many people have when reading nutrition facts. Just because something says it had 0 grams of trans fats does not really mean there are no trans fats. "The FDA allows companies to label the product as '0' if it has .5 grams or less per serving." Both York and Hart indicated

that the general public tends to think that women are less prone to heart disease than men. However, "it is the number one killer of men and woman — more than all the cancers combined," said York. Hart stated, "Some doctors, and the public don't take heart disease as seriously in women."

**BOTH YORK AND HART** stressed the importance of developing healthy habits at a young age. "Adults aren't the only ones at risk; stroke, heart attacks and other heart-related disorders are appearing in younger age groups," warned Hart. Both urged youth to attempt to make small lifestyle changes now that will help them at present and in the future.

"If you develop healthy habits it your youth they are easier to maintain; and if you develop bad habits they are more difficult to brake," said York. She recommended "playing more games, and doing something physical, not sitting and playing on the computer — it can really be fun and you can set positive examples for your peers and other teens in the community."

Hart concluded by saying "some things you can control, and others you can't. Family history you can't, but smoking and watching your weight and diet are things you can control. If you make a few small lifestyle changes you can help prevent against future heart disease"

Heed these tips and you will be well on your way to a heart healthy future. Remember, a healthy heart was made to last a lifetime; keep your heart healthy, so you can enjoy a long and active life.

For more on the information presented in this article visit <http://www.americanheart.org> or talk to your doctor.

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# OPINION

## Revenue Drops

BY TODDY PULLER  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Monthly state tax collections fell 15 percent in January. Revenue dropped 5.5 percent in the first seven months of the fiscal year. That's the "largest decline on record," according to State Finance Secretary Richard D. Brown. This bad financial news that increases the

**RICHMOND REPORT** estimated \$3.2 billion budget deficit comes at the mid-point of the General Assembly's 46-day Session. All of the main sources of state revenue are down from their forecasts. Sales tax fell in December 0.9 percent from last year and in January fell 8.8 percent. The forecast was for a 3 percent drop. "This holiday shopping season is shaping up to be the worse on record," Brown stated.

The 15 percent overall drop was caused largely by a "26 percent decline in individual estimated payments due Jan. 15." These

payments are made by investors and the self-employed and make up about 17 percent of general fund revenue. Also, "payroll withholding fell 10.6 percent," which makes up 62 percent of the state's general fund.

The House of Delegates passed its version of the state budget last week but the Senate postponed a budget vote until "the stimulus numbers and state revenue numbers are clearer."

On Monday of this week, Gov. Tim Kaine is expected to present revised revenue numbers and more details of the federal economic stimulus package to the General Assembly's committees that deal with money. It is anticipated that Virginia will get about \$4.6 billion, including \$1.2 billion toward the budget shortfall.

These are dire economic times. Unlike the federal government, our state government has to balance its budget. Therefore, many of the core services such as education, health care, and public safety are being cut more than we would like.

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

## MetroStage Draws Six Nominations

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
GAZETTE

**M**etroStage, Alexandria's professional theater on North Royal Street, continued its trend of ever more recognition in this year's nominations for the Helen Hayes Awards which recognize outstanding work in the professional theaters of the greater Washington area.

Work at the theater drew a total of six nominations, doubling last year's total of three. The company drew three nominations in a year twice before that but never more than three.

Five of the nominations were for work on the rousing production of the two-character rock musical set in Scotland, "Rooms – A Rock Romance." Another nomination was for work in the bio-musical about blues singer Alberta Hunter, "Cookin' at the Cookery."

The five nominations for "Rooms" exceeds the three that the tuneful comedy "The Musical of Musicals (The Musical)" received last year, so the company's record is definitely on an upward trend.

The categories of the nominations for "Rooms" are notable. With just a cast of two, it earned nominations for both Outstanding Lead Actress and Lead Actor in a Musical, Natascia Diaz and Doug Kreeger.

"Rooms" director, Scott Schwartz, was nominated for the Outstanding Director of a Musical award and the musical itself was nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical.

The entire production was honored with a nomination as the Outstanding Musical of the Year.

**IN ADDITION**, Janice Lorraine was nominated for her role in "Cookin' at the Cookery." She played songstress Alberta Hunter

SEE METROSTAGE, PAGE 9



Soldiers take aim at a re-enacting event.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

## Joining the Cause Infantry unit seeks recruits to 1860s military life.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE

**U**nCLE Sam wants you to fight against the Confederate States of America, and he'll be recruiting new soldiers at Fort Ward Saturday, Feb. 28. No, the South has not risen again. The Third Infantry is a unit of Union Army re-enactors who interpret 1860s' military life. And the unit's leaders are always looking for new blood.

"Getting in the hobby can be somewhat intimidating," said First Sergeant Paul Stier, a Maryland native who joined the unit in 1985. "So we have this venue where the public can find out what it takes to do this hobby on a semi regular basis."

Unlike soldiers who actually fought the Civil War, the government will not be issuing gear. So each individual is responsible for outfitting about \$1,500 worth of equipment — uniform, rifle, shoes, utility belt, kerchief box, bayonet, scabbard, cartridge box sling, haversack and canteen just for starters. But new recruits don't need to buy everything at once. They can dip into the unit's lending closet for the first two years — a sort of boot camp period to see if 1860s' military life suits them. And because the Third Infantry Division is a registered non-profit organization, all items are tax deductible.

"As a general rule, people who get into this sort of thing have a strong interest in the Civil War beyond reading books about it," said private Jim Tate, who joined the infantry in 1999. "They want to understand what was going on in the mind of soldiers and what it was like to be in camp."

The group was formed in the late 1990s,



Children are shown the supplies that re-enactors would use during re-enactments.

and meets about once a month. Aside from actually fighting in 10 to 12 Civil War battles each year, members of the unit also participate in several living history events at places such as Fort C.F. Smith or Harper's Ferry. One site where the group frequently appears is Fort Ward, the Union fortification that defended the Leesburg and Alexandria turnpike — known today as Route 7.

"Sometimes people are standoffish about approaching the reenactors in a living history situation, but this is an event where they will set aside time to will explain the uniforms and talk about how people get into this hobby," said Wally Owen, curator at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria. "It's a great event for someone who is generally inter-

ested in doing this kind of thing but might not know that much about it."

### Recruiting Day

Ever thought about donning a wool uniform or putting on a hoop skirt? Interested in portraying the lives of persons who experienced the Civil War? Find out about this hobby on "Recruiting Day" at Fort Ward Park on Feb. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. Soldiers and civilians of the Third U.S. Regular Infantry will be on hand to talk about a soldier's uniform and equipment, demonstrate drills and explain the roles of military and civilian re-enactors. Visitors can also inquire about how to join local re-enactment units and learn what kind of clothing and equipment a novice re-enactor requires. For more information, call 703-838-4848.

