

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 18

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

MAY 7, 2009

Owner
Cindy Spak
talks to
customer
Judy
Taillon.



COURTESY
PHOTOS

The Little Engine That Could

GreenSpace Unlimited decides to reopen.

BY GALE CURCIO
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

When word started getting around that GreenSpace wasn't going to open again; the calls and e-mails started coming in.

"I was amazed at all the messages and e-mails that I received," said Cindy Spak, owner of GreenSpace Unlimited. "It's great that a little place like ours could attract so much attention. What a great world we live in."

Most poignant was the story told by one of her

customers who drove by in January and saw the "For Lease" sign. When the mother told her daughter, Rebecca, that GreenSpace was closing, she said, "Oh, Cindy wouldn't just leave us." And sure enough, when they stopped by recently, Rebecca said, "See Mom, I told you she wouldn't leave us."

The "For Lease" sign went up in January when Spak cancelled her lease. 2008 had been a rough year and Spak didn't think that she could survive. However, by the second week of March, she had changed her mind.

"I decided that I just couldn't do it," she said. "The reality was that this space might end up being a place for repossessed cars. There is so much positive energy and beauty here — I just couldn't give it up."

Spak talked to her handful of employees and they all said, "Let's just try to make it work."

So far, everything is going well. Last year, she had a hard time getting people to work, plus it rained most of April and then turned very hot in May.

THIS YEAR, she has had good weather and good employees. Plus it seems like ever since word got out that she was going to close, she has had more customers than ever.

"My customers started telling all of their friends that they needed to shop here," said Spak. "One of the garden clubs wanted to do a fundraiser for me and another



Evelyn Congiglieri has been working at GreenSpace for five years.

SEE GREENSPACE, PAGE 4

Defendant Found Not Competent

Huntington woman in her 80s
murdered while reading a book in
Huntley Meadows on Oct. 17, 2007.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Two weeks before his scheduled murder trial, Kevin Charles Kline was ruled incompetent to stand trial last Friday, May 1 in Fairfax County Circuit Court.

"If he can't assist us, we can't assist him," said Harvey J. Volzer, who represents Kline with William Schewe.

A forensic psychologist diagnosed Kline with paranoid delusional disorder, and believes Kline's condition will deteriorate into paranoid schizophrenia. "His prognosis is poor," said the psychologist, who testified during Friday's hour-long hearing before Circuit Court Judge Stanley P. Klein.

"His delusional system compels him to not enter a plea," the psy-

chologist said. "It's a matter of utter indifference to the outcome of this case."

Judge Klein ordered Kline to be committed to the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Kline will be hospitalized and treated in an attempt to restore him to competency to stand trial.

"He doesn't have to be cured of his mental illness, he has to be able to assist [his attorneys]," Judge Klein said, and scheduled a status evaluation for the fall.

JOAN GILLINSON, of Huntington, was reading a book in Huntley Meadows in Mount Vernon on Oct. 17, 2007, when Kline, then 18 of Woodbridge, demanded her keys.

SEE JUDGE, PAGE 5

Public Invited to Meeting On Flood-Mitigation

At a town meeting on Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parker's Lane, Fairfax County staff will present an update on flood mitigation for the Huntington community.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performed a study of the Cameron Run floodplain in relation to the June 25-26, 2006, flooding in the Huntington community. It then developed alter-

natives to mitigate the flooding. The county and the community selected the final alternative and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the 65 percent design. It will present this design and the May 7 meeting and the county will discuss options for moving forward. The 65 percent design report will be posted online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/floodreport on May 7.

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Farm Fresh

The Mount Vernon Farmer's Market is open again for business. Tuesday, May 5, was the opening day of the seasonal producers market in the Mount Vernon area. Strawberries are lush and sweet, garden perennial flowers and bushes, herbs for cooking, free range meats, fresh baked goods are all plentiful at the Tuesday morning market.

Hours are from 8 a.m. till noon in the parking lot next to the Sherwood Hall Library on Sherwood Hall Lane.



Aubrey King of Twin Springs Fruit Farm sets up more fresh garden lettuce.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE

Fresh spinach is sorted at the Potomac Vegetable Farm stand. The farm is in Purcellville, Va.



Donna Granahan of Granny's Garden has been growing and selling flowers in Mount Vernon for 25 years now.



Charles Geyer of Westmoreland Berry Farm and Orchards brings out another flat of ripened strawberries.

Bulova Attends Yacht Club Commissioning Day

BY JACQUE KNIGHT

On rainy Sunday, May 3, Mount Vernon Yacht Club moved its annual first-Sunday-in May Commissioning Day ceremony to inside the clubhouse for just the second time in its 53-year history—and the first time since 1985.

Sharon Bulova, the newly elected chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, made her first appearance and praised MVYC members for their community spirit in spite of the weather. She said the event lived up to its reputation for an all American festivity.

"I had never attended your outdoors ceremony, but I am very impressed by your spirit and this



PHOTO BY ED KNIGHT/THE GAZETTE

The U. S. Coast Guard Color Guard presented the American flag and commissioned the club for the 2009 season.

traditional event," said

Bulova. She noted that county supervisors worked hard to protect funding in the tight county budget for boating safety and law enforcement on Fairfax County waterways.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly cancelled plans to attend, and Supervisor Gerry Hyland, who is still recuperating from automobile accident injuries, could not come due to the inclement weather.

State Sen. Linda (Toddy) Puller made her annual appearance along with Del. Kristen Amundson. The Rev. Jeri Fields of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church gave the invocation and blessing of the MVYC power and sail boat fleets.

With morning rain threatening to increase over the traditional MVYC site on Dogue Creek, the Mount Vernon Community Band under Director Owen Hammett set up instruments inside the club-



PHOTO BY JERRY VERNON/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Community Band performs at the Mount Vernon Yacht Haven Commissioning Day.

house. It was built in the late 1950s and remodeled in 2001 to include a third story, elevator, and raised roof in the main floor ballroom, where the Commissioning Day ceremonies were held.

The U. S. Coast Guard Color Guard presented the American flag and commissioned the club for the 2009 season. Commodore Bill Gard welcomed guests, and Past Commodore Chris Ruckman conducted the ceremonies, including

the commissioning of the Mount Vernon High School Crew Team, under Coach Ryan Ward.

Mount Vernon Yacht Club, located at 4817 Tarpon Lane in the Yacht Haven Subdivision, has 225 family memberships and 125 power and sailboat slips. About 150 members and guests attended Sunday's event.

Jacquie Knight served as Mount Vernon Yacht Haven Commissioning Day chair.

Correction

The photographs at United Community Ministries' 40th anniversary celebration, "40 Years of Helping the Community," were taken by Terry Bibbs.

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NEWS

GreenSpace Decides To Reopen

FROM PAGE 1

wanted to put signs in their yards, telling people to shop here.”

One of her devoted customers, Tara Gross, said, “We have had the great privilege of knowing Cindy Spak for over 15 years now. She gave our daughter, Olivia, her first kitten named appropriately, ‘Flower.’ There are not enough adjectives to describe Cindy ... she’s the kindest, most generous, caring human being we have ever known. What she has given to our community — her time, her advice, her plants, her energy and her kittens are immeasurable — all with so much love from a very big heart ... I have told friends for years that Cindy really is, a rare human angel ...”

