

# Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

APRIL 16, 2009

## Rising Sun



PHOTO BY JERRY VERNON/GAZETTE

**Dennis Perry, Aldersgate United Methodist Church pastor, celebrates Easter sunrise service with the congregation in front of an open tomb with blue grass band providing religious music.**

## Wizards Spotlight Student, Teacher

### Essay contest winner from West Potomac High School.

The Washington Wizards held a special presentation Monday, April 13, during their last home game of the season honoring three metro Washington students and the teachers who have inspired them — including student Alexandra Butler and her math teacher John Glaze from West Potomac High School.

The Wizards and the Center for Inspired Teaching sponsored an essay contest for area students who were asked to write about a teacher who had inspired them. Three essays, each from a different school

level, were chosen as winners. More than 600 essays were submitted. Alexandra said that the essay contest was offered as an extra credit assignment by her AP English teacher.

Alexandra is currently one of the four editor-in-chiefs of the school yearbook. The yearbook having been judged a gold class yearbook for the past 10 year was recently placed in the Virginia Hall of Fame. In addition to the yearbook Alexandra is also captain of the varsity soccer team.

### Recognizing Mr. Glaze

BY ALEXANDRA BUTLER AGE 16, GRADE 11  
WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA, VA

Students deal with teachers on a daily basis. However, few leave a lasting impact on the students to which they will remember for the rest of their life. One teacher in my education thus far though has made that connection for me. He has inspired me both in the classroom and outside in the world. Math is normally a class many students dread. This teacher, on the other hand, taught me to enjoy math and see the real world connections in each problem. He taught problem solving skills that can be used in any situation. He also pushed me to succeed. While some teachers will give up on a struggling student, he works with each and every student in order to help them thrive and fully understand the subject. This teacher has also been dealing with a difficult situation outside of the classroom. His wife recently passed away due to a longtime disease. Some may give up and take time off, but his dedication to his students showed when he returned back to school a week after her passing. His strength inspires me in everything I do. He is truly a great teacher with the ability to inspire anyone.

## Vehicle Fees for Waterfront Parks?

### Proposed cuts lead Park Authority to vote for \$4 resident vehicle fee.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE GAZETTE

### More on Budget

Higher athletic fees too?  
See story, page 5.

Dana Wiseman uses Lake Accotink Park almost every day. Wiseman lives in the Cardinal Forest condominium complex in Springfield, which is located near one of the park's entrances.

"I use the park to relax and enjoy nature, to get away from things that are bothering me," he said while walking near the lake April 8.

If the Fairfax County Park Authority moves forward with new user fees, fewer people may get to enjoy Fairfax County's lakefront parks like Accotink for free.

In the face of a \$4.1 million budget cut, the park board voted last month to charge Fairfax County residents for entering four of the locality's most popular parks in vehicles during peak seasonal hours.

It is the first time county residents would have to pay to enter county-run park grounds. Currently, the Park Authority only charges out-of-county residents in

cars for coming into Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station.

The four affected facilities — Lake Accotink, Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax Park in Reston and Riverbend Park in Great Falls — attract about 3 million visitors in total each year.

Officials said the bulk of the park system's users, approximately 17 million people annually, would not be impacted by the new fees.

"It is important to realize that we are only talking about four out of 420 parks," said Judy Pedersen, public information officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

**THE NEW LAKEFRONT** park fee structure would go into effect July 1 and apply to people who visit the parks on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July through October.

During these times, residents

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 3

## Killed Pedestrian Identified

Fairfax County Police detectives have identified the victim of the fatal accident which occurred just before 4 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. He was Timmy Futrell, 42, of Alexandria. His family has been notified.

Futrell was crossing Richmond Highway near North Kings Highway in the Huntington area when he was struck, according to police. An investigation revealed that sev-

eral drivers swerved to avoid striking him. A 2007 Pontiac Gran Prix, driven by a 31-year-old Alexandria-area man, was not able to avoid striking Futrell. The victim was transported Inova Fairfax Hospital and pronounced dead at 7:31 a.m. Speed and alcohol were not factors for the driver.

This is the 10th fatal crash and fifth pedestrian killed this year in Fairfax County.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



**West Potomac math instructor John Glaze and student Alexandra Butler.**

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**Robin Arnold**

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### Smart Living

conveys with the floor plan of this light-filled, handsome, three-bedroom, two full and two half bath, brick residence offering gracious formal rooms, two fireplaces, a comfortable family room adjacent to the sleek kitchen, lavish master bedroom and bath, an attached garage and a wet bar providing service to the living room and large private garden replete with fountain.

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# 'Toast' Is Toast

Campagna Center cancels spring-time events to focus on its mission.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When Karen Hughes arrived in the corner office at the Campagna Center's landmark South Washington Street address, the nonprofit's new executive indicated she would be moving in a different direction. As far back as a November 2006, Hughes was already hinting that she might have second thoughts about the hoopla surrounding the Scottish Walk every winter in Old Town and a garden party known as the Toast of Alexandria at Collingwood Library every spring.

"It's evident that we have somewhat of a branding issue,"

said Hughes in a November 2006 interview, shortly after she assumed the title of president the previous month.

"People will say that they have been to the parade and they've never heard of

the Campagna Center. Some people know the building very well, but don't know anything about what we do here."

Flash forward to planning for 2009, when Hughes and her board of directors came to a consensus that some of the social events were distracting. Staff members were being pulled away from providing educational and developmental programming for more

than 1,500 children each day at 65 sites across the city. Meanwhile, the harsh economic environment created a framework for drastic measure.

"Signature events, when well attended, can be big fundr-aisers for a non-profit," said Councilman Rob Krupicka, who is a member of the nonprofit organization's board of directors. "But with this economy, they can also be a lot of expense for limited return."

**THE DECISION** to cancel Toast to Alexandria ends a 36-year tradition at Collingwood, the scenic mansion that was once part of George Washington's River Farm. For many retailers, the event was an

opportunity for restaurants and caterers to offer samples of their food along with wine and beer. From a branding perspective, the event was billed as a social trifecta — support the Campagna Center while enjoying a crisp Chardonnay

on the Potomac River. But Hughes and the board had other plans.

"These kinds of events don't raise as much money as you might think," said former Del. Marian Van Landingham (D-45), who is a longtime member of the nonprofit's board of directors. "There was a feeling that the staff should be working on programs but they get caught up in events."

**"The Campagna Center is trying to move in a direction of maximizing direct appeals for fundraising rather than**

## Residents Might Pay for Some Parks' Access

FROM PAGE 1

would pay a fee of \$4 per vehicle to drive a car onto the four park grounds. Non-residents would pay \$8 per vehicle to enter Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Riverbend's facilities and \$4 per vehicle to use Lake Fairfax.

Lake Fairfax's "non-county" fee is lower because the Park Authority markets its "water mine" to out-of-county residents and did not want to discourage those people from visiting the water park, said Pedersen.

She added that the new charges are also unlikely to affect daily users of the waterfront parks since many of those people visit the facilities outside of peak hours anyway.

For example, those people who walk or jog in the parks on a regular basis typically come before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m., said Pedersen.

Some residents will also avoid the fees because they do not have to drive to the parks to use them. For example, Wiseman will always be able to use Lake Accotink for free, even during peak hours, because he walks, and doesn't drive, to the site.

But Wiseman was unhappy about the county potentially charging for park use. With the economy in a downturn, people need a refuge, he said.

"People are not going to have a place to get the relaxation and release of tension that they need. That's important, especially in this economy," said Wiseman.

**THE PARK AUTHORITY** will consider rolling back plans for the new fees if the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors restores some of the park system's funding in the 2010 budget.

In his initial budget proposal, county executive Anthony Griffin cut park funding to help close a \$650 million shortfall overall. But the supervisors have the authority to make major changes to Griffin's proposal when they vote on the final budget April 27.

If supervisors decided to give the park authority back \$650,848 for programs at Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax as well as \$150,000 in funding for Riverbend Park, the park board will have no need to implement the fees, said Pedersen.

This funding covers approximately 33 positions, she added.

Several supervisors indicated that they are interested in trying to find a way to keep the parks free for county residents.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova (D), who is also

The cancellation of the Toast to Alexandria comes at a time when most nonprofit leaders are struggling to navigate through difficult times.

City officials say middle-class residents who have never been part of the system before are now applying for public assistance, adding to the strain of an existing network of people who are already among the city's most vulnerable. Meanwhile, City Hall is facing unprecedented shortfalls and drastic budget cuts on the horizon, with city government workers facing layoffs and funding levels reduced for contributions to nonprofits.

"In these economic times, non-profits are being forced to focus on their core services and missions," said Krupicka. "I think many non-profits are being forced to evaluate which fund-raising approaches are the most effective for them given the contraction in giving caused by the economy."