# THEATER

## MetroStage Nominated

FROM PAGE 8

first as a young girl and later as a grown woman.

Other northern Virginia theaters were conspicuous by their successes in this year's round of nominations, most notably Arlington's Signature Theatre which pulled in an astounding 39 nominations spread among work on six different shows. Synetic Theatre, which performs at the Spectrum in Rosslyn, had 10 nominations and Arena Stage drew eight nominations for work at its temporary home in Crystal City where they perform while their multi-theater campus in Southwest Washington undergoes massive

construction and renovation.

The entire cast of Keegan Theatre's production of "Translations" was nominated for the Canadian Embassy Award for Outstanding Ensemble, but that production by the Arlington-based theater company was mounted at the Church Street Playhouse in Washington and not in Arlington.

The winners will be announced at a gala celebration on April 13 at the Warner Theatre in Washington followed by an event at the JW Marriott Hotel, which has been termed "Washington's biggest cast party."

### CALENDAR

E-mail calendar announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### ONGOING

Visitors can learn about slavery at Mount Vernon during **Black History Month** programs, view new objects on display from a Revolutionary War cannon in the "George Washington & His Generals" exhibit to Mrs. Washington's wedding slippers and gown pieces (through Feb. 23). Visit [Visit.MountVernon.org](http://Visit.MountVernon.org).

Beginning Feb. 25, the **T.C. Williams High School Planetarium** will

welcome the Alexandria community one night each month during the school year for a free hour-long show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "A Night With the Stars," which will run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance registration, required, online at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/> or 703-824-6805, ext. 6300.

**Woodlawn's Needlework exhibition** is **March 1-31** at 9000 Richmond Highway. There will be demonstrations, lunch by Nelly's Needlers and more. See needleworks from around the world. Visit [www.woodlawn1805.org](http://www.woodlawn1805.org) or 703-780-4000 for more.

Library, 5005 Duke St. Discuss "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri. Free. 703-931-3559.

**Story Time.** 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Thursday Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Ages 3-5. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Wilburn Auditorium, 7630 Telegraph Road. Hayfield Secondary presents "The Pajama Game." \$10/person. Visit [www.hayfielddrama.com](http://www.hayfielddrama.com) or 703-924-7400.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 19

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Beatley

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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# HISTORY

**“We didn’t realize what we had.”**  
— Ruth Reeder, educator, Alexandria Archaeology Museum

## ‘Hail to the Chief:’ Tribute

Walking Washington’s town from his youth to his funeral.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

The big parade is history for another year, as are all the events of the four-day weekend holiday, now known as President’s Day, honoring the birthdays of our first and 16th presidents. But, a tribute to them and three other commanders-in-chief is alive and well at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., #327.

Entitled “Hail to the Chief,” this mini exhibit in the Alexandria Archaeology Museum on the center’s third floor showcases the presidencies of George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant and William Henry Harrison through an array of artifacts unearthed in Alexandria. Centerpiece of the show is the 1797 medal commemorating Washington’s decision to step down as commander-in-chief.

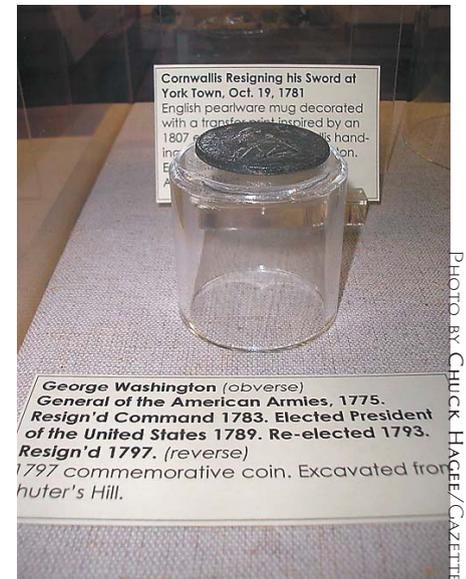
“It is composed of items out of

our collection from all over Alexandria,” said Alexandria City Archaeologist Pamela Cressey. Each item’s significance and history is described on an accompanying card.

“These artifacts were discovered over a period of time through a series of digs in various areas of the city. The oldest artifact on display is the commemorative medal which was discovered during a dig at Shuter’s Hill,” said Ruth Reeder, museum educator.

“It was actually discovered about 10 years ago but we didn’t realize what we had at that time. I Googled the medal and discovered it was much older than we had thought,” she said.

The medal had been on display at the Masonic Memorial Temple for a number of years on loan from the museum, according to Reeder.



**A rare 1797 medal commemorating George Washington’s refusal to accept a third term is part of the exhibit.**

The free exhibit will be on display through Tuesday, March 31, during museum hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [alexandriarchaeology.org](http://alexandriarchaeology.org) or call 703-838-4399.

**WITH WASHINGTON’S** actual birthday being this Sunday, Feb. 22, those who want to know more about his life and times can take a self-guided walking tour of Alexandria sites associated with the first president. It explores many sites associated with Washington’s long relationship with this seaport city. Included are:

- Joseph Ingle Cabinet Shop, 112 S. Royal St., where Washington’s mahogany casket was made for \$99.25.

- Gadsby’s Tavern, 134 N. Royal St., a favorite Washington dining spot and watering hole.

- Light Horse Harry Lee’s house at 611 Cameron St. Lee wrote the famous words of Washington’s eulogy: “First in war. First in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

- DuVall’s Tavern, 305 Cameron St, where Alexandrians had a reception in December 1783 honoring Washington upon his return from the Revolutionary War.

- Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick’s home at 209/211 Prince St. He was one of three physicians present at Washington’s death and conducted the full Masonic rites at Washington’s funeral.

All in all there are 21 sites on this tour. “Walking With Washington” brochures, with a map locating the various sites, are available at the museum.

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**8304  
Riverton Ln  
\$845,000  
Stunning!**

Victorian home combines farm house exterior with stunning open interior. 3

finished levels, 4BR, 3.5BA, hardwood flrs and spectacular kitchen with custom wood cabinets, granite counters & center island. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance to highly regarded Stratford Lndg & Sandburg schools. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, L Riverside, R Lakeshire, L Riverton.



**9405  
Ferry Lndg Ct  
\$795,000  
Magnificent Setting!**

Stately Colonial on highly desirable quiet cul-de-sac near

the river. Traditional exterior is complimented by bright, sunny interior opening to spectacular sun room. Large room sizes, updated baths, elegant trim detail, oversized garage and absolutely pristine condition on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds!



**3601  
Riverwood Rd  
\$749,500  
Riverwood Gem!**

Updated Colonial near the Potomac River neighboring homes selling for

\$3,595,850 and \$5,500,000! Owner spent \$175K in recent upgrades. Spectacular custom kitchen with granite, stainless & light maple cabinets, 4BRs, hardwood floors, updated & reconfigured baths, large screened porch, oversized garage & fenced yard.



