

Mount Vernon Gazette

All-Connection Basketball Teams — SPORTS, PAGE 20

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 10

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

MARCH 12, 2009

Cost of Social Conscience

Supervisors commit to push for affordable housing, dental and ESOL services.

BY AARON STERN
THE GAZETTE

Margaret Davis recently had surgery. She has no job, no place to live, and without the support of her church she would have little hope. Recently someone told her that she didn't look like a homeless person, and it made her mad.

"I am homeless and I'm not too ashamed to say it,"

"Sometimes when there's hard times, people start to [abandon] what they hold precious."

— **Imam Johari Abdul-Malik**

Davis said. As Fairfax County grapples with a projected \$650 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, Davis said it was important to continue to fund programs that offer affordable housing and other services to the county's low-income residents.

Davis was one of many speakers at a rally on Sunday, March 8 organized by Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) at Bethlehem Baptist Church. The rally included public commitments

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 24



The Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope United Methodist Church emphasized the importance of providing affordable housing and dental care to Fairfax County residents in need at a meeting of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement on Sunday, March 8.



Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, voices her support for the VOICE agenda to the Rev. Tuck Bowerfind, Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, and nearly 300 in the audience.

Corridor's Future?

Perspectives vary on status of Mount Vernon revitalization.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Although Richmond Highway has received a couple new Walgreens and four new hotels, opinions are divided as to the status of the long-awaited revitalization effort on Richmond Highway. The high-end grocer Wegman's bailed out of a proposed new store last year and funding for a long-awaited transit study suddenly disappeared in December. The wait for a revitalized Richmond Highway has become an exercise in patience. "Route One is still an orphan in the district," said Frank Cohn, chairman of a strategic planning committee for the Mount Vernon Council of Civic

Associations. "If the transportation system is not in place, you cannot expect an influx of first-rate restaurants and stores, can you?"

For many residents in Mount Vernon, the dream of replacing crumbling strip malls with high-end stores and dense urban development has been a distant dream — one that some say is being choked by congested roads and gridlock-addled motorists. Although much of Richmond Highway has six lanes, a critical stretch of the road between Sherwood Hall Land and Telegraph Road is still two lanes north and two lanes south. Funding for a transit study aimed at this section were reallocated elsewhere last year by the

SEE STOP-AND-GO, PAGE 5

Person of the Year

Anne Andrews receives county-wide award.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE GAZETTE

Anne Andrews of Mt. Vernon has volunteered and served the citizens of Fairfax County for over 40 years. This Sunday the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations will honor her work in providing human services to her fellow citizens.

"This was completely out of the blue and I was overwhelmed," said Andrews, on finding out she was this year's recipient.

"We are proud to publicly recognize the achievements of Anne Andrews, our citizen of the year, and Linda Byrne and Christine Morin, our Citation of Merit win-



Anne Andrews

ners, who have selflessly worked to make Fairfax County a better place," said John Jennison, the Citizen of the Year chair. He adds that these are regular people who work hard to improve the quality of life for county residents and serve as role models for their com-

SEE ANNE ANDREWS, PAGE 24

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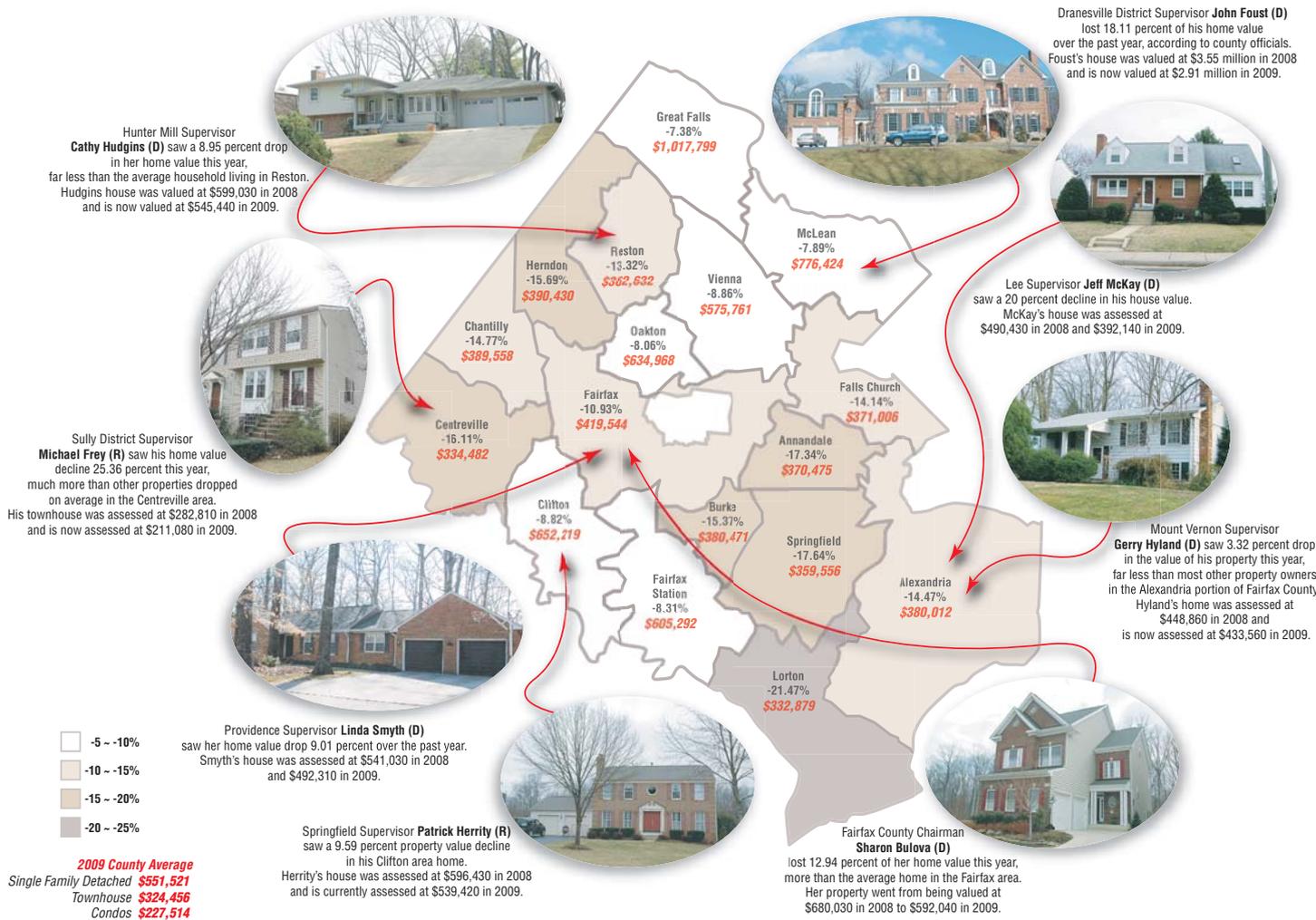


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There She Is ... Bethany Munt of Alexandria is crowned Miss Greater Springfield.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Bethany Munt, 23, of Alexandria was crowned Miss Greater Springfield 2009, the first step in the Miss America Pageant, on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Greenspring. She won \$1,000 and the chance to compete in the Miss Virginia pageant in June in Roanoke.



Bethany Munt

"I entered Miss Springfield and things just clicked," said Munt. "I was very surprised and honored to have won.... This is the first time that I've even placed; I was absolutely speechless."

She competed against six other girls in talent, swimsuit, evening gown, onstage question and interview. Her platform was Strong American Schools, based in the District, which promotes education.

"She seems to be a sponge, seems to be absorbing everything," said Jerry Burks, executive director of the pageant. "She seems to want to be out in the community, talking about her platform and she wants to meet the young girls. It's part of being out in the public and being seen." With an undergraduate degree in child development from Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y., Munt taught school in New York and New Zealand, where she said, "I was blown away by their education system." Now she's working on her master's degree at GMU's School of Public Policy.

Munt calls her experience with the Greater Springfield pageant "fantastic," pointing out that they gave roses to contestants in the evening gown portion. "My favorite part was they had little historical parts to introduce each section," she said.

When she's not competing, she coaches gymnastics on the weekend for JW Tumble in Arlington. She also coaches at Barcroft Community Center. In the future, she hopes to do something with education policy, whether it be working on the legislative side or working with interest groups.

How Much Is It Worth?

Assessments in question as fewer home sales offer fewer properties for comparison.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Jeff McKay is very familiar with Groveton, his neighborhood off Richmond Highway near Huntley Meadows Park.

McKay's grandparents moved into his home when it was newly constructed in the 1940s and a member of the Lee District supervisor's extended family has always lived in the house. McKay bought the property himself 12 years ago after graduating from college.

So it came as a surprise to McKay when he looked up his real estate property assessment online and found many of the home sales used to determine his house's property value this year were located on unfamiliar streets.

Typically, Fairfax County tries to use home sales from a property's immediate neighborhood or subdivision to determine its value. In the case of McKay's home this year, they were factoring in home sales from Burgundy Village, a community several miles away in a different zip code, he said.

"In the time I have lived in this house, that has never happened before. ... Something different was done this year than we have done in the past," said McKay, a Democrat.

IN 2009, 30 percent of Fairfax County's real estate assessments were calculated using home sales from "sister neighborhoods" as well as immediate communities, said Janet Goldsmith, director of the real estate division in Fairfax County's Department of Tax Administration.

County staff have always brought in home sales from other comparable neighborhoods to determine some property values but the practice was much more widespread this year, due to the downturn in the housing market, she said.

"We looked at similar neighborhoods and have looked at similar neighborhoods throughout the years but it has become more important this year. While there are still enough sales to value property, they are not as evenly distributed," said Goldsmith.

Fairfax County only incorporates "fair market" home sales into real estate property assessments.

Foreclosures and other distressed sales are not supposed to factor into calculating

property value for tax purposes. As a result, it can be difficult to determine home assessments in neighborhoods like McKay's that have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and where few or no non-distressed sales have taken place, she said.

"It is standard appraisal practice to choose the best comparable properties that you have. If you don't have them in your immediate neighborhood, then you widen your search," said Goldsmith.

STILL, McKay wonders whether determining home assessments through "sister neighborhood" comparisons is the best approach.

"It is standard appraisal practice to choose the best comparable properties that you have."

— Janet Goldsmith,
Fairfax County real estate division

"Normally, residents are used to looking at sales within their neighborhoods and they are comfortable with that because they know their neighborhood well. When you start including other neighborhoods that are miles away in a different zip code, it becomes more difficult to try and figure out whether the properties included were fair or not," he said.

According to Goldsmith, the county does take geography into account when coming up with "sister neighborhoods" for assessment purposes. When looking for a com

SEE COMPARING, PAGE 26



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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Heading north on four lanes to Buckman Road on Richmond Highway.

Stop-and-Go Future for Highway?

FROM PAGE 1

Virginia Department of Transportation, leaving many residents to suspect the Richmond Highway revitalization effort had been indefinitely postponed.

"If you don't clear up the traffic problem, you're never going to get revitalization," said Cohn, who moved to the Mount Vernon District since 1974. "If people get frustrated because they're stuck in traffic, the revitalization effort is going to be a lost cause."

OTHER SAY the revitalization effort is in full swing, with negotiations under way to put a new Wal-Mart at the King's Crossing site. Officials with the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation are working with the Mount Vernon planning commissioner to draft comprehensive plan language encouraging redevelopment of a former church at the intersection of Sherwood Hall Lane and Richmond Highway. Plans have already been drafted for lighting improvements to the Sacramento Center. Stores such as Bruegger's Bagels and Famous Dave's barbecue restaurant are being actively recruited.

