

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

MARCH 26, 2009

Thriving Along Route 1

Small businesses support community and ask for community support in return.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZVGA
THE GAZETTE

Alexandria Chevy's record sales in recent months have made them a bright spot in the business news. While the national auto industry is in a state of upheaval, Alexandria Chevy sold 200 cars in January, and February looked even better. Their story reflects the general positive trend in Mount Vernon. The dealership, owned by John Herry, was named new business of the year in 2008 by the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

"People need to be reassured that things are OK in our local community."

— John Herry,
owner, Alexandria Chevy

"Things are not that bad, people are just afraid, and most of it is because of the media," said Herry emphatically. He claims the secret of his success is in connecting personally with the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Alexandria Chevy owner John Herry sees small businesses' role as reassuring consumers who are afraid of the economy because of the media.

community. Herry is often found meeting people at various functions and developing relationships.

As a business owner, Herry considers part of his job is to educate and reassure consumers. Often he finds himself explaining that contrary to what they might believe, loans are available, interest rates are low, and now is a great time to buy.

Small manufacturers like Mike Bouchery's Vinyl Lite Window Factory also have their role to play in the community. Bouchery is worried about local businesses being hurt by people shopping outside their communities, or ordering goods online. "It's

not about the relationships anymore, and that hurts the communities," says Bouchery.

Small business owners everywhere understand the importance of buying local to help maintain high quality communities. "People don't realize how much energy it costs to ship something you order via the internet. If people want to help the environment and help their local communities the best thing to do is buy local," said Bouchery.

FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, there is a symbiotic relationship between where they SEE BUSINESSES, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The West Potomac High School booster club is trying to raise \$27,000 to replace the current field at Jeffrey Dietze Stadium with Bermuda grass. The field has had numerous irrigation and drainage problems over the years.

West Potomac's Field of Nightmares

School's booster club is waging fund-raising effort for new field.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Junior wide receiver Shawn Lee would love for some highlight-reel catch or a game-winning touchdown to be his lasting memory of West Potomac's Jeffrey Dietze Stadium field. Instead, the first thought that comes to his mind is a game against Hayfield last fall, where using the words field and grass would have been a gross inaccuracy.

"The field was completely mud," recalled Lee. "You could barely run."

It hasn't gotten much better this spring, where just two weeks ago during West Potomac's annual lacrosse showdown with Mount Vernon, a few players tripped en route to the sidelines because

there was so much uneven terrain in their way.

In the next few weeks, though, those associated with West Potomac athletics hope those horror stories are a thing of the past. Beginning this Friday with a fund-raising event at Mount Vernon Country Club, the department of student activities and the West Potomac booster club are spearheading a joint campaign to raise \$27,000 to install Bermuda grass in the stadium for next fall.

It is one of several fund-raising efforts that director of student activities Aaron Helmick hopes will give West Potomac's athletes a field they can be proud of.

"We're playing on a dirt pile right now," said Helmick. "Our kids feel they deserve what other schools have, so I'm trying to get SEE WEST POTOMAC, PAGE 4

Officer Involved in Fatal Collision Resigns

The Fairfax County Police officer involved in a fatal car collision last year has resigned from the department. Police confirmed the resignation of Amanda Perry on Monday, March 16 but declined comment on the reason for her resignation.

On Feb. 12, 2008, Perry was driving her police cruiser northbound on Richmond Highway where the road intersects with Boswell Avenue in response to a reported fight when she collided with a car driven by Ashley McIntosh, 33, of Fairfax County, ejecting McIntosh from the vehicle and killing her. Perry was charged with criminal reckless driving but acquitted. She was later assigned to a desk job within the

police department. According to evidence from her criminal trial, Perry was driving with her emergency lights on but her siren off at the time of the incident, and the Virginia General Assembly is currently weighing a bill dubbed "Ashley's Law" that would require emergency responders to utilize both lights and sirens when passing through intersections while responding to emergency calls.

The family for McIntosh subsequently pursued a \$6 million civil suit specifically against Perry, not the police department, which attorney Thomas J. Curcio said is currently in the discovery phase with no trial date set as of yet.





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stands this majestic brick Federal-style townhouse with gracious formal rooms, three bedrooms, each with its own bath, an inviting breakfast room and off-street parking, all within steps of Christ Church, wonderful Old Town shops and restaurants. The carpeted master bedroom includes a dressing hall, luxurious bath, cathedral ceiling, bay window and fireplace. The formal rooms open to each other allowing plenty of space for a crowd and enjoyment of a second fireplace. Exceptional Living.

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2407 Cameron Mills Rd

Spacious and Sparkling!

Tired of small rooms and cramped spaces? Delightful home with four bedrooms, three full baths and generously sized rooms throughout! The living room is huge with light streaming through the bay window! The remodeled kitchen opens to the cozy dining room and leads to the family room with fireplace. And you'll just love the master bedroom with private bath!

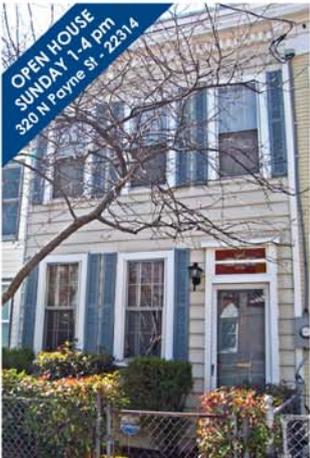
Kate Patterson
703.627.2166
www.mceneaney.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$529,000

Charming Victorian Townhouse



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
320 N Payne St - 22314

Located on one of Old Town's quiet and quaint blocks, this remodeled end unit has two bedrooms and one-and-a-half baths. Updates include fantastic gourmet kitchen with granite counters and newer appliances, hardwood floors, double sided fireplace in living room/dining room and half bath on the main level. Convenient off-street parking, central air conditioning, fenced yard, and deck make this home a must see.

Noel Kaupinen
703.200.1165
www.noelk.com
MLS ID# AX7009906



ALEXANDRIA

\$619,000

Delightful Expanded Cape



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
152 Montrose Dr - 22314

Enjoy summer from the deck of this two- or three-bedroom, two-bath Cape located behind the Masonic Temple! Updated with new granite and stainless kitchen, renovated baths, hardwoods throughout, and flexible, flowing space. MacArthur school district, fenced backyard, and walk to Metro. Must see!

Ginny Brzezinski & Vici Boguess
571.236.3405 703.286.1209
www.ginnybrz.com
MLS ID# AX7013539



SOUTH ALEXANDRIA

\$325,000

Rare Opportunity



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
8508 Boulevard View #C-1

There are few three-bedroom, top-floor units in Belle View. This one has it all - totally renovated, new floors, kitchen, granite and stainless appliances and bathroom. Laundry and storage in building, GW Parkway South, right on Belle View Boulevard, immediate right on Boulevard View to 6508, C-1.

Cecily Winchell
703.851.9292
www.cecilywinchell.com
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SO. ALEXANDRIA/WALK TO METRO

\$354,900

Gorgeous, Move-In-Ready Townhouse



Lovely two-plus-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath end unit townhouse in charming South Kings Station neighborhood offering three levels of spacious living, fully renovated kitchen, new bamboo flooring on main level, master suite with loft area and so much more...Must See! One mile from Metro and I-495, close to Old Town, Kingstowne, Fort Belvoir and plenty of shops and restaurants.

Sandra Sperry
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www.sandrasperry.com
MLS ID# FX7008450



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

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Charming Historic Home



Walk to everything from this Queen Anne style house built in 1890. Located in the heart of Old Town's Historic Parker Gray District, this home bodes two bedrooms, two full baths and a superb bricked backyard for entertaining. Includes one off-street parking space and steps to two Metros!

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www.housesbyeileen.com
MLS ID# AX7003906



ALEXANDRIA

\$590,000

Olde Belhaven Towne



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
1327 Belle Haven Rd - 22307

Unobstructed view of Belle Haven CC golf course, just a couple of blocks to the river, bike and walking trails. Hardwood floors on main and upper levels, separate dining room, large rec room on lower walk-out level, one fireplace, four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths and nice sized rear fenced garden. Solidly built all brick townhome.

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Firefighters Respond To Vacant House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a reported outside fire, extending to a house Monday, March 9, at approximately 9 p.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The home is located at 4001 David Lane.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from several sides of the single-family, two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes. No one was residing in the home. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$180,000.

The fire is under investigation.

Former Boyfriend Charged in Abduction

A 22-year-old Alexandria-area woman called police to report she had just escaped from her home where she was being held against her will by an ex-boyfriend.

On Sunday, March 22, just after 11 a.m. police responded to the 6300 block of Moon Place. The victim reported the suspect had entered her home through a broken window and held a kitchen knife to her throat. The victim attempted to escape but was stopped and assaulted by the suspect. The victim later escaped and was chased by the suspect who pointed a gun at her. The victim was not injured.

Police observed the suspect's vehicle leaving the scene where they conducted a high-risk traffic stop. The suspect was taken into custody and a BB gun was located inside the vehicle. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with burglary, abduction, assault and brandishing a firearm.

Pedestrian Injured In Hit-and-Run Crash

On Sunday, March 8, at about 8:10 p.m., police responded to a report of a person lying in the roadway at Silver Lake Boulevard and Interparcel Road. An investigation revealed that the victim, an 80-year-old Alexandria-area woman had been walking west on Interparcel Road crossing Silver Lake Boulevard in the crosswalk when she was struck by an unknown vehicle. The striking vehicle fled the scene, leaving her in the roadway. The victim was transported to INOVA Fairfax Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or may have been in the area around the time of the crash is asked to contact police.