**4212  
Dandridge Terr  
\$575,000  
Prestigious Southwood!**

Price slashed! A \$700,000 home for \$575,000!

Nothing like it on

the market today! Owner paid \$699,900 in 2005 and added \$30K in upgrades. Classic Center Hall Colonial in pristine condition has three finished levels including full walk-out lower level. Oversized two car garage, gorgeous lot on cul-de-sac – stunning value!



**3232  
Woodland Ln  
\$649,900  
Water Access!**

Truly special home on 1/2 acre lot just steps from community water access! Bright,

open floor plan, 5BR, 3.5BA, updated eat-in kitchen, replacement thermal windows, oversized two car carport and major updated items. Stunning sunroom built in 2006 overlooks landscaped grounds in prime location just off GW Pkwy. Priced \$40,000 below tax assessment!



**4003  
Belle Rive Terr  
\$4,800,000  
Riverfront!**

Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have

ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River.



**4307  
Sheridan's Point  
\$879,000  
Georgian Colonial!**

Large Price Reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mt

Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! Three finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, two bonus rooms on lower level and dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Just off the GW Pkwy – easy commute to DC!



**4203  
Adrienne Dr  
\$459,000  
Updated Home!**

Owner's job transfer creates a 'too good to be true' opportunity for this updated

home on 3/4 acre lot! High ceilings, thermal windows, updated kitchen & baths, gas fireplace, walk out lower level, new a/c unit, 2 car garage, 5 zone sprinkler system, custom deck with gazebo & hot tub overlook park-like setting. Nothing like it in the area close to this price!



**4300  
Neptune Dr  
\$497,000  
Yacht Haven Opportunity!**

Rare 3/4 acre corner lot in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates,

one of the Mount Vernon area's premier waterfront communities! Spacious home combined with exceptionally large building area provides limitless potential on this gorgeous level lot with access to Mount Vernon Yacht Club.

## STRATFORD LANDING!



**8826  
Camden Street  
\$899,500  
Gorgeous Setting!**

There's nothing like it on the market today – fabulous new

Wakefield Home custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization.



**Brambly Lane  
\$969,900  
FREE FINISHED BASEMENT FOR FIRST CONTRACT IN JANUARY – \$50,000 VALUE!**  
Pre-construction special makes this

new luxury home available at a price that is simply incomprehensible! Same model sold a few months ago for over \$1,600,000! High ceilings, open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, energy conserving features, oversize garage & more!  
(Picture of same model for illustration purposes only.)



**1600 Noral Place  
\$998,500**



**5304 Cedar Court  
\$398,500**

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complementing your long-term financial goals. We will help you determine what mortgage options work for you, guide you through the loan process, and answer your questions. Contact us today and start the home buying process with a free consultation. We'll help you understand how much you may be able to borrow. For a FREE consultation, please call us at anytime directly at 703.683.0400.



**14120 ESSEX DRIVE**  
Woodbridge - \$199,000

A MUST SEE & PRICED TO SELL! Beautifully finished top to bottom. Upper lvl features kit opening to breakfast room overlooking deck w/Jacuzzi from SGD, formal Dining room, separate formal Living room w/hdwd flrs. Main lvl has new carpet, Br, den, utility rm w/W/D. Interior freshly painted.



Maude Dixon 703.628.0096



**5432 DAWES AVENUE**  
Alexandria - \$750,000

QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD! 3 levels of freshly painted rooms, 4Br/2.5Ba - hardwood floors throughout 1st/2nd levels. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with lots of cabinet space, updated SS. Cozy living room with fireplace, separate dining room. Screened-in porch.



Lauren Leggett 703.582.7354



**1804 MACADAMS PLACE**  
Alexandria - \$439,900

READY TO MOVE IN, easy Hollin Hall Rambler! Family rm addition, 2 FBa, open Kit & DR. Bright, warm, great flow thru-out. Waywood school district, walk to shops, restaurants, minutes to OT, Ft. Belvoir & Mt Vernon. 0.3 acre of private, wooded lot at end of cul-de-sac.



www.homesfromanita.com  
Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809



**823 EMPRESS COURT**  
Alexandria / Waywood - \$719,000

BEAUTIFUL CENTER HALL COLONIAL, hardwood floors, renovated kitchen w/silestone & SS appliances. New windows/siding. Main level family room. Lower level au-pair/in-law suite. Huge and fenced backyard. Walk to pool and river.



www.WaywoodRealtors.com  
Anita 202-460-1809 or Elke 703-967-7633



**8404 CAMDEN STREET**  
Mt Vernon / Stratford - \$650,000

BEST OF THE REST! Beautiful, updated 4 bedroom colonial in cul-de-sac. Short walk to Stratford Elementary, parks, tennis courts. Large kitchen with adjoining family room (& wood-burning fireplace), garage, office. Recent roof, gutters, HVAC, more.



Dir: from Alex/OT, S GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, L Riverside, R Cavendish, R Camden to S404.  
Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



**8311 MT VERNON HIGHWAY**

Alex / \$1,099,263  
WHY SETTLE FOR ORDINARY WHEN YOU CAN HAVE A WAKEFIELD HOME!

Newest Wakefield community boasts extravagantly appointed homes w/hand finished hardwood floors, custom molding, granite SS, huge windows, light filled finished loft & life flows outside w/a beautiful screened porch. Bonus \$40K fin base w/Ba for ratified contract by end of FEB. Personalize your space w/additional options including a 5th Br, additional Ba, lower level patio & 2nd FP.



Mary Prosser 703.625.4461



**4129 FOUNTAIN-SIDE LANE #102**  
Fairfax - \$236,500

PRICE REDUCED! Beautiful Random Hills. Private, tucked away, landscaped enclave housing ten years young. Two Master Bedroom Suites 2 Baths, bright and sunny, ground floor Condo. Built-in bookcases, gas fireplace in Living room, carpeting, walk-out patio. Walk to pool, shops, Fair Oaks Mall, Wegmans and restaurants. Minutes to Route 66.



GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!  
Connie McKeen 703.866.8118



**5870 FIRST LANDING WAY #156**  
Alexandria - \$249,900

TRUE PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP SHOWS! Sparkling fresh, squeaky clean up to date appliances, crown moulding, surround sound siring, woodburning FP w/custom Adams mantle, replaced windows, plus Andersen window door to very private 2-tier deck. Perfect location w/reserved doorstep parking, backs to woods, is far removed from urban sounds yet so convenient. JUST LISTED. For more information call John Randolph.



John Randolph 703.307.4182



**7119 COVENTRY ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$729,000

STUNNING AND SPACIOUS. This 5Br/3.5Ba Colonial blends elegance & comfort. Highlights on the main level include a 2 story foyer, formal LR/DR, Family room, & gourmet kit w/SS appliances. There also is a w-out unfinished base, & a 2 car side load gar.