"Things are happening," said Anne Richardson,



Heading south on eight lanes at Belle Haven Road and Richmond Highway.

interim director for the development corporation. "We have four new hotels that are either have been built or are being built."

Plans have existed to widen Richmond Highway for decades, and one section of the highway was widened in 1988. But the project has languished since then, with residents and government officials divided over how mass transit options might be incorporated into the widening project. Although state Sen. Toddy

SEE LOOKING, PAGE 25

What's New?

The following is from a status report from **Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation** on area projects:

♦ **Huntington Metro Project** - Stout and Teague's approved project contains 650 residential units (48 townhomes completed in 2007, 420 mid-rise apartments now under construction for delivery in 2010, and 180 high-rise apartments for future development). The project also includes 225,000 square feet of office and 20,000 square feet of retail for future development and 12 acres of land to be dedicated as public park.

♦ **SpringHill Suites** - On Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, a three-alarm fire occurred at the construction site burning the building to the ground. The owners are in the final stages of site redevelopment

SEE WHAT'S NEW?, PAGE 25



Wishing you the luck of the Irish
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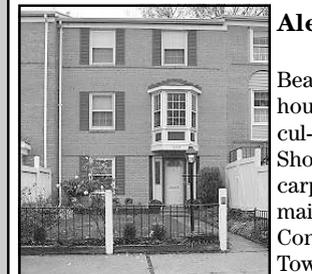
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OPINION

A Million Trees? Landscape architect, sound walls are small consolation for tree loss.

If you've driven on the Beltway lately between McLean and Springfield, you might find some understatement in this week's announcement that VDOT wants "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss."

Along the 14-mile path of planned HOT-lanes, Fairfax County communities appear to have lost more than two square miles of tree canopy and a million or more trees.

The approval of the construction of "high occupancy toll" lanes along the Beltway via a public private partnership came swiftly, and with little fresh consideration of the impact on local communities. Most local residents became aware of the project as they watched the clear-cutting of mature trees and stands of forests that have sheltered birds and wildlife along the Beltway for decades. Elected officials were also caught by surprise at the extent of the tree clearing and other work.

The project will add two lanes in each direction on 495 between Springfield and McLean, available free for vehicles with three or more occupants, and by a variable toll for the rest.

The contractor, Fluor-Transurban, will keep the toll revenue for 50 years or more to pay for the construction.

VDOT, we're told, will hire a landscape architect to develop landscaping plans in coordination with adjacent communities, "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss and to take advantage of available green space as

the project develops."

The work of the landscape architect and coordinating with local communities should have come before the project began. But better late than never.

See VirginiaHOTLanes.com for more.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Local Culture

This weekend, the Fairfax Symphony will audition Gregory Vajda, 35, as its fifth of six prospective music directors. It's an audition anyone can attend, and offer feedback. The Fairfax Symphony is a local treasure, remarkable in quality and well worth seeing, hearing and supporting.

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years, choosing six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants.

Vajda will serve as guest conductor this Saturday, March 14, and will speak at a free talk at 7 p.m. before the 8 p.m. concert, with guest soloist Andre Armstrong on piano. The concert will include Liszt, Les Préludes; Bartok, Piano Concerto No. 3; and Schumann, Symphony No. 2 in C Major.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax. See www.FairfaxSymphony.org. Tickets are available at the door, just come by.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not Change To Believe In

To the Editor:

With the federal spigot about to begin flooding the states with money, the nation's governors are bucket ready hoping to catch every single stimulus dollar flowing from Washington. Not since the Bush Administration and congress lavished \$700 billion on Wall Street has there been such giddy excitement. The effort to spend our way to prosperity is in full stride as consumer confidence and the stock market dip to alarming lows.

When congressional Democrats pieced together a stimulus plan, we were led to believe that great minds had cobbled together a surefire strategy for fixing the economy. Instead, our very own governor, Tim Kaine, has launched a Web site looking for ideas on how to spend Virginia's "share" of the booty. With confidence in such short supply, having our governor troll for spending ideas sends the wrong kind of message.

Confidence is down throughout the country because Americans are concerned about the future. We are spending less and putting cash away while Washington has embarked on a vast orgy of spending. The intent of the stimulus plan may be noble, but the message coming from Washington is counterintuitive to what most Americans are experiencing right now.

Why the market crashed re-

mains elusive to most Americans but they intuitively know that somehow the moral compact that binds our nation was broken when our retirement accounts disappeared seemingly overnight. The politicians in Washington are desperately trying to shield us from the consequences of the tumult through profligate spending. But the plan itself is quickly becoming a scandal of its own particularly as details emerge showing it to be little more than a vast transfer of wealth. Wall Street received a bailout and Americans watched in wide-eyed amazement as the wizards of finance scrambled to award themselves multi-million dollar bonuses. Now Democrats in Washington have raided the treasury. This is not change I can believe in.

Thomas M. Beattie
Mt. Vernon

Persecuted For Faith

To the Editor:

The members of the Baha'i Faith in Alexandria and Mount Vernon are grateful for Chuck Hagee's article relaying concern for the Baha'i leaders imprisoned and awaiting trial on false charges in Iran ("Bahá'í Community Seeks Spotlight on Iran," Mount Vernon Gazette, March 5, 2009). It is very important that people become

SEE LETTER, PAGE 7



The second graders erupt into screams as a surprise guest steps into the school cafeteria.

100 in 100 by 100

One hundred books were read in 100 days by nearly 100 second graders at the Hybla Valley Elementary School. The second graders were treated to a "Sock Hop" in the school cafeteria last Friday afternoon.

The tables and chairs were cleared, shoes were lined up against the wall and Matisha Jordan and John Ramos brought the children together in line dancing.

After dancing, cakes and juice were served up before a surprise special guest arrived. Chuck E Cheese was escorted into the room filled with screaming fans as the teachers and school administrators smiled and gently tried their crowd control techniques on the children. Chuck E gave high five's and then posed for class pictures before the party was over and the 100th day of school ended.



Ms. Ford's goddaughter Matisha Jordan leads the second graders in line dancing at the afternoon celebration.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CAZETTE

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A Connection Newspaper

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

aware of the human rights situation generally in Iran, and the case of the Baha'is in particular, as the Baha'is are the scapegoat of choice in that country. Your work is a significant help.

Since most people know little about the Baha'i Faith, I would like to expand on the article to explain that the Baha'i Faith is an independent world religion widespread around the globe, with five million members (about 100 each in Alexandria and Mount Vernon). The Baha'i Faith began in Iran in 1844. Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah ("the Glory of God," 1817-1892), whom Baha'is regard as the most recent in the succession of Manifestations or Messengers of God. Among these Manifestations are Abraham, Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, and now Baha'u'llah. Baha'is believe that there is only one true God, that all of the world religions are progressively revealed chapters of a single religion, and that all humankind is one people. Persecution against the Baha'i Faith has been a fact of life in the land of its birth since the 1840s. It re

SEE LETTER, PAGE 8

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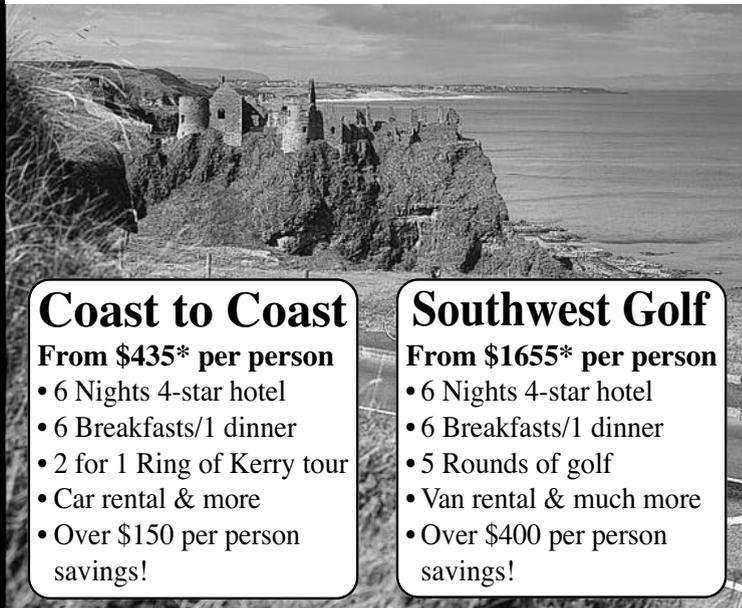

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Needlework on Exhibit

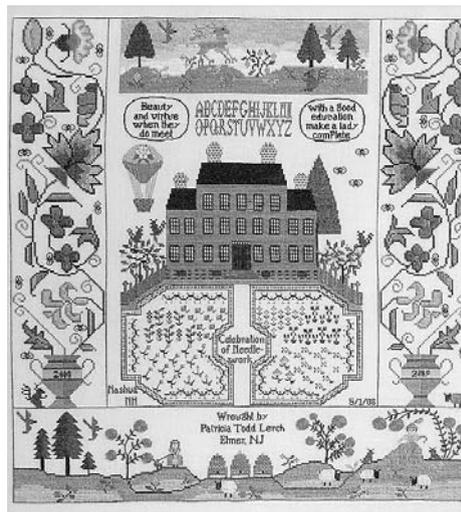


Kathy Furth stands in front of two pieces that she entered in this year's show. Furth created a bridal gown for her daughter-in-law, with beaded shamrocks embroidered into the bodice. Lace from the bride's mother's wedding dress was added to the sleeves and a strand of beads was embroidered into the edges. The second piece, a vestment, was an original design by Kathy Furth for the priest, who is also a family friend and was the celebrant of the Nuptial Mass of her son and daughter-in-law.

Woodlawn's annual needlework exhibition opened March 1 and runs through March 31. The show features over 600 works from around the country. The exhibit also includes work done by Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis Lewis, the first mistress of the mansion.

"Nelly" was the granddaughter of Martha Washington. She grew up at Mt. Vernon with her brother George Washington Parke Custis as part of George and Martha Washington's family. She married a nephew of George Washington's, Major Lawrence Lewis. Washington as a wedding gift gave the land on what was known as Gray's Hill to the Lewis's and arranged with the architect Dr. William Thornton to design the mansion.

For more information on Woodlawn visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000



A sampler by Patricia Lerch.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



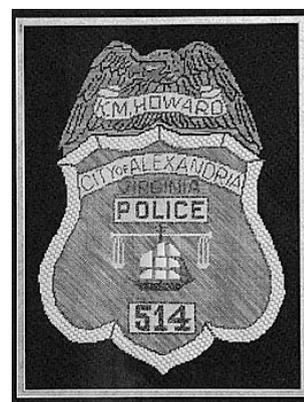
Maggie Bunch of the Smocking Arts Guild of America demonstrates smocking techniques during the show on Sunday. For more information visit www.maggiessmocks.typepad.com



Anita Bloom cross stitched a whimsical Halloween pumpkin.



The Lion from the Wizard of Oz by Glenda Rogers.



Nancy K. O'Hara created this piece for a friend from grade school, Ken M. Howard. Howard wore this badge as an Alexandria Police Officer for 30 years. On Howard's 60th birthday, O'Hara gave him this needlepoint.

Classes

Children's needlework classes are sponsored by Nelly's Needlers at Woodlawn. A summer workshop, held Monday through Friday, July 27-31, runs 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Students ages 9 through 15 may choose projects from four types of needlework: hand-sewing and quilting, crewel embroidery, counted thread or needlepoint.