Lilly Pierce is another regular customer, and said, “Miss Cindy is the ultimate neighborhood small business lady — and business is not the only thing on her mind ... sometimes I think GreenSpace should be called Green - people - and - animal - Space.

“Besides being a longtime fixture in the neighborhood, Miss Cindy takes in people who like my mother [it’s her seventh season] need/want a volunteer job: young folks as well as seniors like my mother whose English and physical capabilities are limited but she finds a place in her garden and her heart for them and she makes them feel needed and valuable in their contributions.

“Her business is personalized in many ways: customer service but also birthday parties and BBQ’s for her employees ... little gifts and support when they need it.

“A seasonal donation of plants goes to UCM which my mother, Elisabeth, receives from GreenSpace and then uses to beautify the planters in front of UCM ... and there are yearly Christmas gifts she donates to UCM’s children



COURTESY PHOTO

Desmond Chees waters the plants.

Helping UCM

On Thursday, May 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., GreenSpace will host a UCM Night. Light food and beverages will be served and all are welcome to come visit with friends and shop for that perfect hosta or daylily. GreenSpace will donate 20 percent of the proceeds to UCM.

GreenSpace Unlimited is located at 7835 1/2 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. They can be reached at 703-780-8657 and their e-mail address is info@greenspaceunlimited.com.

which I only know of because I’ve been privileged to deliver them.

“The downturn of the economy tried and proved her strength and gave us all a chance to rally around her and show support — and [against all odds] GreenSpace reopened, a great asset to the neighborhood.”

NOT ONLY DOES Spak have her regular employees that have been with her for years, but one of her customers, Grev Hart, said that he was between missions and asked what he could do to help.

“This is a guy who has built ponds in Cambodia and latrines in Zimbabwe,” she said. “He’s an amazing guy — I asked him to tackle [the rebuilding of] the pond

and he did a great job. He took chaos and made order.”

The pond will be used once again to house aquatic plants; GreenSpace also has a large selection of pond supplies. They sell a lot of organic products — pesticides with citrus oil and other natural products.

This is in addition to their large array of perennials, annuals and herbs.

“We have a lot of natives, especially shade plants,” said Spak. “We also have 10 types of basil — probably one of the best selections of herbs in the area.”

Spak has decided to cut down on the number of shrubs and trees that she carries; instead she will plant “The Obama Garden.” They will grow tomatoes, peppers, melons and strawberries in raised beds — and donate the produce to United Community Ministries (UCM).

On Thursday, May 21, she is hosting a UCM Night (see box for details) where she will donate 20 percent of the proceeds.

She worries about everybody and was very concerned that one of her long-time employees, David Schwentker, wouldn’t be able to find another job if she didn’t reopen. Schwentker, who gives that extra touch by answering questions and helping to load cars, is glad to be working.

“I’m thrilled to be back and dedicated to Cindy, who’s an outstanding boss,” he said. “We have a very nice clientele — die-hard gardeners who appreciate quality plants.”

Spak’s kindness doesn’t just apply to humans. For years, GreenSpace has been known as a safe haven for displaced kittens. Invariably there will be a cage or two of kittens who can barely open their eyes and have to be bottle fed. Her three grown cats have free range of the property but they are all misfits.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Postal Service Food Drive. Zip codes 22301 through 22315 can leave out donations of nonperishable food for pick up. Bags of food can be placed by the mailbox by 9 a.m. for pickup throughout the day. All donations will be distributed to local charities. If a house is missed, call Brian McCormick, 571-278-3231.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

Yoga Trial. 9:15 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road. Try hatha yoga free. Visit www.zenergyyoga.vpweb.com for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 14

Yoga Trial. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. Try hatha yoga free. Visit www.zenergyyoga.vpweb.com for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Shred-A-Thon. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Washington Middle School. Free, but donations encouraged. There will also be spring cleaning tables.

MONDAY/MAY 18

Celebrate Young Professionals. 7 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. Alexandria Jaycees will honor city employees. Free. Visit www.alexjaycees.org for more.

Judge Orders Defendant To Be Committed

FROM PAGE 1

When Gillinson refused, Kline shot her once in the head, according to evidence presented by Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Ian M. Rodway at Kline's preliminary hearing in February.

Kline fled the park and boarded a Fairfax County Connector bus. Police stopped the bus at the south end of Fordson Road; the driver and all occupants other than Kline fled. Police shut down Richmond Highway for four hours while they negotiated with Kline, who threatened to kill himself because he said he would be going to jail for life for killing someone.

More than 50 police officers responded to the scene, including helicopter units, investigators, negotiators, a bomb squad and the Fairfax County SWAT team. About four hours after Gillinson's murder, Kline exited the bus and was arrested.

The victim and suspect did not know each other, according to Fairfax County Police.

Kline was free on bond from Culpeper County at

the time of the murder, and was awaiting sentencing for the malicious wounding and abduction of another woman, according to Culpeper County court records.

Kline attacked the woman, in her mid-50s, on her farm in March 2007. Kline wielded a Taser gun during that attack before the woman's dog broke free from its leash and attacked Kline. Kline was sentenced to five years in that case in December, 2007.

"He knows what the legal system is all about?" Rodway asked the forensic psychologist during Friday's competency hearing.

"Yes, he knows," said the psychologist.

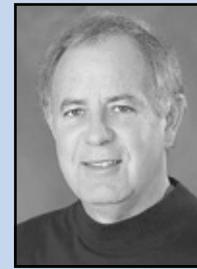
Rodway asked if the question becomes whether "he can assist his attorneys" or whether he will assist his attorneys.

But the psychologist said Kline believes there are advantages to be in the prison system, including helping him access the funds he needs for a generator machine that he will use to raise people from the dead.

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Alex./Riverside Ests. \$468,500
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SFDC Hosts Tour of Transit Centers

Supervisors Gerald W. Hyland and Jeff McKay in partnership with the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization & Reinvestment and the Fairfax County's Department of Transportation hosted a Transit Center Tour for Richmond Corridor area business and community leaders of four surrounding area transit centers on Wednesday, April 29.

The day-long event featured visits to three Fairfax County Transit Centers and the Arlington County Transit Center. Attendees viewed a behind-the-scenes tour of each center. The first stop was the Herndon-Monroe Park & Ride Transit Station. This facility, with 1,745 free parking spaces, serves as a hub and transfer point for express and location bus service, carpools and vanpools. The second stop of the day was at the Reston Town Center Transit Station. This facility serves as point of connectivity for eight Fairfax Connector bus routes. On an average weekday, the Fairfax Connector operates 551 bus trips, to, from and through the Transit Station.

The last stop in Fairfax County was the Tysons-Westpark Transit Station, which serves as a hub for bus service in the Tyson's Corner area. Passengers



From left, Debi Sandlin, executive director, SFDC; Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, and Rick Neel, president, SFDC.

may board or transfer to buses serving Tyson's Corner, West Falls Church Metro Station, Reston or Herndon.

The tour ended at the Shirlington Transit Station, Arlington County's first enclosed bus transfer station. The station connects thousands of commuters daily to locations and serves as the principal transfer point for Metrobus and ART bus

service in South Arlington.