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

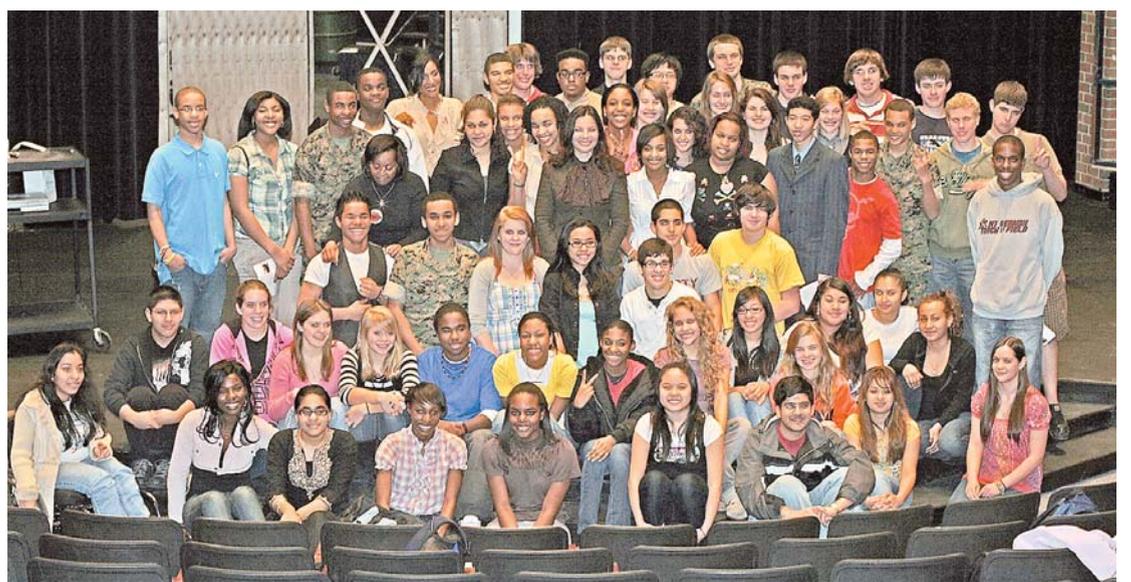
Mount Vernon Man Charged with Setting Fires

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators charged an 18-year-old Mount Vernon man with five felony charges on March 4.

The man was charged for burning or destruction of vehicle valued over \$200 (Class 4 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-81) and use of fire bomb materials (Class 5 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-85) in a Jan. 16, 2009 car fire on 1006 Priscilla Lane.

He was also charged with attempting to maliciously burn an occupied dwelling (Class 4 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-77), burning or destruction of household items involving property valued greater than \$200 (Class 4 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-81), and for malicious setting of fire to materials capable of spreading (Class 6 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-86), March 4, 2009, in connection with an outside fire also at 1006 Priscilla Lane.

There were no injuries in either incident. Damage estimate for the car fire was \$2,000



PHOTOS BY DR. ANNE MCCrackEN

Mount Vernon High School students and Principal Nardos King gather with special guests Fran Drescher and Sarah Jones at the conclusion of the special Women's History Month program.

Speaking about The Future

Fran Drescher, star of the Nanny, and Sarah Jones, a star of the Broadway show "Bridge and Tunnel" and a Helen Hayes Award recipient, speak to 60 students at Mt. Vernon High School last Friday as part of Women's History Month activities. The women were two of the celebrities invited by Michelle Obama to speak to students at area schools about career goals and achieving their dreams.



Rocking at Waynewood Fund-Raiser

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
FOR THE GAZETTE

The Waynewood School Parent Teachers Association raffled and rocked at its annual auction and gala March 20. More than 100 attendees jammed the Cedar Knoll Inn on the Parkway to bid on donated prizes and activities. All proceeds benefit the students at Waynewood School.

"We raised over \$10,000 after expenses," said auction chairperson Anita D'Antonio. We had great prizes, including a beach house weekend and a wine tasting tour." D'Antonio and another organizer, Martha Carucci, both remarked about the spirited bidding for a special offer from Waynewood School's music teacher, Ben Reigner. He offered to compose a song for a Waynewood student. The competition was so great that D'Antonio and Carucci awarded the prize to three families when "Mr. R" agreed to compose three songs.

One of the auction participants, Jillian Baxter, grew up around the
SEE GALA, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

The band "Close to Home" played at the auction. Five of the six members live within blocks of Waynewood School. From left: Mary Bowers, Jay McConville, Jim White, Lynne White, and Mac McPherson. Not shown, Scott Davidow.

Fighting Economic Perceptions

FROM PAGE 1
 spend their money, and the quality of their neighborhoods they live in. "If you want to have nice amenities, you have to support them," said Jeff Todd, president of the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. "We have so many great restaurants — Chevy's, TGIF, and landmarks like Mike's Italian Restaurant, which has been thriving for 30 years." Todd urges community members to patronize local businesses, which will in turn attract more businesses in the future.

"Here, our business owners are very involved in their communities because it's personal."

— **Holly Hicks Dougherty, executive director, Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce**

owner of Roy Rogers Restaurants, cites various programs that the local businesses support. "The people writing checks to churches, local schools, and little leagues are the small business owners in the community," said Todd. "They really make an effort to give back."

Todd recently offered to match any bid at an auction raising money for the Good Shepard Housing Project. Meanwhile, Herrity provides cars for various

causes from the Wounded Warrior Project to Ms. Virginia pageants. Bouchery works in support of the local police force. The chamber itself gives scholarships to local students who are pursuing degrees in a business-related field. The reason these businesses have the resources to give back to the community in such a generous way is because local residents go out and support them.

"I get the sense that it feels like the days after 9/11 when everyone was afraid to laugh. We have a similar situation now in that people are afraid to go out and live their normal lives, shop and buy cars and enjoy themselves," said Herrity. The chamber and its members are making an effort to tell the local residents that things are not as bad here as the national news media would have them believe.

The chamber is also getting the word out that the Route 1 revitalization is now in its home stretch. The effort has largely been a success thanks to the millions of dollars of investment in development and new businesses that have sprung up along the corridor.

"There are a few parcels that still need to be developed, and there are a few traffic bottlenecks, Route 1 near Fort Belvoir being one, but it's just the same kind of traffic you would find anywhere in Northern Virginia," said Dougherty. Route 1 alone handles over 65,000 cars per day. "The point is investment is continuing and the services our residents are getting are constantly improving."

Upcoming Events

MT. VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Table Top Expo - A Business to Business Opportunity
 Thursday April 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5111 Old Mill Road
 Stars & Stripes Ball
 Friday, April 17, 6:30pm
 6023 Fort Hunt Road

For more information call the Chamber of Commerce at: 703-360-6925 or visit <http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/>

"We have to help small businesses in the area if we expect to grow our community, and if we want to provide all the first class amenities that residents want to see," said the chamber's Executive Director Holly Hicks Dougherty.

"Mount Vernon is a unique place, people move here and they don't leave. They live here for long periods of time," said Bouchery. Many local business owners echo this sentiment and feel proud of their communities and the quality of life that is afforded to all residents. "The best thing about living here is all the good, friendly neighbors who are always willing to help out," said Dougherty.

Unemployment in Fairfax County is at 3.7 percent, much lower than the national rate of 8.1 percent. In reality this means that not many people have lost their jobs in the local area, and that everyone who wants to be working is employed. "The local economy here is doing well, there is so much that is new and interesting," said Herrity. "People need to be reassured that things are OK in our local community, and that there are many great bargains to be had." Most people's lives in this area haven't changed dramatically as has occurred in other parts of the county. "People here are just scared, but they don't have a reason to be," said Boucher.

"We are very unique as a Chamber of Commerce in that most of our business owners live in the area as well. I think it says a lot that most locals choose to live and work in the same neighborhood," said Dougherty. "I know in other Chambers of Commerce it can be hard to have meetings in the evening because all the business owners leave at 5 p.m. to drive elsewhere to where they live. Here, our business owners are very involved in their communities because it's personal. You couldn't find a better group of business owners anywhere."

RESIDENTS NEED to support their local businesses, because these businesses in turn support the local community. Jeff Todd, chamber president and

West Potomac's Field of Nightmares

FROM PAGE 1
 that for them. I don't think our kids have pride in a contest that's being played on that stadium field."

IN REALITY, the current field could have been much worse. In the spring of 2006, West Potomac parent Tom Swinson had seen enough soccer and lacrosse games ruined by the awful playing conditions that he and a group of dedicated volunteers decided to take matters into their own hands.

That season had been a particularly dry one and the field had transformed from a playing surface to a "dust bowl," according to Swinson. So a group of parents formed a committee and went to West

Potomac principal Rima Vesiland asking what they could do.

They came to the decision that the booster club would essentially adopt the field, taking away maintenance duties from the athletic department. In order to do this legally, Swinson, a retired member of the Air Force and part-time physical therapist, and fellow booster club parent Paul Cooksey, applied to become Fairfax County employees.

With the necessary paperwork done, Swinson was paid \$100 a year by the county and in return, he had access to the field and county-owned equipment with liability concerns out of the way.

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 20

The Alexandria Choral Society Presents:

Endings & Beginnings

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Featuring *Fern Hill* by John Corigliano, selections from *The Hour Glass* by Irving Fine, and works by Britten, Rautavaara, and George Gershwin.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 at 8:00PM
 FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 3900 KING STREET IN ALEXANDRIA

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Workhouse ARTS CENTER



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April 4, 2009

Actress & Author Tina Louise
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VIP Reception
 An exclusive private event featuring a wine reception, paparazzi party and a signed book.

For more information:
703-584-2900
WorkhouseArts.org

The Workhouse Arts Center
 Gallery W-16, Second Floor
 9517 Workhouse Way
 Lorton, Virginia 22079

Saturday April 4, 2009
 7pm-9pm
 \$25 (adult ticket & book)
 \$10 (child's ticket)

VIP Reception
 5:30pm-7pm
 \$125 (reservations required)

The Workhouse Arts Center is a program of 

Special thanks to Connection Newspapers



The Rev. Lynda Hergenrather, priest associate at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, assists Nina and Dean Shute in loading one of seven trucks with food.

Volunteers Collect Food for Needy

More than 2,500 pounds donated to UCM.

BY DEAN SHUTE
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
VOLUNTEER

When the United Community Ministries (UCM) announced that it fed as many people in the month of January 2009 as it fed in all of 2007, the Mt. Vernon community mobilized to help. With the support of St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Outreach Committee, more than 40 Mt. Vernon community volunteers, and the donations of thousands of families, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive for UCM was launched.