For information call B. German at 703-550-7572 or K. McQuie at 703-765-7104 or email kaymcquie@aol.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

curs in more virulent form from time to time and has been particularly systematic during the period of the Islamic Revolution.

The Baha'is publicize this persecution to ensure that Iran recognizes the fundamental human rights of all its citizens, including the Baha'is, and permits the free exercise of religion. The continuity headlines about "Local Activists Take on the Iranian Government" and "Taking on Iran" are inaccurate and may play into the hands of the authorities in Iran who want to portray Baha'is as seditious. The Baha'is of Iran do not seek to undermine the government, but to demonstrate their loyalty to their country and to be permitted to practice their religion freely and without constant pressure to recant or emigrate.

grate.

The articles lacked an essential context for the references to the charges brought against the Baha'i leaders in Iran. The fact that the Baha'i World Center is in what is now Israel is at the bottom of the charge of "espionage for Israel." Baha'is do not engage in espionage and are not agents of this or any other government. But because Baha'is in Iran and elsewhere receive communications from the democratically-elected world governing council of the religion, which meets in Haifa; and Baha'is send funds for the upkeep of their holy places in Haifa and Akko, the Iranian government uses the trumped up charge of espionage to target Baha'is.

The Baha'i center is in Israel because Iran itself and the Ottoman Empire exiled Baha'u'llah to the prison city of Akko, before there was a state of Israel. The place is sacred to Baha'is, no mat-

ter who rules the area. The charge of "insulting religious sanctities" arises from the Baha'i belief that a Messenger of God — Baha'u'llah — has appeared after Muhammad and fulfills the promises of all religions. This is something that Muslim do not believe, so the Iranian authorities, influenced by Shia clerics, anathematize Baha'is as being offensive because of a different belief. This despite the fact that Baha'is honor Islam, Muhammad, and the Qur'an, along with the Bible and Baha'i scriptures. The final charge of "propaganda against the Islamic Republic" arises from the unwillingness of Baha'is to acquiesce in the persecution and injustice committed against them. Because Baha'is courteously but firmly protest their mistreatment in Iran, the authorities call this anti-government propaganda.

One of the individuals that Chuck Hagee interviewed was

Shahram Samimi. He was a rising soccer champion in Iran when he was suddenly pulled from his team in the middle of a game because it had become known that he was a Baha'i. He was offered a spot on the national team, but only if he would recant his faith and become a Muslim. He refused and was banned from playing with any of the official teams. So he founded his own team, composed mostly of Baha'i believers. It won most of its games and, after gaining a trophy, was banned by the authorities from playing in any tournaments. Monika Ahmadpour, his wife, was called up in front of her high school class a number of times, so that the administrators and teachers could berate and revile her for her membership in the Baha'i Faith. She was called "unclean" and the other children were warned about associating with her. This is treatment that has been repeated innumerable times and is

happening today with elementary school students. There are almost no Baha'i cemeteries left in Iran because all have been bulldozed, all holy places have been seized, personal businesses and assets taken, and students prevented from obtaining higher education. All of this is solely because of membership in the Baha'i Faith.

Thank you again for bringing home to local readers the devastating violations of the human rights of Baha'is and others in Iran.

The Baha'is sincerely hope that wisdom will one day prevail among Iran's leadership and that the Islam's injunction "Let there be no compulsion in religion" will become the norm.

William Collins,
Public Information
Baha'is of Mount Vernon

THE

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Hidden History Revealed

Exhibit celebrates Jewish history of Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Escaping a vicious Central European crackdown in the mid-19th century, Jews started migrating to the United States in record numbers during the late 1840s. At first, they arrived at major port

New Exhibit

cities, filling New York and Philadelphia with thriving Jewish communities. But over time they started to seek other opportunities. By the 1850s, many Jews made their way to Washington, D.C. and nearby Alexandria. "It's the same thing that still drives people here, the federal government and business opportunities," said Laura Applebaum, executive director

of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. "A few decades later there was another wave of Jewish intellectuals that came to work in the New Deal."

Alexandria is known for its colonial history and its ties to George Washington. But the city also has proud history of welcoming religious minorities, first Quakers then

SEE EXHIBIT PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



From left, Mary Blake Suib (Florence), Roxy Mame Hubbard (as herself, the dog) and Rachel Hubbard (Meg).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Little Theatre's 'Ladies' Delight

Humor, confusion reign in cross dressing farce.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, which has mounted quality productions of the hit plays of local playwright Ken Ludwig over the years, adds to the list with the local community theater debut of his "Leading Ladies," a cross dressing farce that had its world premiere just about ten miles north of here at Ford's Theatre in 2005.

This brings to four the number of the works of this double Tony Award nominee, which have found their way onto this stage. "Lend Me A Tenor," "Moon Over Buffalo" and the musical using the songs of George and Ira Gershwin, "Crazy for You," has now been joined by this fast paced collection of funny situations and even funnier lines in a production directed by C. Evans Kirk.

Ludwig knows just how to structure a farce so that the audience understands the convoluted situation that confounds the characters, and he includes enough genuinely funny bits of dialogue to spruce up any moments that might tend to drag a bit.

This is the story of two down-on-their-luck, second-rate English actors touring Moose lodges in small towns across America. They learn that a wealthy woman

in the next town is on her death-bed and is going to leave her millions to two relatives no one has seen in years. The relatives happen to be English and are thought to be involved in theater. Sounds like a perfect opportunity to become rich by impersonating the relatives.

Their plans are complicated, however, by the discovery that the long missing relatives happen to be women. In order for their plan to work, therefore, they have to don women's clothing and pass in drag. Of course, farce being farce, that means that either they will fall for women in the town or that men will fall for them ... or both.

Kirk has been fortunate in obtaining a cast capable of pulling off the light comedy elements of the piece with a sense of aplomb, especially Charles Boyington and Brandon DeGroat, who are the Brits in drag. They each have a fine comic sense and Boyington disports himself with increasing vigor as the plot gets thicker and thicker.

Three comic actresses are impressive as well, the two who become romantically in-

involved with the imposters, Rachael Hubbard and Kat Sanchez, and Mary Blake Suib as the wealthy woman whose failure to die on cue complicates everyone's life.

The cast has likewise been fortunate in being directed by Kirk. He gets each one to maintain an energy level that sells the per-

formance even when there may be momentary lapses at the juncture of scenes.

In fact, the only member of the cast that isn't at an impressive en-

ergy level throughout the entire show is Roxy Mame Hubbard and that is just fine since she's a pooch: a King Charles Cavalier to be precise. She may well be making her stage debut but she's a very busy member of Therapy Dogs International who visits Walter Reed and the Goodwin House. Her part here is no mere "walk on." Its more a "carry on" making her entrance in the arms of Suib and taking up a scene stealing pose on the divan.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in the area as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, www.PotomacStages.com. He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Where and When

"Leading Ladies" plays Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. through March 14 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Tickets are \$15 - \$18. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, 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

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.

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, from 3:30-5 p.m. on March 13,27, April 10,24 and May 8. To register, 703-324-4386.

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, may be completed online at <http://>

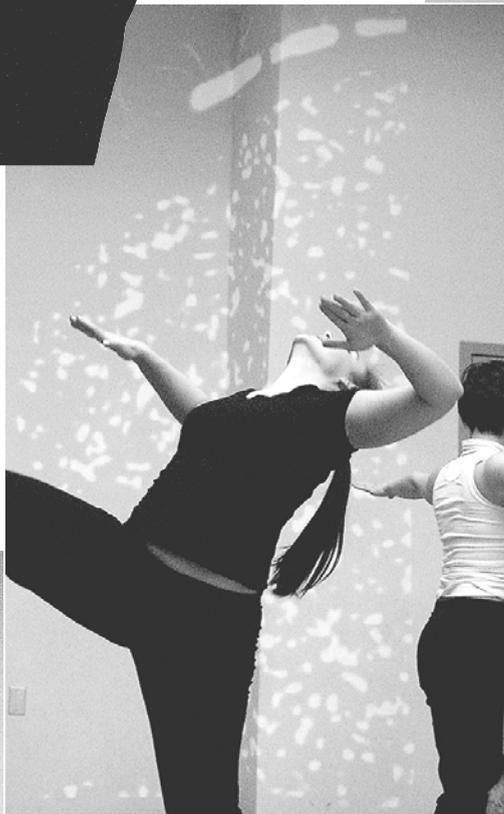
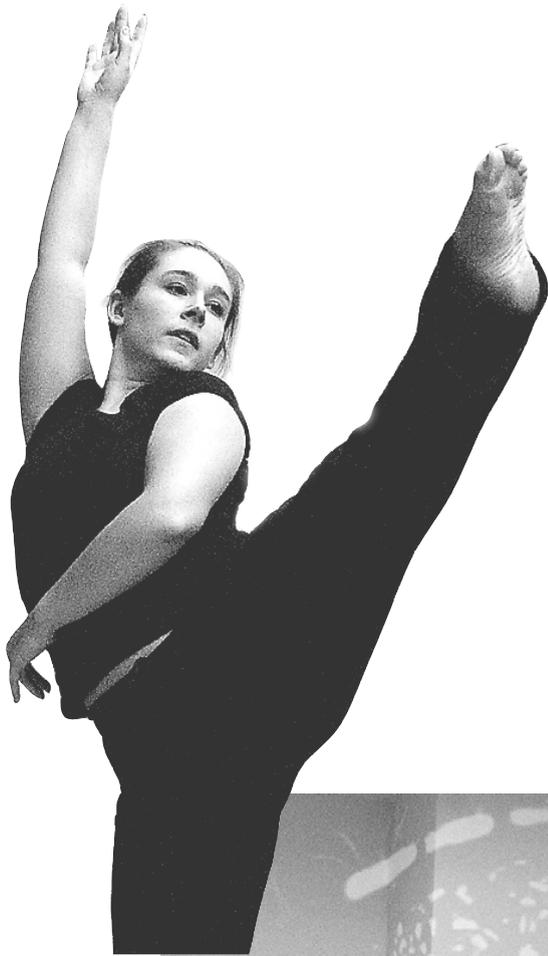
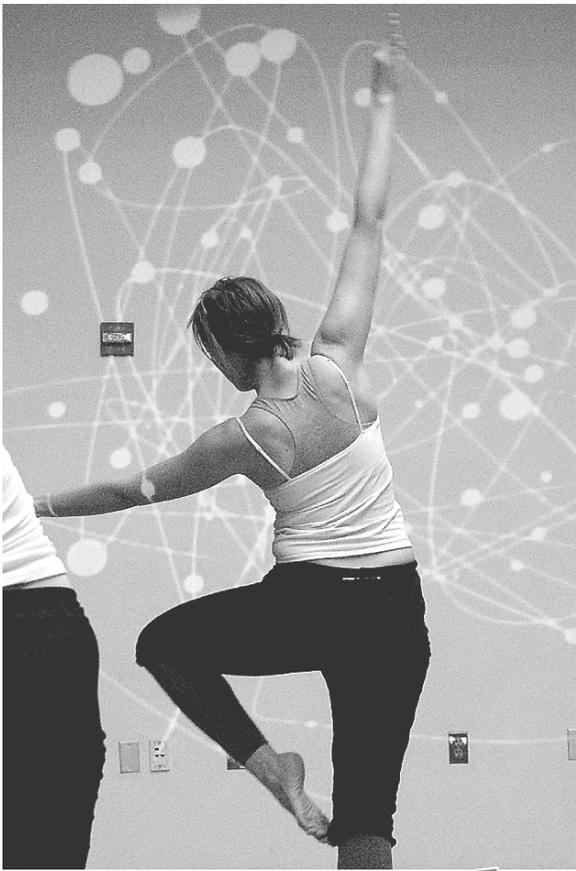
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ MARCH 12-18, 2009 ♦ 9

DANCE

Dancing Is 'In The Air'

Jane Franklin Dance will be premiering new work on Saturday, March 21 at Athenaeum in Alexandria.