"Richmond Highway is a primary north/south route serving thousands of transit riders daily. Providing quality transit hubs will be key to reducing automobile traffic and encouraging more residents and commuters to take advantage of the county's transit system," stated Debi Sandlin, SFDC executive director, in a release. "We learned a lot from these existing transit systems in the Northern Virginia area and how we can emulate their successes here on the Richmond Corridor."

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation promotes the economic revitalization of Richmond Highway in Fairfax County by assisting businesses in identifying and procuring property to suit their needs. The SFDC also markets Richmond Highway as a commercial center, promotes active economic restructuring and develops urban design plans. Visit www.SFDC.org.

BUSINESS NOTES

Mt. Vernon Jazzercise Offers New Classes

Beginning this month, Jazzercise instructor Mindy LaBruno will expand her class schedule to offer early morning classes at Hollin Hall Center. The new Jazzercise dance-fitness classes will be offered at 6 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays the week of May 18.

"The American Council of Sports Medicine calls for 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity activity on all or most days of the week in order to obtain significant health benefits," stated LaBruno in a release. "Because we know how difficult it is to squeeze in all of your workouts in any given week, we want to offer you convenience through a greater choice of class times."

The new Mt. Vernon Jazzercise class schedule is as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7pm; Monday and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday at 6 a.m.; and Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Fitness Organization Receives Excellence Award

Fort Belvoir Child and Youth Services (CYS) Sports and Fitness was recently one of five organizations worldwide to be presented with the Excellence in Youth Sports Award. Presented by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) and Athletic Business magazine, the annual award recognizes organizations that operate diverse youth sports programs that focus on providing positive and safe experiences for all participants.

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OPINION

Hopeful Home Sales

First time homebuyers get shot at affordable homeownership; domino effect helps all homeowners.

A look at the records of more than 1,000 homes that sold in March, 2009 in our area offers a glimpse of a sales at the top and bottom of the market.

In March in Northern Virginia, hundreds of homes, mostly condos and townhouses, sold for less than \$250,000.

About half or more of these were likely foreclosures or distressed properties, but all movement in the real estate market is a good sign, clearing out inventory. Many of the families whose homes sold and closed in March are now able to move up in the market; there are unusually good prices available on homes at all entry points right now.

In the City of Alexandria, at least five townhouses sold for under \$250,000, with more than two dozen condominiums selling for under \$200,000. At the other end, five homes sold for more than \$1 million.

In Arlington, 14 sales closed for under \$200,000, and 14 more between \$200,000 and \$250,000. There was movement at the high end too, with the sale of one condominium for \$5.65 million, plus eight more homes selling for more \$1 million in March alone.

Looking for a single family home under \$200,000? Among the nearly 50 March sales under \$200,000 in Sterling were a dozen single family detached homes, with many more under \$300,000.

More than 20 townhouses sold in Herndon for under \$200,000.

In Mount Vernon, the top home sold for \$2.65 million, while nearby a variety of bargains sold for remarkably low prices in the

Route 1 corridor, including 29 condos and townhouses for under \$100,000. Twenty more condos, townhouses and duplexes sold in March in the area for between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

In Reston, one condo sold for \$1.1 million, while there were 13 sales of condos and townhouses for under \$200,000.

In Burke, 15 homes sold for under \$250,000 in March, mostly townhouses.

In Centreville in March, 22 townhouses sold for under \$200,000.

In Springfield in March, there were 31 sales of condos and townhouses for under \$250,000.

In Fairfax Station and Clifton, 22 homes sold for more than \$500,000, with two sales over \$1 million in March. In Lorton in March, 10 townhouses sold for under \$200,000.

In Great Falls, only one home in March sold for less than \$500,000, but there were five homes sold for more than \$1 million.

In McLean, one home sold for \$3.4 million, with eight more homes selling in March for more than \$1 million. A handful of condos sold in McLean for under \$250,000.

In Vienna, eight homes sold in March for more than \$1 million, while nine condos and townhouses sold for under \$300,000.

For specific addresses and home sales by town for March, see <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=%20328003&paper=%2059&cat=228>. April home sales will be posted after May 20.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In the Interests of Public Health

While it's a huge topic for discussion, no one really has any idea what the future holds for us and the so-called swine flu. It's reasonable to predict that in the next few weeks, it will turn up in Northern Virginia.

With the Centers for Disease Control calling for the closing of schools where cases are confirmed, we might well be facing one or more schools that are unexpectedly closed.

But we question whether such a policy is considering all aspects of public health. When an elementary school, for example, is closed, how do families that depend on two incomes

or single parent families cope? In any less affluent area, what percentage of children might be home alone because parents have no sick leave or vacation time?

In middle school, students are nominally more able to be home alone for some period of time, but we know there are consequences to unsupervised adolescents in terms of risky behavior.

Let's take the actions necessary to stem a crisis, but let's not lose sight of other risks in the process.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retain Fourth AP

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to Superintendent Jack Dale.

It is no secret that these tough economic times have compelled you to make some hard budget decisions and we appreciate your desire to maintain Fairfax County's high academic standards with declining resources. However, we would like to express our grave concern with your recommendation to eliminate an Assistant Principal (AP) position at Mount Vernon High School (MVHS).

It goes without saying that maintaining school safety and order is our highest school priority. Without an orderly, safe environment, any efforts to improve our school would be severely hampered. At MVHS, Principal Nardos King and her four Assistant Principals have

made great strides in creating the safest environment possible with a challenging population.

The goal of each AP is to minimize classroom interruptions so that quality instruction can be provided by each teacher. At MVHS, an AP monitors approximately 445 students and spends approximately 75 percent of their time disciplining students. This ranges from "minor" interventions like trying to assist a student in changing his or her behavior to more serious interventions, such as attending parent conferences, counseling or interviewing students as part of an investigation of a reported incident. Indeed, at times it seems that an AP has assumed the role of "surrogate" parent for a child without a family structure.

If we lose an Assistant Principal, the remaining three would have even more students to monitor and the discipline problems at MVHS would surely increase.

You have spoken very eloquently about the need for school staff to develop relationships with their students. Along those lines, each AP serves as a "sub-school" principal where they oversee an entire class for all four years of high school. This has created a wonderful sense of class spirit and cohesion. This structure is particularly helpful to our large transient population, such as students in military families. Indeed, our school was physically designed to accommodate this structure as the school is divided into four different administrative offices where students have their lockers.

If we lose an Assistant Principal, this entire structure would have to be cast aside. Instead, the remaining three APs would oversee a population divided by alphabet, thus eliminating any sense of class identity.

While Mount Vernon High School may not have as many stu-

dents as other schools, decisions cannot be made by just looking at numbers on a chart. Each school is unique and has its own set of challenges.

While we may have fewer students, in some ways our challenges are greater. Under the leadership of our administrative staff, Mount Vernon High School has become safer, our students are performing better and there is now a spirit that had been lacking for so many years. This recommendation would put our school on a slippery slope that will have serious consequences for so many children who need help.