More than 40 community volunteers coordinated a food drive in each of their own neighborhoods to collect food for the UCM food pantry on Fordson Road. These volunteers collected over 2,500 pounds of canned food from more than 130 streets and neighborhoods in the Mt. Vernon area.

St. Luke's church offered its narthex to hold the food while it was being collected and waited to be delivered. After a few weeks, the furniture in the room had to be removed to accommodate the large amount of food collected.

When asked about the benevo-

lence of the community, the Rev. Tuck Bowerfind, St. Luke's Episcopal Church Rector said, "The great help from the community made it possible. It shows that when we as a community recognize a real need we can do amazing things."

Following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, March 1, the collected food was delivered to UCM in seven filled trucks and cars. An additional five car-loads of food were delivered directly to UCM by various volunteer community coordinators later that day.

"I was impressed by the spirit of generosity and aura of selflessness while we all worked together," said volunteer Caroline Baucom.

Because of those volunteers, many families in the area may have enough food to sustain them for the rest of this winter and spring. "The food in the St. Luke's Narthex was a beautiful display of the generosity of our community, but the true beauty of this effort will be shown when the food is in the cupboards of those in need," said Zeldia Shute, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive coordinator.

In response to the donation, Cynthia N. Hull, UCM executive director, said, "For 40 years local faith communities have been supporting UCM's mission to help the less fortunate among us. Never in all those years have we faced an economic crisis like the one that challenges us now. Many days the line to receive emergency food at UCM is the length of the building,

Food Pantry Wish List

PRIORITY LIST

- Canned meat and tuna fish
- Canned soups
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned beans
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tomato Sauce
- Cereal
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Dry Milk
- Baby Food
- Diapers

FOR HOMELESS BAGS

- Small juice boxes
- Small individual serving boxes of cereal
- Pop-top or peel-off cans of meat, fruits & apple sauce
- Small boxes of raisins
- Nutritional bars
- Disposable utensils
- Small toiletries

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

- Paper & plastic shopping & grocery bags

heartbreakingly reminiscent of the bread lines during the Great Depression. Responding to those needs, parishioners from St. Luke's Episcopal Church went beyond their always-generous food drives and asked their neighbors to support the effort, as well. By neighbor reaching neighbor, over 2,500 pounds of food for UCM's food pantry was donated, meaning many families in our community will know the security of the nourishment of their bodies and their sense of hope that others truly care."

Restaurant Grand Opening To Benefit WPHS

Noodles & Company, the noodle restaurant that serves a balanced menu of freshly sautéed Asian, Mediterranean and American cuisine, will open its second Alexandria restaurant and 13th location in Virginia on Friday, April 3 at 11 a.m. The restaurant is located at 7702 Richmond Highway in Mt. Vernon Plaza.

As part of its grand opening celebration, Noodles & Company will host a pre-opening fund-raiser on Thursday, April 2 to benefit West Potomac High

School. From 5 to 8 p.m., 100 percent of sales will be used to support two major West Potomac High School projects: an instructional Leadership Conference program and a beautification project for the school.

Noodles & Company is open Sunday through Wednesday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Guests may reach the new Noodles & Company by calling 703-718-2126 or faxing 703-718-2128.



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NEW LISTING

Alex/Stratford on the Potomac

\$549,900

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Lovely Contemporary, 3 level, Brick Split - 4BRs, 3BAs - across from Little Hunting Creek in prestigious Stratford on the Potomac - Refinished hwd flrs, freshly painted, vaulted ceilings, lite & brite - Updated baths, new carpeting in lower level - beautiful 2 tiered beck overlooks a spectacular gas heated in-ground pool & spa. Perfect for entertaining. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Reagan Airport, D.C. or Pentagon.

OPEN SUN 1-4



Great Falls

\$875,000

12134 Holly Knoll Circle

Scenic Waterfront Colonial in Great Falls- 6BRs, 3.5BAs, formal dining room w/fireplace, lovely remodeled kitchen, screened porch & deck overlooking stunning backyard w/koi pond/waterfall & 170' of scenic waterfront on 4 acre pond. Library, new hardwood floors, replacement windows, central vac, alarm, underground sprinkler. Au-pair/in-law suite in fully finished walk-out basement w/2nd kitchen & full bath.



Alex/Riverwood

\$775,000

9301 Old Mansion

Stunning Southern Colonial on quiet wooded cul-de-sac backing to historical Mt. Vernon Estate! Coveted waterfront community, Riverwood is bordered by Mt. Vernon Estate, Potomac River & prestigious Washington Woods. Meticulous, single family home offers 4BRs, 2.5BAs, family rm w/FPL off lg eat-in kitchen, spacious 2 car garage & lg bsmt. Just completed -refinishing hwd floors and repainting interior. You won't find a better lot & location. Easy commutes to Ft. Belvoir, Reagan National Airport, D.C. & the Pentagon.



Alex/Mt. Vernon

\$574,900

9326 Craig Avenue

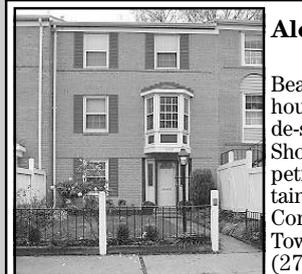
Large brick 5BR, 3BA split w/2 car garage on a .4 acre in lovely Mt. Vernon area w/lots of trees. 2 fireplaces, energy efficient replacement windows, beautiful refinished hwd floors on main level, new carpeting, landscaped fenced rear lot w/hugh deck off sunroom addition, freshly painted interior & exterior. Superbly priced so renovate kitchen/baths to your desire. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Alex, Old Town, DC/Pentagon.



Alex/Riverside Ests. \$479,900

8426 Cherry Valley Lane

Large, lovely, 5BR, 3BA Split in popular Riverside Estates. Riverside's largest split w/ 2 car garage. Spacious FR w/FPL & beautiful sun rm addition. Neutral carpets over hwd floors on main lvl & upgraded berber on lower lvl. Kit remodeled in late 90s. Professional landscaping. Great location - walk to Ele & High schools. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Hunting Metro & Alex, National Airport, Pentagon & D.C.



Alex/ Pinewood Lake

\$275,000

4332 Birchlake Court

Beautifully updated 3/4 bedroom town house w/2.5 baths. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac w/wonderful views of the lake. Shows like a model - fresh-paint-newer carpeting & light fixtures. Meticulously maintained & great location by the lake. Commuting minutes: Ft. Belvoir (5), Old Town & Huntington Metro (12), Ntl Airport (27) Pentagon & D.C. (32).



SOLD

Alex/Stratford

\$599,000

2204 Londonderry Road

Immaculate, turn key, 3 lvl split that shows like a model-Lg, bright, new kitchen & eating area w/corain counter tops. Refinished hwd floors on main & upper lvls. Updated baths-large private, fenced back yard w/patio & 12x12 shed matching house's facade. Beautiful paint on exterior & interior. Perfect location-10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, or Old Town, Alex, 20 minutes to Reagan Ntl Airport & the Pentagon-all along scenicGW Parkway.

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE

Debi Sandlin is the new executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

Revitalization Facilitator

Debi Sandlin on revitalization of Richmond Highway.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

A native of Rockville, Md., Debi Sandlin was recently named executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. Before that, she served for eight years as the first economic development manager for the city of Manassas. Prior to joining the city, she worked in the hospitality industry, including serving as the president of the Prince William Tourism Association for three years, corporate director of marketing and sales for a hotel development company for five years, and publicity coordinator for Florida State University's Center for Professional Development for two years.

What's your vision for revitalization along Richmond Highway?

It is really not up to me to decide what the vision of the corridor should be. The vision needs to be driven by the key stakeholders located along the Richmond Highway corridor, including the business community, civic organizations, the Board of County Supervisors, county staff and residents. As the executive director for SFDC, my role will be more as a facilitator in creating a corridor-wide vision, providing guidance and engaging everyone in the process.

What challenges does the effort face?

Richmond Highway faces the same challenges of any aging community — how to evolve and move forward while preserving the distinctive character of the commu-

nity. There are several individual communities located throughout the Richmond Highway corridor and each community has their own distinct image and history. A corridor-wide vision will help tie these individual communities together and create a seamless transition from Fort Belvoir up to the Capital Beltway without losing the individual character each community has to offer. We have an opportunity to create two primary gateways one at the north end and one at the south end with a vibrant mixed-used commercial corridor in between.

What can be done to build momentum behind the revitalization effort?

We need to engage all of the community stakeholders from the very beginning of the process, get them invested in the outcome and their buy-in. We then need to go out and sell our message and tell our story to our target markets.

What old or outdated ways of thinking need to be abandoned to move forward?

In my experience I have found that there are more commonalities than there are differences. The differences generally are from misconceptions about how to arrive at the final destination. Involving all the stakeholders in the process will help to identify the common thread that ties everyone together, encourage collaboration and ultimately mitigate the differences. Our community is not unique in the challenges we are facing and

SEE SANDLIN, PAGE 7



Members of the 2008-2009 Stratford Landing K-Kids Club celebrate the first anniversary of the chartering of their organization.

K-Kids Club: In Service to Others

Stratford Landing students are helping others in the local community and beyond as members of the K-Kids club. The Stratford Landing K-Kids, a student-led community service club in its second year at Stratford Landing Elementary School consists of over 20 students in grades one through six.

On Friday March 6, in the Stratford Landing Café, the K-Kids members and their families were joined by Principal Maura Caulfield and members of the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club to celebrate the first anniversary of the granting of the club charter. Caulfield, and Kiwanis dignitaries, including Bruce Malkin, president of

Mount Vernon Kiwanis and Paul Mehler, service leadership chairman, recognized the efforts of the students.

Stratford Landing is the first and only elementary school in Fairfax County Public Schools to sponsor a K-Kids Club. Some of the club's activities this year include: collecting personal care items for homeless families, co-sponsoring a Family Fall Cleanup for the school, making felt blankets for the families at Mondloch House, and helping at the Kiwanis Christmas tree lot. The K-Kids also made fleece blankets for homeless children, and plan to help clean up the Potomac at Dyke Marsh/Belle View Marina in April.

OBITUARY

Bobbie Jeverna Haynes

Bobbie Jeverna Tucker Haynes, of Stafford, Va. (formerly of Alexandria), died on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 surrounded by her family. She was born Feb. 14, 1932.