Dancers rehearse for their upcoming show on March 21 at The Athenaeum. Visit www.janefranklin.com for more on the performance.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

ART

New Exhibit Opens

FROM PAGE 9

Jews. By 1859, the city had enough Jewish residents to found Beth El Congregation, which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Three of the four Jewish members in the Virginia General Assembly represent Alexandria, with the fourth representing Arlington.

"As the birthplace of religious freedom, Virginia has a powerful heritage of respecting religious minorities," said Del. David Englin (D-45). "Even Thomas Jefferson questioned the religious establishment of his time by rewriting the Bible."

THE STORY OF Jewish life in the Washington region is at the center of a new exhibit that opens this week at the Lyceum. Originally conceived by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington in 2004 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in North America, the exhibit originally opened at the National Building Museum before traveling to the White Flint Mall in Maryland and the Russell Senate Office Building in the Dis-



COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This photo of the former Temple Beth El site in the 200 block of N. Washington Street was taken in the late 1950s, after the property was sold.

trict. The Alexandria version of the exhibition will feature banners that are specific to Northern Virginia as well as several historic artifacts from Beth El.

"This is a different side of the past that don't get a lot of play in local history" said Jim Mackay, director of the Lyceum. "We feel this is a good way to do that."

Mackay said the Beth El items will include a 10-foot-by-17-foot stained glass window, a register of the Hebrew Benevolent Society featuring a decorative shield and a cast metal mezuzah used during the 1959 dedication of Beth El's current facility on Seminary Road. The March 15 opening reception will feature a one-woman living history performance about immigrant life during the 1930s called "Anna Shulman: Queen of H Street."

"It's really a huge bonus for us to be able to offer a performance for the opening celebration," said Amy Bertsch, spokeswoman for the Office of Historic Alexandria. "You don't typically see an interpretation during an opening reception, so we're really excited about this."



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winterthur.org

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/ or by calling the planetarium at 703-824-6805, extension 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 or 703-780-4000 for more.

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session,

"Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," held **every Saturday and Sunday** at 2 p.m. **in March** at the Hands-On History room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Working Together" is the theme for March's storytelling sessions. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Performance. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Zemfira Stage presents "Oleanna." \$15/adult; \$10/student, senior, military. Visit www.zemfirastage.org or 703-318-

0619.

Mount Vernon will bring back its popular **National Treasure Tour through Oct. 31.** Included in this approximately hour-long walking tour is the Mansion's basement and cornerstone, the setting for a pivotal scene in the movie. This daily tour is limited to 25 visitors per time slot, takes place at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and costs \$5 per tour in addition to Estate admission: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children (6-11); free for children 5 & under. Advance tickets are available online at MountVernon.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Ballroom Dancing. 8:30-11:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Dance the waltz, rumba, swing and more to live music. \$15/person. Reservations required, www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com.

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

Performance. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Zemfira Stage presents "Oleanna." \$15/adult; \$10/student, senior, military. Visit www.zemfirastage.org or 703-318-

0619.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Talk. 11 a.m. at Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Patricia Knock and Nikki Henderson will lead a talk. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or 703-838-4356.

Workshop. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to prune shrubs and small trees and try it hands-on. \$30/person. To register 703-642-5173.

Family Fun. 2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 6 and up can learn

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

Have Questions About Fall Prevention?

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has a commitment to keeping our community members safe from preventable falls.

Please join us for a **FREE** community class on fall prevention.

When: Saturday, March 21
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
Engh Conference Center,
second floor

This community class will provide participants with a lecture on the medical and environmental risk factors for falls, as well as worksheets identifying risk factors and showing how to make your home safer.

Participants will also be given the opportunity to receive a personalized assessment of "right fit" for their walkers or canes, so please bring yours with you.

All are welcome; including community members who have fallen or are afraid they may fall. Care providers are also welcome.

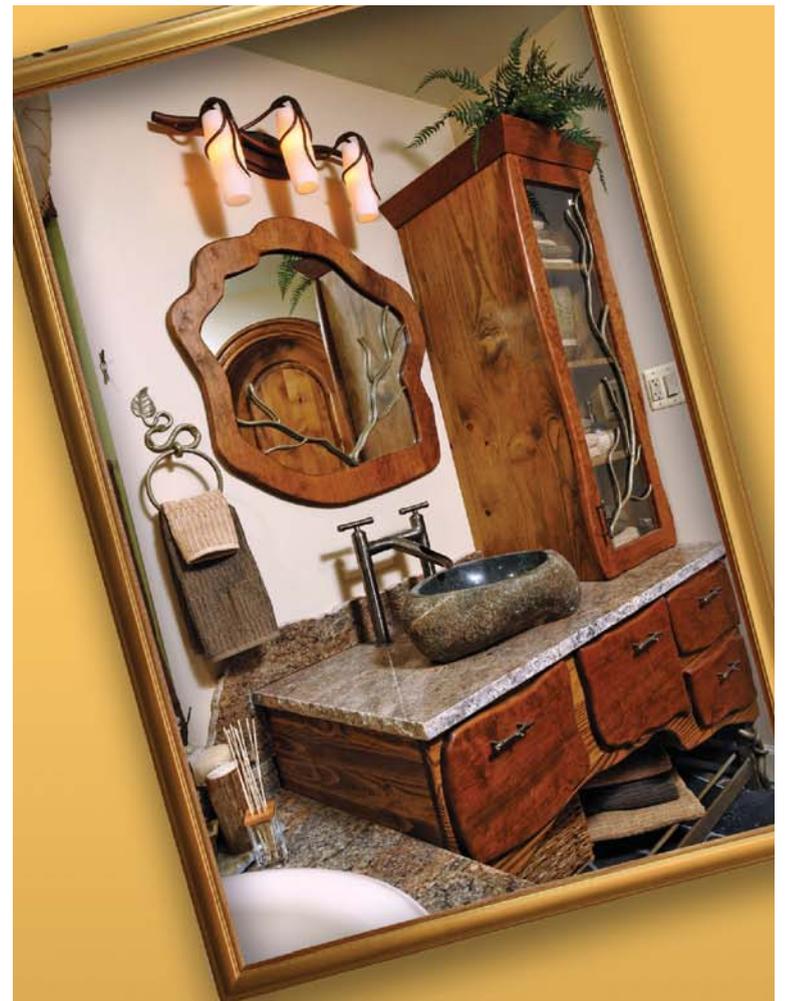
Speakers include:

- Jackie Wavelet, MSN, RN, Clinical Specialist
- Rodica Sandor-Scoma MSHA, Administrative Supervisor
- Angela Moody, MPT, Senior Acute Care Physical Therapist

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3232
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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!



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4003
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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.



8304
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9405
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4212
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4307
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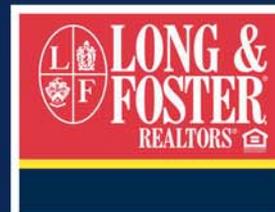
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Philip G. Matyas 703.518.8727



5902 MOUNT EAGLE PLACE #1607/1608
Alexandria / Montebello - \$849,900

MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS! Magnificent penthouse comprised of 2 units offers breathtaking views of the Potomac River, Capitol, Washington Monument and west. Large rooms and a caterer's kitchen are wonderful for entertaining. Indoor/outdoor pools, gardens, tennis & more!

Norma Stratton 703.966.0756



7530 COXTON COURT #109
Alexandria - \$214,990

Bright & sunny 1100sf, 2Br/2Ba, 1st flr condo. Freshly painted, newer carpet. Galley kit w/brkfst bar, gas FP in LR & full size laundry rm in unit. Assigned pkg. Community pool. EZ commute.

www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer
703.929.5764



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1819 DUFFIELD LANE
Belle Haven - \$599,900

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lvl TH w/gar on prime lot backing to woods. 3-4BR, 3.5BA, open floor plan, new granite & SS. Kit opens to DR & LR w/ FP, rec room & spacious tiered patio. Updated thru-out. \$40K in extras NOT INCLUDED in price. Only one light to Old Town & GW Parkway. Owner / Agent.

Francena Alvarez 804.690.1618



8801 THOMAS STOCKTON PARKWAY
Alexandria / Stratford - \$850,000

FIRST LOOK... You must see this exquisite colonial - the largest of its model. Three levels of beauty with huge rooms, gorgeous gourmet kitchen, renovated baths, expanded spaces and a winter view of Little Hunting Creek. Bring your banquet table!

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



WYCLIFFE ON THE POTOMAC
Alexandria - \$1,099,990

Sited on a private lot, this stately brick Colonial has it all. 2 Master suites, Sunrm, 2 decks, FR, library, 2 story foyer & more. Casual living on the LL w/wine cellar, sauna & bar. Community amenities w/ boating, tennis, swimming & golf. See me on:

www.marylousage.com
Marylou Sage 703.851.5441



6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE #605
Alexandria / River Towers - \$177,000

LOCATION, LOCATION! Lovely & immaculate 1Br/1Ba apt w/kit & bath upgrades! New lighting, new carpet, new appliances, lg walk-in closet. ALL UTILITIES included in condo fee! Parking, pool, tennis, & more plus mins to shopping, bike path, OT & public transport.

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



2059 HUNTINGTON AVENUE #1408
Alexandria - \$169,000

RENOVATED STUDIO on the 14th fl. Hdwds, artisan BA & sleeping alcove w/built-in Haberdashery. Balcony. Great amenities, parking, 5 blks from METRO.

THE CAREY TEAM
Sean Satkus/Kendra Carey
703.731.8086



5903 MOUNT EAGLE DRIVE #103
Alexandria - \$239,948

REDUCED! "C" unit w/large 1BR/1.5BA, den/office, sep DR. Large sunny terrace. Amenities make this gated community w/indoor & outdoor pools, bowling, market, gym, billiard rm, café & party rms. Shuttle to METRO. 6mons PRE-PAID CONDO FEE w/RAT. CONTRACT!

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



MOUNT VERNON TERRACE
Alexandria / MT Vernon - \$875,000

SPECTACULAR home/premium lot/back to woods/water access for boating! Fab addition, 5/6BR, 3.55BA, great rm w/ stone FP, sep DR w/FP, gourmet kit, Master suite w/spa BA, French drs to deck w/hot tub, exercise rm. Hdwds thru-out, views from every rm. See me on:

www.marylousage.com
Marylou Sage 703.851.5441



OPEN SUN. 1-4

6044 REDWOOD LANE
Alexandria - \$525,000

If a private & heavily treed bkyd is important to you, then this lovely home is the one you are waiting for. The kit offers granite & SS appl w/gorgeous hdwd fls on ML. The 3BA show beautifully & the 5BR are spacious. Move in & enjoy the FR & FP.

Catherine Foltz@longandfooster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



7957 BOLLING DRIVE
Alexandria - \$1,069,900

CUSTOMED DESIGNED & BUILT! Grand 2 story foyer, 4BR/3.5BA, gourmet kit w/wine cooler, den + office, custom closets. Prof landscaping w/ fenced yd, brick patio, 2 car garage. Walk to the Potomac & bike trails.

anita@homesfromanita.com
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809



OPEN SUN. 1-4

7119 COVENTRY ROAD
Alexandria - \$729,000

STUNNING AND SPACIOUS. 5Br/3.5Ba Colonial blends elegance & comfort. ML has a 2 story foyer, formal LR/DR, FR, gourmet kit w/SS. W-out unfinished base. and a 2 car side load garage.