**ONE CONCERN** about the decision to cancel the Toast to Alexandria is the feeling that canceling a well-known signature event with a long tradition at a place like Collingwood might have unintended consequences. Van Landingham said she shared a concern expressed by others that some of the volunteers who enjoyed the Toast might feel slightly alienated by the cancellation, but those individuals should be strongly encouraged to use their volunteer time to the nonprofit's core programs.

"The Campagna Center is trying to move in a direction of maximizing direct appeals for fund-raising rather than hosting lavish social events," said Van Landingham.

head of the budget committee, said she is looking for a way to restore waterfront park funding so residents do not have to be charged. "I have a real problem with the park authority charging county residents to use those parks. ... People pay to acquire the parkland and to develop the parkland already," said Bulova.

The chairman said it could also be prohibitively expensive to charge non-county residents coming into the three parks — Accotink, Fairfax and Riverbend — that are currently free for everyone. The cost of putting up and staffing entrances could be more expensive than the revenue collected from the out-of-county residents who come to use the facilities, she said.

Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) is also opposed to levying park entry fees for residents. He said the entry fees at the four waterfront parks could cause unanticipated problems for the county.

People may be more inclined to park their cars in neighborhoods near the parks to avoid paying the vehicle fee. The new fees could also aggravate the back up that already forms at some park entrances on the weekends because now every driver entering those facilities would have to stop and pay, he said.

### WEEK IN MOUNT VERNON

## Puller, Sickles Review Assembly

State Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Mark Sickles will discuss the 2009 General Assembly in a Town Meeting, Friday, April 17, 1 p.m. in the auditorium of The Fairfax.

The Fairfax, located at Telegraph Road and Richmond Highway, has about 500 voters. The event is sponsored by the Voter Education Committee which holds periodic forums on current issues.

The Town Meeting will be in the Community Center, 9140 Belvoir Woods Pkwy., Fort Belvoir. For more information contact Alan Mayer at alanmayer@verizon.net or call 703-781-7451.

## Two Men Robbed At Gunpoint

A 48-year-old Alexandria-area man and a 31-year-old Alexandria-area man were robbed on Wednesday, April 8. Around 5:20 p.m. the two men were at their car parked in the 2400 block of Fort Drive when three men allegedly approached them armed with guns and a knife. The suspects forcibly removed the victims' property from their pockets. The suspects fled the area in a vehicle. Neither victim was injured.

All three suspects were described as black, in their 20's.

The first suspect was about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 160 pounds, with medium length, braided, black hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a black shirt and black baseball cap.

The second suspect was about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 190 pounds, with short black hair. He was wearing a black shirt.

The third suspect was about 5 feet 9 inches tall and 155 pounds, with medium length, braided, black hair. He was wearing a white hoodie and blue jeans.

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

## Correction

In an April 1 article headlined "Warning Signs," Parsons Brinckerhoff was incorrectly identified as an engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Parsons Brinckerhoff is the name of a consulting firm that supplied the analysis to the department.

# Think Globally, eCycle Locally



## EPA's eCycling Day 2009 National Harbor @ The Plateau

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In celebration of Earth Day, bring computer equipment and cell phones to EPA's eCycling event for free and safe recycling.

- Computers, laptops, monitors, printers, keyboards, scanners, and mice
- Any brand, any condition
- Items will be recycled in a manner that is safe for the environment



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For more information go to: [www.epa.gov/oei/ecycling](http://www.epa.gov/oei/ecycling)

# Higher Athletic Fees Proposed

Most participants would see a 136 percent increase in payment to county.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE GAZETTE

Organized sports participation across the Fairfax County is down but numbers at some local organizations, like the Springfield Youth Club and Lee Franconia Football League, are particularly low, said Lula Bauer, the Lee District representative on the Fairfax County Athletic Council.

Bauer said all sports clubs that serve residents near the Route 1 corridor have been negatively impacted. Lee District, which is home to more low-income residents than other parts of the county, has likely been harder hit by the economic recession, she said.

So Bauer, a soccer enthusiast that lives in the Franconia area, is angry that Fairfax would consider raising its athletic fees at this time.

"It is going to kill our club. Any type of increase," she said.

Bauer spoke at a meeting organized by Supervisors Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and Michael Frey (R-Sully) about the proposed athletic fee increases in West Springfield High School April 7.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE** Anthony Griffin proposed an athletic fee increase from \$5.50 per team participant per sports season to \$13 per team participant per sports season for county residents.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed in the Bulletin Board, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 18

**College Survival 101 Program.** 8:30 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St. High school juniors and seniors can attend this and learn about all aspects of college. 703-310-6190.

**Blood Drive.** 7:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Donate blood in honor of Greg Berry and then enjoy some of his favorite treats. Schedule an appointment at [www.soltys.org/blooddrive/](http://www.soltys.org/blooddrive/).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 19

**Chinese Corner.** 2-4 p.m. at Sampan Café, 6116 Franconia Road. All levels welcome to speak Chinese but learn about the language. Free. 703-868-1509.

For the first time, Griffin has also added a "non-county resident" fee of \$30 for youth who participate in Fairfax County sport leagues. "Non county" adults, who have already been paying a fee to participate in sports leagues, would see an increase in their own fee from \$20 to \$30.

Teams participating in county tournaments would also have to pay more, up from \$15 to \$25 per event. People, such as those organizing a family reunion, would also be charged more – from \$50 to \$120 – for "one time" use of a county sports facility, like a softball field.

These higher rates will help pay for Fairfax County's \$650 million shortfall, said Griffin.

**THE INCREASED SPORTS** fees would also make it harder for some youth sports clubs to survive, said Bauer and Michael Thompson, Burke Athletic Club president and Springfield representative on the Fairfax County Athletic Council.

In one county youth sports club, approximately 30 percent of participating families already receive scholarship funds to help cover the current athletic fee and other costs associated with playing sports. A 136 percent increase in the rate for county residents would limit the ability of that club and others to meet the needs of families already receiving assistance, said Thompson.

An increase in the fee would also limit the sports clubs ability to provide other supplemental services, such as field maintenance and facility upgrades.

According to Thompson, the county soccer clubs collectively put over \$3 million back into the upkeep of county and school fields. His own organization, Burke Athletic Club, regularly plants new grass and

SEE HERRITY, PAGE 18

### MONDAY/APRIL 20

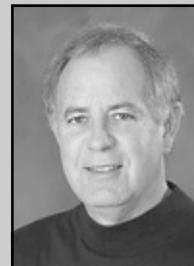
**Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Parents can learn about "sexting" and what to do to prevent children from doing it. Free.

**International Adoption.** 6-8 p.m. at Adoption Center of Washington, 100 Daingerfield Road, Suite 101. Free. RSVP to 703-549-7774.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 21

**Lecture.** 9 a.m. at Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Ave. Parents, teachers, counselors and anyone working with students with learning challenges can attend. \$80/person includes all materials, snacks and lunch. Register at [www.landmark.edu/nova](http://www.landmark.edu/nova).

**Meeting.** 1 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon Genealogical Society will discuss inheritances. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org) or 703-360-0920.



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**Alex./Hollin Hall Village \$389,900**  
**2100 Shenandoah Road**

Lovely, updated 2 BR+Den Rambler on a large beaut Hollin Hall lot- Numerous updates: kitchen w/C.T. floor, cherry cabinets & granite counters – Newer roof & plumbing, replacement windows & an updated bath – Private, fenced, beaut garden patio. Waynewood Elementary, easy commutes to Old Town, Ft. Belvoir, National Airport, Pentagon and D.C.



**Great Falls \$875,000**  
**12134 Holly Knoll Circle**

Scenic Waterfront Colonial in Great Falls—6 BRs, 3.5 BAs, 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 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs, family rm w/FPL off lg eat-in kitchen, spacious 2-car garage & lg bsmt. Just completed—refinishing hdwd 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./Mount Vernon \$574,900**  
**9326 Craig Avenue**

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



**Alex./Stratford on the Potomac \$549,900**  
**8407 Blakiston Lane**

Lovely Contemporary, 3 level, Brick Split – 4BRs, 3BAs – across from Little Hunting Creek in prestigious Stratford on the Potomac – Refinished hdwd 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.



**Alex./Riverside Ests. \$479,900**  
**8426 Cherry Valley Lane**

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**Alex./Pinewood Lake \$275,000**  
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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. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntington Metro, National Airport, Pentagon & D.C.

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**

\$12 admission in advance • \$15 admission at the door



**Location:** Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Rd., Alexandria, VA  
**Door open 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.**

Order tickets at [www.Magi-Whirl.com/show.html](http://www.Magi-Whirl.com/show.html) or at the door.