Raised in Jonesborough and Johnson City, Tenn., and in Alexandria, Mrs. Haynes had been a member of the Stafford community for more than 30 years.

A devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother she will be remembered as a lifetime member of the International Order of Job's Daughters, the first Honored Queen and a Guardian of Bethel #22, Groveton, as Past President of the State of Virginia Future Homemakers of America, member of the George Washington High School Golden Friends Lunch Bunch, Mt. Vernon High School cheerleader, member of the Penn Daw Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, charter member

of Wesley United Methodist Church, and member of St. Matthias United Methodist Church. She was a retired school bus driver and optical technician.

She is survived by her four loving children: daughters, Lynn Haynes of Stafford and Gwyn George (and husband Mark) of Newark, Texas; two sons, Ernie Haynes (and wife Suzanne) of Spotsylvania and Eddie Haynes (and wife Karin) of King George; 10 grandchildren: Richard Hovey Polly, Michael George, Crystal Hovey Wirman, Kay George Cannon, Mark George, Jr., Amanda Haynes, Erin Haynes, David George, Ethan George, and Ryan Haynes; 10 great-grandchildren: Victoria Crickett Jones, Fischer Tripp Jones, Alley Becker-Cannon, Charles Cannon, Macy Wirman, Nicholas George, Austin Polly, Connor Polly, Arianna Housey, Alyssah Housey, a host of



Bobbie Jeverna Haynes

nieces, nephews and friends, and very special friend and sister-in-law, Patricia Bettis.

Mrs. Haynes is preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Ernest G. (Jukie) Haynes, her mother, Verna Wiseman Judd, her father, Edwin D. Tucker, and her

brother, Wayne Edwin Tucker. A memorial service was held Saturday, March 7, at St. Matthias United Methodist Church, 426 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg.

Mrs. Haynes was proudly an anatomical donor. It was her wish to use her body for research to help others.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in the form of donation to any of the following would be appreciated: Alzheimer's Association, American Arthritis Foundation, or American Lung Association.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.caringbridge.org/visit/bobbiejevernahaynes.

PEOPLE

Sandlin

FROM PAGE 6

with stakeholder involvement we will be able to identify opportunities for redevelopment and create a framework that builds on the existing infrastructure and encourages new development that will shape Richmond Highway as a premier business destination.

What aspect of the revitalization effort do you feel is not well understood?

The biggest misconception about revitalization is that the character and history of the community will be lost in the process. Everyone takes great pride in their communities and is concerned, rightfully so, that revitalization will lead to change and the loss of a sense of place. Their fear comes from changing, not from the actual redevelopment of the community. We have a responsibility to educate our stakeholders about how the process will work, address their concerns, and offer solutions that are acceptable to everyone. We need to demonstrate how their input can have a positive impact in shaping the future of the Richmond Highway corridor over the next several decades.

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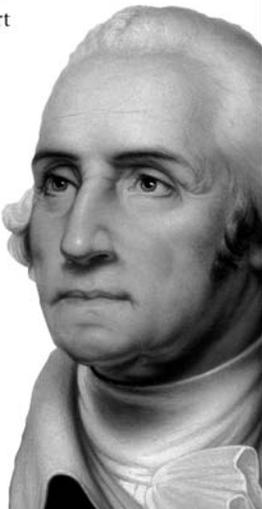
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OPINION

For Elections You Can Believe In

Without a paper trail, electronic voting will fail.

It should serve as a national wake-up call. Here in Northern Virginia, more than 700 votes cast in one precinct in a special election earlier this month were called into question when a voting machine malfunctioned.

The voting machine reported that 724 people had used it, even though officials at the Fairview precinct had recorded only 707 people walking through the door. There was also another voting machine at Fairview, which had already tallied 348 of the 707 votes.

Officials were unable to declare a winner in the race for more than 24 hours while they moved and opened the rogue machine. The conclusion: John Cook (R) defeated at-large school board member Ilryong Moon (D) by 89 votes in an election where more than 13,000 voters cast ballots.

Read reporter Julia O'Donoghue's story on the problems with voting machines at <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=326931>.

The March 10 special election was held to

choose the successor to Sharon Bulova (D) for Braddock District supervisor.

There were no optical scan machines available for the special election because election officials were trying to save money; there was no paper trail to back up questions about the accuracy of the electronic voting. Rokey Suleman, Fairfax County registrar, cited the high cost of paper.

But the costs of any legal challenge to the results would make the cost of paper pale by comparison. The loss of voter confidence would have more disastrous and far-reaching effects.

Computer experts warn that relying solely on the software inside electronic voting machines is a formula for disaster. Most of the rest of us who are not computer experts have seen first hand what can go wrong when computer hardware or software malfunctions, and the importance of good (or any) back-up systems.

Virginia will hold very important elections in June and November. The contest for Governor alone will be hotly contested and could be very, very close, both in the June primary and

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All Night Lighting?

To the Editor:

While I applaud the planting of a few native trees at the lots, this is hardly a greening. To replace a mature and diverse woods with only an extremely limited variety of trees is a significant diminution of biodiversity.

Most ridiculous of all, however is leaving the bank of extremely bright lights blazing in the middle of the night when there is no need.

Recognize that Mt. Vernon needed to expand parking and provide safety for its patrons, but have no idea why the Park Service or Mt. Vernon wants to have the area lit up like a shopping center in the middle of the night. If there is an event at the Mansion and the exterior lots are needed, leaving the lights on makes sense. But why are they burning for hours when there is not a car in them or patron at Mt. Vernon?

Alex Echols

Investment In Public Health

To the Editor:

In response to your paper's recent coverage of the economic stimulus bill, it's important that our community recognize the importance of the public health funding provisions it contains.

As the economy worsens and more people across the nation find

themselves without jobs and health coverage, demand for the health services provided by our nation's public health infrastructure will continue to grow.

Retaining funding in the stimulus bill for public health will allow states and local communities to meet the health needs of their residents while also putting people to work through the creation of many important public health jobs.

The funds allow for expanding primary prevention programs, preventing disease, improving community health centers, and supporting critical safety net programs like Medicaid and the food stamp program. Along with other essential programs supported by the funding in the bill, these services are vital to ensuring access to quality health care and other important public health services during these difficult economic times.

It is critical that our community lets our elected leaders know that we support the stimulus bill and its public health funding provisions, which are critical to creating and retaining jobs in the public health sector and improving the health of all Americans. An investment in public health is required, as it will take a healthy, productive workforce to help usher our nation back to financial stability.

Anne Gray Haynes
Healthy Living
Kaiser Permanente-MAS

Stimulus Failures

To the Editor:

History is set to repeat itself, again. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009 that is being debated in Washington has all the hallmarks of a classic *deja vu*. Last year the federal government sent out rebate checks in an attempt to stimulate the economy. They also dumped huge sums of money into failing Wall Street banks and insurance firms.

Both had no effect. It's long passed time that central planners learned that throwing good money after bad will not stimulate the economy. We must instead cut taxes, reform burdensome regulation and eliminate government waste. It is not until we pay attention to our past history of stimulus failures that we can begin to move toward the future.

Leslie Roberts
Alexandria

Focus on Budget

To the Editor:

I was somewhat alarmed by the comments of School Board President Dan Storck in your article "Advocates Pull Back from Later High School Start Times Proposal," where he states that "Some people may also be too caught up in how the details of the plan will impact their lives personally instead of looking at the problem holistically."

the November general election. Remember that Bob McDonnell, now the Republican candidate for Governor, became Attorney General in the last election by a margin of 360 votes out of nearly 2 million votes cast.

Every seat in the House of Delegates will also be on the ballot in November. In Fairfax County at least, election officials do not plan to offer the optical scan/paper ballot as an option.

Nearly 80 percent of registered voters turned out for last November's presidential and congressional elections, and Fairfax County equipped each polling station with at least one optical scan machine, giving voters a choice. This plus the many voters who were able to vote absentee in person ahead of time were part of the reason Election Day went smoothly.

Offering the choice to use paper ballots and optical scanning machines doesn't address the question of a possible failure of an electronic machine and the need for a paper trail.

Local jurisdictions around Virginia should ponder a worst-case scenario now — the results of a close contest could be unreliable or undeterminable because of voting machine malfunction. The costs involved would dwarf the costs of setting up back-up systems now.

Many of us would beg to differ with Mr. Storck. The fact is that the coalition known as SLEEP is singularly focused on changing school bell times as the solution to academic, athletic and unsafe driving problems that they perceive exist in Fairfax County Schools.

The "holistic" way to look at this issue is to realize that time spent with family, on extracurricular activities (including those focused on sports or academics or the arts), at after school jobs, and volunteering in the community, etc have all been proven by independent research to produce well-rounded, high achieving students.

In a county as large and diverse as Fairfax, finding that balance is difficult. Yet, even after 10 years of looking into this issue, and the dedicated focus of the Transportation Task Force, a viable option has not been able to be found. Isn't it time to consider that that balance already exists. Fairfax County is one of the top-rated school districts in the country, produces excellent athletes, and too my knowledge, does not have any particular problems with teen accidents, etc.

With our school district facing dramatic budget and staff cuts our School Board has better things to focus on than a complete overhaul of a system which is actually working.

Jill Anderson
Falls Church

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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A Connection Newspaper



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Auction organizers Martha Carucci, right, and Anita D'Antonio managed the auction and raffle.

Gala Supports Waynewood

FROM PAGE 3

corner from Waynewood School. She has two children of her own now, Vivian, 6, and Colin, 4, and lives in Waynewood with husband Robert. "This is a great evening," she said that night. "It's a fun way to raise money."

A local band, "Close to Home," provided entertainment. The group also lived up to its name, as all but one member lives in the Fort Hunt area. Singers Jay McConville and

Lynne White, and bass guitar player Jim White (no relation) live in Waynewood. Keyboardist Mary Bowers lives in Wellington Heights and drummer Mac McPherson is a Riverside resident. Lead guitar Scott Davidow lives in Fairfax Station.

Absent from the band this year was the late Tony Snow. The former television news host and White House press secretary died July 12, 2008.

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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!