Mr. Dale, we are not unmindful of the fact that you need to balance a budget and we know that MVHS will not be immune from budget cuts that you need to impose. Indeed, we are ready to accept them for the greater good. However, the elimination of an

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6431
Fax: 703-917-0991
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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Employment Advertising
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Publisher

Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Photography:

Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer

Art/Design:

Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
John Smith, Stu Moll, Wayne Shipp

Production Manager:

Jean Card

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver

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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1937 cottage expanded for 2009 lifestyles. Three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, family room with fireplace and built-ins, separate dining room, living room with fireplace, wood floors, master bedroom with sitting room, recreation room. Landscaped rear garden with patio and adorable potting shed, and off-street parking.

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Move-in Condition Totally Sparkles!

Charming three-level, two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath home is ready to move into! Floors are polished, basement has new carpeting, and everything has been painted to perfection! Owners have replaced the wiring, breaker box; installed new woodwork around the double pane windows; replaced the water heater and more. Kitchen is all new: cabinets, granite counter tops, real tile floor and appliances. There is a charming screened porch off the kitchen.

Joanne Gunn
703.786.1586
www.joannegunn.com
MLS ID# AX6991558



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$549,900



Tree Top Views

from the master bedroom in this three-level townhouse with eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors throughout main level, living room with wood burning fireplace, family room with wet bar and fireplace on lower level. Blocks from "The Avenue" and all that Del Ray has to offer! See photos at www.jenwalker.com.

Jennifer Walker
703.675.1566
www.jenwalker.com
MLS ID# AX7039289



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$495,000



Gardens in Bloom

Beautiful flowering bushes and trees as well as perennials bring vibrant color to front and rear gardens of this brick end townhouse with two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a welcoming kitchen, amazingly comfortable den, and inviting living room/dining room. A balcony overlooks the deep garden with patio and Braddock Metro is within an easy walk.

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SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE

The students listen as Jackson (Daniel Cortez) explains why he ran away from home.



The angel (Chanai Mouton) tells the students Rosemond Afriyie and Kelly Gutierrez how to avoid a slippery slope.

Students Create, Perform Their Own Plays

The Children's Theatre Show case was created by 55 fifth grade students at Mount Vernon Woods, Woodley Hills, Hollin Meadows, Woodlawn and Hybla Valley Elementary Schools.

The 14-week After School Drama Program was funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. The students created original plays based on themes that have importance to them: gangs, good and evil, group dynamics, gossip and more. The plays were directed by Monique Flowers and John Waldron.



In the *Dark Side of Candyland*, teachers Jekeah Johnson and Katia Paola Amaya escort two students Rosemond Afriyie and Kelly Gutierrez to the principal's office for disruptive behavior. Also in the cast are Dion Miller, Tiara McCallum and Chanai Mouton.



Nature Woman (Margarita Kamara) listens as Evil speaks and demands a battle. With Margarita on stage is the rest of the cast: Ayomide Adeleke, Eric Barrera Menendez, Frederick Betran, Dante Beavers, Orlando Hernandez, Faye Javaudin, Ashleigh Johnson, Christian Manu, Jason Portillo, Ally-Anne Rigoli, Jack Skidmore, Liliana Vigil and Asia Young.



Director John Waldron prompts the students before the curtain call.



Mrs. Lawrence (Azjah Clark) talks with her daughter Peppa (Yvonne Dade).

SCHOOL NOTES



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CAZETTE

Field Day

Sean Stewart runs through an obstacle course during a competition between area high school criminal justice programs as part of the annual Criminal Justice Field Day at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy on May 4. Stewart is enrolled in the criminal justice program at the West Potomac Academy and is a student at Mount Vernon High School. Students were judged on a variety of police skills, besides the obstacle course, like crime scene investigation, LASER shooting and FACES, a computer program used to draw sketches during investigations.

Chocolate Dress for Sweet Charity Benefit

West Potomac Academy Fashion Design students are designing and creating the chocolate dress to be worn in the Sweet Charity chocolate fashion show benefit on Monday, May 11, at the Mandarin Oriental in Washington, D.C. The benefit will support Books From the Heart, a program of the Heart of America Foundation, to provide books to needy children and schools in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Corporate pastry chef Anil Rohira will adorn the students' chocolate dress in Swiss chocolates, candy flowers, and macaroons. The fashion show will feature the four finalists and the winning dress, all from West Potomac Academy; the winning dress will be modeled by Kate Michael, Miss District of Columbia 2006.

To view the students' dresses, visit <http://www.projectstitchstudio.com>.

Woods Receives Pamplin Award

Kelly E. Wood is the recipient of the 2009 Pamplin Leader Award at West Potomac High School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1,000 tuition scholarship to Virginia Tech. Presented annually to a top student from each public high school in the state, it was established by Robert B. Pamplin Sr. (VT, Class of '33) and Robert B. Pamplin, Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.

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MOM & ME

Readers were invited to submit photos for the Gazette's annual Mom & Me gallery for Mother's Day.

Lyndsay Austin and her daughter Caroline (11). The photo was taken on the monorail at Disney World during a family vacation in May 2008.



After an exciting chairlift ride, they made it to the top of the highest ski jump (120 meter) at the Olympic Jumping Complex in Lake Placid, N.Y., Feb. 14, 2009: Tessa (6), Nancy, and Sydney (10) Nixon (from left to right).



Jeannie Baroody White with her children, twins, Cecilia and Jack (age 6) and Ella (age 4 1/2).



From left are Shannon Joy Patton, Erin Joy, Sheila Joy, and Sean Joy.

John Pfister 18, Julie Pfister, Steve Pfister, Kirsten Pfister 16, PFC Steven Pfister, Jr. USMC — currently serving in Iraq. This photo was taken Christmas Eve 2008.



Pictured are Jennifer Winters and her daughter, Emma Winters, taken March 12, 2009 at Siesta Key Beach, Fla.

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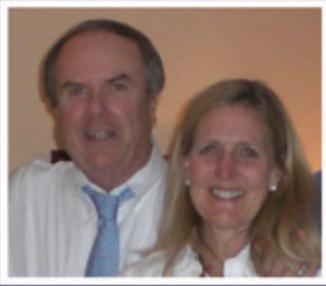
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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: PhotoAX@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Mount Vernon Gazette,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
7913 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



CHRIS WHITE

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.



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 Sun 1-4pm. I-395: Exit Seminary Rd East, R Pickett St, bear right onto Pegram St.



4327
Ferry Lndg Rd
\$455,000
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!



6906
Duke Drive
\$389,900
Best Value!

Hard to find detached home for under \$400,000 in Alexandria area! This gorgeous

4BR, 3BA Cape Cod has been totally remodeled from top to bottom! Features include: brand new baths & kitchen, hardwood floors on two levels, recessed lighting, finished lower level with full bath and prime location on large level lot convenient to everything!



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
\$859,000
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



9405 Ferry Lndg Ct
\$795,000



9333 Brambly Ln
\$539,000



9305 Mt Vernon Circle
\$985,900

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OPEN SUN. 1-4

3611 SOUTH TAYLOR STREET #B2
Arlington / Fairlington Glen - \$359,000

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Anya Macklin 703.518.8720



OPEN SUN. 1-4

421 CAMERON STREET
Historic Old Town - \$749,500

PITT MEWS GEM Fabulous 3BR & 3.5 BAs, all-brick TH w/ garage in Heart of Old Town. MBR w/loft, custom built-ins/wainscoting. Bright Kit, L/R FP, hwd flrs including loft. 1 block to King St, 4 blks to River. To view this rarelly available model located 1/2 block from Gadsby's Tavern & City Hall, call...