Military in uniform admitted free.



# OPINION

## More Unemployed in Northern Virginia

House of Delegates votes to turn away millions for local people without jobs.

If you live in Northern Virginia and, like most people here, you still have a job, you might have read with a certain detachment the news that the Virginia House of Delegates voted to turn away millions of dollars in federal money for people.

After all, the unemployment rate here is the lowest in the state, Northern Virginia is the economic engine of the state, so it might not matter much up here, right?

Wrong.

There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, 75,390 unemployed people looking for full time work here in Northern Virginia in February, according to the Virginia Employment Commission, up from 38,100 last year. That's 75,390 of the statewide total of 291,100.

The unemployment rate in Northern Virginia of 5.2 percent, up from 2.7 percent in February, 2008, pales in comparison to, say Danville's

rate of 12.3 percent. But in Danville, that rate translates to 6,450 unemployed people, less than 10 percent of the number here.

Every local jurisdiction in Northern Virginia is facing its highest unemployment rate in more than a decade.

Arlington has the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 4.4 percent, up from 2.3 percent last year at this time, and 1.6 percent a decade ago.

Fairfax County's unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, up from 2.6 percent this time last year and 1.5 percent a decade ago.

EDITORIAL Loudoun County's unemployment rate is 4.8 percent, up from 2.7 percent last year at this time and 2.4 percent a decade ago.

The City of Alexandria's unemployment rate is 5.1 percent, up from 2.7 percent a year ago and 2.8 percent a decade ago.

The City of Fairfax's unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, up from 3.3 percent a year ago, and 1.3 percent a decade ago.

This is one instance where there is no competition between jurisdictions. Unemployed people in Northern Virginia were hurt the same amount as unemployed people in other parts of the state when the Virginia House of Delegates voted not to alter Virginia's unemployment requirements, voted to turn away millions in aid for the unemployed.

While those who voted against the changes said they did so to protect Virginia's pro-business environment, the changes required — extending unemployment benefits to part-time workers and unemployed people in certain job training programs — would not have moved Virginia down from the very top of the list as a pro-business state.

What businesses in Virginia need right now is to bolster consumer confidence. Turning away federal stimulus money does just the opposite.

Local members of the General Assembly who voted against the benefits will likely discover that many more of their constituents than they thought are currently unemployed.

The economy here is already showing signs of recovery, meaning job opportunities for the unemployed. But in the meantime, check in with your legislators to see how they voted.

Here are the local representatives who voted no:

In the Senate, just one from Northern Virginia, Sen. Ken Cuccinelli.

In the House, Northern Virginia delegates voting against the unemployed included Dave Albo, Tim Hugo, Bob Marshall, Joe May and Tom Rust.

— MARY KIMM.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Community Discussions Vital

To the Editor:

We have been here before. Roman Senator Marcus Cicero said, "Upon the character of its citizens, rests the fate of the republic." We must recognize our personal responsibility for our community and our nation. If you believe that Fairfax County is not placing enough tax burdens on your shoulders, please step up and provide

more financial support to vital community organizations. Join community business owners and become a local employer, or at least shop locally. Be the solution we all seek.

Budget analysts predict 2009 will be another great buyers' market in Fairfax real estate. We expect an additional budget shortfall of \$110 million next year atop our \$650 million budget shortfall this year. We must exercise fiscal discipline and set aside funds in managed reserves, rather than reduce our reserves. One penny from the real

estate tax rate, or any portion thereof, saved in FY 2010 will be worth more than two pennies in FY 2011. We do live in challenging times. Beyond the ordinary budget concerns, we must be prepared as a community for the unknown as we confront potential challenges in the form of economic, climate, man-made and terrorist threats.

Diversifying our tax revenue sources is a great concept generally. We expect the vehicle registration fee will be implemented and will generate approximately

\$28 million. A meal tax could bring more revenue from visitors. However, the possibility of passing a meal tax referendum will not impact the FY 2010 budget process and might not pass during a recession. It will hurt restaurants competing for food sales by driving their prices up 10 percent. The tax is not applied to mini-markets and grocery stores. Further, Richmond does not allow any flexibility in the tax rate. Communities

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 7

## Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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e-mail:  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren  
Editor, 703-917-6431  
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope  
Reporter, 703-615-0960  
alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Rebecca Halik  
Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407  
rhalik@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue  
Education & Politics, 703-917-6433  
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore  
Courts & Projects, 703-917-6417  
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Mark Giannotto  
Sports Editor, 703-917-6409  
mgiannotto@connectionnewspapers.com

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Mary Kimm

### Editor in Chief

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### Photography:

Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer

### Art/Design:

Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,  
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Production Manager:  
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### Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481  
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CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,  
L.L.C.  
Peter Labovitz  
President/CEO

Mary Kimm  
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
703-917-6416  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon  
Publisher/Executive Vice President  
703-917-6404  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse  
Controller

Debbie Funk  
National Sales, 703-518-4631  
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## Helping UCM

Curves of Belleview celebrated its 5th year anniversary by donating 876 pounds of canned goods and \$390 to United Community Ministries. Above, Jose Fratti, food services manager for UCM, receives the donation from Veronica Howard, Curves of Belleview, owner. Every year Curves across the country participate in a one-week food drive to assist local food banks. However, Curves of Belleview runs the program for the entire month and offers new members the opportunity to join by simply donating a bag of groceries. "With a successful food drive behind us, we are now seeking community volunteers to participate in the Curves/Avon national fitness study which will further help us understand our ladies fitness needs." For more information on the Curves/Avon study contact Curves of Belleview at 703-721-2044.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

must either have it set at 10 percent or not have it at all.

These are challenging times with few simple answers to key questions. Community participation is vital. That's why I have accepted nomination to serve as the chairman of the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations. We need to understand we do not agree with anyone on everything. We need to appreciate our neighbors who participate. Our community will be stronger as we listen and welcome diverse perspectives without vitriol.

**Will Radle**

*Will Radle is a representative to the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations and the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the Citizens Advisory Council and the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.*

## WPHS Needs More Parking

To the Editor:

I think the parking lots at West Potomac should be extended. As things are, there are not enough lots for those people who would like to drive. After the seniors get first pick, there is a sort of lottery system for those who follow after, and by the time half the juniors have a spot they are all left out. If the lots were extended, this problem would be fixed very quickly.

**Connor Chilton**

## Time for New Organization

To the Editor:

I took note of the letter to the editor published in last week's Mount Vernon Gazette from Martin Tillett, a member of the Spring Bank Community Association (SBCA), who I often see at MVCCA meetings. Mr. Tillett's comments do a great job of revealing fundamental problems with the MVCCA which outwardly holds itself out as representative of the entire Mount Vernon community, but actually falls far short of that lofty goal — the budget Resolutions passed by the MVCCA, advocating raising every conceivable tax and representing that as the desire of the 120,000-plus citizens of the Mount Vernon District, amply make that point.

Mr. Tillett paints with a broad brush, stereotypes the 26 signers of the letter published in last week's Gazette, personally attacks them and characterizes them as people who could not possibly know "the true pulse of citizens' viewpoints on such fiscal and economic issues." The 26 signatories (I do not speak for them — I only speak for myself) all have businesses in Northern Virginia, most of which have a significant presence in the Mount Vernon District. They have contact with their clients, customers and neighbors on a daily basis during the workday and have every right to express their views based upon those contacts.

The letter made the point that the MVCCA

Resolutions passed at its March meeting and advocating raising every tax imaginable do not represent the views of the community as a whole. The letter explained that citizens were given little notice concerning the impending votes on the Resolutions and little if any opportunity to provide input and share their views in advance and that, as such, the MVCCA could not possibly know those views in crafting and enacting Resolutions they now want everyone to believe speak for the Mount Vernon District. Nothing in Mr. Tillett's letter refutes any of this. He merely seeks to attack the messenger rather than seeking reform of the organization (The MVCCA) that purports to speak for the community at large but clearly doesn't. His expressed attitude is that the only way to involve one's self in the decision making process in our District is via the MVCCA — that notion is expressed over and over again in his letter.

Mr. Tillett refers to the signatories to the letter published the previous week in the Gazette as "primarily special interest people" and as a "special interest group." He identifies a number of the signatories as "members of the Mount Vernon/Lee Chamber of Commerce." He describes the signatories as people who "operate in their own self interest with little active participation in the civic life of this community when it comes to the MVCCA committees ..." as if that is the only way to do so. In fact, fewer than half the signatories are members of the Chamber — the undersigned has never been a member.

Mr. Tillett asserts that the only appropriate way to serve one's community is by attending MVCCA meetings. He says that the only involvement the signatories have with the MVCCA is when they need or want something that is "in their business interests."