Blumel Adams Group  
Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams  
703.587.7841



**7032 CLIFTON KNOLL COURT**  
Alexandria - \$829,000

MOVE RIGHT INTO THIS . . . **Furnished** model home in convenient Cedar Knolls. Over 5,000 sq ft on 3 finished levels with 4-5Br/3.5Ba on 1/4 acre lot. Like new with tons of upgrades! Minutes to Ft. Belvoir, METRO, Beltway, Kingstowne and more. Must See!



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



**8906 OLD MOUNT VERNON ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$599,000

A TRUE COLONIAL . . . not a split foyer, facing George Washington's estate. 1 block from bike trail. Just refinished hwd flrs. Light pours into large LR & sep. DR. Kit opens to family room w/cozy gas FP, new carpet & SGD to patio. Updated master bath & huge walk-in closet. Hall bath also updated. New carpet in rec room.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



**2106 FORESTHILL ROAD**  
Alexandria / Belle Haven - \$1,549,000

Classic center hall Col. greatly reduced. The quality & detail of this 5Br/3.5Ba, updated Kit w/eat-in space & exposed brick FP, butler's pantry for ex-storage/service, hwd flrs thru out w/heart pine flrs in Kit. Deep moldings. Sunroom overlooking lovely boxwood garden. Also for Rent.



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Betty Quirk 703.851.3447

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**New On Market—Open Sunday 1-4**



**4909 JohnTicer Drive | \$940,000**

Spectacular detached cottage home in prime location. Sun-filled with 3300 sq ft on 3 levels, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, chef's kitchen with granite, SS appliances opens to fabulous great room, high ceilings, custom moldings, gleaming hardwoods, plantation shutters throughout, 2-car garage, et al. Second fam rm on lower level can be 4<sup>th</sup> BR. One half block to beautiful Brenman park, free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Cameron Station

**Open Sunday 1-4**



**114 Hume Avenue | \$799,900**

Historic plaques, charming 1925 colonial with front porch that has been thoughtfully expanded with a rear two story addition. Center hall foyer, four fireplaces, four bedrooms, three and a half baths, pine floors and large rooms. Finished lower level with game room & storage. Screened porch with hot tub, deck, fenced yard and garage.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Del Ray

**Great Value**



**Prosperity Drive | \$699,000**

Attractive home, private location, set back off of the road. 3,209 sq ft of finished living space, side-load garage, fireplace, deck, two story foyer, family room off the kitchen, sun room and den or library. Master bedroom suite with sitting room and huge his/her bathroom. Other two bedrooms have their own baths. Unfinished basement is walks out level to side yard. Shows well. Bank-owned.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Fairfax

**New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4**



**4500 Neptune Drive | \$563,000**

Charming brick home in sought-after Yacht Haven. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath rambler located on one of George Washington's original five farms in Mount Vernon! Hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen & many other upgrades! Newer doors, appliances. Walk-out basement includes recreation room with fireplace and full wet bar and very large storage space. All reasonable offers considered! On the web www.4500NeptuneDr.

Rachel Carter | 703 851-4207 Mount Vernon

**New Listing**



**6300 Stevenson Ave #307 | \$210,000**

Wonderful condominium with granite counters, new kitchen cabinets, parquet flooring, ceramic tile floors in kitchen and bath and great closet space. Bath has new vanity with granite. Condo has balcony overlooking pool & woods plus 1 garage space & 1 surface parking space. Wonderful Sentinel amenities - security, fitness center, pool. Move in condition.

Yvonne Croft | 703 973-1540 Alexandria City

**New Listing**



**6324 Golf Course Square | \$595,000**

This charming 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath brick townhouse is the happy combination of space, location and price that you are looking for! Three finished floors offer lovely living room with crown molding, chair rail and decorative fireplace, separate dining room, table space in kitchen, 2 master bedrooms, one with wood-burning fireplace, & spacious family room w/second wood-burning fireplace that opens to enchanting private patio. Located just across the street from the Belle Haven Country Club, a short walk to the bike trail and the Potomac River and minutes to Old Town, the Beltway and DC.

Jeanne Warner | 703 980-9106 Belle Haven

**Open Sunday 1-4**



**409 North Columbus Street | \$799,000**

Historic Home built in 1890 with 12 foot ceilings, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated kitchen and fenced-in patio; this brick end townhome had great room sizes and tons of sun! From Washington and King Streets, north on Washington Street, left on Princess Street and right on Columbus Street to 409. Please call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788 www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

**Condos of Carlyle Square**



**520 Carlyle Street #233 | \$339,900**

**Condos of Carlyle Square**  
Absolutely gorgeous and spacious studio apartment with granite kitchen counters, custom maple cabinets, hardwoods, 10 foot ceilings, floor to ceiling windows, lovely court yard as seen from the unit, assigned space in underground garage. Minutes to King St Metro, Whole Foods and restaurants.

Ed Pagett | 703 528-6161 Old Town

**New Listing**



**5509 Eyley Drive | \$595,000**

Beautiful large 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse facing lush, treed area in Kingstowne. If you are looking for a large dining space, this is it! Hardwood floors on main level, bump-outs on all three levels with sun-filled windows. Laundry on bedroom level, family room off open kitchen, gas fireplace, huge master bedroom suite. You'll love the red dining room!

Rita McCauley-Redmond | 703 447-9114 Kingstowne



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## New Price

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**227 North Lee Street**  
\$999,950



Beautiful 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA townhouse just steps from King Street and the scenic Old Town waterfront. This home effortlessly blends old and new to create the ideal living space! Handsome moldings, tray ceilings, hardwood floors, plentiful recessed lighting and many elegant details. The luxurious master bedroom suite features a bay window, gas log fireplace, and a shining marble bath with dual sinks, Jacuzzi and separate glass-enclosed shower. There are two additional "bedroom suites", an upper level family room, formal living and dining rooms and a sparkling eat-in chef's kitchen with granite. Two off-street parking places, and come Spring, look forward to enjoying the rooftop skyline from the sunny private patio!