Philip G. Matyas 703.518.8727



JUST LISTED!

2103 POPKINS LANE
Alexandria / Hollin Hills - \$624,000

Charming 1 lvl home on half acre wooded lot—expanded w/MstrBr/Ba suite—lots of light w/walls of glass—overlooking brick patio, private bkyd a gardener's delight—updated Ba(s), kit, gas Jennair stove & tablespace—hwd fl-alarm & sprinkler system—fireplace-& more! 4Br/2Ba



Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



JUST LISTED!

410 SOUTH PITT STREET
Alexandria / OT - \$799,000

Wonderful location in SE Quadrant, this 3 level, 3Br all brick townhouse is filled with light, has 11' ceilings in living room, 2 wood burning fireplaces, beautifully planted garden, off street parking and within walking distance of the Potomac River and all the delights of Old Town.



Bonnie Apple 703.728.3430



JUST LISTED!

427 EAST MOUNT IDA AVENUE
Alexandria / Del Ray - \$714,900

SUMMER IN DEL RAY! Abs charming 3 lvl bungalow on lge corner lot w/driveway pkg! 3Br/2.5Ba w/fab fin low lvl & lovely rear patio & porch for outdoor enjoyment. Total renov. in '04 offers best of old & new. Walk to "The Avenue". Enjoy conv to METRO, Reagan airport & DC.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



OPEN SUN. 1-4

3614 OLD VERNON COURT
Alexandria / Mt Vernon - \$999,000

BETTER THAN NEW & SO, SO MUCH MORE! 5,000+sf, 6Br/4.5Ba, center hall Colonial w/hwd, crown, bay & Palladian windows & updated w/ granite, custom closets, surround sound, fully fin LL w/2Br, full bath, media rm. Great neighborhood of 32 homes - close to schools.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



JUST LISTED!

5934 THOMAS DRIVE
Springfield - \$374,400

1 owner Colonial in Monticello Woods. 3 lvs—4Br/2FBa on UL; 1/2Ba, family room w/wood burning fireplace & hardwood floors in LR/DR. Basement level w/walkout has storage + extra fin spaces. Parkland, schools & close to everything!! Bring decorating ideas—a great place to start!



Louise Devers 703.795.9944



716 BRACEY LANE
Alexandria - \$789,900

GREAT HOUSE! GREAT PRICE! GREAT LOCATION! Huge 4 level townhouse, fully equipped gourmet Kitchen w/ stainless, center island, hardwood floors, 42" cabinets. Private Master suite w/deck. Open floor plan, fireplace, 2 car garage and so much more! 4Br/3.2Ba. Call me for an appointment...



Janice Allen 703.509.0906



8808 GATESHEAD ROAD
Alexandria - \$485,000

PRISTINE RAMBLER... On a double corner lot is a great opportunity to update or expand in a wonderful neighborhood. Carefully maintained w/ immaculate oak parquest & an inviting open fl plan. Entertaining is easy both in/outdoors w/ an expansive deck & LL rec room w/FP.



Richard Webber 703.598.2526



1220 TUDOR PLACE
Alexandria / Marlan Heights - \$950,000

JUST LISTED! 3lvl, all brick Georgian colonial w/4or5Br, 3.5Ba, full finished LL, 3FP & 2 car side-load garage. Beautiful brick walled formal garden w/terraces, patio, boxwoods, side yd & more! Hwd fls, elegant molding, terrazzo fl LL. One of a kind in the Marlan Forest/Villamay area!



Gary Ansley 202.288.7946



7020 HIGHLAND MEADOWS COURT
Alexandria - \$780,000

SIMPLY SPECTACULAR! Showcase home in lux hm community, mins to METRO, Ft Belvoir, OT & DC. Brick front 3 lvl Col w/4Br, 3.5Ba w-out fin lower lvl, gourmet Kit, 2 car gar, lux owner's suite & more! Fab hardscape to incl 2 slate patios, Koi pond & flourishing gardens.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



90K below Assessment!

1330 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NW #605
Washington, DC - \$229,000

FULL SERVICE SENIOR COMMUNITY! Opportunity to buy a 1Br/1Ba in the Residences at Thomas Circle. Immaculate unit, great condition, nice light, appealing floor plan. Hardwoods, granite. For a list of amenities Go to www.ThomasCircle.com.



Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



6025 WOODMONT ROAD
Belle Haven - \$799,000

CHARMING stone cottage on beautifully landscaped lot lovingly maintained by longtime owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, fully finished basement, cozy sunroom. New slate roof, gutters and driveway.



Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



7548 GREAT SWAN COURT
Alexandria - \$414,900

TURN-KEY CONDITION! Immaculate brick front, end-unit 3BR/2.55Ba, 3 level, spacious 1 car garage townhouse backing to trees. Crown molding, hardwoods, bay window, upgraded lights, 9x18 TREX deck. Minutes from Rte 1, I-495, Ft Belvoir, DC and National Harbor.



Brandy Buzinski 703.795.9944

RENTALS

2500 North Van Dorn St #420 \$1,500
Park Place Hi-Rise 1Br/1Ba 1Pkg
Margaret Keagle 703.683.00400

820 South Arlington Mill Dr #3-102 \$1,500
Park Glen Garden 2Br/1Ba
Brad Kintz 703.629.0103

1800 Wilson Boulevard #245 \$1,850
Wilson Boulevard Townhouse
1Br/1Ba 1Pkg
Norma Gants 703.408.2560

RENTALS

5105 Donovan Dr #172 \$4,100
Oakland Hall at Cameron Station Townhouse
2Br/2.5Ba/1FP 1 Garage
Susan Haughton 571.470.4545

6480 Overlook Dr \$2,600
Pinecrest Rambler 4Br/2.5Ba/2FP 2 Garage
Connie McKeen 703.626.4417

1105 North Rochester St \$2,700
Madison Manor Contemporary Detached
4Br/2.5Ba
Pat Wilson 703.589.7279



REDUCED!

1111 NEAL DRIVE
Collingwood on the Potomac - \$619,900

Spacious 5lvl split (over 3,000sf) w/5Br/4FBa & a landscaped garden overlooked by a screened porch. Au-pair/in-law suite, rec room & walk-up fin attic. Refinished hwd. Off GW Pkwy & minutes from OT, Ft Belvoir & shopping.



The Kohler Team
Elke 202.967.7633 or Heidi 703.609.7367



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, Waynewood ES District.



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



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

7701 Tauxemont Road
\$625,000 | South Alexandria
4 bedroom, 2 bath rambler on 1/2 acre lot surrounded by mature landscaping, hardwood floors, bright eat in kitchen with adjacent laundry room, large master bedroom, finished lower level recreation room/office. Fabulous family room overlooking trees. Directions: S on GW Parkway, R onto West Blvd, L Alexandria, R Tauxemont to 7701.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

818 South Veitch Street
\$879,945 | Arlington
Beautifully updated executive style home on private fenced lot, just one traffic light to Washington, DC! Hardwood flooring and African Tile in bathrooms and kitchen, stainless steel GE Monogram appliances, spa-like master bath with dual vanities and Mr. Steam shower, loft-style lower level with Precor commercial grade gym and media room!