The "us versus them" mentality of some members of the MVCCA is counterproductive when it comes to bringing the community together on the important issues of the day. Moreover, Mr. Tillett's perception of the signatories to our letter is just plain false. Each of the signatories is a member of our community who lives here, works here, is civically active, and extremely generous in charitable contributions. The signatories are the people that operate your bank, take you fishing, diagnose your health, sell you cars and service them, sell you plants, build your homes, fix and replace your roof, provide you a place to golf, play baseball and softball, install and service your heating and air conditioning equipment, rent you tools and equipment; they are hairdressers, people who do background checks for you, survey your properties, represent you when you are buying or selling a home, represent you in court, sell you computers and service them, and feed you in their restaurants. A more representative cross-section of our community could not possibly be assembled. Visit any of their offices or businesses and look on the walls where many have displayed numerous plaques and displays representing thanks from those who have received generous contributions from them.

Each of the signatories is well known for their civic activism. Without naming names,

one signatory organizes fishing tournaments to benefit charitable organizations. Another organizes an annual triathlon. Another recently received recognition as a community leader for his charitable donations facilitating community activities. One was a paid sponsor of last year's MVCCA gala. Another signatory is the leader of a local political party. Others sponsor little leagues, soccer leagues, high school activities — the list is practically endless.

Mr. Tillett rhetorically asks why the Chamber doesn't have a representative presence on the MVCCA as does the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC). Apparently, he doesn't know that two years ago, the Board of Directors of the Chamber voted to seek membership in the MVCCA. They filled out an application and sent it to the MVCCA along with a check to pay for membership status. The MVCCA returned the application and check, rebuffing the Chamber. The MVCCA Bylaws forbid membership of the Chamber in the MVCCA. Perhaps the MVCCA Bylaws should be revised, starting with seeking amendment of its Bylaws to permit Chamber membership. Actually, the Chamber should have a seat on the MVCCA Board.

Mr. Tillett's accusations of self-dealing on the part of the 26 signatories could equally be applied to Mr. Tillett's advocacy on behalf of the Spring Bank community and himself on numerous issues. I will not criticize Mr. Tillett for his advocacy nor will I disparage his efforts as "self-dealing." Mr. Tillett and his community have every right to participate in meetings of the MVCCA and to use that participation in an effort to further their causes if they can. He should, however, be equally willing to refrain from disparaging those with whom he disagrees.

The current incarnation of the MVCCA is broken. There are fundamental problems with its Bylaws that may make it impossible to fix. Its Bylaws give equal voting power to a community of 10 homes and a community of 1,000 homes. People visiting MVCCA committee meetings to present their cases are routinely treated impolitely and with disrespect. Members of the public who aren't official community representatives to the MVCCA are routinely ignored at MVCCA meetings, despite the co-chairs' claims of transparency and democracy. None of the committees of the MVCCA including the main Council operate with any accountability to their membership. No one keeps any records of who voted for what and so a community association sending its representatives to the MVCCA has no idea how its representatives are voting in their names. When I was chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee, every vote in my committee was taken by calling the roll of those who had signed an attendance sheet. Those records were maintained in case a community association wanted to know

how their representative had voted on any particular issue. This procedure was abandoned when I stepped down from that position.

If the MVCCA is unwilling to reform itself, perhaps the time has come for a new umbrella organization to be created that is more representative of the Mount Vernon community as a whole, mandates the "democracy" and "transparency" the MVCCA claims to have, but doesn't, invites the business community to participate and gives them a seat at the table, and institutes methods of accountability that ensure community representatives are held accountable when they vote in contradiction to the views of their respective communities.

**H. Jay Spiegel**

## Involved Businesses

To the Editor:

Martin Tillett, in his letter to the editor published in your April 9 edition, criticizes a group of citizens and local business people because they opposed the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations' (MVCCA) endorsement of raising taxes in this time of economic uncertainty. His claim that the business members of this group care little about the community in which they live and work is a statement that is as outrageous as it is false.

Mr. Tillett should know that business owners in the Mr. Vernon District are hardworking men and women who have chosen to live and establish job and tax generating businesses in their community. We support our public schools, we worship at our local churches, we are engaged in so many charitable causes that there is simply not enough space here to list them all. We are not entities detached from the community as he implies. Just the opposite: we support sports leagues, we coach our children, we volunteer at the homeless shelter, we helped found Route One Corridor Housing, Good Shepherd Housing, UCM and we provide our time and talents in every aspect of community life. Additionally, we work closely with the county and the state at the staff level through our professional associations or other community organizations on budgetary, regulatory, and environmental issues.

The MVCCA is just one of many organizations in the Mt. Vernon District and by the fact that some citizens or business owners or members of the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce choose not to participate in Mr. Tillett's organization as much as he would like is hardly evidence that they do not care about their community.

**Rick Genuario**

### Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Gazette  
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# E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



**Lena Teveris from Bittersweet accepts first place award.**

Alexandria's own **Bittersweet** was the winner April 4 at the Fifth Annual Great Rum Punch Challenge at Gadsby's Tavern Musuem, beating out the city speakeasy, PX, by a narrow margin. Inspired by one of their amazing baked goods, Bittersweet presented the Apple Brown Betty Punch which won over the crowd of 150 tasters.

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee has picked the winners of the Cherry Challenge. They are:

\* **Starters Category:** *Insalata di Ceresa e Mela di Fuji* (a salad featuring cherries) from Tempo Restaurant

\* **Entree Category:** *Duck a la Cherry* from Murphy's Irish Pub and Restaurant

\* **Drinks Category:** *Dirty Cherry Martini* from Tempo Restaurant

\* **Dessert Category:** *Cherry Cheesecake* from Layla's

**BRABO** by Robert Wiedmaier, located at 1600 King Street, opened Feb. 12. BRABO by Robert Wiedmaier is open for breakfast daily from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The breakfast items range from \$5-\$14. Lunch is served Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner menu is offered from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday, and 5:30 p.m. to midnight, Thursday through Saturday.

For reservations, 703-894-3440 and for BRABO Tasting Room call 703-894-5252. Visit [www.BRABOrestaurant.com](http://www.BRABOrestaurant.com).

The **West End Farmers' Market** is open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., from May 3 through Nov. 22 at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. The first Sunday of each month features local artists and crafters. 703-838-4343.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/GAZETTE

**A signature item available at Nationals Stadium for the first time this year is The Big Catch, a foot-long Crab Louie sandwich that comes with a foot of crab-spiced fries.**

## Fresh Taste at the Ballpark

Washington Nationals hope to win fans over with revised concession menu.

BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL  
GAZETTE

In its sophomore season at the Nationals Stadium, Washington, D.C.'s Major League Baseball club is hoping the way to a fan's heart may be through his stomach. That was at least part of the message Stan Kasten, Nationals team president, offered Friday, April 3, during a "What's New at Nationals Park" media tour.

Between raindrops, Kasten showed off improvements that the team has made to the one-year-old stadium during the off-season, including a set of oversized starting line-up signs fashioned after baseball cards, additional picnic tables throughout the concourse and 7-foot tall bobblehead statues of the racing presidents, waiting to have their photos taken with fans.

But the centerpiece of the tour was the new food unveiled by Executive Chef Phil Bucco of the Levy Restaurants. During the off-season, the Nationals hired Levy as its new concessionaire and asked them to freshen up the stadium's menu.

From day one, Bucco sought to blow the stadium's menu out of the water. "We try to work in the local favorites as well as give a lot of new options," he said. "There are going to be a lot of surprises, from the healthy options that we're going to put out there now, from the upgraded items that we've put on." As an example, he pointed to the

"quasi-dilla," an inside out sandwich with the quesadilla as the bread.

"It's filled like a sandwich," he said. "That kind of innovative approach is what sets us apart."

Among the other new items available at the park this spring are a variety of hamburger selections, including a spicy shrimp po boy and a veggie burger; a Healthy Plate cart featuring fresh produce; and The Big Catch, a Crab Louise sandwich. Lightly smothered in dressing, lumps of crab meat and thinly sliced red onions fill up The Big Catch's foot-long soft bun, making it the signature item of the new menu.

"We loved the Crab Louis sandwich," said Jeff Saffelle of Alexandria, who authors the Nationals blog Nats320 [[www.Nats320.blogspot.com](http://www.Nats320.blogspot.com)]. "The shrimp burger is very spicy. It's got a nice taste to it."

Saffelle and his wife Sohna are season-ticket owners and expect to be at every game. Eighty-two home games means 82 opportunities to eat at the ballpark. The new expanded menu was something that they welcomed.

"We like the fact that there are some fresh new offerings," said Jeff Saffelle. "Coming to every game like we do, it gets a little boring eating the same thing all the time like we did last year. This spices it up and makes it a little different."