Blumel Adams Group
Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams
703.587.7841



RENTALS

820 Arlington Mill Drive \$1,295
Park Glen Garden, Colonial style Condo - 2Br/1Ba
Brad Kintz 703.629.0103

2701 South 16th Street \$1,495
Arlington Village Attached Colonial TH - 2Br/1Ba
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400

1812 South 9th Street \$2,100
Columbia Square Attached Federal TH - 2Br/2.5Ba, 1FP, 1 pkg
John Villarosa 703.980.8500

1800 Wilson Boulevard #245 \$2,350
Wilson Boulevard Garden Style Condo - 1BR/1BA, 1 pkg
Norma Gants 703.408.2560

RENTALS

6932 Stonebrooke Lane \$2,550
Stonebrooke Detached Colonial - 4Br/2.5Ba, 1 FP, carport
Sheryl Vermont 703.472.6925

6410 Wood Haven Road \$3,200
New Alexandria Detached Colonial - 4Br/2.5Ba, 1 FP, 2 pkg
Julia Martin 703.850.5543

1901 Arlington Ridge Rd #04/17 \$5,200
Top of Arlington Ridge Road Detached Split Level - 4Br/3Ba, 2 FP, 6 pkg
Heidi Kohler 703.609.7367

6817 Baron Road \$8,000
Reids Grove Detached Contemporary - 6Br/5.55Ba, 1 FP, 3 pkg
Shane Camney 703.346.2067



6317 FT HUNT ROAD
Alexandria - \$629,000

LOVELY NEWLY RENOVATED brick TH is close in location & convenient to DC, the Parkway, Old Town & Reagan Airport. Updated kitchen, 2 FP & large bonus room off LL family room. Huge deck off LR. Large enclosed garden/patio. Pristine condition. Huge price reduction.

Betty Quirk 703.609.3343



8906 OLD MT VERNON ROAD
Alexandria - \$599,000

TRUE COLONIAL! Beautiful hdwd flrs just refinished. Large LR & separate DR. Kitchen opens to FR w/cozy gas FP, new carpet & sliding glass doors to patio. Updated master BA & huge walk-in closet. Hall BA also updated. A block from the bike path.

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343





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Open House

6026 Mayfair Lane, Alex

Unique 3 level Colonial in the Bush Hill. 4 BD, 2.5 BA, 2 car garage. Upgraded kit opens to FR gas fpl. Large yard w/ deck. Don't miss this one. \$559,000 Bush Hill

Ann Lockwood 703.299.8643



666 N Armistead Street, Alex

Three level, brick, end TH, 3 BD, den/office, 3.5 BA, ss appl, formal LR & DR, walk out FR w/ fpl, wet bar, built ins, fenced rear yard. \$425,000. Beauregard Heights

Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



Open House

4818 9th Street S, Arlington

Four BR, 2.5 BA, fabulous Kit/ FR. Wonderful Master Suite, 2 fpl. Close in location w/ easy access to Metro, bus, parks and shopping. \$749,900. Barcroft

Linda Trinkle Wolf 703.518.6165



1912 Shannon Ct, Alex

Four BD, 3 BA, spacious, sunny rooms, eat-in kit, sunroom, fenced yard, cozy FR, 2 fpl, dbl carport, Close to prime commuting routes. \$525,000. Hollindale / Alex S

Jane Cole 703.598.6198



Open House

4909 John Ticer Dr, Alex

Detached cottage home, 4 BD, 3.5 BA, 3500 sq ft, chefs kit w/ granite/ ss appl opens to great rm. 2 car garage, shuttle to Metro. Open Sun 1-4 \$940,000. Cameron Station

Vaughn & Diane Paddock 703.628.2828



Open House

4500 Neptune Drive, Alex

Four BD, 2.5 BA rambler, hdwd flrs, remodeled kit, walk out bsmt w/ frpl, wet bar, storage, upgrades thruout. www.4500NeptuneDr.com Open Sun 1-4 \$550,000. Yacht Haven / Mt Vernon

Rachel Carter 703.851.4207



Open House

1500 Grassymeade Lane

Classic all brick center hall colonial offers 5/6 BD, 3.5 BA with all of the conveniences of easy commuting and city amenities. Open Sun 1-4 \$899,000. Alexandria / Ft Hunt

Karen Leonard 703.328.7041



4 Rosemont Avenue

Elegant renovation of a timeless Rosemont classic, steps to King St Metro, shops, restaurants, 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, bright and sunny. A true beauty! \$849,000. Rosemont, Alexandria

Karen Leonard 703.328.7041



227 N Lee Street, Alex

Beautiful 3 BD, 3.5 BA TH, just steps from the waterfront. Mstr BD suite w/fpl & mrbl bath, chef's kit w/ granite, private patio, 2 prkg spaces. \$999,500. Old Town

Jane Cole 703.598.6198



6237 Gentle Lane, Alex

Three level colonial, 4 BD, 2.5 BA, 2 car garage, kit opens to FR w/ fpl, hdwd flrs, private fenced rear yard, near Metro, Beltway and Old Town. \$649,000. Huntington Forest, Alex S

Rita McCauley Redmond 703.447.9114



311 Gibbon Street

Light Filled End Unit, 3 BD, 1.5 BA, new kit w/ custom cabinets/ ss appl/ granite, hdwd flrs, enclosed yard w/ Indscpg, pond, 2 patios, new fence. \$685,000. Old Town

Barbara Baird 703.518.8300



Open House

649 First Street

Brick TH w/ Lg MBR suite, 3/4 BD, 4 BA, roof top balcony, walled garden, hdwd flrs, open kit, brfst rm, FR w/ gas frpl. www.649FirstStreet.com \$995,000. Liberty Row, Old Town

Marie Louise Meyer 703.836.2080

310 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

www.cbmove.com/Alexandria

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610 S Washington Street,

Everything on your wish list! Brick end unit TH, 2 yrs old. Attention to detail, 2 car gar, gourmet kit, 4 gas fps, 3 BD, 4.5 BA, 3,400+ Sq Ft. \$1,899,000. Old Town

Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788



6 Keiths Lane

Stunning water views, bright & spacious, 3 BRs, enhanced moldings, decadent master suite with sep sitting room, 2 car garage, 4 levels. \$1,525,000. Fords Landing, Old Town Alex

Cathy D'Antuono 703.819.3077



227 South Fairfax Street

Circa 1862, 5 BR, 3.5 BA, free standing home in heart of Old Town. Grand entrance, fine moldings, high ceilings, lg windows, 7 fps, parking. \$1,750,000. Old Town Alexandria

Donnan C Wintermute 703.518.6156



Open House

810 Rivergate Place

Desired Carlyle model in Rivergate. 3 BRs 4.5 BAs beautiful, private brick patio. Just outside National Airport and Wash DC. Open Sat/Sun 1-4 \$1,149,000. Rivergate, Old Town

Hugo Romero 703.582.6727



502 Upland Place

Six BD, 3.5 BA, close to Metro. Kit + brkfs rm, LR, DR, FM, gorgeous mstr suite, 4 frpl, full bsmt, 1st floor suite, great close in location. \$1,195,000. George Washington Park, Alex

Linda Trinkle Wolf 703.518.6165



Open House

912 Clifton Drive,

Custom home w/ 2 Mstr & 4 BD suites on 3/4 acre, library, fitness rm, theater, stone fpls, plank flrs, gorgeous woodwork, 3 car garage. Open Sun 1-4 \$2,495,000. Wellington, Alex. S.

Phyllis Patterson 703.518.6158



500 South Fairfax Street

Sunlit end townhouse w/ 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 FPs, updated kitchen, patio, one off street parking space and much more. Great floor plan. \$1,199,000. SE Quadrant, Old Town Alex

Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788



7631 Essex Manor

Beautifully renovated 4 BD, 3.5 BA colonial on 2/3 acre in cul de sac, new kit, study, 2 fpls, 2 car gar, private deck. Model Home Condition \$1,239,000. Fenwick Estates, Alex. S

Phyllis Patterson 703.518.6158



600 Upland Place

Gorgeous renovated 5 BD, 4 BA on double lot, gourmet kitchen, 2 frpls, master suite w/ balcony, 2 car gar, slate patio, large back yard, walk to metro. \$1,549,000. George Washington Park, Alex

**Jill Milliken 703.338.6614
Sherry York 703.625.3377**

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ALEXANDRIA/BELLE RIVE

\$1,175,000



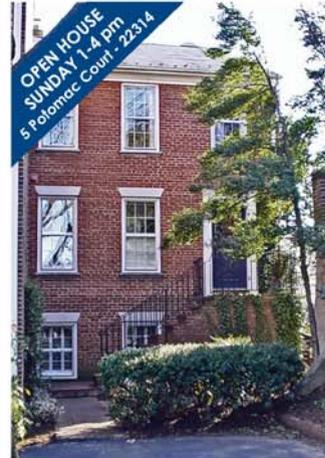
Spectacular, Four-bedroom, Five-and-a-half-Bath, Georgian Colonial
 Located on a half-acre lot on quiet cul-de-sac in Belle Rive, one of the area's premier waterfront communities. This home was constructed with every upgrade and attention to key details of quality and workmanship. A grand foyer, great room, billiards room, library, fitness and entertainment room complete this elegant home.

Sue Goodhart
 703.263.8321 www.suegoodhart.com
 MLS ID# FX7002315



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$1,285,000



Enchanting River Views
 complement every level of this four-bedroom brick home found on a quiet cul-de-sac. Gracious formal rooms survey the southern environs while a lower level family room opens to a delightful garden. Au pair or guest quarters with a separate entrance supplement the pleasures of this unique home offering two fireplaces and enjoying rear and side gardens as well as off-street parking.

Carol Cleary
 703.625.6829 www.carolcleary.com
 MLS ID# AX7001720



ALEXANDRIA

\$519,000



Collingwood Springs
 Magnificent brick house with vaulted ceilings, skylights, custom lighting, hardwood floors, two fireplaces. Redone baths with stone tops, open kitchen with granite counters, multi-tiered deck with fenced rear yard. Four bedrooms, two full baths.

Paul Anderson
 703.408.0676
www.paulvanderanderson.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$675,000



Move-in Ready Large Rambler
 Surprises await! Updated top to bottom with gourmet kitchen and updated baths. The main level offers three bedrooms, two baths, hardwoods, gas fireplace. Huge, fully-finished lower level with rec room, fireplace, bedroom, half bath, exercise room. Landscaped yard with patio, pond, sauna. Walking distance to Potomac River, bike path.

Noel Kaupinen
 703.200.1165
www.noelk.com
 MLS ID# FX7002183



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$484,900



Darling Duplex in Del Ray!
 Three-bedroom, two-full-bath home with beautiful hardwoods, modern updates to kitchen and both baths and contemporary paint. Surrounded by mature landscape and tucked away on quiet Caton Avenue. Walk to both Braddock and King Street Metros. A short stroll to all that is happening on "The Avenue" in Del Ray! See pictures at jenwalker.com today!

Jennifer Walker
 703.675.1566
www.jenwalker.com



ALEXANDRIA/WARWICK VILLAGE

\$439,000



Bright and Sunny End Unit!
 Warwick Village townhome with nicely manicured yard, plenty of sunshine and bright, open spaces. Spacious end-unit provides access to all that Del Ray has to offer - shopping, dining, cafes, and entertainment!