Jane Cole | 703 598-6198 Old Town

## Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**6406 Wood Haven Drive**  
\$825,000



**Price Reduction**  
A new price on this "Like New", 4/5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, 3 finished levels above grade plus storage level, high ceilings, hardwood floors, new kitchen with granite and center island opening to large family room overlooking private deck and yard, designer carpet, master retreat, wine cellar, study, formal living room and dining room. Perfect! Dir: From Old Town—S on GW Pkwy, R Belle Haven Rd, L Potomac, L Old Towne Rd, R on Woodhaven Rd

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 New Alexandria

## Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**610 South Washington Street**  
\$1,899,000



**Everything New, but with Old Southern Charm**  
Built in 2006 this brick end townhome has the feel of the past, but all the modern amenities a discerning purchaser could want with reclaimed pine floors, 2 car detached garage, gourmet kitchen, media room, 3 bedroom, 4.5 bath, roof top deck with fireplace, Surround sound, irrigation system and much more. Please call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788 www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

## Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**912 Clifton Drive**  
\$2,495,000



**Priced Below Assessment**  
Located just off East Boulevard Drive along the GW Parkway, this home has the feel of yesterday with today's amenities. Wide planked floors, coffered ceilings, stone fireplaces, back staircase, archways, multi-piece moldings and hand made paneling on 3/4 acre. Both main and upper level masters plus 4 bedroom suites, library, catering center, kids mud room, fitness and theater, hobby and reading rooms. Wired for home media/technology, 3 car garage. Dir: South along GW Pkwy, L off Pkwy onto East Blvd Dr, quick right, L onto Clifton Dr. www.phyllis.patterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Alexandria S

## Freshly Refurbished

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**2303 Scroggins Road**  
\$ 495,000



This delightful brick cape cod has just come back on the market after the completion of the professional refinishing of the beautiful hardwood floors. Please come back and see how wonderful this charming four bedrooms plus two full bath home looks! Many special features including arched doorways, plaster walls, full basement and a large deck overlooking a spacious rear yard. This is a terrific value!

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Alexandria



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**UNDER CONTRACT!** Offered at \$394,000 - Garage Parking  
The largest ONE BEDROOM floor plan available! Master bedroom with curved sitting area and floor to ceiling windows, glass balcony off of living room, separate dining room and open kitchen.

Offered at \$475,000 - Garage Parking  
Spectacular unit with TWO MASTER BEDROOMS, glass sunroom, marble foyer, sep dining room, large kitchen and wood floors throughout. Beautiful views!

Offered at \$739,000 - Garage Parking  
TWO BEDROOMS with fabulous round glass enclosed balcony w /French doors...bright sunny eat-in kitchen with loads of storage! garage parking. Sep dining room. Den with or without custom made desk, computer station, and storage.

**OPEN SUNDAY! 1-4!** Offered at \$825,000 - Garage Parking  
A true THREE BEDROOM with 3 baths. Large 39' enclosed balcony with heat/cac, wood floors, 20' eat-in kit, crown molding, French doors, open floor plan.



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

## FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The United States Air Force Band Chamber series plays music for the trombone. Free. Visit [www.usafb.af.mil](http://www.usafb.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Time for 2s.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Wilburn Auditorium, 7630 Telegraph Road. Hayfield Secondary presents "The Pajama Game." \$10/person. Visit [www.hayfielddrama.com](http://www.hayfielddrama.com) or 703-924-7400.

**F is for February.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 3-5 enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

**Lunch Bunch.** Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Birth to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Opera.** 8:30 a.m. at John Adams Elementary School. Watch "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters." Free. 703-824-6970.

**WomenHeart.** 5-9 p.m. at Decorium Gift and Home, 116 King St. Learn about the risk factors for women's heart disease. A portion of the proceeds benefit WomenHeart. Visit [www.decoriumhome.com](http://www.decoriumhome.com).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**Lecture.** 11 a.m. at Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn about harvesting, preparation and consumption of foods of enslaved Virginians. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or 703-838-4356.

**Magestic Eagles.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe these birds and learn about their lives. Free. 703-339-2385.

**Propagation Series.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to make a light stand. \$55/all supplies provided. 703-642-5173 to register.

**Saturday Stories.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Saturday Stories.** 2 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. All ages. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beaufort St. Hear music by the American Balalaika Symphony. Visit [www.balalaika.biz](http://www.balalaika.biz) for ticket information.

**Dinner.** 5:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 6510 Fort Hunt Road. Enjoy a "50's Diner." 703-765-5003.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Wilburn Auditorium, 7630 Telegraph Road. Hayfield Secondary presents "The Pajama Game." \$10/person. Visit [www.hayfielddrama.com](http://www.hayfielddrama.com) or 703-924-7400.

**Music Performance.** 9 p.m. at O'Shaughnessy's, 1324 King St. Hear Caustic Casanova perform. Free. Visit [www.causticcasanova.com](http://www.causticcasanova.com) for more.

**Harambee Readers.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults discuss "In Search of Satisfaction" by J. California Cooper. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

**Jazz & Tap Dance Festival.** 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Enjoy performances by Synergy Hip Hop Dance Inc of Alexandria. \$20/adult; \$17/student, senior in advance. Visit [www.jatdf.org](http://www.jatdf.org) or 703-543-6926.

**Art Reception.** 6-10 p.m. at AHM Gallery, 215 S. Union St. See

photographs by Robert Cantrell. Free. 571-970-1466.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**Music Performance.** 2 p.m. at Bishop Ireton, 201 Cambridge Road. The Marine Chamber Orchestra performs free. Visit [www.bishopireton.org](http://www.bishopireton.org) or 703-751-7606.

**Magestic Eagles.** 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe these birds and learn about their lives. Free. 703-339-2385.

**Wild For Winter Waterfowl.** 10:30 a.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe swans, ducks and other waterfowl. Free. 703-339-2385.

**Happy Real Birthday George.** Free admission to Mount Vernon Estate for anyone named George or those that celebrate a birthday that day. Visit <http://Visit.MountVernon.org> or 703-780-2000.

**Celebration of Pie Tea Program.** 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the stories behind the pies and sample them. \$25. 703-941-7987 to register.

**Garden Renovation Basics.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to renovate your garden. \$10. 703-642-5173.

**Jazz & Tap Dance Festival.** 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Enjoy performances by Synergy Hip Hop Dance Inc of Alexandria. \$20/adult; \$17/student, senior in advance. Visit [www.jatdf.org](http://www.jatdf.org) or 703-543-6926.

## MONDAY/FEB. 23

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers up to 36 months can enjoy games and more. \$7/group of three, one adult and 2 children; \$3/ additional person. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-838-4242.

**Family Story Time.** 2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. All ages can enjoy an activity. Free. 703-642-5173.

**Little One-Ders.** 10 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Family Tale Nite.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Baby Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 0-11 months. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Bingo.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Elementary school students only. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Writer's Group.** 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. All writers welcome. Free. 703-339-4610.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 24

**Author Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams, 3330 King St. Author Daniel H. Pink will discuss "A Whole New Mind." Free. Visit [www.acps.k12.va.us/ptac/read.php](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/ptac/read.php) for more.

**Time for 2s.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 0-4 years. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Tuesday Tots.** 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Mother Goose Time.** 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months. Free.