"They also introduced more healthy food,"

said Sohna Saffelle. "Since we like to eat healthy, we have a problem with potato chips and that stuff." She appreciated having healthier choices at the ballpark.

"This year we're going to have a fresh food stand," said Kasten, "featuring fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, hummus and things like that."

The new menu is just one more draw for fans that may be looking for a nice, inexpensive entertainment experience.

"There's no question that the entertainment business is feeling the problems that our customers are feeling," said Kasten. "We recognize that. We've reached out in the ways that we can."

The Nationals have lowered ticket prices and offered smaller ticket packages, all in the interest of drawing families to the ballpark. — Jeff Saffelle, Alexandria

Kasten pointed to the availability of \$5 tickets for every game and the proximity of the stadium to Metro as draws for people looking for an inexpensive evening out. "We're reaching out in all the ways we can to help our customers still come out and enjoy what has always been the most affordable sports alternative," he said.

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## SATURDAY/APRIL 18

- Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. The Kingstowne Area Artists Association, and other area artists who wish to exhibit, will have a show and sale of their work at the Snyder Center, 6450 S. Van Dorn St. Free. Visit [www.kingstowne.org](http://www.kingstowne.org) for more.
- Old Town Alexandria Homes Tour.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. around Old Town. Browse flower arrangements and more. \$35/advance; \$40/day of event. Visit [www.VAGardentweek.org](http://www.VAGardentweek.org) or 703-838-5005.
- Spring Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at River Farm. Browse plants, herbs, vegetables, supplies and more. \$3/nonmember to park. Free admission. Visit [www.ahs.org/river\\_farm](http://www.ahs.org/river_farm) or 703-768-5700 ext. 114.
- Yard Sale.** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Browse jewelry, pottery, cds, electronics and more. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).
- Fill the Fords with Food.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bushido Studios, corner of Hayfield Road and Telegraph Road. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread. Visit [www.our-daily-bread.org](http://www.our-daily-bread.org) or 703-273-8829.
- Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Hear the Ars Choralis. Reception follows. Fundraiser. 202-267-7772.
- Art Show.** Noon-5 p.m. at Snyder Center, 6450 S. Van Dorn St. Browse works by Kingstowne Area Artists Association. Free. Visit [www.kingstowne.org](http://www.kingstowne.org) for more.
- Magic Show.** 6:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School. Enjoy strolling magic until the show starts at 7:30 p.m. \$15/person. 703-698-6952.
- Harambee Readers.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Life on the Color Line" by Gregory Howard Williams. Free. 703-765-3645.
- Gardening With Children.** 2 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children 6-11 can learn how to garden. Register at 703-228-6414.
- Growing Wildflowers.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to grow spring wildflowers like bluebells and trout lilies. \$12/person. Register, 703-642-5173.
- Garden Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Browse local vendors and browse plants, herbs and more. Free. 703-642-5173.
- Healthy Kids Day.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at YMCA Alexandria, 420 E. Monroe Ave. Enjoy browsing the interactive video gym, family swim, healthy food and more. Free.
- Pancake Breakfast.** Enjoy all you can eat from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6535 Little River Turnpike. \$5/adult; child free. 703-333-6005.
- Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Hear Ars Choralis. Free.
- Walk.** West Potomac High School is hosting "Walk it Out" a walk for the homeless from 10 a.m.-noon at the school track. Contact [Kimberly.Thompson2@fcps.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Thompson2@fcps.edu) for more information.
- Yard Sale.** Girl Scout Troop 4600 is holding a yard sale at 500 High St., from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.
- Saturday Studio.** 9-10 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Parents and children learn together in a studio environment. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org/classes](http://www.artatthecenter.org/classes) for cost.

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**Stonegate**  
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- ◆ Popular 3 BR, 2.55 BA, 3 finished levels, 2 car garage Jefferson Model w/soaring 14 foot ceilings, 3 sets of French doors w/ Palladium Windows that walks out to 1 of 2 decks and gas fireplace
- ◆ Many custom features thru-out: freshly painted inside & out, extra wide crown molding, chair rail, wainscoting, & hardwood floors
- ◆ Updated kitchen with new GE Profile appliances & Corian counters
- ◆ Large master suite with luxury bath with corner tub
- ◆ Finished lower level with fireplace, half bath and lots of storage

**Alexandria**  
4635 Latrobe Place

**Stonegate**  
\$659,900



- ◆ This Emerson Model has gleaming hardwoods on every level
- ◆ 3 levels, 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage Townhome w/custom paint, crown molding, chair rail, Plantation Shutters & custom blinds
- ◆ Gourmet kitchen w/center island cook top, Granite countertops, upgraded Maple cabinets, nook, & adjoining family room
- ◆ Master has many closets, luxury bath with corner tub and separate shower, and private deck with endless views
- ◆ Lower level is finished & walks out to fenced in stone patio

**Arlington**  
2829 11th Street, N

**Clarendon Park**  
\$899,900



- ◆ Beautiful 4 level, 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage Fullerton Model
- ◆ Hardwood floors on 3 levels, custom paint, crown molding and wainscoting
- ◆ Gourmet kitchen with Granite countertops, all stainless appliances, adjoining breakfast/family room
- ◆ Master suite has luxury BA with custom tile and soaking tub
- ◆ Fourth level has separate living area with bedroom, full bath and walks out to large rooftop deck
- ◆ Finished lower level has corner fireplace

3 LOTS LEFT

**Potomac, MD**

**Stoney Creek Farm**

House/Lot Packages  
\$1.7 million

Located in Montgomery County, MD and just off River Road in Potomac, this extraordinary community boasts beautiful rolling hills, mature trees, breathtaking vistas, and gorgeous 2-acre+ home sites. We are offering 3 remaining lots for \$750,000 each.



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CHARITY GOLF TOURMENT

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, June 1st, 2009  
Mount Vernon Country Club

We're looking for players, SPONSORS, volunteers or donations. This year's tournament will benefit Women's Imaging Center @ INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital.

GRAND PRIZE \$1,000,000 Shootout

Randy Bender 703.906.1749

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400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



THE BENDER GROUP is the licensed Broker for North Carolina. LONG & FOSTER is the licensed Broker for DC, Maryland and Virginia.

Information, in this ad, is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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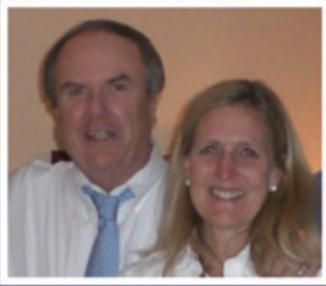
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*Great Home Values – Record Low Mortgage Rates!*



**7501**  
Park Terrace Dr  
\$1,300,000  
*Stunning!*  
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of grounds. Off GW Pkwy, 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000). Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Morningside Ln, R Park Terr Dr.



**4327**  
Ferry Lndg Rd  
\$475,000  
*Yacht Haven Estates!*  
Truly special home lovingly maintained by long term owners. Large room sizes, high ceilings and open floor plan provide unlimited potential! Brick exterior, two fireplaces, hardwood floors, walk-out lower level and gas heat & hot water. Glass walls and private screened porch overlook gorgeous half acre grounds. Super value! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd.



**9405**  
Ferry Lndg Ct  
\$795,000  
*Magnificent Setting!*  
Stately Colonial on highly desirable quiet cul-de-sac near the river. Traditional exterior is complimented by bright, sunny interior opening to spectacular sun room. Large room sizes, updated baths, elegant trim detail, oversized garage and absolutely pristine condition on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, R Ferry Lndg Ct.



**1210**  
N Pegram St  
\$1,351,500  
*Classic Colonial!*  
Come see Alexandria's most exciting new home opportunity! See our top quality construction, open floor plans and magnificent site in the heart of Alexandria's Seminary area. This home is now almost complete and is awaiting your finishing touches! Special financing is available! Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm. I-395: Exit Seminary Rd East, R Pickett St, bear right onto Pegram St.



**9516**  
Mt Vernon Landing  
\$2,900,000  
*Waterfront!*  
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mt Vernon on the Potomac! Spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. 6BRs, 5BAs, full walk out LL and many rooms with dramatic river views.



**9304**  
Allwood Drive  
\$698,000  
*"Green" House!*  
Expanded and updated, this spectacular home features uniquely bright, open floor plan, soaring cathedral ceilings and updated kitchen and baths. Expansion was done with carefully selected natural materials to minimize environmental impact. Prime location on large lot in the heart of Mount Vernon's nicest neighborhoods. "One of a kind" home!



**4003**  
Belle Rive Terr  
\$4,800,000  
*Riverfront!*  
Prime Mt Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River.