Elizabeth Lucchesi
 703.286.1239
www.LizLuke.com
 MLS ID# AX6992380



ALEXANDRIA

\$354,900



Classic Details/Nearly Finished!
 This charming bungalow with oversized front porch has been almost completely redone. Three bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors throughout, cherry cabinets, Hardi-Plank siding, and a generous driveway. Nestled on a beautiful lot featuring a detached garage/workshop, studio/playhouse, garden shed and stone patio minutes from Huntington Metro!

Honor Vandever & Jane Manstof
 703.615.0363 571.276.8116
www.honorjane.com
 MLS ID# FX7001928



ALEXANDRIA/CLOVER

\$779,900



Lucky You...
 is what you will think when you drive up to this four-bedroom (including two large master bedroom suites), three-bath, Cape Cod in the MacArthur school district. A remodeled kitchen, two fireplaces, finished lower level, office/study, large lot and a garage also come with this lovingly cared for one-owner home.

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 703.989.8548
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

about wild animals and where to find them in the backyard. \$15/project includes materials. To register, 703-642-5173.

Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Find books for all readers. Free. 703-339-4610.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear the Virginia Grand Military Band. \$20/person; \$10/child. Visit www.vgmb.com or 703-281-3331.

Performance. 3 p.m. or 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Zemfira Stage presents "Oleanna." \$15/adult; \$10/student, senior, military. Visit www.zemfirastage.org or 703-318-0619.

An Evening with the Chefs. The Alexandria Olympic Boys & Girls Club will host local chefs at Belle Haven Country Club. Enjoy a multi-course meal. For information on reserving seats or a table, and for sponsorship information, contact Dave Woodbury at 703-867-5570 or e-mail chefsddinner@cox.net.

James Madison Inaugural Banquet. 8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy a four-course meal, dancing and more. \$100/person. Reservations required, www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Musical Extravaganza. 5 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. Free will offering will benefit Bennett College.

Performance. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School. Elementary and middle school students can enjoy Shakespeare related games, tours and more. Students can register at

arts.tjhsst.edu/troupe.

Music Performance. 4:30 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. George Washington Middle School Symphonic Band is performing at District 10 Band Festival. Free. 703-706-4500.

Women's Day. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 3 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-780-0653.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Performance. 2 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the Vienna Romantics. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com or 703-845-6156.

Opening Reception. 3-5 p.m. "Genus Loci" is at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, from March 1 through March 31. See art by Cecily Corcoran. Free. Visit www.convergenceccf.net or 703-998-6260.

Green Roofs. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about green roof gardening from author Ed Snodgrass. \$10/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults and teens of all levels can play. Free. 703-765-3645.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Hear The Genevans, a cappella choral music. \$15/adult; \$10/senior, student. 703-765-4342.

Bach Vespers. 6 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Alexandria. Features music of Bach, hymns and more. Visit www.wpc-alex.org for more. Free.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

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 or 703-838-4242.

Yoga for Gardeners. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Features the Vinyasa method. \$66/six-class session. To register, 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Dogs Say Woof. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Children ages 1-2 enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Ages 9-11 with adult. Call for title. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Persuasion" by Jane Austen. Free. 703-339-4610.

Spa Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School. Support the cosmetology students and enjoy massages, eyebrow waxing, manicures, pedicures and more. Proceeds benefit the students. 703-824-6884 for appointment.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Registration required, 703-971-0010.
Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Kites. 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 6-12 can make a kite. Registration required, 703-971-0010. Free.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Railroad Earth. \$25/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Railroad Earth. \$25/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Starting a Vegetable Garden. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about tips to help a vegetable garden. \$12/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

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

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at St. Elmos Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Jim and Ashley Cash perform with their band Woven Green. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com or 703-739-9268.

Event. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 7:30 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-780-0653.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Dance Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$14-\$28/person. See performances by Jane Franklin Dance, music by the Washington Saxophone Quartet. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Learn how to wield a sword, tour the museum and more. \$5/person. Reservations required, www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See Jane Franklin Dance perform. \$28/adult; \$25/senior, student. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111 for discounted tickets.

Floral Design in French Style. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Laura Dowling will share floral designs from French masters. \$18/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

Harambee Readers. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "A Mercy" by Toni Morrison. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Gentle Yoga. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can experience the benefits. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Richie Havens. \$25/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Kite Festival. Noon-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Fly a kite, enjoy a puppet show, hearth cooking and more. \$10/adult; \$6/child. Bring own kite or purchase one.

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5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

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

Weekdays
(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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Mass (English)

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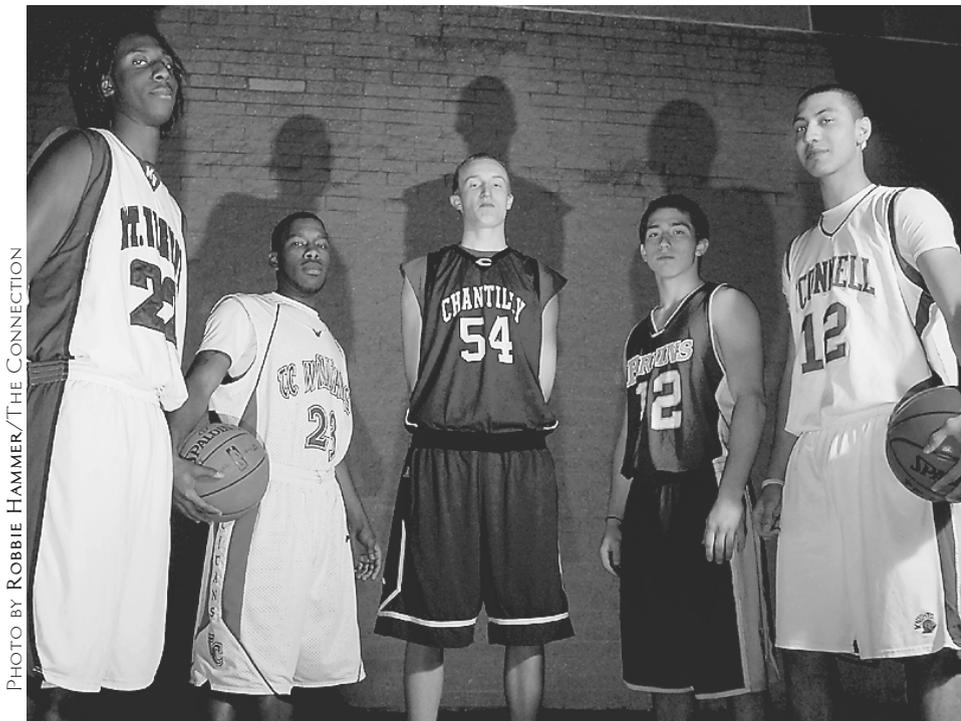


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

First-team All-Connection boys' selections include: (from left to right) Skylar Jones (Mount Vernon), Edward Jenkins (T.C. Williams), John Manning (Chantilly), Dominic Morra (Lake Braddock) and Kendall Marshall (O'Connell).

First-team All-Connection girls' selections include: (from left to right) Shelby Romine (Westfield), Myisha Goodwin (Edison), Tracy King (Mount Vernon), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (T.C. Williams) and Erin McGartland (Oakton).

Boys' First Team

SKYLAR JONES — MOUNT VERNON	19 PPG	9 RPG	1 BPG
KENDALL MARSHALL — O'CONNELL	16 PPG	8 APG	7 RPG
DOMINIC MORRA — LAKE BRADDOCK	30 PPG	7 RPG	3 SPG
EDWARD JENKINS — T.C. WILLIAMS	21 PPG	5 APG	3 RPG
JOHN MANNING — CHANTILLY	13 PPG	10 RPG	3.5 BPG

Girls' First Team

TIERRA-RUFFIN PRATT — T.C. WILLIAMS	18.5 PPG	14.5 RPG	4.5 APG
SHELBY ROMINE — WESTFIELD	16.5 PPG	4.5 RPG	4 APG
TRACY KING — MOUNT VERNON	19.1 APG	8.3 RPG	3.4 SPG
MYISHA GOODWIN — EDISON	25 PPG	5 APG	7 SPG
ERIN MCGARTLAND — OAKTON	11.7 PPG	8.2 RPG	2 APG

Boys' Coach of the Year

JULIAN KING
T.C. WILLIAMS

Boys' Player of the Year

EDWARD JENKINS
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Player of the Year

TIERRA RUFFIN-PRATT
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Coach of the Year

FRED PRIESTER
OAKTON

Second Team

T.J. WILSON — HAYFIELD
GIVEN KALIPINDE — EPISCOPAL
FRANK HOLLOWAY JR. — LEE
STEPHEN STEPKA — W.T. WOODSON
CHRIS KEARNEY — WESTFIELD

Honorable Mention
Warren Denny (Centreville)
Simon Kilday (Yorktown)
Derek Baker (Langley)
Will Clarkson (Madison)
Isaac Johnson (Herndon)
Erick Green (Paul VI)
Justin May (Chantilly)
Travis Williams (South Lakes)

Second Team

SIMONE ANTWI — SOUTH COUNTY
SAM LANDERS — WEST SPRINGFIELD
JALINDA VENABLE — MOUNT VERNON
PRISCILLA MOSEH — LEE
LAUREN BURFORD — FAIRFAX

Honorable Mention
Melissa Gallo (W.T. Woodson)
LaNia Charity (Yorktown)
Danielle Williams (St. Stephen's/St. Agnes)
Khalia Boston (T.C. Williams)
Audrey Dotson (Langley)
Sam Partonen (Robinson)
Danielle Landry (Madison)
Kelcyn Manurs (South Lakes)

Welcome to the 2008-09 All-Connection basketball issue. In this special section, the Connection's sports department honors the best and brightest on this year's Northern Virginia hoops scene. For a complete look at this year's basketball landscape, check out www.connectionnewspapers.com. Special thanks to Lawrence Foong, Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft and Craig Sterbutzel.

The Talented Mr. Jones

Mount Vernon's Skylar Jones and Tracy King highlight All-Connection first team.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Meeting him, Mount Vernon junior Skylar Jones appears to be just another area teenager, boisterous amongst friends, shy when put in adult situations. On Monday night when Jones came to the Mount Vernon Gazette's office for a photo shoot as a member of this year's all-Connection first team he was no different.

One of the best boy's basketball players in the Northern Region, Jones arrived with his parents but quickly threw his headphones on, quietly bobbing his head to the music while texting friends.

Little did anyone know, a lot more goes on between the ears of Skylar Jones, a budding superstar on the hardwood, but also an aspiring poet, writer, singer, rapper, and artist off it, according to those who know him.

"He's someone that dips and dabbles in a lot of different things," Mount Vernon coach Alfonso Smith said of his dreadlocked leading scorer who also happens to follow politics. "Even with his style of dress, it's not the status quo. I wouldn't call him the typical teen, I would describe him as eclectic."

"I play instruments, I write, sing, rap, I do everything I can," Jones said after averaging 19 points and nine rebounds as the Majors went all the way to the Northern Region semifinals this season.

"I wouldn't call him the typical teen, I would describe him as eclectic."

— Mount Vernon coach
Alfonso Smith on Skylar Jones

It's an apt description of Jones' play this season, as the versatile, do-anything forward helped propel Mount Vernon to a 19-game winning streak that came to an end after a last-second Hayfield 3-pointer in the regional semifinals.