John Ronveaux | 703.518.6159



CARLYLE TOWERS VIEWS

2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603
\$699,000 | Carlyle Towers/ Greater Old Town
180 degree views south, west, and north - skyline, Masonic Temple, and park! Bright 2/3 bedroom unit with 2.5 baths. Eat-in kitchen has extra cabinets, dining room has silver storage, special glass doors to the curved, windowed balcony. Vacant and ready. Garage parking. Call Marie for floor plan or personal showing. MLM1606@aol.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

1208 N. Pitt Street
\$875,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Four level townhome in impeccable condition, fine moldings, hardwood floors, fireplace, gourmet kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, bright breakfast room, two car garage! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Just a short distance to shops and restaurants, the bike path, the Potomac River and downtown Washington.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



JUST LISTED

2215 Lakeshire Drive
\$825,000 | South Alexandria
Charming sunny farmhouse with front porch on 1/3 acre; 2 car garage, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 updated baths and plumbing for another, Granite, stainless, refinished hardwoods, new carpet, paint and ready to move into. Even a kitchen garden to plant your own vegetables!

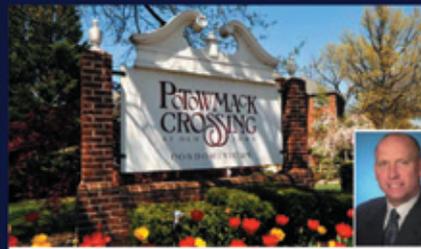
Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



RESORT-STYLE LIVING

6641 Wakefield Drive #703
\$310,000 | River Towers
3 bedroom, 2 bath condo with renovated kitchen, updated baths, new interior doors and plenty of closets. Resort living in a peaceful setting located on 26 landscaped acres backs to trees and Dyke's Marsh. Ample parking, pool, tennis courts, picnic grove with grills and more. Convenient to Old Town, shops, restaurants and bus to Metro.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



UNDER CONTRACT

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



JUST LISTED

1673 W Street, SE
\$419,000 | Washington, DC
Classic detached row home with period features, tall ceilings, hardwood floors, impressive foyer and staircase. Decorator paints, large and bright eat in kitchen. French doors leading to sunroom and fenced yard with patio. Minutes to metro and the Capitol. www.UphamRealEstate.com.

Chris Upham | 202.359.1308



JUST LISTED

1912 Shannon Court
\$525,000 | Hollindale
Cul-de-sac location a short distance from transportation & prime commuting routes to DC, Pentagon, Ft. Belvoir & Old Town. Close to schools, hospital, library, shopping & more. Numerous updates, spacious rooms, 2 fireplaces, family room, sunroom & extra large carport. Eat-in kitchen features stainless appliances & ceramic tile floor. 3 full baths have been updated.

Jane Cole | 703.598.6198



JUST LISTED

3501 Norris Place
\$585,000 | Beverley Hills
Charming and beautifully landscaped all brick Beverley Hills home offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, hardwood floors throughout, a cozy living room with fireplace, large dining room, main level bedroom, lower level den/office and garage parking. Fenced yard with brick patio. Wonderful close - in location, minutes to everything! More photos at www.JoyDeevy.com

Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

418 Queen Street
\$599,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Historic, detached two bedroom, 1.5 bathroom townhouse offering a gracious living room, lovely separate dining room, efficient kitchen, family room with skylights, private brick patio. Steps away from the Potomac River, and all the shops and restaurants of Old Town.

Jeanne Warner | 703.980.9106



CLASSIC COLONIAL

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



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ESTATE QUALITY HOME

3616 North Albemarle Street
\$1,800,000 | Country Club Hills, 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



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4! NEW PRICE ON A SPECIAL SOUTH-EAST QUADRANT GEM!

610 South Washington Street
\$1,695,000 | Old Town
 New price position at \$200,000 lower -- This is a special property that has over 3300 finished square feet and includes a 2 car detached garage, bricked in back yard, a rooftop deck with a gas fireplace, 4 finished levels, 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 4 fireplaces, reclaimed furniture grade birds eye maple floors, plantation shutters double crown molding and over \$75,000 in upgrades. This is a fabulous value and all in the Southeast quadrant. Call today.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



CUSTOM HOME

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

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



SOUTH ALEXANDRIA BEAUTY

1029 Arcturus Lane
\$1,225,000 | South Alexandria / Wellington
 Bright and open 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath, 2 car garage on almost 1/2 acre. Over 5100 finished square feet on 3 levels. Sun drenched kitchen, breakfast room and family room. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, custom moldings, open lower level with game/TV/ hobby rooms. Directions: South on GW Parkway, right Wellington, left on West Boulevard, right on Arcturus Lane. www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1503 River Farm Drive
\$1,799,000 | South Alexandria
 Luxury home with 5/6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 4 car garage on 1/2 acre with stunning river views from all 3 levels. Colonial on outside yet modern inside, 2 master suites, 2 family rooms, recreation room, sun-room with bar, living room and dining room, kitchen with island and breakfast bar, spectacular deck full length of home for viewing enjoyment. Dir: South on GW Parkway, Right River Farm Drive to 1503.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



EXECUTIVE STYLE LIVING

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

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'Footloose' at West Potomac High

BY KELLY DANVER
T.C. WILLIAMS

Dancing is not a crime — unless you're at Bomont High School. West Potomac High School's musical production of the stage adaptation of "Footloose" is a rock and roll ballad of teenage rebellion.

"Footloose" is a musical based on the 1984 movie by the same name. Written by Dean Pitchford with music from the movie as well as additional composers, "Footloose" opened on Broadway on Oct. 22, 1998 and ran for 709 performances. It was nominated for four Tony Awards including one for Best Original Score and has been performed on numerous American stages and London's West End.

The musical begins when Ren McCormack his mother Ethel have to move away from Chicago to a small town called Bomont to live with Ren's aunt and uncle. This little town is run by the very conservative Rev. Shaw Moore, who lambasts the evils of rock and roll as well as dancing, despite his daughter Ariel's relationship with high school dropout Chuck Cranston. At first, Ren can't stand his predicament and gets into a lot of trouble, but with the help of his friend, Willard Hewitt, and his other high school buddies, Ren finds his voice and courageously tries to stand up for what he knows is right.

Derek Marsh as Ren McCormack did a great job with a challenging part, and displayed Ren's rebel side. Molly Medrano as Ariel Moore, shifted between the reverend's daughter and a wild teenager with ease and brought another level to the show with her

excellent vocals, especially apparent in "Almost Paradise." John Rice as Willard Hewitt did an excellent job with each wonderfully awkward and humorous line and ultimately stole the show. His song, "Mama Says (You Can't Back Down)" was a highlight of the performance.

Ariel Moore's three friends, Rusty, Urleen, and Wendy Jo, played by Gloria Powell, Kathleen McDowell, and Mary Langan, respectively, did remarkable job displaying their vocal talent and technique in their song, "Somebody's Eyes." There were also a number of songs, including "Footloose" that incorporated a group of featured dancers. Each of these performances were well choreographed and rehearsed, giving the show an energetic rush.