**4307**  
Sheridan's Point  
\$879,000  
*Georgian Colonial!*  
Large Price Reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mt Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! Three finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, two bonus rooms on lower level and dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Just off the GW Pkwy – easy commute to DC!



**8304**  
Riverton Ln  
\$825,000  
*Stunning!*  
Victorian home combines farm house exterior with stunning open interior. 3 fin levels, 4BR, 3.5BA, hardwood floors and spectacular kitchen with custom wood cabinets, granite counters & center island. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance to highly regarded Stratford Landing and Sandburg schools.



**8826**  
Camden Street  
\$899,500  
*Gorgeous Setting!*  
There's nothing like it on the market today – fabulous new Wakefield Home custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization.



**Brambly Lane**  
\$969,900  
FREE FINISHED BASEMENT FOR FIRST CONTRACT IN 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



9333 Brambly Ln  
\$539,000



9305 Mt Vernon Circle  
\$985,900

# CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

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400 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



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Alexandria / Old Town Historic District  
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www.OldTownAlexandria.com



**4028 MOSS PLACE**  
Alexandria / Seminary Ridge - \$1,195,000

Williamsburg Colonial sited on prestigious cul-de-sac w/ exquisite master suite & magnificent Ba w/ lg closets. 4 additional Br along w/2.5 updated Ba. Kit w/cherry cabs opens up to a treed yard & patio. LL rec room, workrm + 2car garage.

Shane Canny 703.346.2067  
Mary Bourke 703.906.5825



**8402 FELTON LANE**  
Collingwood - \$689,900

JUST LISTED! Beautiful 3 level renovated home in the heart of Collingwood. 4Br, gourmet kitchen, large fenced lot, huge deck, open & bright! Walk to river, GW bike path, Waywood ES District.

www.WaywoodRealtors.com  
Anita D'Antonio 202-460-1809  
Elke Kohler 703-967-7633



**7957 BOLLING DRIVE**  
Wellington - \$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.

www.homesfromanita.com  
Anita D'Antonio 202.4601809



**8311 MOUNT VERNON HIGHWAY**  
Alexandria / Mt Vernon - \$993,900

HUGE PRICE REDUCTION on this fabulous new Wakefield Home. Hardwood floors, custom molding, archways, gourmet kitchen, screened porch, many options to personalize and customize your living space.

Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461



**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



**1105 POTOMAC LANE**  
Alexandria - \$750,000

Exceptional fully fenced backyard & garage parking in this 5-6Br/3Ba home. Beautifully updated country Kit w/brick hearth & FP. Family room w/FP and walk-out. Walk to school, pool & park.

Catherine.Foltz@longandfooster.com  
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



**1915 DUFFIELD LANE**  
Alexandria - \$589,900

MOVE RIGHT IN! 3LVL garage TH in Belle Haven, just mins to GWPKwy, OT & Potomac! Modern updates thruout to incl a to-die-for Mstr lux Ba & generously sized gourmet kit. 3Br/3.5Ba/2FP private patio & more. GWPKwy to R on Belle Haven Rd to R on Ft Hunt Rd to L on Woodmont to R on Duffield

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



**7030 BEDROCK ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$560,000

SPRING'S FINEST! Move up & into this pristine, like new, ctr hall Colonial featuring 4Br/2.5Ba, lg formal rms, renovated chef's kit, fam rm w/FP, private library/den, qtr acre level yd w/ oversized deck & 2 car gar, + new roof, windows, paint, siding & more! Near METRO

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



**1804 MACADAMS PLACE**  
Alexandria - \$429,900

Wonderful Hollin Hall Rambler! Family room addition, 2FBa, open Kitchen and Dining room. Living room w/ FP. Large, very private backyard. Wayne-wood ES District. Walk to shops. Mins to OT.

www.homesfromanita.com  
Anita D'Antonio 202.4601809



**8315 Mount Vernon Highway**  
Alexandria - \$1,020,000

Don't miss this pre-construction price on another fabulous Wakefield Home. Other models available. Don't wait, call today and see what your new home can be.

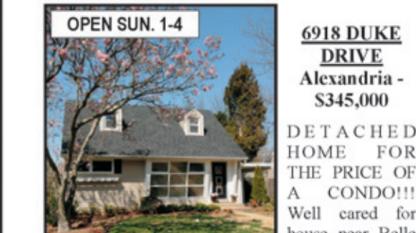
Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461



**6329 MILLER DRIVE**  
Alexandria - \$399,900

BEST BUY IN KINGSTOWNE AREA! Expanded ramblor on huge level, fenced yd, family & sunroom off lg eat-in kit overlooking in-ground pool, renovated kit/baths, plantation shutters thruout. Ready to close now.

www.BobSkinnerHomes.org  
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



**6918 DUKE DRIVE**  
Alexandria - \$345,000

DETACHED HOME FOR THE PRICE OF A CONDO!!! Well cared for house near Belle View. Kitchen opens to large family room addition. Beautifully landscaped and fenced backyard. Entertain on the patio. Carport plus Workroom. Near to schools, library, and rec center. Roof and AC replaced in 2007!

www.6918DUKE.COM  
Deborah Alea 703.447.1315



**7875 TRAMMELL COURT**  
Annandale - \$439,500

10+ IN LAFAYETTE VILLAGE! 3 level, 4Br/3.5Ba brick front, walk-out base w/FP, sliding glass door to Trek deck & fenced bkyd. NEW: Kitchen, carpet & paint. Granite counters, major systems updated. Newer windows. Backs to trees. Private location surrounded by parks, outdoor pool & community center.

Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012



**1500 COLLINGWOOD ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$2,725,000

10,000sqft GATED ESTATE! Grand 2-story foyer w/ embassy size Living & Dining rooms. Family room opens to patio & in-ground pool. Separate guest house featuring 2Br/2Ba w/separate entrance. Mature landscaping for privacy. Shown by appointment, call...

Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



## RENTALS

- 6803 Kenyon Drive \$1,400**  
Beacon Manor Semi-Detached Col 2Br/1Ba  
Janice Allen 703.509.0906
- 4426 Pembroke Village Drive #13 \$1,400**  
Pembroke Village TH 2Br/4Ba 1Parking  
Randy Bender 703.906.1749
- 5903 Mt Eagle Drive #812 \$1,450**  
Montebello Hi-Rise 1Br/1Ba  
Patricia Tierney 703.850.5630
- 5938 Cove Landing Road #102A \$1,500**  
Burke Cove Garden 1Br/1Ba 1 Parking  
Connie McKeen 703.548.3700
- 15690 Viewpoint Circle \$1,500**  
Southlake at Montclair TH 3Br/2.5Ba  
2 Garage Parking  
Connie McKeen 703.548.3700

## RENTALS

- 6621 Wakefield Drive \$1,500**  
River Towers Hi-Rise 2Br/1.5Ba 1FP 1 Garage  
Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359
- 3326 Lakeside View Drive #3-2 \$1,850**  
Waters Edge TH 2Br/2.5Ba  
Catherine Foltz 703.683.0400
- 11325 Bacon Race Road \$2,290**  
Cannon Bluff Rambler 5Br/3Ba 2FP  
Edrees Amarkhel 571.237.7382
- 2106 Foresthill Road \$5,000**  
Belle Haven Colonial 5Br/3.5Ba 2FP  
Betty Quirk 703.851.3447
- 6817 Baron Road \$8,000**  
Reids Grove Contemporary 6Br/5.55Ba 1FP  
3 Garage Parking  
Shane Canny 703.346.2067



**6317 FT HUNT ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$629,000

NEWLY RENOVATED brick end unit TH located off the Pkwy, near OT & DC. Update kit, 2FP & a lg bonus rm off the LL family rm. Deck, lg enclosed garden/patio. Pristine condition. Parking. For a private showing call...

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447  
bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com



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

Classic ctr hall Col. 5Br/3.5 Ba, updated kit w/eat-in space, exposed brick FP, butler's pantry & heartpine flrs. Hwd flrs, deep moldings, slate roof, copper gutters & plaster walls, fin rec rm & enclosed garden. For a private showing call...

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447  
bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com





RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

# COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1126/1128 Gladstone Place  
\$799,000 | Alexandria South  
4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car carport, 2 fireplaces. Kitchen with granite counters, custom cabinets, family room with vaulted ceilings, skylights, deck, grilling station. Walk out lower level with bath, kitchen, study, recreation. Dir: S on GW Parkway, R Wellington, L West Blvd, R Gladstone. www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1122 Waynewood Boulevard  
\$599,000 | Alexandria South / Waynewood  
4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, stone patio and fenced yard. Bright family room with vaulted ceiling, skylights, music room, updated eat-in kitchen, living room with fireplace. Walk to school, pool and GW Parkway. From Old Town: S on GW Parkway, R Waynewood Blvd. www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2151 Jamieson Avenue #606-607  
Carlyle Towers  
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



FIXER UPPER

3509 Franconia Road  
\$300,000 | Wilton Woods  
Unique Farm House built in 1913 features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, half-acre lot, wood floors, living room with fireplace, sep dining room, side porch, patio, front porch, wooded setting. FHA 203k "fix-up" financing is available with 3.5% down payment. www.sherryyork.com.