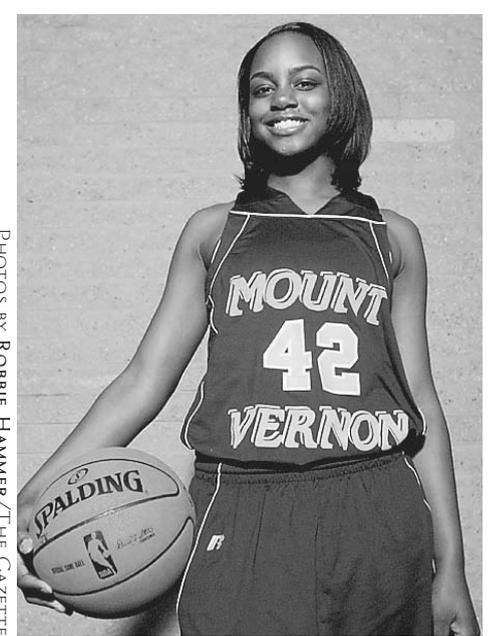
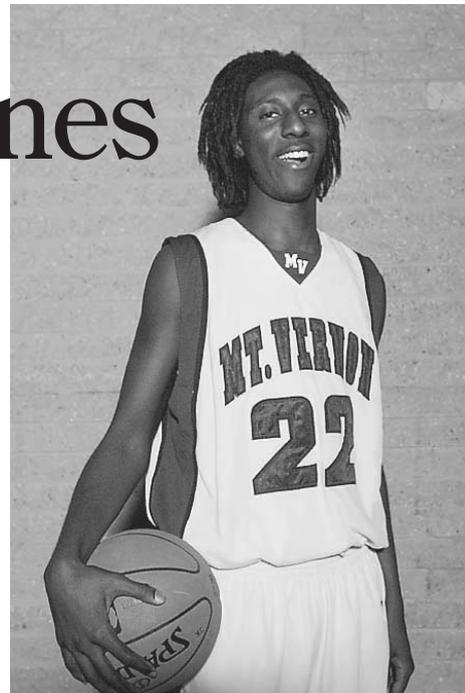
And whether it was a key rebound, decisive steal, momentum-swinging block, or some crunch-time scoring, Jones always seemed to be in the middle of things when it came to a Major victory.

Perhaps his most notable performance of the year came in the championship game of Mount Vernon's Holiday Tournament, when Jones hit several fourth-quarter 3-pointers to give the Majors a come-from-behind victory over Wise. It was one of 10 games this season when he registered 20 or more points

But it wasn't always like this for the lanky, 6-foot-3 Jones. He had to undergo major knee surgery after ligament and kneecap damage during his freshman year and wasn't cleared to play basketball

again until a week before tryouts sophomore year. As a result, his weight ballooned to over 200 pounds.

Smith was recently looking at film from last season and his first reaction was, "Look how fat Skylar looks on the court." Want to know just how talented Jones is? Even with the extra weight, Jones still garnered second team all-National District honors during his sophomore year — the first time he had faced varsity competition.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon junior Skylar Jones averaged 19 points and nine rebounds per game as the Majors went all the way to the regional semifinals this season.

This past offseason, Jones made the commitment to come into the season in shape. He said he ran the Mount Vernon track and lifted weights every morning in preparation. After a season's worth of dominating play, it's clear Jones has that determination every coach wants in his star player — even if the artist inside wants to get creative with it.

"I'm more on cruise control, I just let everything ride and don't let anything get too serious," quipped Jones. "But when it does, I just get focused."

FOR JUNIOR TRACY KING, there was nothing artistic about the way her season ended. After surprising much of the Northern Region with a 20-2 regular-season record, the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team led Oakton by single digits in the fourth quarter of the regional finals when King wanted to take control of the game.

As she did countless times this season,

Mount Vernon junior Tracy King led the Majors to a 24-3 record this season.

King took the ball hard to the basket. Only this time she ran into Oakton's Erin McGartland, tearing her ACL in the process.

It prematurely ended one of the best seasons in Mount Vernon girls' basketball history, a campaign that saw King average more than 19 points, eight rebounds, and three steals and eclipse the 1,000-point plateau for her career. It all adds up to a spot on the 2008-09 All-Connection girls' first team.

King has yet to go under the knife, as doctors are waiting for the swelling to subside in her two-week-old injury. The star forward admits to being a bit nervous about the procedure, but has overcome any fear by thinking about the road back to the court.

"At first I was really depressed, but now I just focus on rehabbing hard so I can get ready for next season," said King. "My attitude changed this season. I didn't let little things get to me and that helped my game a lot."

"I don't think they'll be any hurdles in her way," said Mount Vernon coach Terry Henderson. "She's a very determined young lady."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Climbers Impress

Nine local youths from the Sport Rock teams in Alexandria and Sterling recently competed at the American Bouldering Series (ABS) National Championships held in Boulder, Colo. the weekend of Feb. 13-15. The event hosted 85 climbing teams from across the United States with a total of 332 competitors. For this invitation-only competition, each climber had to place at least in the top four or five finishers at their respective regional competitions held in January 2009. The competition involved indoor rock climbing up to heights as tall as 16 feet.

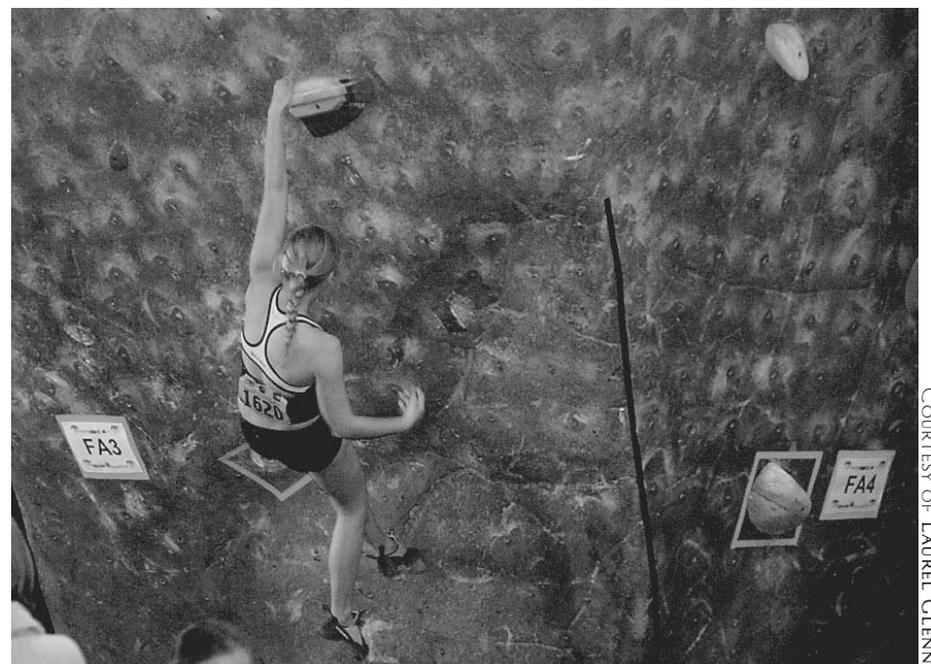
Sasha Diguilian of Alexandria placed first in her age category at the National event. At 16, Sasha already has won three Continental Championships up against the best from the United States, Canada, and Mexico in sport climbing. This is her first win at the National Bouldering competition. Sasha, already a member of the National Climbing Team, is currently sponsored by Mad Rock, Verve and

Brunton.

Tegan Wilson, 12, of Alexandria also placed fourth in her age group, which elevated her to the National Team for bouldering this year. Tegan has been climbing competitively since she was 10 and qualified for the National Team in 2008 for sport and speed climbing. At the Boulder event, Tegan was the only one of two girls in her age group out of 15 advancing to finals of 36 to master the third challenging final problem

The top four finishers at this most recent competition in Boulder automatically become members of the ABS National Team, which further increases their opportunities to climb at national and international events.

Other local youth participants included: Ada Saker, Kacey Loughrie, Leanna Lockhart, Juliet Hammer, Claire Chrissey, Peter Grill and Alex Brown, all members of the Sport Rock gyms located in Alexandria and Sterling, Virginia.



COURTESY OF LAUREL GLENN

Alexandria resident and rock climber Sasha Diguilian took first place for her age group at the American Bouldering Series National Championships on Feb. 13-15.

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OBITUARY

Nancy Lynne Farmer-Hoisington

Nancy "Lynne" age 58 died on March 7, 2009 after a year long struggle with cancer. Lynne was born and lived her early adult years in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Since 1990 she has lived in Alexandria at the Episcopal High School. Lynne earned a B.A. from Wellesley College and her Masters from VCU School of Social Work. Lynne was the Director of the Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp from 1992-1998. She also worked at the Episcopal High School for a number of years. Most recently she was employed by Bell Nurseries of Burtonsville, MD. Lynne is survived by her husband Jeff and children Christy, Tim, and Zack. A service will be held at the Episcopal High School on 3/11/09 at 10:00AM. Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to Burgundy Farm Country Day School Alexandria, VA 22303.

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21 Announcements

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Anne Andrews Honored as Person of the Year

FROM PAGE 1
munities.

Andrews describes her life's work as "advocating for adequate and improved human services in the Route One corridor. I definitely had an impact on housing and affordable healthcare." She claims persistence and assertiveness combined with her knowledge of how the government works enabled her to push through many initiatives.

Andrews was born in New York, attended high school in New Jersey, then Bryn Mawr college in Pennsylvania. She moved to D.C. after graduating to take a government job with the Civil Service Commission where she met her future husband Richard Andrews. The two were married in 1955 and had three children, Walter, Bronwin, and Peter. In 1960 they moved to Mt. Vernon, where Andrews has lived ever since. "There were

Making a Difference

Anne Andrews has been and continues to be a leader on many projects that enhance the quality of the community. Among her numerous leadership positions are:

- ❖ Southeast Health Planning Task Force, Chairman (2003-2008) Member (2008-present)
- ❖ Route One Task Force for Human Service, Convener (1975-present)
- ❖ Citizen Advisory Board, Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health, Founding Member of "Revived" Board (2000-present)
- ❖ Community Advisory Committee, Founding Member (1989-present)
- ❖ Health Care Advisory Board, Mt. Vernon District Representative (1988-1991)
- ❖ Community Involvement Committee for the PACT (Program of Assertive Community Treatment) Program, Founding Member (1999-2005)

calling in public service.

IN 1975 Andrews convened the Route One Task Force for Human Services with the goal of enhancing services in the Route One corridor. "This used to be a major center of poverty," said Andrews on why she chose

to focus her efforts there. "We're there to help people who can't help themselves." She explains that there is good coordination in Fairfax County between the citizens, the government, and the non-profits to assure that services are provided and that resources are allocated efficiently. "We have effective cooperation here that doesn't exist in other

parts of the community," said Andrews of the reasons for their success.

"The first thing we tackled was housing. There was a mobile home community that we redeveloped. We've gotten into many things through the years, sometimes schools and sometimes recreation." Andrews always is paying attention to what the community needs.

"The three health clinics make me very proud to be in Fairfax," said Andrews of the Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County, which provides primary care services to low-income residents of Fairfax

County. The clinics provide a full range of services including preventative care, referrals to specialists, and low cost medications. Andrews was a founding member and was instrumental securing funding for the clinics. "It's a wonderful program and it allows people to go to work," she said, explaining the importance of keeping the workforce healthy, and not overburdening the county's emergency rooms. These were projects she pushed hard for. "People who have no other place to go, who are outside the system can go here." The clinics are funded by Fairfax County. Andrews was also instrumental in saving the Mt. Vernon hospital, whose corporate sponsors had proposed moving it.