The musical had minimal sets on stage and instead used a number of props throughout the show to give each scene a setting. The costumes of each character were very appropriate and gave the show pizzazz. Providing the music for the show was the Footloose Band, who did an outstanding job with a difficult score and gave the audience something to swing to. Though there were some malfunctions with the lighting and the sound, this did not hinder the performance.

West Potomac High School's production of "Footloose" is a memorable story that teaches us to cut loose and stand up for what we believe in.

Cappies is a high school critics and awards program involving more than 50 schools in the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. areas.

CAPPIES
REVIEW

FROM PAGE 8

assistant principal in our case could affect the safety of our children and will turn the clock back on the progress that has been made over the last few years. On behalf of the members of the Mount Vernon High School Academic Boosters Corporation, I urge you to recognize the unique issues that face Mount Vernon High School and restore this Assistant Principal position.

Ron Fitzsimmons

President, Academic Boosters Corporation

Give More Notice

To the Editor:

There was quite an uproar about the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) passing a resolution calling for raising all sorts of Fairfax County taxes as representative of their community association members desires. I agree with the businessmen who stated that it did not represent their community association members.

As a former co chair of the MVCCA, who was the first to serve two consecutive terms, I got rules changed that required all resolutions, except for emergencies, to be published in the MVCCA record one month and voted on the next month. Such process allowed individual member community associa-

tions to distribute and get its members views before casting votes at the MVCCA meeting on resolutions. Following such process results in being representative of the member community associations.

Apparently, MVCCA doesn't follow such process. As an individual member of a 750 household community association, I wasn't aware of the questionable resolution until I read about it in the newspaper when the controversy erupted between MVCCA and the businessmen. I seriously doubt that community citizen associations distributed such resolution to its members before a vote was taken at the MVCCA meeting. Therefore, the businessmen are correct in stating that the MVCCA decision was not representative of the community citizens members of MVCCA.

For the MVCCA to hold itself out as representative of the community at large, it must adopt a process that allows the membership of all MVCCA member association to have their views represented in any vote taken on resolutions. Otherwise, the votes represent the views of only those who vote at a particular MVCCA meeting. In the case of the tax resolution, it was 22 members who voted.

Frank Medico, Mt. Vernon

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS
Stamp Out Hunger
FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH

The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, will be collecting nonperishable food items like canned meats and fish, canned soup, juice, pasta, vegetables, cereal and rice on Saturday, May 9th to help families in need in our community, in ZIP Codes 22301 through 22315.

You can help by placing your bagged food donation at your mailbox on May 9th before your letter carrier arrives. It will be taken to the Post Office and then delivered to local food banks or pantries. Please do not include items that have expired or those in glass containers.

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JEWISH WASHINGTON
SCRAPBOOK OF AN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

An exhibition highlighting Jewish life in Northern Virginia
CLOSES SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

Closing Day Activities
FREE Exhibition Highlights Tour
1:00 p.m.

Walking Tour of Jewish Old Town Alexandria
1:45 p.m. (rain or shine)
\$15/JHSGW members; \$20/nonmembers

Both events are at:
The Lyceum
Alexandria's History Museum
201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA

Advance registration required. RSVP to rsvp@jhsgw.org or (202) 789-0900

Jewish Washington is supported, in part, by an Outreach and Engagement Grant from The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and other generous supporters.

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington
Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum

Mount Vernon Gazette

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E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Film Festival Now Playing

BY LINDSAY GSELL
GAZETTE

Comedies, documentaries and dramas are just some of the genres of films that will be shown at the ninth annual Northern Virginia International Jewish Film Festival, hosted by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. The festival, which runs from April 30 to May 14, will screen films at the Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax, the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre in Arlington and the JCC of Greater Washington in Rockville, Md.

The festival features 20 films screened in 65 showings. The films, which hail from the U.S., Canada, Israel and Europe, were selected from over 150 entries. This year's selection features documentaries, comedies, dramas, actions and many more.

Both "Beau Jest" and "Holy Land Hardball" are expected to be big films at the festival this year. Another film that will draw viewers is "The Champagne Spy," based on the true story of Wolfgang Lotz, an Israeli spy who lived a double life.

The JCC of Northern Virginia began the film festival in 2001. In the beginning, it was only one week long and featured seven films.

"It's grown so tremendously since then," said film festival director Roz Engels. "Our goal is really to offer a great cultural experience for the community."

According to Engels, the festival is about sharing Jewish culture with a diverse greater Washington, D.C. community.

"Just like other film festivals highlight other cultures, we bring aspects of Jewish cultural life to this community," she said.

Planning for this year's festival began a week after last year's festival concluded. Throughout the year, the volunteers will screen films and work to compile the list of films.

"It takes a long time but it is a wonderful effort and experience," said Engels. "It's well worth the work."

The film festival screens films daily. General Admission tickets are \$10 per film, but discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and matinees. Visit www.jccnv.org for screening schedule and information.



COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

This site photo composite shows how Sacandaga Totem will look at intersection of King, Fayette and Commerce streets.

The Totem Waits

Sculpture's installation has fallen victim to budget cuts.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For more than a year, a sculpture known as the Sacandaga Totem has been waiting patiently in upstate New York. One day, it will be installed at the three-way intersection of Commerce, Fayette and King streets. When City Council voted to accept the public art as a gift in January 2008, it was valued between \$60,000 to \$90,000. Since that time, city officials have delayed the project of installing the 5,000-pound obelisk.

"We have people who are hungry out on the streets," said Mayor Bill Euille. "It just didn't seem like the right priority considering some of the human needs we have right now."

Euille said he would be open to private money being used to install the sculpture,

FINE ARTS

See **paintings** by the Potomac Valley Watercolorists at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Runs from April 28 **through June 28**. Visit potomacvalleywatercolorist.com for more information.

Through May 3, see the "April Members Show" at Gallery West, 1213 King St. See works by new members. Free. Visit www.gallerywest.com for more.

See "Progression" at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Suzanne Yurdin presents abstract paintings **from May 7 through June 1**. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

See "Fresh" from the Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., from **May 6 through May 31**. See the latest trends in the urban contemporary art scene.

which measures 113 inches high, 66 inches wide and 43 inches deep. It was created in 1997 by sculptor John Van Alstine, the piece was the last of a five-part series of totemic sculptures that mixed the formalism of the Washington Monument with the naturally formed buttes of the American west.

"This is material that came from the earth, even the man-made steel was made from elements of the earth," said Van Alstine in an interview last year. "I think it kind of speaks to the geological formations of the land."

The sculpture's nonrepresentational form and modernistic design are certain to make a lasting impression, whether it's viewed by pedestrians walking along the corridor or riders in the city's trolley service. The sculpture will be placed near the center of the existing brick plaza surrounded by four benches with landscaping and lighting de-

signed by the Old Town architectural firm of Stephenson and Good.

"We wanted the finishes and the materials we used to integrate into the fabric of King Street, including the lighting," said Robert Good, the architect who designed the base and lighting. "It's relatively central in the plaza but behind the façade lines of the buildings."

"It just didn't seem like the right priority considering some of the human needs we have right now."

— Mayor Bill Euille.

Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

The human/pet companion bond is explored through art in the "Bond for Life" exhibition at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. The exhibit opens Friday, **May 22** (reception 7-10 pm) and runs **through Sunday, June 21**. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or 703-683-2949.