Sherry York | 703.625.3377

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## Earth Day



Come to Coldwell Banker at 310 King St.  
and receive free, a recyclable shopping  
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energy saving tips for your home, plus an  
Energy-saving Checklist.  
**Free Balloons for Children!**

Learn about energy efficient mortgages and their  
cost saving benefits from Rob Clark, Preferred  
Mortgage

April 22 through April 26th 9:00 - 5:30



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

543 South Saint Asaph Street  
\$605,000 | Old Town Alexandria  
Charming 3 bedroom home in desirable Old Town location. Beamed ceilings, exposed brick hearth, hardwood floors, kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, three bedrooms, two and one half nicely renovated bathrooms, neutral paint and fresh décor. Private patio. Shopping, dining and more!

Cindie Fish | 703.201.4451



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1718 Abingdon Drive West, Unit 102  
\$247,000 | Potowmack Crossing  
Charming one bedroom condo near everything that Old Town has to offer! Spacious room sizes, open floor plan with lots of natural light from two sides of windows. Completely renovated kitchen, crown molding, neutral decor throughout. Washer/dryer inside unit, extra storage, and ample parking. A great value!

Bob Woods | 703.244.8726



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

5081 Donovan Drive  
\$439,900 | Cameron Station  
Pristine 2-M end-unit condo TH w/garage, prime Cameron Station location. Two BRs, 2.5 BAs, warm hardwood floors, stylish granite kitchen. Designer touches throughout. Close to community amenities, easy access to free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703.628.2828



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

4 Rosemont Lane  
\$849,000 | Alexandria City  
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/yard. Dir: From King St, N on Russell Rd, R on Rosemont Ave.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



Coldwell Banker is  
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Old Town Alexandria King Street Office  
310 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300 Main Office

# WWW.CBMOVE.COM/ALEXANDRIA



# PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL - LUXURY HOMES

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is proud to present these luxury listings. With innovative technology, targeted marketing and a strong national presence, we know your neighborhood and reach the world.



**ESTATE QUALITY HOME**

**3616 North Albemarle Street**  
**\$1,800,000 | Country Club Estates, Arlington**  
 Elegant estate home in sought after neighborhood with beautiful formal rooms, handsome moldings and medallions, hardwood flooring and dramatic two story foyer flooded with sunlight. Amazing stone landscaping with patio and walls, detached garage and peaceful garden spaces.

**Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813**



**GRAND BELLE HAVEN HOME**

**6226 Ft. Willard Circle**  
**\$2,100,000 | Belle Haven**  
 Stunning home in prime location with exquisite moldings, elegant formal rooms, hardwood flooring, sun room with soaring ceilings and hand painting, dazzling kitchen with Omega cabinets and skylights, soaring 10' ceilings, beautiful landscaping. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths.

**Jeanne Warner | 703.980.9106**  
**Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158**



**PRICE REDUCED**

**904 North Overlook Drive**  
**\$745,000 | Beverley Hills**  
 Significantly reduced for a speedy sale, this beautifully maintained brick 3 bedroom plus 2 1/2 bath colonial is an outstanding value! Bright and sunny rooms, sparkling rooms, sparkling hardwood floors, totally updated eat-in kitchen, full basement plus garage. This is a gem!

**Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156**



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**

**5116 Kenwood Drive**  
**\$1,399,000 | Annandale**  
 Nantucket Estate with wrap porches and cupolas on nearly one acre. This home features heated stone floors, see-thru fireplace, copper roof, gourmet kitchen, exercise/media rooms, private patio and deck. Dir: 495 to Braddock East, Left Kenwood. www.PhyllisPatterson.com.

**Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158**



**CLASSIC COLONIAL**

**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**



**AMAZING NEW PRICE! OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**

**610 South Washington Street**  
**\$1,799,000 | Old Town**  
 Everything on your wish list! Semi-detached home, 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**



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**

**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**



**OPEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1-4!**

**1250 Dartmouth Court**  
**\$1,200,000 | Alexandria City, Quaker Hill**  
 Elegant five bedroom home located near historic Old Town is exquisitely appointed and combines open space with the ultimate in interior and exterior detailing. An exceptional property featuring renovated kitchen awash in natural light. A great room with walls of windows opens to spacious deck. Master suite with super bath and expansive walk-in closets. The only way to describe this home is fabulous!

**Frann Orr | 703.623.4070**



**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**

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# Montebello

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www.MontebelloMarketing.com



## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

**Watch it Grow Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Children age 2 and up can meet Curious George and enjoy stories about things that grow. Free. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Garden Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Browse shrubs, plants, flowers and more from local growers. Free. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.

**Growing Wildflowers.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn names of local wildflowers and how to incorporate them into garden. \$12/person. 703-642-5173 to register.

**Tea 101.** 2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to brew the perfect pot of tea and enjoy a traditional cream tea. \$18/person. 703-941-7987 to register.

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

**Fund-raiser.** 7 p.m. at Janet's Java, 5735 Telegraph Road. Benefits Multiple Sclerosis Society's MS Walk. Hear Fight the Bear perform. Visit [www.fightthebearonline.com](http://www.fightthebearonline.com) for more.

donations accepted. 703-549-1421.

**Opening Reception.** 2-5 p.m., see a photography exhibit by Grace Taylor and Clifford Wheeler from April 7 through May 31 at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or 703-683-2205.

**Bridge Club.** 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults and teens can learn how to play. Free. 703-765-3645.

**Lecture.** 3:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Learn about the early days of the plantation. \$9/adult; \$8/senior; \$5/child. Visit [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org) for more.

**Volunteer Open House.** 1-5 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Learn about how to become a volunteer. Free. Visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org) or 703-838-3852.

**Doug Bowles Plays Cabaret.** 4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free, donations accepted.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Hear music by Maurice Lyles Quintet. Free. Visit [meadechurch.org](http://meadechurch.org) or 703-549-1334.

### MONDAY/APRIL 20

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

**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.

**Stretch Your Mind.** 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can enjoy brain teasers, puzzles and more. Free. 703-339-4610.

**Compost Critters.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades 2-

### SUNDAY/APRIL 19

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Hear Buskin & Batteau with Dulcie Taylor. \$15/adult; \$12/member or advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.

**Music Performance.** 2 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear the Marine Chamber Orchestra. Free. Visit [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com) for more.

**Card Collage.** Noon-4 p.m. at Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Bring snacks, beverages and supplies to share. Free, but first come, first serve. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) or 703-283-0399.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear Doug Bowles, Cindy Hutchins and Alex Hassan perform. Free,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

- 5 can join Miss Peggy in learning how bugs aid in composting. Free. Register at 703-838-4566 ext. 11.
- Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere. Hear Halau Ho'omau I ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i perform with Kola & Moana Beamer and Raiatea Helm. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.
- Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver. Free. 703-838-4566.
- After-School Studio,** 1:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 4-10 engage in a studio learning experience where time in the studio becomes a weekly routine. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org) for cost.
- Little One-Ders.** 10 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-519-5900.
- Family Story Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories. Free. 703-519-5900.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 21

- Read-Along.** 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Bring the children to Spill the Beans for some read along fun with StagePlay's Heather Sanderson. Free. Visit [spillthebeansva.com](http://spillthebeansva.com) or 703-780-3561.
- Down Came the Rain.** 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 13-23 months enjoy raindrop stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.
- Mother-Daughter book Group.** 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 9-11. Call for title. Registration required, 703-971-0010.
- Evening Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Dreams from my Father" by Barack Obama. Free. 703-339-4610.
- Time for 2's.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 24-36 months enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-519-5900. Free.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 22

- Alexandria History Awards.** 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Also, the 2009 Alexandria High School History Awards will be presented by state Sen. Patsy Ticer to an outstanding student from each of Alexandria's four high schools. A reception will follow. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org) or 703-683-2636.
- StoryTime with Colleen!** 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Free. Visit [spillthebeansva.com](http://spillthebeansva.com) or 703-780-3561.
- Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 13-23 months enjoy fingerplays, stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.
- Earth Day Birthday.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 2-5 enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.
- Meet the Author.** 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Ruth Baja Williams discusses her memoir "Detour Berlin." Free. 703-765-3645.
- Older Adults Book Group.** 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders" by Michael Beschloss. Free. 703-339-4610.