9305
Mt Vernon Cir
\$985,900
Prestigious!

Stately Colonial boasts 5BRs (with rare main level suite), 5.5BA, stunning updated kitchen, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, oversized side-load garage and breathtaking sunroom overlooks gorgeous grounds. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in Mt Vernon on the Potomac – a premier waterfront community with private marina!



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!

STRATFORD LANDING!



8826
Camden Street
\$899,500
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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 APRIL –\$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.)



4203 Adrienne Dr
\$459,000



4300 Neptune Dr
\$425,000



4212 Dandridge Ter
\$575,000

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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 202.4601809



OPEN SUN. 1-4

5704 SHROPSHIRE COURT
Alexandria - \$475,000

WALK TO SCHOOLS! Turn the key and move right in! Spectacular 4Br/2Ba Hayfield home redone top to bottom, to include new Kit, baths, floors, roof, windows & more! Located on private-cul-de-sac and so convenient to Ft. Belvoir, I-95, METRO and Pentagon. Swim club membership to convey!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1111 NEAL DRIVE
Collingwood on the Potomac - \$659,900

Spacious 5lvl split (over 3,000sf) w/5Br/4FBa & a wonderful landscaped garden overlooked by a charming screened porch. Au-pair/in-law suite, rec room & walk-up fin attic. Refinished hwd on 3lvs. Great location off GW Pkwy and just minutes from Old Town, Ft Belvoir & shopping.

Elke Kohler 703.967.7633



OPEN SUN. 1-4

8817 LINTON LANE
Mt Vernon / Stratford - \$625,000

5th bedroom and 3rd bath in this pretty home are perfect for nanny, guests or in-laws! A renovated kitchen with eating space and hardwood floors is light and bright. Big family room, replaced windows, roof and gutters are all pluses!

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1819 DUFFIELD LANE
Alexandria / Belle Haven - \$585,000

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lvl TH w/ garage 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



7522 MILWAY DRIVE
Alexandria - \$399,000

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! "As is" sale is an opportunity for astute builder or handy person! 4-level split with garage and replacement windows! Milway Meadows homes sell from \$525,000-\$650,000. Handyman special. NOT a short sale or foreclosure!

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



8015 BAINBRIDGE ROAD
Alexandria - \$419,000

WONDERFUL HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE! 3Br/1Ba Beautifully updated, lots of sun, third bedroom opened up to create larger dining area and great open floor plan. Fresh paint, hardwoods, new deck. Absolutely turn-key ready! Min to OT, Ft. Belvoir. Waynewood ES.

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



6008 BUSH HILL DRIVE
Alexandria / Bush Hill Woods - \$424,900

GREAT LOCATION! Custom brick Rambler on 20,000sf lot - detached brick 2 car garage - 3Br/2Ba - wood and tile floors - replacement windows, gourmet Kitchen w/Italian custom cabs, Viking stove, Michele appliances. Must see to appreciate.

Louise Devers 703.795.9944



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8430 THAMES ST
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REVAMPED home ready to move in. New carpet, fresh paint, refinished hardwoods, new appliances, new roof/siding & windows. All the work has been done for you. Other great features are eat-in Kit, sep DR, updated baths, FR addition w/FP, storage galore, great yard & more.

Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012



1778 POTOMAC GREENS DR
Alexandria - \$884,900

PRISTINE in Potomac Greens. 4 fin levels, 3Br on 3rd level w/4th on level 4 w/FBa leading to roof top terrace. Plumbed for bar on 4th floor. 2HBA. Plantation shutters throughout. 2 car garage. Close to METRO, DC Reagan Airport, OT, National Harbour, boutiques and restaurants.

Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012



8329 WRENFORD COURT
Springfield - \$419,000

EVERY ROOM UPDATED! Fantastic 3Br/2.55Ba TH overlooks woods & creek. New hwd, flagstone & carpet in rec rm, new windows, newly painted, kit w/birch cabs, Corian, recessed lights, updated appl, new W/D, new roof 06, brick patio, alarm. Commute via VRE/METRO

Norma Gants 703.408.2560



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.

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

TRUE COLONIAL! Beautiful hwd 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.

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6602 POTOMAC AVENUE #A2
Alexandria / Belle View - \$218,500

IMMACULATE! Updated 1Br condo. Renovated Kit & Ba. Hardwood floors. Double pane vinyl windows. Washer/dryer & storage in same building. Plenty of resident/guest parking. Pool, tennis, Mt Vernon bike path, Potomac, OT and more!

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RENTALS

2726 Gallows Road #1301 \$1,175
Wilton House Hi-Rise Condo - Studio/1Ba, 1pkg
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633

6803 Kenyon Drive \$1,400
Beacon Manor Semi-detached Colonial - 2Br/1Ba,
Janice Allen 571.509.0906

5938 Cove Landing Rd #102A \$1,500
Burke Cove Garden Condo - 1Br/1Ba, 1 parking
Connie McKeen 703.866.8118

4001 Gibbs Street \$1,600
Sedgewick Forest Detached Traditional -
4Br/2.5Ba
Frankie Roberts 703.898.0840

6476 Cheyenne Drive #103 \$1,750
Windy Hill Garden Condo - 2Br/2Ba, 1 parking
Louise Devers 703.765.9944

RENTALS

3326 Lakeside View Drive #3-2 \$1,850
Waters Edge Townhouse - 2Br/2.5Ba, 1FP, 1pkg
Catherine Foltz 703-626-6914

6219 Tally Ho Lane \$1,950
Belle Haven Detached Rambler - 4Br/2Ba,
IFP, 1 parking
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

5957 Bent Willow Drive \$2,500
Willow Creek TH Colonial - 3Br/3.5Ba, 1FP, 1pkg
Bob Gering 703.625.6914

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

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



8018 WELLINGTON ROAD
Alexandria - \$599,900

TOP TO BOTTOM RENOVATION! Freshly painted throughout, Cherry cab w/granite-eat in Kit. Gleaming hwd, wood-burning FP, built-in bkcases, w/ out LL w/den, Mstr bedroom w/ walk-in closet. Huge flat fenced lot w/patio.

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



8640 MT VERNON HIGHWAY
Alexandria - \$469,469

Lovely and spacious 4Br/3Ba situated on 3 lots in the heart of Mt Vernon. New carpet & freshly painted throughout. Large recreation room with fireplace, workout basement and fenced yard. Circular drive. Near schools, move-in condition and priced to sell!

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4800 Old Mill Road
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4 Rosemont Lane
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Classic Rosemont beauty just blocks to Metro. 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths. Comfortable, flowing floor plan with sunny living room leading to charming porch, large formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, family room that opens to private patio and yard. From King St, North on Russell Rd, Right on Rosemont Ave.

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NEW PRICE

4500 Neptune Drive
\$550,000 | Yacht Haven
So affordable - this charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath rambler has beautiful hardwood floors, updated doors, bathrooms, kitchen and more! In sought after Yacht Haven; just minutes from Washington, DC, Old Town Alexandria and more. Fully fenced backyard on 1/2 acre lot. See more at www.NeptuneDr.com.

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

409 North Columbus Street
\$775,000 | Old Town
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 has great room sizes and tons of sun! Enjoy a great Old Town location! www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



COMING SOON!

2217 Lakeshire Drive
Call for Pricing | Alexandria South
Victorian front porch embraces a slower life-style. Flowing rooms with newly refinished hardwood floors, new carpet, granite, stainless steel appliances and many more upgrades complete this home. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 finished levels and sunlight streaming in.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



2 MASTER BEDROOMS

2181 Jamieson Avenue #2007
\$475,000 | Carlyle Towers
Spectacular 2 master bedroom floor plan. Glass sunroom with ceramic tile, marble foyer, separate dining room, large kitchen, wood floors throughout, views of Potomac River and City from this 20th floor unit. Garage space. Enjoy many upgrades. MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers3-2007.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



BEAUTIFUL UPDATES

2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603
\$739,000 | Carlyle Towers
Beautifully updated & maintained 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath sunny end unit. Views of Masonic Temple. Custom french doors to glass enclosed balcony, many built-ins! Pool, 2 gyms, tennis, 24-hr mgmt & security. Garage parking, close to 2 metros. MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers1-1603.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



LARGE, BRIGHT & OPEN!

2151 Jamieson Avenue #606-607
\$825,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large, bright and open. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large glass enclosed balcony. Sunny view of fountain park. Wood floors! Large eat in kitchen, expanded master bedroom with extra closet, garage parking. Duke St to Lion statues on Delaney, R Jamieson to 2151 MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



PENTHOUSE VIEWS!

125 North Lee Street
\$3,100 / Month | The Torpedo Factory
Chic penthouse in the heart of Old Town, one block from the river. Kitchen with cherry, granite, Viking stainless steel appliances. Updated baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, cathedral ceilings and window lined walls. Great city views of old town rooftops, D.C. to the north and waterfront from your private patio.

Susan Gray Chambers | 703.203.9900



DC VIEWS! OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

Marina Towers, Unit 1011
\$439,500 | Old Town Alexandria
Panoramic views of DC and Alexandria from two bedroom, two bath on a high floor in luxury bldg. On the Potomac river and bike path near National Airport. Resort-style living with fitness center, pool, convenience store, 24 hour desk & garage. Easy metro access. DC, Pentagon & Capitol Hill just minutes away.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



GEORGETOWN

2500 Q Street NW, Unit #532
\$399,000 | Washington DC
Spacious, sunny top floor one bedroom in prestigious Georgetown building. Great location just blocks to Metro. Open floor plan with lots of closets, large living room and dining room. Fitness center and roof deck with fabulous view of the City. Secure bldg with 24 hour desk, shops and restaurants nearby.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



NEW LISTING

2101 Shenandoah Road
\$459,000 | Alexandria
Nestled among mature trees, this 3 bedroom home features neutral colors, an open family room with dramatic cathedral ceiling, beautiful skylights and built in bookcases. Enjoy a large corner lot with a level, fenced yard. Great location for an easy commute to Old Town Alexandria or Washington, DC. [MRIS # FX7009455](http://MRIS#FX7009455).