703-838-4555. Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 2 and up. Free. 703-838-4555. **Author Speak.** 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Daniel Pink will discuss "A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainers Will Rule the Future." Free. 703-549-3865.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

**Author Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Local author Dominic Mumeka discusses "General Patton's Dark Secret." Free. 703-838-4566.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 3-6. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Mother Goose Time.** 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4555.

Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 2 and up. Free. 703-838-4555.

**Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Virginia Tech Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince St. James A. LaGro, Jr. presents "Adapting the Built Environment to Climate Change." Free. 703-706-8132.

**Writer's Group.** 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. All writers welcome. Free. 703-339-4610.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 26

**Story Time.** 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5. Free. 703-519-5900.

**Saturday Stories.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Thursday Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Ages 3-5. Free. 703-838-4566.

**Short Story Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Call 703-519-3498 for stories.

**Story Time.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. 703-838-4555.

**Preschool Storytime.** 1 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 3-5 enjoy stories, songs and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

**Stories and Science.** 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill drive. Children ages 4-6 can do experiments, enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Winter Community Party.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Alexandria House Community Room, Madison and Pitt Streets. \$15/single; \$25/couple, nonmembers \$20. Enjoy food and talk. 703-838-7603.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 27

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., presents "Object D'Art," an exhibit designed to challenge creative energy by reaching beyond comfort-zones and exploring new styles and mediums. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) or 703-838-4827.

**Time for 2s.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The United States Air Force Band plays music for the brass quintet. Free. Visit [www.usafb.af.mil](http://www.usafb.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.



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## HEALTH

# Exploring Emotions of Retirement

FROM PAGE 3

ing environment.”

Sullivan’s response was, “Whenever you’re ready let me know.” Thus began a month-long preparation.

“I had to fill out all the paperwork, go through a health screening and wrestle with the decision of what to bring and what to leave behind. I was leaving everything — home, family, a big house with a four car garage — and moving into this apartment,” he said.

“But, the big question in my mind was ‘How am I going to talk to the residents and become one of them?’” he said.

“These people are really terrific and, for the most part, very smart. In a great many cases they know a lot more than me because they have experienced a lot more of life,” Gurney said.

“I always knew, academically, that downsizing is tough when you have to leave the home where you’ve spent many years. But, when it actually happens things really change,” he said.

“Everyone has things that represent their comfort level — things of sentimental or emotional value. I thought about bringing the crockpot but I was told, ‘Why do you want that? They cook for you. But, in my mind the crockpot represented home cooking — a sensory comfort zone,’” Gurney said.

**DURING HIS WEEK**, he lived in a one-bedroom furnished apartment that serves as a model. Paul Spring has studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom apartments. Each has a living room, full bath and kitchen.

“My goal was not to disrupt anything. To fall into the flow of this community — this neighborhood,” he said.

“What I’ve come to realize through this experience is that this is a neighborhood — like the one my family and I live in. When you compare this to a neighborhood, this is a fabulous place with fabulous people, who are concerned about and involved with each other,” he said.

“There is a stigma with retirement living in general. I want to help change that. Hopefully through my experience and my relating this experience to my readers and their children, the latter can learn to be a little more sensitive to the changes they are ask-



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE

**Steve Gurney, publisher, Guide to Retirement Living, in his temporary apartment at Paul Spring Retirement Community, gained first hand experience of retirement living while spending a week as a resident.**

ing Mom and Dad to make,” Gurney said.

That was buttressed by Sullivan. “We enhance lives here. We are here to provide a fun, intelligent and active way to an alternative life style,” she said.

“When someone calls and says my parent needs assisted living, my first question is what is your definition of assisted living?” Sullivan said. Paul Spring provides customized care for each resident. They have 24/7 staffing with visiting doctors that come in once a week.

“We also can take residents to their own doctors if they are not capable of driving there themselves,” Sullivan said. “We also do a lot of joint programs with other senior facilities such as Hollin Hall Senior Center.”

**EACH NIGHT** of his residency, Gurney posted his thoughts on his blog at [www.everyoneisaging.com](http://www.everyoneisaging.com). He plans to do articles in his resource guide, both the published version and online at [www.guidetoretirementliving.com](http://www.guidetoretirementliving.com).

After his experience at Paul Spring, Gurney is considering other residency experiences at a continuing care community, nursing home, an independent living community for low-income seniors, and an Alzheimer’s-specific community: “By living as a resident in five different types of communities, I hope I will be better able to help families understand the options.”

## Performance To Benefit SIDS Research

FROM PAGE 1

ber.

“It’s just taken us a little while to get comfortable with doing something like [the benefit concert], it’s just taken us to this point to feel like we could do something,” he said. “We were all really close to it, obviously — me in particular — but we’ve reached the point where we feel like this is something we can do to help other people, whether it’s preventing further SIDS deaths from happening or just awareness and research, it doesn’t matter to us, we just want to help.”

Doctors know relatively little about what causes SIDS which is



**Mt. Vernon native Brandon Heiner**

the leading cause of death in the U.S. for infants aged one month to one year. Experts have been able to determine a few common characteristics amongst SIDS victims: stomach-sleeping, low birth-weight and inadequate prenatal care among them. It is more common in boys, and is more likely to happen during colder months.

“It was a — I hate to use the word classic — but it was a very typical SIDS case,” Heiner said. “It was a boy, it happened in winter, all things that they say, that the statistics show. It occurred in his first week at daycare, during a nap. He was on his back, which is a big thing with SIDS, but it hap-

### Get Involved

Heather’s Headache will play a benefit concert Feb. 27 to raise money for SIDS research. The show will take place at Rhodeside Grill, 1836 Wilson Blvd., in Arlington. Tickets start at \$12 and can be purchased at the door or by calling 202-262-9342.

pened anyway.

“It’s difficult to ever say what exactly caused it, but it doesn’t change the fact that it happened and that there are people who are going to experience and are experiencing the same thing we went through.” When he’s not on stage or in the studio, Heiner works in government affairs for an association in D.C. A Mt. Vernon native, Heiner and his wife of 15 years, Rachael, now have a set of two-year-old twins, one boy and one girl; as well as an eight-year-old daughter.

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# SPORTS

## Season Ends for West Potomac Basketball

Wolverine girl's, boy's teams bow out in first round of district playoffs.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE

The odds were certainly stacked against the No. 8 seed West Potomac girl's basketball team heading into Tuesday night's first-round Patriot District playoff game against No. 1 seed T.C. Williams.

The Wolverines had just one win on the season and were riding a 14-game losing skid. Ironic, given the Titans came into the match-up sporting their own 14-game winning streak, not to mention a 38-game winning streak against Patriot District foes.

It all added up to another dominating T.C. Williams performance, as the Titans continued their march through conference foes by defeating West Potomac, 77-13, to advance to Wednesday's semifinal round.