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# Mertins Finds the Right Formula

Bishop Ireton grad pursues dreams in Formula 1 racing.

BY ERIC MAUK  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

**W**hat does 18-year-old Barrett Mertins of Alexandria have in common with the late Hollywood icon and princess Grace Kelly?

Their lives were changed by one simple trip to Monaco.

And while the Bishop Ireton graduate won't likely grow up to be Monte Carlo royalty like Princess Grace, Mertins has seen a blossoming racing career sparked by a trip to the European principality.

Upon his graduation from the Alexandria high school, Mertins' father, Helmut, took Barrett along with his brothers to a Formula 1 race in Monaco. The color, pageantry, and speed of the event stirred some passions deep inside the youngster, prompting him to pursue his racing dreams once he returned to his Virginia home. Fast forward to next weekend, April 24-26, when he will take another step toward becoming a professional racer as he competes in the Formula BMW Americas Championship event at Virginia International Raceway.

"I started watching Formula One four or five years ago with my family," Mertins said. "Then for my graduation, my father took us on a trip to Monaco for the F1 race and it was by far the coolest thing I had ever



COURTESY PHOTO

**Eighteen-year-old Barrett Mertins will race in the Formula BMW Americas Championship event at the Virginia International Raceway on April 24-26.**

seen, so we started karting when we got back. We did some research and saw that the Formula BMW Championship was a good series and seemed like the best place to start."

**THE ENTRY-LEVEL** open-wheel series is one of the top junior circuits in the world, with drivers piloting Indy-style cars on some of the nation's most challenging road courses. The series caught his father's eye while on a trip with his wife to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and spurred

the family to put a call in to Eric Jensen, who owns and operates teams in a number of junior open-wheel championships.

"We went to Singapore and saw that the young guys were racing hard and it looked like a very organized and professional series," said Helmut Mertins, who jokes that his only racing experience came as a youngster on the German Autobahn. "We've done a good bit of testing and he's been showing some aptitude for driving, so we are happy with the way things are going."

Jensen, who raced competitively in the



COURTESY PHOTO

**Barrett Mertins, a Bishop Ireton grad and Alexandria resident, decided to try his hand at Formula 1 racing after watching a race in Monaco.**

CART Toyota Atlantic Series, has seen his share of open-wheel hopefuls come and go in his time as a team owner, but was impressed right away with the desire that Barrett showed in wanting to become a racer.

"Barrett is a terrific story for the Formula BMW concept," said Jensen. "Without any experience, Barrett's plan was to participate in private test days in 2009, with a view to competing in the 2010 Formula BMW Americas championship. So we organized

SEE PURSUING FORMULA 1, PAGE 19

# Herrity, Frey Oppose Increased Athletic Fees

FROM PAGE 5

is in the process of replacing a series of "No Dogs Allowed" signs. The Burke basketball program is paying to replace the floor of one of the local elementary school's gyms.

"The Springfield Youth Club is the reason West Springfield High School has a turf field. ... The youth programs are constantly putting money back in," said Thompson.

**EVEN THE HIGHER** "non county" fee for youth participation is likely to impact some sports organizations.

The Fairfax-based soccer program run by Families In Support Of Home Education (FISHE) has 400 home-schooled participants that come from all over the Northern Virginia region, said Sarah Climkowski, one of the organization's leaders.

Any fee increase, but particularly the \$30 charge for each youth from outside Fairfax, is going to cause some families to drop out of FISHE's soccer program, she added.

Climkowski said many of the parents participating in FISHE soccer have more than four children. They also tend to live on a single income, making it harder for them

to pay out of pocket easily.

"This is going to make it so lots of them can't pay," said Climkowski, a Fairfax resident, about the increased rates.

**BUT WITHOUT** the athletic fee increase, Fairfax County would be forced to make tough choices with regard to sports programming, said county staff.

If the athletic participation rate were kept at \$5.50, the county might have to cut its youth scholarship program, which helps supplement the financial assistance individual sports clubs provide. They would also eliminate the youth sports officials' subsidy, which helps pay for referees, and port-a-jons from 78 park facilities.

Fairfax would also consider reducing the monitoring services that are part of its athletic field walk-on prevention program. This service allows teams and clubs that have reserved fields to call officials when unauthorized users are already playing at a facility and refuse to leave.

County staff said the athletic fee increase is also needed to cover additional utility costs, which have skyrocketed in part because Fairfax has added new lighting and

irrigation systems to 22 of its fields.

It is important that Fairfax County start a turf field replacement fund, so that the locality is prepared to replace its synthetic turf facilities, which have a life space of approximately eight to 12 years, according to officials.

**RELUCTANTLY**, the Fairfax County Athletic Council has recommended a fee increase from \$5.50 to \$8 to help recover some of these costs, particularly the loss of the field monitoring program and the scholarship fund.

But the group suggested that the fee increase sunset automatically in two years and several members, including Thompson, voted not to recommend a fee increase at all.

"The sports community puts lots of its own money into scholarships and supporting kids," said Thompson.

Some members of the sports community said the county should charge adults playing unorganized sports, often called "walk-ons," more money. Fairfax should also require people in groups of 10 or more to buy a permit when they want to use the field.

When it passes the 2010 county budget April 27, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will make the ultimate decision about whether to raise the athletic fee or not.

The three Republican representatives on the county board – Herrity, Frey and John Cook (Braddock) – have already indicated they would not support an athletic fee increase. They said there are other services – like the county's affordable housing program – that could be cut.

Herrity and Frey have referred to the measure as the "kiddie tax," drawing attention to the fact that the increase would mostly impact families with children.

"I know it is called the youth sports fee but it is a tax," said Frey.

Herrity said more should be done to encourage, not discourage, residents from participating in sports.

"It is important to get our kids off the couch," said Herrity, who added that sports programs help prevent gang activity and other anti-social behavior.

Eventually, both Herrity and Frey would like to see the athletic fee eliminated entirely.

# SPORTS

## Pursuing Formula 1 Racing

FROM PAGE 18

a test day at Sebring, Fla. with one of our Formula BMW cars in January 2009. Barrett did a commendable job in his initial, showing many of the attributes of a successful race driver. Thereafter, I advised Barrett that with a comprehensive pre-season testing program that he would be able to be competitive in the 2009 Formula BMW Americas championship."

**BARRETT THEN** set off on a rigorous sched-

**"It was my first race ever in anything and I was breathing like I had just run a 10-mile race."**

— Barrett Mertins

ule that saw him participate in 14 days of testing throughout the late winter months. Learning and progressing at each test, Mertins was on par with many of the other drivers in the program, and found himself last month strapped into his Formula BMW race car on a track in Puebla, Mexico, waiting for the starting lights to signal the start of his new career.

"It was my first race ever in anything and I was breathing like I had just run a 10-mile race," Mertins said. "You're watching the lights and it seemed to take 10 minutes for the lights to go off, but you're concentrating so hard on

getting the start perfect and make up some spots that you don't really have time to think about anything else. Once the race started, I was having a great time. The speed and knowing that you are just on the edge of control, while competing side-by-side with other drivers; trying to find an edge and get the victory. That's what does it for me."

Mertins finished in the top 10 in his first race at Puebla, and is looking ahead to next weekend's doubleheader event at VIR for a chance to continue his progress.

"We tested at VIR four of five weeks ago and it is probably one of my favorite tracks," said Mertins. "It's very technical, it has a lot of blind corners where you have to make sure you have the car in the perfect spot. It has a lot of different types of corners and is very challenging."

The Formula BMW Americas Championship runs 14 events over the 2009 campaign with the stop at VIR being the third and fourth races on the calendar. The season is slated to wrap up at the end of August at Mosport International Raceway in Canada, and Jensen firmly believes that if Mertins continues to progress at the pace he has shown, he could be a contender by the end of the year.

"Barrett responded exceptionally well to our training program, and it was rewarding for all involved to see him run competitively at the first season race where he was consistently as quick or quicker than many other drivers with years of experience," said Jensen. "We are all excited to see how much more competitive Barrett can be this season, as he continues to develop his skills at a very rapid pace."



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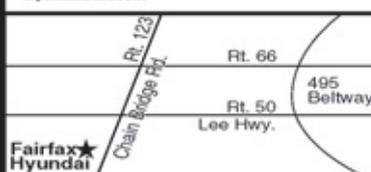
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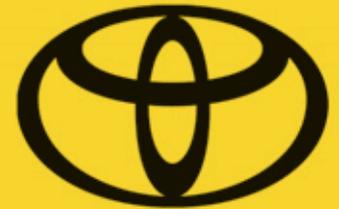
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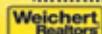
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