Ann Lockwood | 703.299.8643



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NEW CONSTRUCTION

5116 Kenwood Drive
\$1,399,000 | Annandale
 Nantucket Estate with wrap porches and cupolas on nearly 1 acre, heated stone floors, see-thru fireplace, copper roof, gourmet kitchen, exercise/media rooms, private patio and deck. Additional photos at www.phyllispatterson.com. Dir: 495 West, exit on Braddock Road, Left of Kenwood.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



REDUCED \$100,000!

6406 Woodhaven Drive
\$799,900 | New Alexandria
 A new price on this "like new" 4/5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, 3 finished levels, high ceilings, hardwood floors, new kitchen with granite and center island overlooking deck and yard, master retreat formal living room and dining room, study and wine cellar. www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



RIVER VIEWS

8307 East Boulevard Drive
\$2,100,000 | Alexandria South
 Featured in the Washington Post and House and Garden Show. Classic brick Georgian colonial boasts grand room sizes, fine moldings, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, abundant storage, oversized two car garage. 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, 3 half baths. Fabulous artist studio, finished basement with huge game room.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



PLENTY OF SPACE

1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$899,000 | Alexandria S / Fort Hunt
 All brick colonial featuring 5/6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with 2-car garage. Off a "country lane" on a wooded lot. Open and spacious with 2 cozy fireplaces, hardwoods, eat in kitchen with large island and granite, inviting family room for gatherings. Dir: South on GW Parkway, right on Collingwood Rd, left on Fort. Hunt Rd, right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



BRAND NEW LISTING

2219 Lakeshire Drive
\$974,000 | South Alexandria
 Center Hall Colonial complete with 2 car garage, and great flow for entertaining and today's living. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, numerous upgrades, 3 finished levels, sprinkler system, and so much more. Sunlight streams through every room because of its southern exposure.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, SE QUADRANT

610 S Washington Street
\$1,899,000 | Old Town
 Everything on your wish list! Brick end unit townhouse, two years old. Amazing attention to detail, four finished levels, reclaimed pine wood floors, two car garage, gourmet kitchen, four gas fireplaces, 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths 3,400+ square feet.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



OLD TOWN LIVING

1737 Potomac Greens
\$998,000 | Old Town
 One of Potomac Greens largest models shows "just like new." This lovely 4 level town home offers gorgeous hardwood floors, gourmet kit w/ center island, granite, stainless steel appliances 2 sided fireplace, 4th level loft and roof top deck. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2 half baths, 2 car garage. This home is also offered for rent at \$4,000 per month.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



CLASSIC COLONIAL - REDUCED PRICE!

5009 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
\$849,900 | Alexandria South
 An amazing value for this stunning 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath custom built Colonial with granite counters, hardwood floors, 42" cherry kitchen cabinets, gracious master bedroom suite and beautiful architectural details throughout. Fully finished basement and beautiful half acre lot. Water access, too! Make this your next home. See more at www.5009MtVernon.com.

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



MUST SEE INSIDE!

502 Upland Place
\$1,195,000 | Alexandria City, GW Park
 Wonderful home just blocks from the metro. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, kitchen and breakfast room, living room, dining room, family room, gorgeous master suite, 4 fireplaces and full basement! Great, close in location in MacArthur Elementary School district. First floor bedroom and bath. Totally renovated/updated.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703.518.6165

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Turning a New Page Actress Tina Louise, an advocate for children's literacy, brings book to Workhouse Arts Center April 4.

BY AMBER HEALY
GAZETTE

It's been decades since Tina Louise left America's most famous island and living rooms, but she has never dropped out of the public eye.

These days, Louise's fans are a little younger, and know her better as an author than the copper-haired vixen from "Gilligan's Island."

"I signed 300 books today at a school in New Jersey," said Louise, with a sigh, from her New York City home. "I've been doing this for 12 years now and I just love it."

Louise is the author of "When I Grow Up," a children's book that compares what animals do with various professions. She will be signing copies of her book at the Lorton Arts Foundation Workhouse on Ox Road on Saturday, April 4, and she hopes the audience is full of young, smiling faces.

Her inspiration for the book, and her involvement in the New York City literacy program,

"It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

— Tina Louise

At a United Nations dinner one night, she began talking with a woman who had been involved with N.Y. School Volunteers, a group that worked to improve literacy in city schools. That program morphed into Learning Leaders, a volunteer literacy tutor organization, and with that, Louise became an advocate for children, especially in the ar-



Tina Louise

eas of literacy and physical education.

"The first time I walked into a public school, I felt very happy," she said. "It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

MANY CHILDREN didn't know what they wanted to be when they grew up and they didn't really know what options they had, Louise explained. That's how she got the idea for the book, by taking children's love of animals and their imaginations and putting the two together to show children they could be anything they dreamed.

Eventually, when she was on tour promoting "When I Grow Up," she started asking children what kind of careers they might want to pursue. She would ask who wanted to be an architect, and count the number of hands that went up.

During last week's visit to New Jersey, she finished her talk by asking the children how many wanted to be president.

"I walked around the gym and had some teachers helping me to count because I wanted to make sure we got every single little hand," Louise said. "There were over 150 hands raised. It was just wonderful."

Speaking of the presidency, Louise said she was able to give a signed copy of her book to the Obama family back when Barack Obama was still a senator. She has a framed letter from the new president thanking her for the gift to his young daughters.

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

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

During her short stay in Northern Virginia, Louise said she hopes to be able to stop by Capitol Hill to urge legislators to work on restoring physical education for all children during the school day. From talking with students, she's distressed at the lack of physical education classes and the rising rates of obesity among the youngest citizens.

"I'm a workout fanatic," Louise said. "I think that's one of the biggest problems in public schools today. I believe schools should have physical education from first grade up. I also think schools should send information home to parents to let them know what children are being fed and I think kids should have a better idea what they're eating."

Working for literacy and physical health are the "most important things" in Louise's life these days, she said, and she wouldn't trade them for anything.

Louise is currently working on her second children's book, but declined to give away details about the project because she's looking for a publisher. She would say that the book may explore what children and grown ups alike can do about the environment. This would actually be her third book. The first was a memoir, "Sunday," which chronicles what Louise calls an "unusual" childhood.

It took a while for her to find a publisher for her first book, which she relates to children by saying sometimes they're going to have difficulty in reaching some of their goals. But if they keep trying, she said, anything is possible.

"Things take time," she said. "The first publisher I talked to wouldn't publish the book, but I worked hard until I found someone who would publish it the way I wanted it done. It paid off."

WHEN LOUISE comes to Lorton, she is hoping to see quite a few children in the audience and is eager to ask them about their dreams for the future.

"I just think they're all so beautiful," she said. "They all look like Renoir paintings to me, just beautiful."

Louise is at least the second high-profile celebrity to visit the Workhouse, the first

Meet Tina Louise

The Lorton Arts Foundation is sponsoring an evening with Tina Louise on Saturday, April 4 at the Workhouse on Ox Road. She will be reading from and signing copies of her book, "When I Grow Up." Tickets available at www.workhousearts.org, since the establishment's grand opening last fall. Through a long-time friendship with one of the Arts Foundation's staff members, she accepted an invitation to visit and read excerpts from her book.

Sharon Mason, executive director at the Lorton Arts Foundation, said she is thrilled to have Louise, who she called an "icon" in American entertainment, reading at the Workhouse.

"We thought this would enable us to cast a wider net to schools and other literacy programs that have been started by Caren Hearne, our education program specialist," Mason said. "Including local children in this event was a major draw for us."

The Arts Foundation has partnerships with Lorton Station, Gunston and Featherstone elementary schools and Woodbridge High School that have been notified about the event, and Mason is hoping for at least 35 students that evening.

Excitement is starting to build for the reading, Mason said, with TV and radio interviews already lined up. Not bad for the Workhouse, in its sixth month, and a sure sign of things to come, she hopes.

"Given all the years Tina has been in show business, we are certain this should be a wonderful night," she said. "We're excited about the Q&A session. ... She's been a performer on the Broadway stage, dramatic actress and of course the famous Ginger from 'Gilligan's Island.' We're delighted she can share her years with her fans at LAF."

Julie Curtis, marketing and communications specialist at the Arts Foundation, said Louise's visit is just the start of a long line of special visitors and new events.

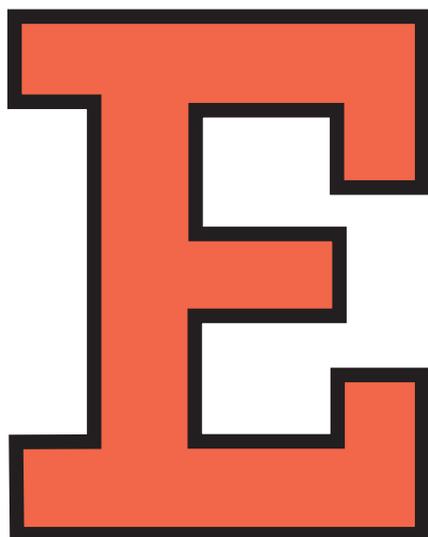
"We're starting to do more with our Film Institute and we'll have an event with Tippi Hendren coming up in May, so there's a lot going on," Curtis said.

Since its official opening last fall, the Workhouse has already expanded its reach into the community, bringing in visual and performing arts as well as a series of exhibits on the women's suffrage movement and Lorton's past, she said.

"We have a lot to offer, especially with the series of classes we offer to the community," Curtis said. "We just keep building on the ideas that keep flowing from our staff and volunteers."

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

FOOD & DRINK

Yo Ho Yo Ho

Rum punch challenges restaurateurs to think outside the box.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

When Alexandria was a bustling seaport, every two-bit tavern in town had its own signature rum punch. Tavern-keepers knew that a strong and tasty rum punch would bring in customers and create a kind of branding to set them above the competition. Ever since 17th-century pirate popularized a drink then known as “kill-devil,” the libation has always had a popular place in the imagination. Legendary pirate Blackbeard, for example, was said to enjoy a glass of flaming rum mixed with gunpowder. In America, so close to the sugar plantations of the Caribbean, rum held a special place in the liquor cabinet.

“Rum embodies America’s laissez-faire attitude: It is whatever it wants to be,” wrote author Wayne Curtis in the 2006 book “And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails.”