Senior Monica Fikes led the Titans with 16 points and nine rebounds, while senior Khalia Boston chipped in with nine points. Star Tierra Ruffin-Pratt had just six points, but sat out much of the second half.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

**West Potomac junior Kiara Artis was named an all-Patriot District honorable mention after averaging around seven points per game this season.**

Freshman Melanie Boykin and senior Kelly Wood both had four points apiece for West Potomac.

"We're still alive in the tournament, that's the most important thing," said T.C. Williams coach Cavanaugh Hagen, whose team

faces Annandale Wednesday night in the semifinal round. The finals are scheduled to take place Friday night at Lake Braddock.

**FOR WEST POTOMAC**, the loss ends what can only be described as a season to forget. The Wolverines won just one game, none of which came against district foes. But coach Michael Weber is looking forward to next year after watching several of his younger players progress despite the lack of positive results.

In particular, Weber pointed to the play of junior Kiara Artis, who was named to all-Patriot District honorable mention after averaging more than seven points per game this season.

"She came into her own as the season went along," said Weber.

The Wolverines' two freshmen — Boykin and Caroline Kelly — also merited praise from the coach for showing promise in some adverse conditions. He now looks to the offseason to get the West Potomac program back on track.

"If we had played more as a team, and we did in certain spots, but when we played as individuals it tore us apart," said Weber. "I'm really looking forward to the offseason so we can get some things like team camp going."

**THE WOLVERINE BOY'S** season also came to an end Tuesday night, as No. 7 seed

West Potomac lost to No. 2 seed Hayfield, 58-34, closing the door on a season that didn't quite live up to its promise.

After beginning the year with a solid 5-4 record, West Potomac lost 11 of its last 12 games. The Wolverines won just once in Patriot District play — a 63-55 victory over South County on Feb. 3.

**"She came into her own as the season went along."**

— West Potomac girl's coach  
**Michael Weber**  
on junior **Kiara Artis**

On the bright side, next year will bring the return of now-junior Martez Redfearn, who led West Potomac (6-15, 1-12) with 11 points against Hayfield Tuesday and averaged more than 15 points per game overall. Sophomore Daryl Copeland also showed promise throughout the season, averaging 12 points per game.

By way of their first-round exits from the district tournament, neither the boy's nor the girl's team advances to next week's Northern Region Tournament.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

Vernon" after both the Majors' boy's and girl's teams took home regular season crowns. Each enter the postseason with a first-round bye in the National District tournament and sport automatic berths in next week's Northern Region tournament thanks to their No. 1 seeds.

The Mount Vernon boy's (17-4 overall) enter tournament play riding a 15-game winning streak after going through regular-season district play with an unblemished 12-0 record. The Majors will face Yorktown in the semifinals Wednesday night, after the Gazette's press time. Mount Vernon defeated the Patriots, 77-70, just last week to close out the regular season.

The Majors have used superior depth and several multi-versatile players like junior Skylar Jones (19 ppg) and sophomore Jesse Konadu (11.6 ppg) to rebound from a 2-4 start to the season. Should they win Wednesday night, the Majors would move onto the district finals, which are scheduled to take place at 9 p.m. Friday at Mount Vernon.

The Mount Vernon girl's (20-2 overall) will face Stuart in the district semifinals, a team they defeated by a combined 68 points in their two regular-season meetings. That game will also take place Wednesday night, after the Gazette's press time.

The Majors will likely face Edison in the district championship, the only team to defeat them during regular-season district play. Edison and Mount Vernon tied for first place in the standings, but a common opponent tiebreaker gave the first-round bye to the Majors.

Each team defeated the other by eight points in their two regular-season meetings. Expect juniors Tracy King, Jenae Jackson, and Jalinda Venable to play key roles if the Majors are to expand on their lofty regular-season accomplishments.

The National District girl's championship game is slated to take place at 7 p.m. Friday night at

Mount Vernon.

### Area Wrestling Results

The Northern Region wrestling championships took place this past weekend at Fairfax High School, and although no area grapplers placed in the top four in their respective weight class (automatically qualifying them for next week's state tournament), both West Potomac and Mount Vernon had several participants.

Leading the charge was West Potomac senior Sam Agyemang, who placed sixth in the 145-pound weight class. Agyemang amassed a 3-2 record overall, losing in the quarterfinals, 1-0, before wrestling back onto the podium as part of the consolation bracket. The Wolverines' Stephen Howell (189 pounds) and Jordan Blair (285 pounds) both had 1-2 records over the weekend.

Mount Vernon's Chad Eason finished in sixth place in the 103-pound weight class. He had a 2-2 record at the regional meet. The Majors' Joey Marino (145 pounds) had a 2-2 record but did not place. Dusty Floyd (130 pounds), Trey McClure (135 pounds), and Habib Balde (171 pounds) all went 1-2 for Mount Vernon.

The state tournament is scheduled for this weekend at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake, Va.

### Dona Shines at Swimming Regions

West Potomac freshman Reanna Dona showed she was no one-hit wonder in the pool this past weekend, garnering top finishes at the Northern Region Swim and Dive Championships. A week after leading the Wolverine girl's at the Patriot District meet, Dona solidified her stature as one of



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER

**West Potomac's Reanna Dona was the top swimmer for the Wolverines at last weekend's Northern Region Championships.**

the area's best swimmers with a third-place showing in the 50-yard freestyle and a fifth-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Dona now moves onto this weekend's state meet, which will take place at George Mason.

### Northern Region Gymnastics

With Fairfax County proposing to cut the sport, the West Potomac girl's gymnastics team placed eighth overall at what could go down as the last-ever Northern Region Girl's Gymnastics Championships this past weekend.

Among the notable performers were Julie Ruamthrong (8.525 on vault and 8.200 on floor), Monica Bell (7.375 on beam), and Cara Yaworski (7.400 on floor). The state girl's gymnastics meet takes place this Saturday at West Potomac beginning at 8 a.m.



COURTESY OF WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

**First row (from left): Phyllis Montgomery, Mom; Chris Montgomery; and Terry Montgomery, Dad; second row: Aaron Helmick, West Potomac DSA; Rima Vesilind, West Potomac principal; Eric Henderson, West Potomac head football coach.**

### West Potomac Football Signee

West Potomac High School Senior Chris Montgomery has signed a Letter of Intent to play football next fall at Virginia Union University. Chris, a two-year starter for the Wolverines, played cornerback and led the team with five interceptions, often lining up against the best receivers in the region.

### Mount Vernon Basketball

The basketball regular season has come and gone and the top of the National District standings has a familiar look. They both read "Mount

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-Abraham Lincoln

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We deeply regret that due to space limitations, we're no longer able to publish the Crossword Puzzle. We appreciate the week-to-week commitment and enthusiasm of our loyal participants.

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# Change Housing Approach

FROM PAGE 1

The land was purchased by Fairfax County nearly 25 years ago with the aid of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the development of low income housing. However, over the years it has become more of a recreational/open space site.

asked rhetorically.