Chris Stevens, program director for the Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County, the clinics that Andrews championed, was instrumental in nominating Andrews for this award: "I have known Anne for 11 years and she is one of the strongest advocates for providing healthcare to low income uninsured people who live in Fairfax County."

Marlene Blum, the chair of the healthcare advisory board and former recipient, had suggested that Andrews would be an excellent candidate for this award. Stevens couldn't agree more. "Anne is an unsung hero, she is always on the lookout. With every fiber of her being she is always thinking about how something in the community can be improved. She never waits and is never satisfied with the status quo." To this day Andrews will volunteer to help individuals who need rides to their doctor's appointments.

"We've always had a lot of support from the elected supervisors," said Andrews. "I'm very proud of the county, they had wonderful goals for housing and health services." The problems facing some of the human services she is involved with are caused by the budget crisis that is affecting the county. "It's so sad to see programs that you've worked so hard for years to get them to spend more money, and to see it wiped out," adding that especially in these tough economic times there are more people who need these services. "Our county leaders

Awards Banquet

Fairfax Person of the Year 59th Annual Awards Banquet
Sunday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.
Fairview Park Marriott Hotel
3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church
Keynote Speaker: Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Tickets and Information: \$65. Contact John Jennison at 703-591-5586.

have wonderful ideals and ideas, but they are faced with a huge budget problem this year," said Andrews, citing the uncertain future of some programs she has worked for. Andrews says that in the future she will work to reinstate any programs that are cut.

BOTH OF HER SONS will be attending the awards ceremony with their families. Her daughter lives in Colorado with her husband and two children. Her oldest son Walter was a senior in high school in 1975 and attended the first meeting Andrews held of the Route One Task force. Walter's son Richard, a sophomore in college, is named after Andrews' late husband who died in 2003. "I'm glad there will be at least one Richard Andrews present," added Andrews of her grandson. She has five grandchildren.

"My husband was always very proud of me, and very supportive. He would drive me to meetings, and volunteered himself as well, often driving cancer patients to treatments," said Andrews.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and The Washington Post co-sponsor the annual awards program to recognize outstanding volunteers in Fairfax County. The Citizen of the Year receives an engraved silver cup that passes to each year's recipient.

Andrews continues to serve on the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, Citizen Advisory Board of Mt. Vernon, and the Center for Community Mental Health Committee. The programs are known for health care service to the homeless, underinsured and mentally ill.

"... she is one of the strongest advocates for providing healthcare to low income uninsured people who live in Fairfax County."

— Chris Stevens, program director, Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County

100,000 people in Fairfax County and no beltway when we moved here," she said. When her first child was born in 1957 she became a stay-at-home mom, and joined the League of Women Voters, which was her first foray into public service.

While working for the federal government, Andrews said she did not feel she was accomplishing much for the betterment of the world. Through the League of Women Voters, and in an early organization for senior citizens in Mt. Vernon, she found her

Bulova, Hudgins Reaffirm Social Programs

FROM PAGE 1

from Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins to find \$50,000 in the county budget to fund a full-time dentist at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic as well as to continue the Penny for Affordable Housing Fund and maintain current funding levels for English as a Second Language programs both inside and outside of Fairfax County Public Schools.

"This is not going to be an easy year for us and your voices are important," Bulova told those assembled at

Bethlehem Baptist on Sunday. Bulova said preserving the Penny Fund — which allocates one cent out of every dollar of collected real estate taxes to affordable housing programs — so that those who work in Fairfax County can afford to live in Fairfax County. The projected Penny Fund budget for 2010 is \$20.5 million but the possibility of reducing funding for the program has been raised as supervisors look to balance the county budget.

REPRESENTATIVES from VOICE, a multi-faith, non-partisan political action group, said that it was important not to cut social

programming when it was needed most.

"Sometimes when there's hard times, people start to [abandon] what they hold precious," said Imam Johari Abdul-Malik.

In addition to public statements of support given at Sunday's meeting by Bulova and Hudgins, a letter read at the meeting from Supervisor Gerry Hyland indicated support for the VOICE agenda. A letter read from Supervisor Penny Gross expressed support for the Penny Fund but was non-committal towards the other agenda items. VOICE leaders were critical of Supervisor Pat Herrity, who was scheduled to attend Sunday's event but did not and did not no-

tify VOICE of a reason for his absence, said VOICE co-chair the Rev. Tuck Bowerfind. Bowerfind said Herrity's absence was "an important indication to us" of a lack of recognition of the organization and its goals.

Bulova and Hudgins said that while they supported the VOICE agenda, balancing the county's budget will be an arduous process and citizen involvement will be important.

"We must convey to all of our residents the role that they play in our community and they must each step up to help," Hudgins said.

NEWS

Looking at Revitalization

FROM PAGE 5

Puller (D-36) introduced a bill that would have required the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct a transit study for this stretch of Richmond Highway, the General Assembly never allocated funding. So the Virginia Department of Transportation transferred the money to a different project on Lee Highway without even informing Fairfax County.

"In 2004, VDOT conducted a speed study when it

was determined that Fairfax County's stretch of Route One was the worst in the commonwealth of Virginia by a large margin," said Catherine Voorhees, transportation chair for the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations, in an e-mailed response to questions. "If our stretch of U.S. Route One is the worst in the commonwealth, how come it does not receive priority from the commonwealth? It is a valid question and one that citizens of the Mount Vernon District deserve an answer."

What's New?

FROM PAGE 5

ment, have secured financing and insurance reimbursement and plan to break ground in early spring 2009.

❖ **Former Kings Crossing** – JBG Rosenfeld is negotiating with Wal-Mart to put a store in the existing structure. The Wal-Mart is proposed to occupy 80,000 SF of the building, with a 40,000 SF grocery component. The Chuck E Cheese will expand and move to the northern-most space in the building. The current Chuck E. Cheese space will be leased to another tenant. In addition, JBG plans to develop the property frontage in phases, to include retail buildings located along the main entrance off of Richmond Highway. The subsequent phases (currently totaling four additional) will extend to the current Wendy's. The final phase is an apartment building located at the corner of the Highway and Fairview Drive.

❖ **Fairview Motel Site** – Plans were proposed to redevelop the recently re-opened Fairview Motel for a hotel/motel with up to 120 rooms. The SFDC provided data and information for a national chain to include in the feasibility study for the site.

❖ **Former Groveton School Site** – The former Groveton School site is being developed by Redbrick. They are proposing changes to the Heights at Groveton development plan that would include an office building of 53,000 square feet. The remainder of the site is 29,000 square feet of retail on the first floor, with 300 units of apartments above. A proffer condition amendment has been filed with Fairfax County and a Board of Supervisors date has been postponed until March 30.

❖ **AutoZone** – Company representatives continue pre-submission meetings with the county and district supervisors and plan to start construction next year.

❖ **K&M Shopping Center** – Construction complete for the approximately 7,000-square-foot shopping center on Fordson Road, and Momma's Kitchen, a Greek restaurant and kitchen, is open. The owners have signed a telecommunications business for the center and are seeking a bagel shop to occupy the remaining space.

❖ **Mount Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center** – The owners of the Mount Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center are considering some improvements to the building and to the shopping center sign.

❖ **Gum Springs Shopping Center** – The new owners of the Gum Springs Shopping Center have been approved for a grant of up to \$25,000 for the improvements to the center. They have started work on the structure, and the SFDC will work with the property owner to discuss with tenants the construction and plans for consistent building signs.

❖ **Mount Vernon Plaza** – Noodles and Co. is now building out the space formerly occupied by Just Fresh Restaurant at the Mount Vernon Plaza shopping center.



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NEWS

Comparing Values

FROM PAGE 3

parison, they look for two neighborhoods of a similar price level and age as well as those with a similar housing stock, she said.

“We would be looking at what somebody going out to buy a house would be looking at. Someone looking to buy a house might be searching in two neighborhoods in same price range with the same type of housing,” said Coldsmith.

“Appraisal is a lot of judgment. It is not an exact science. There is a lot of judgment in there,” she added.

BUT MCKAY SAID the county may have relied too much on the architectural similarities and not given enough weight to location when determining “sister neighborhoods.”

“A rambler in Mount Vernon that was built in the 1950s along the [Potomac] river is not going to be worth the same as a rambler in Mount Vernon that built in the 1950s along the Route 1 corridor, even if the two homes are relatively close to each other,” said McKay.

“A difference in geographic lo-

cation automatically makes two properties dissimilar. The county looked too much at whether the building structures were the same. There are not many homeowners who go out and say they want a rambler built in the 1950s. They go out and look for a house that is in a certain school district or on a certain transportation route,” said McKay.

Even though home assessments went down in general across the county, McKay predicted officials could receive more complaints about property values than they expect because the data being used to determine property value has changed so dramatically.

“The taxpayers of Fairfax County deserve to have an assessment based on what is happening in their neighborhood. Is it better to base an assessment on a small number of sales or to really stretch and include properties that are a far distance away?” asked McKay.

Officials may have used “sister neighborhoods” to determine assessment across the county but none of the other supervisors said they have heard complaints or even comments from constituents about this process.

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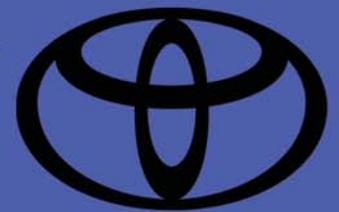


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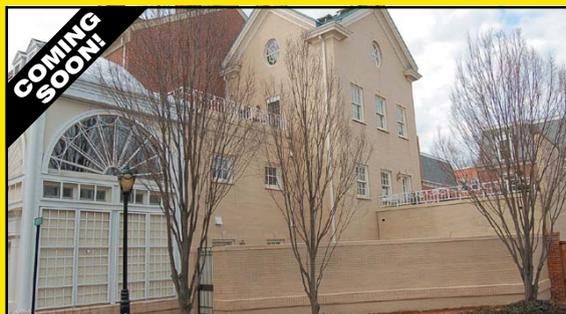
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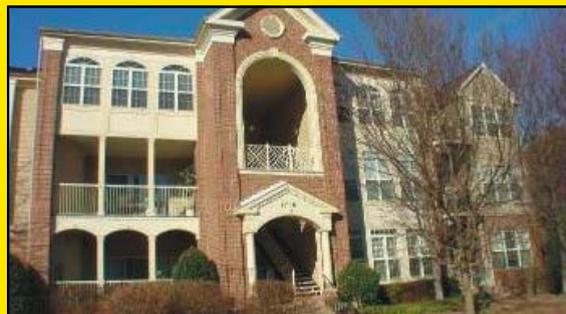
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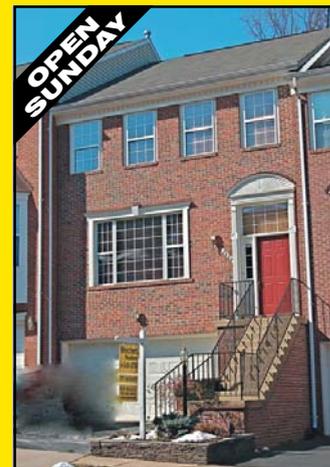
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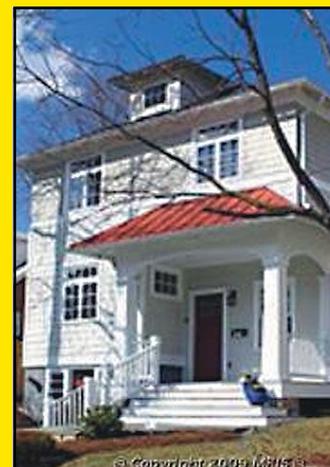
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