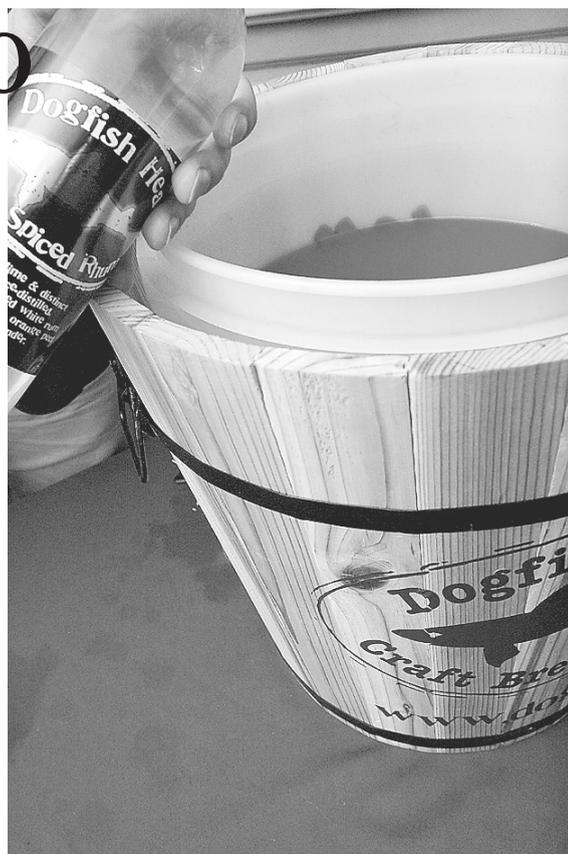
“The spirit of this event is to come up with the best way to showcase this drink you don’t often see on menus anymore.”

— Liz Williams, assistant director of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum

of-the-box mojito. Yet Old Town stalwart Gadsby’s Tavern is keeping the tradition of rum-based drinks alive and well next month with the fifth annual Great Rum Punch Challenge on April 4 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

“The spirit of this event is to come up with the best way to showcase this drink you don’t often see on menus anymore,” said Liz Williams, assistant director of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. “And rum punch was the most popular drink of the 18th century, so it’s a fun way to showcase a drink that most people don’t necessarily consume anymore.”

The event will feature entries from six dif-



Dogfish Head won the inaugural challenge and last year’s challenge. They will be competing this year.

ferent local distilleries, restaurants and caterers: Bacardi Rum, Bittersweet, Union Street Public House, Dogfish Head’s Microdistillery, R&R Catering and the PX. For the cost of a \$50 ticket, participants will be able to sample all the entries and vote for their favorite. Gadsby’s Tavern museum is also offering \$100 VIP tickets that include admission to a pre-event tasting of Bacardi’s special rums. Each of the rum-punch entries will have a distinctive interpretation on the drink.

“We like to stay with food because that’s what we do,” said Bittersweet marketing director Lena Teveris, adding that this year’s entry will include caramel and apple. “We’ve found that caramel and rum seem to go well together, and people seem to be drawn to it.”

Two years ago, when Bittersweet won the first-place award, their drink was based on a pineapple upside-down cake — a recipe that included caramel. Other creative interpretations over the years have included variations on the New Orleans “hurricane” or incorporation of popular desert items such as lemon crème pie or chiffonaded mint. Union Street Public House has its own competition in which staff members come up with a number of selections from which the winning selection is chosen for the Gadsby’s Tavern event.

“We don’t really make them available for the customers so much, but we let some of our regular guests try the different selections,” said Kathy Boone, private dining manager at Union Street Public House. “It’s more like a friends and family thing. The staff has a lot of fun with it.”

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16
admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

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Tea Traditions. 2 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the etiquette and origins of teatime. \$18/person includes a traditional tea. 703-941-7987 to register.

Kaydee Puppets. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill

Drive. All ages enjoy “The Little Red Hen’s Wacky Week.” Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington St. Hear the U.S. Navy Chamber Players. Free. Visit www.wsumc.com or 703-836-4324.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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Anderson Points West Potomac in New Direction

First-year Wolverine softball coach stays on message and so far his team is listening.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Ask first-year West Potomac softball coach Rick Anderson anything softball-related and chances are it all goes back to the five points. They are the “foundation of my coaching philosophy,” he said.

Even when the topic of just how much this year’s group of Wolverine seniors has been through during their careers, a subject the new coach seemingly couldn’t answer with clichéd coaching jargon, the coach still sticks by those five points.

What are the five points? They are “bring it” as in bringing effort to the field every day, “Core and Balance” meaning stabilization techniques for hitting and fielding, “Communicate know why” which entails keeping lines of communication open and explaining what one wants and why, “Everyday” as in focusing on softball seven days a week, and “Love and Heart” which gets back to the effort and courage Anderson wants out of his team.

It’s an unusual way of characterizing goals, but then again, this isn’t a normal team. Most of West Potomac’s five seniors were on the team two years ago when then-senior teammate Renee Shelkin died in a car accident just days before graduation.

Those who weren’t on the team then get a constant reminder when they turn to their right in the Wolverine home dugout, where it simply reads “Renegade No. 5” in honor of Shelkin’s nickname and now-retired softball jersey. Players who were part of last season’s 16-8 campaign dedicated their success to their fallen teammate.

The team got more bad news with the death of longtime volunteer assistant Bill Ambrose this past fall after a lengthy battle with cancer. Add in the fact that Anderson is now the third coach in three seasons for the Wolverines and it’s clear this isn’t just a simple case of overcoming adversity.

— West Potomac coach Rick Anderson

“I’ve always wanted to take [the five points] to a mature group.”

“I did some research before coming, but this is the program I bring and so we beat [the five points] everyday, we say these things,” said Anderson, who has never been coach of a high school program but has been working on the travel softball circuit for some time now. “That’s what we control.”

THAT MAY BE just what is needed for a team that has daily reminders of what happened in the past. Focusing on the present can take the attention off some of the prior pain. And sporting a 2-2 record thus far, which includes three games with 10 or more runs scored and narrow losses to Northern



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

New West Potomac softball coach Rick Anderson has brought a new approach to the game in his first year leading a high school program. He is the third Wolverine softball coach in as many years.

Region powerhouses Robinson (11-10) and South County (9-3), it appears as if this year’s West Potomac squad is buying in.

“There’s definitely a new program being brought,” said senior leadoff hitter Sam Bower. “I think it’s a stronger program and it looks really good for the future once we get things sorted out a little bit better.”

But it’s the present that looks equally bright. With a strong mix of young and old, the Wolverines appear poised to advance past the first round of the regional tournament, a feat nobody on this squad has ever accomplished. Leading them there will be seniors Jessica Harrington (first base), Kelly Wood (first base), and Bower (shortstop).

Perhaps the most talented members of this year’s squad, though, are its three freshmen. Pitchers Sammy Clifford and Morgan Maniglia combined to give up just one run

in West Potomac’s recent wins over Wakefield and West Springfield. Meanwhile, freshman third baseman and clean-up hitter Jasmine Picini has been racking up RBIs at a rapid pace.

“Typically I don’t like putting freshmen on the team, but they’ve got game,” said Anderson.

As for getting to regionals, that’s not something the new coach is focused on just yet. He’ll continue to harp on his five points, hoping they provide the stability this team has needed for quite some time now.

“I’ve always wanted to take [the five points] to a mature group, a high school group and say, ‘OK, let’s go out and develop a program,’” said Anderson. “Everything is based on that core philosophy and from there we can always come back and work on the little things.”

School Booster Club Raising Money for New Field

FROM PAGE 1

After aerating the field to help with drainage, Swinson, Cooksey, and a few other dedicated parents began having de facto mowing parties every Saturday morning, where six to eight of them would bring their own personal hand mowers and landscaping equipment out to the field to help keep it in decent shape.

“We quickly realized we were dealing with a situation that was going to be perpetual because it constantly gets beat down and needs to be re-seeded,” said Swinson. “It was just a sub-standard playing surface.”

THAT’S WHEN Swinson and his gang of impromptu maintenance workers decided something truly drastic needed to be done. First and foremost was that no matter what type of grass the field had, it needed to properly drain. So with the help of the booster club, the school installed new sprinkler and irrigation systems last year.

Fairfax County contributed a new control system for the sprinklers, but refused to help with the cost of a proper irrigation system or putting in a new field for the stadium.

The problem with the current field, made of cool weather grass, is that its main growing period is during the spring. The growth slows once summer hits and as fall arrives the grass reaches its maximum breadth — just in time for the football team to make all the growing for naught.

“Essentially, it has no way to re-generate itself at that point,” said Swinson.

When the boosters first looked into a new field, the price of a synthetic turf surface was too expensive and even Bermuda grass seemed a little out of their price range. But the recent downturn in the economy has lowered the price of installing new grass from \$36,000 to the current \$27,000 that Helmick expects it to cost.

That includes \$10,000 for a new, professional maintenance team to come in and oversee the fertilization during the initial growing period this summer. Helmick said the plan is once the spring sports season finishes, crews will come in and start leveling off low spots, with grass beginning to grow within 30 days.

He expects everything to be ready by the time the West Potomac football team hits

Help West Potomac Raise Money

It’s all well and good to want a new field, but now comes the often overlooked hard part, especially with the shape the economy is in these days. Beginning Friday night, the West Potomac booster club, in conjunction with the department of student activities, will hold a series of events aimed specifically at raising the \$27,000 necessary to get Bermuda grass at Jeffrey Dietze Stadium.

Here’s a rundown of how the community can get involved:

March 27: A night of music, dancing, and fundraising will begin at 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club to help benefit West Potomac’s field of the future. Music will be provided by the band “Close to Home” and there will be a silent auction, cash bar, and food.

March 28: West Potomac athletics will hold its annual mulch sale with delivery and pickup scheduled for this Saturday. The cost is \$4 for a three cubic feet bag of mulch. There is free delivery for orders of more than 30 bags. Contact the West

the field for its home opener, the battle for Richmond Highway supremacy against Mount Vernon on Sept. 3.