The proposal for affordable housing calls for clearing the 11 acres and constructing 65 pads on which the homes would be sited. The units would be sold to homeowners but the county would maintain ownership of the sites, according to Dale.

"A mortgage assistance program could be better used than another mobile home park. Why should we use resources to build crap housing to compete with good housing already available? I'm not opposed to having the county help the truly needy. But, there are better places to help people than North Hill," he said.

### THE RESOLUTION maintained:

◆ "The recent dramatic reduction in housing prices has mitigated the need for affordable workforce housing in the Mount Vernon District in specific and Fairfax County in general.

◆ "There are now stable neighborhoods with neglected vacant houses including foreclosed properties, and these neighborhoods will suffer if the vacant houses remain unoccupied and become blighted.

◆ "During the current difficult county budget situation, it is not fiscally responsible to spend limited taxpayer dollars to destroy a forested natural resource like North Hill in order to build county-controlled housing in direct competition with existing available housing."

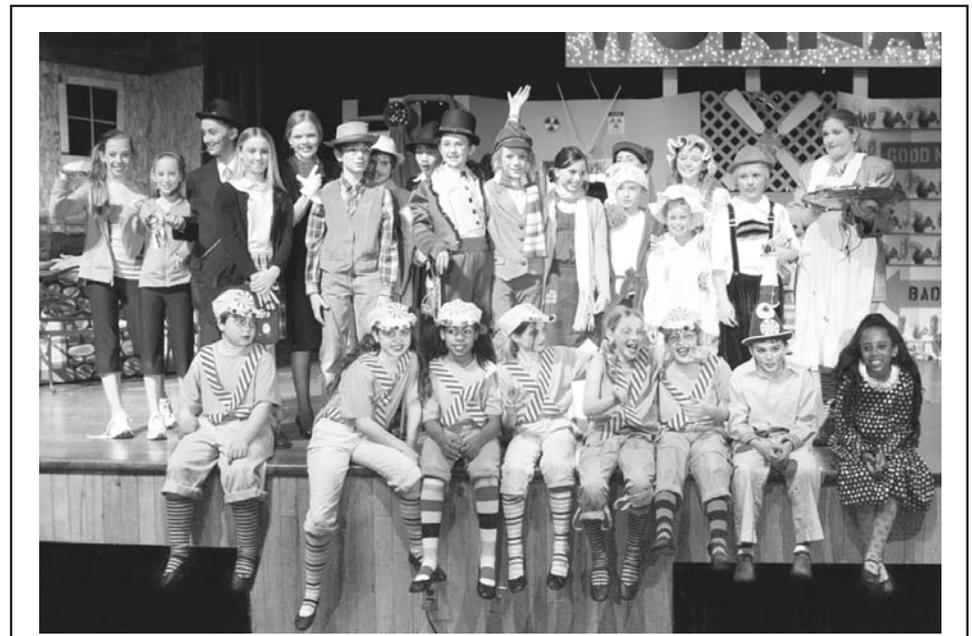
It also called for reallocating money to be spent on designing and building North Hill toward a mortgage assistance program "to qualified employed persons." The resolution broadened this point to the entire county, not just Mount Vernon District.

**THOSE ADVOCATING** for more affordable housing and those favoring open space have clashed at various meetings pertaining to the future use of North Hill. This has now been aggravated by increased housing vacancies brought on by the economic downturn and increased home foreclosures.

"Our neighborhood [Spring Bank] has quite a few empty and foreclosed houses. Environmentally we are losing tree cover, worsening stormwater management, and facing global warming. In spite of all these factors, the county housing authority is continuing efforts to clear 11 acres of woodland to build a mobile home park," Dale told SBCA members in his email announcing Monday night's meeting at Groveton Baptist Church.

"The figures aren't in yet, but the estimate was about \$2 million just to prepare the site — removing the trees, leveling the land, dealing with poor soils, and putting in utilities. To me and others, it seems crazy for the county to be spending our tax dollars to destroy woodland for the ultimate purpose of adding affordable housing in the form of mobile homes," Dale stated.

"Would it be a better use of the money to help the affordable housing candidates get a mortgage to buy a foreclosed house that is empty and waiting for occupancy?" he



**'Wonka' Cast** The upper elementary students of The Aquinas Montessori School, 8484 Mount Vernon Highway, are all smiles as they pose for their "Willy Wonka, Jr." cast photo, performed Jan. 30 and 31. Top row (left to right): Caroline Baucom (Mrs. Beauregarde); Haley Lopez (Violet Beauregarde); Riley Flynn (Mr. Salt); Emily Danielson (Veruca Salt); Tate-Louise Mikkelsen (Ms. Teevee); Konrad Woo (Mike Teevee); Reid Bozell (Phineous Trout); Daniel Caplen (Grandpa Joe); Leanora Bratvold-Boyd (Willy Wonka/Candy Man); Oona Davies (Charlie Bucket); Sydney Nixon (Mrs. Bucket); Burke Reid (Grandpa George); Nathan Reed (Mr. Bucket); Rachel Michael (Grandma Josephine); Lola Beste (Grandma Georgina); Cameron Danielson (Augustus Gloop); and Hannelore Tahmassebi (Mrs. Gloop). Bottom row (left to right): Samuel McBroom (Oompa-Loompa); Brittany Yevoli (Oompa-Loompa); Jacklyn Westbrook (Oompa-Loompa); Amanda St. Claire (Oompa-Loompa); Eliza Sterne (Oompa-Loompa); Dana Ross (Oompa-Loompa); Zachary Lindsey (James Wyatt); and Bofta Leakemariam (Matilda).

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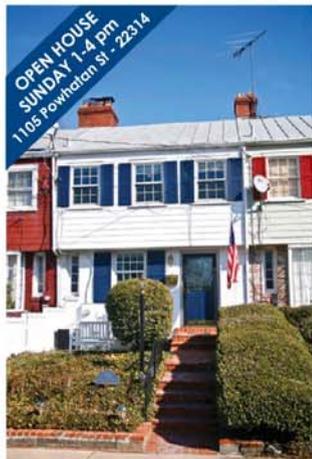
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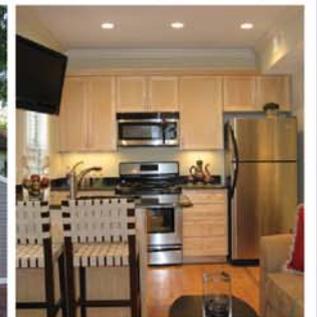
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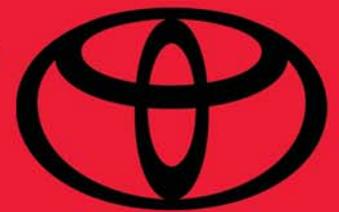
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