It will be a welcome sight for Swinson, who is still officially a county employee collecting his stipend. He estimates spending about 20 hours a week since that spring of 2006 working the West Potomac field.

Potomac athletic office for information on ordering.

March 28: In conjunction with Ourisman Ford/Lincoln/Mercury of Alexandria on Richmond Highway, the West Potomac student activities department will hold a test drive event outside of the Pulley Center this Saturday. The department will receive \$20 for every test drive and \$100 for any new/used car sale.

May 9: Starting in May, the student activities department is offering to come pick up anything the community might wish to donate for its annual rummage sale, which is scheduled to take place in West Potomac’s cafeteria. Anyone shopping for a good bargain should head out for the sale on May 9.

“The main thing people should realize is just how many kids this field will benefit in the long run,” said booster club co-President Lee Harrington, citing the litany of sports that use the stadium like football, lacrosse, and soccer.

At one point, he and the other volunteers had it all added up and realized the man-hours all of them had put in reached the thousands.

“It’s really been a long process,” he said. “I kind of lit the fire, but it involved so many people going above and beyond what a parent volunteer ordinarily does.”

SPORTS

Private Schools Tee Off

Weather may be cold, but golf season is already heating up.

By MICHAEL K. BOHN
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Despite iffy early spring weather, golf season is in full swing at local private high schools. Arlington's Bishop O'Connell and three Alexandria schools — Episcopal, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, and Bishop Ireton — held tryouts in early March and immediately began dual match play. O'Connell and Ireton play in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC), while Episcopal and SS&SA belong to the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC).

Conference coaches expect either Fairfax's Paul VI or DeMatha to win the WCAC and Georgetown Prep to take the IAC crown.

Bishop Ireton: First year coach Pete Davey will count on two seniors to pace his team — John Atiliis and Andrew Hirsh. Junior Steve Porter and sophomore Matt Barnwell will also contribute. Ireton failed to advance to the WCAC second round in 2008, but Davey hopes for a better finish this year. "We are aiming to be in the upper

half of the league, and expect a good showing." The Cardinals are 0-2 in dual matches so far this season.

Episcopal: Golfers attending this small boarding school lack the chance to practice at their home clubs before the season. Coach Whit Morgan tries to schedule early season practice to compensate, but variable March weather complicates his task. Morgan expects junior Adam Stowe to play number one, with sophomore Bailey Patrick competing for the second spot. Senior Hill DuBose will add depth. "We have been stuck in third place in the IAC for the past two years," Morgan said. "But it will be difficult to unseat either Prep or Landon." As of March 24, Episcopal had played only one match. They lost to powerful Paul VI, 0-9.

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes: "We'll compete," coach Jerry Howell promises. "Senior Joe Curley and junior Holt Mountcastle are my two best players, and sophomore David Budway will help." SSSAS finished fifth in the IAC last year, and Curley tied for 11th in the tournament's individual competition. SSSAS has played only one match through the third week of March, losing a close one to Good Counsel at Belle Haven.

Bishop O'Connell: Four of the team's top six players are returning from last year's squad. Seniors Chris Ceconi, John Malanchuk, and Nick Guerere will lead the



Senior Joe Curley will lead the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes golf team in the 2009 season.

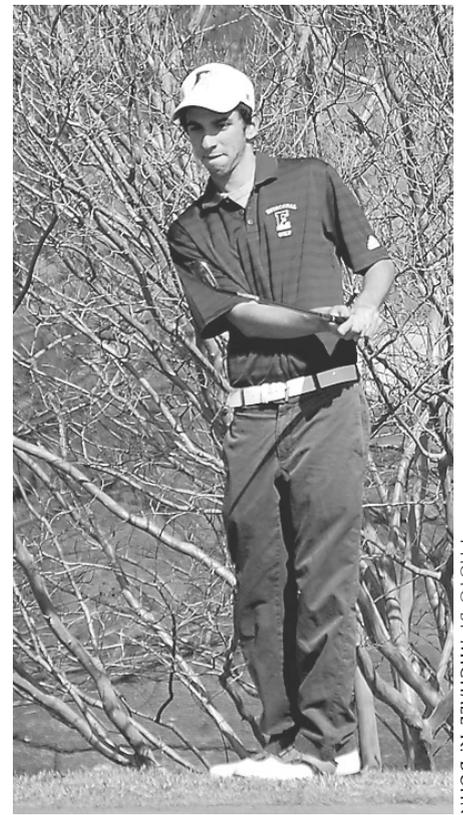


PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Episcopal's Adam Stowe tied for sixth in the 2008 IAC championship, and the junior will play number one this season.

team. Malanchuk tied for fifth in the 2008 WCAC individual competition. Ceconi posted five top-ten finishes over the winter on the Plantations Junior Golf Tour and should hit the fairways running. So far this year, the Knights have lost to three of the area's perennial powerhouses—Landon, Gonzaga, and DeMatha, but scored their first win over Ireton on March 24.

All four schools have posted their golf schedules on their Web sites. Click on Athletics and select the golf team page.

The first round of the WCAC tournament starts April 28 at Springfield Golf and Country Club, with round two the following week on May 5. The IAC will hold its one-day championship on April 28 at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal.

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6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

Weekdays
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9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

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Book and Art Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse books, puzzles and more. Free. Visit www.mvuc.org or 703-765-5950.

Performance. 8 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. Hear music by the Alexandria Choral Society. \$20/adult; \$10/senior and student. Visit www.alexchoralsociety.org for more.

Foodways Lecture. 11 a.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Michael Twitty will explore the preparation of foods of

enslaved Virginians. Reservations required, 703-838-4356. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Auction. 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road. Charles Barrett Elementary School PTA. \$15/person advance; \$20/person door. 703-549-5533.

Gala. "Generation to Generation" gala at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, recognizes families that have served Alexandria through businesses, faith communities and more. 703-836-4414 ext. 14 to attend.

Music Performance. Austin College Choir Concert at 7:30 p.m. Austin College's outstanding A Cappella Choir will present a concert of a variety choral music. Westminster

Presbyterian Alexandria, www.wpc-alex.org.

Run Vs. Row Reunion. 8:30 a.m. at Dee Campbell Boathouse, 1 Madison St. Take an easy 5k fun run/walk and watch T.C. Williams high school rowers compete in a regatta. Suggested donation \$20. Visit www.tcwcrew.org for more.

Rock the Recession. 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road. Charles Barrett Elementary School PTA will hold a live and silent auction. \$15/person advance or \$20/person door. 703-549-5533.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29

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

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Solveig Eggerz discusses "Seal Woman." Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

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

Reception. 1 p.m. meet the artists of "Artistic Duo" through March 29 at Green Spring Gardens. Features art by Carolyn Grosse Gawarecki and photographs by Stephen Gawarecki. Free. Visit www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

Celebration. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 4:30 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-780-0653.

Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Queen of Apostles Catholic School, 4409 Sano St. Enjoy a plant sale, bake sale and more. Free.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Closing Reception. 6-7:30 p.m., the Springfield Art Guild will showcase art at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive through March 30. Free. Features art of a botanical nature. Free. 703-644-6677.

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. 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.

Family Story Time. 2 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. All ages can enjoy activities. Free. 703-642-5173.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 1

Blacksmith Shop Opening. 11 a.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, see a working blacksmith shop. Watch them shoe a horse and create iron nails and hooks. Included in estate admission \$15/adult; \$7/child. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/APRIL 3

Musical. 7 p.m. at Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Watch "The Gospel of Mary." Donation of \$10. Visit www.convergenceccf.net or 703-461-6785.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Musical. 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Watch "The Gospel of Mary." Suggested donation of \$10. Visit www.convergenceccf.net or 703-461-6785.

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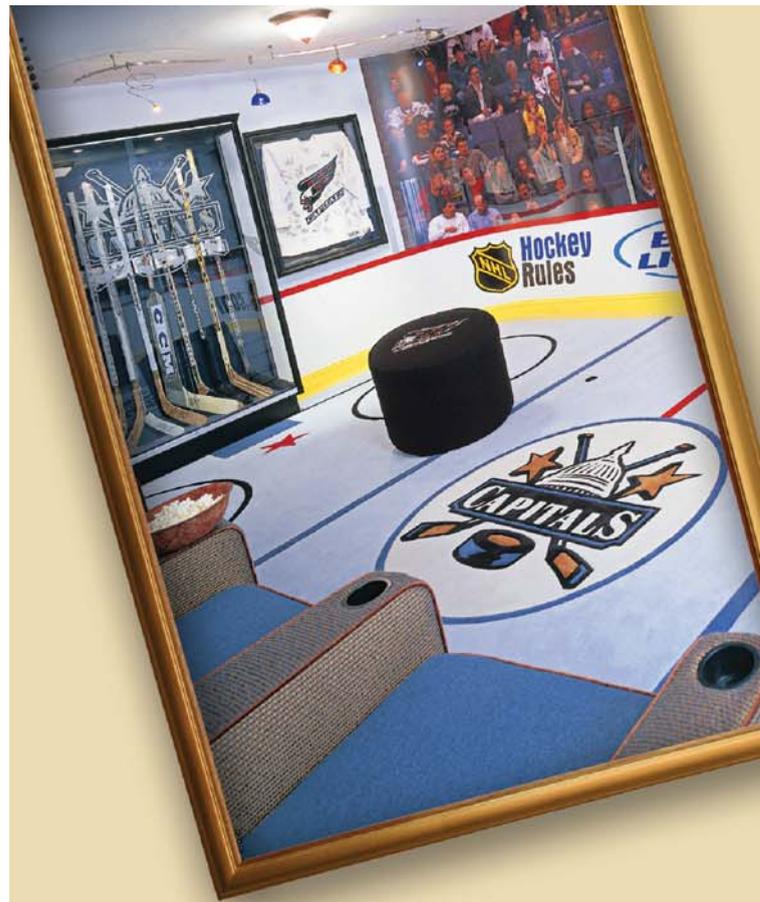
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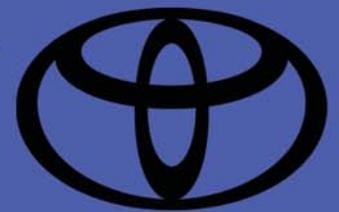


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