Opening **Friday, May 22**, "Living Legends of Alexandria 2008-09" will be featured in the Goldsmith Gallery at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. It will feature photographs of all 27 of the nominees with information about their contributions. It will be open **through Sept. 20**. 703-838-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

See a photography exhibit by **Grace Taylor and Clifford Wheeler from April 7 through May 31** at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Tor-

pedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-683-2205.

See "Ado about Nature" at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., **through May 31**. See nature photographs by Jorja and Bob Feldman. Free. 703-768-2525 for more information.

The 12th **Annual Student Art show** hosted at the Del Ray Artisans gallery runs **through Sunday, May 17**. Free. The Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For show details and gallery hours call 703-838-4827 or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

"1968 in America" opens **April 7 through May 30** at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Exhibit showcases some of the tumultuous events. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

22nd Annual TASTE of ARLINGTON
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009
12-5 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

Next to Ballston Common Mall
 4238 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

Proceeds benefit *Community Residences, a local non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live independently in the community.*

Taste Ticket Books \$20 in advance/\$25 onsite. Taste Tickets available online at www.tasteofarlington.com.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

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

Beginning Feb. 25, the **T.C. Williams High School Planetarium** will welcome the Alexandria community one night each month during the school year for a free hour-long show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "A Night With the Stars," which will run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance registration, required, may be completed online at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/> or by calling the planetarium at 703-824-6805, extension 6300.

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

Spectacular gardens are in bloom as Mount Vernon hosts its annual **outdoor garden and gift sale beginning April 11 through May 10** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This annual sale includes ornamentals, perennials and annuals, garden items, books, and heirloom plants propagated from historic cuttings. No admission is required to shop in the Gardening Days tent (located in front of the Mount Vernon Inn Complex). Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for a program for children of all ages at Alexandria Archaeology **Family Dig Days**. Monthly Family

Dig Days will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2009 dates are: Saturday, May 30; Saturday, July 18; Saturday, Aug. 15; Saturday, Sept. 12; Saturday, Oct. 17. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Mount Vernon commemorates George and Martha Washington's 250th wedding anniversary with a **new collection of fine stationery** available at the Shops at Mount Vernon, open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

On **Sundays** at 2 p.m., enjoy a **family bike ride**. Meet at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4100 Eisenhower Ave. Rides will be canceled if inclement weather. Reservations required, 703-303-4803.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive. See the Alexandria Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus perform. \$15-\$30. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 703-910-4600.

Open Stages Festival. 7:30 p.m. at the Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Visit www.brownpapertickets.com for tickets.

Story Time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Enjoy stories and more. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-492.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Spring Bus Tour. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Visit Richmond area Civil War sites. \$120/FFW member; \$135/nonmember. Deadline is May 1. 703-838-4848.

Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Browse antiques, collectibles, art and more. Proceeds benefit Friends of Homeless Animals. Visit www.foha.org for more.

Outdoor Art Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Browse works from more than 20 artists. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

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 or 703-642-5173.

Music Performance. 2 p.m. or 8 p.m.

at Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive. See the Alexandria Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus perform. \$15-\$30. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 703-910-4600.

Spring Garden Party. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy meeting Mrs. Washington, music, games and more. \$15/adult; \$14/senior; \$7/child. Visit MountVernon.org for more.

Shop for Shelter. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Proceeds benefit Carpenter's Shelter. Free. RSVP to polished@tuanh.com or 703-888-3696. \$5/door.

VisionWalk. Fight blindness by walking at 9 a.m. at Cameron Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave.

Family Fun Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Enjoy a march, painting, games, magic, food and more. Proceeds benefit Mattie Brow. Visit www.mattiebear.blogspot.com for more.

Book Sale. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Enjoy searching books for all ages from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 703-339-4610.

Wedding Re-Creation. 5-8 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. See the 1774 wedding of Sarah Carlyle to William Herbert of Alexandria. Enjoy food, drink and dancing. \$50/person. 703-549-2997 for reservations.

High Tea and Fashion Show. Noon-2:30 p.m. at The Clarity Breast Cancer Foundation offices, 4401 Ford Ave. See the new Belafigura line of swimwear. 703-984-9301.

Open Stages Festival. 7:30 p.m. at the Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Visit www.brownpapertickets.com for tickets.

Story Time. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Enjoy stories and more. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-492.

Mommies Are Nice Storytime. Ages 3-6. 11:30 a.m. Get ready for Mother's Day with a storytime all about the many reasons people love Mommies. Free. 703-548-4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. www.hooray4books.com

Your Garden and You. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find ways to alter a garden. \$18/person. 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Music Performance. 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Old Town, 228 S. Pitt St. Hear

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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OPERA NITE May 24

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

the Choral Evensong. Free. Donations accepted.

Free Mother's Day Tours. Noon-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. or Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. \$4/other adults; \$2/child. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Music Performance. 2 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear the Marine Band. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com for more.

Spring Garden Party. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy meeting Mrs. Washington, music, games and more. \$15/adult; \$14/senior; \$7/child. Visit www.MountVernon.org for more.

Music Performance. 2:30 p.m. at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. Hear the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

Spring Open House Sale. 5-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Browse works, listen to music, enjoy food, activities and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Family Tour Days. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy tours by junior Docents. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242 for admission prices.

Bach Vespers. 6-6:45 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Free. www.wpc-alex.org.

French Storytime. All ages. 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a French story time. Free. 703-548-4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. www.hooray4books.com

Mother's Day Tea: Mothers in Art. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take an entertaining look at art depicting mothers through the centuries. Afterwards raise a teacup to mothers everywhere. \$25. Call 703-941-7987 to register.

MONDAY/MAY 11

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.

Workshop. Learn how to create spring-inspired centerpieces at 7 p.m. at the Studio, 8088 Danewood Drive. \$255/three classes. Visit www.WisteriaFlorals.com or 703-336-1042 to register.

Book Group. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6328 Richmond Highway. Discuss "In the Ring" by Robert Bennett. Free. 703-768-6700.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library,

6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children 6-8 years can enjoy book activities. Free. 703-971-0010.

Books and Ideas. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Sound and the Fury" by William Faulkner. Free. 703-765-3645.

TUESDAY/MAY 12

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6328 Richmond Highway. Discuss "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 13

Plant Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn about Dyke Marsh wildlife preserve. Free. 703-768-2525.

Rising Words, Rising Images. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children 9-12 can discuss "Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution" by Ji-li Jiang. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

THURSDAY/MAY 14

Toast to Fashion. 6:30 p.m. at Belle Have Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. See new trends from area shops and more. \$40/advance or \$45/door. Visit www.campagnacenter.org or 703-549-0111.

Second Thursday Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy artwork about a man's best friend, pet adoption and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

Mosaics for Moms. 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Give mom a night out for mother's day and a chance to create a beautiful mosaic work of art. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/classes.

Fundraiser. 5-9 p.m. at Chicken Out Rotisserie in Old Town. Twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit Friends of the World Food Program.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Hear Pat Victor with David Lafleur perform. \$10/person. Visit NVFAA.org.

Preschool Palettes. All ages. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call to register. 703-548-4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. www.hooray4books.com

FRIDAY/MAY 15

Needlework Identification Day. 12:30-4:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Bring needlework and learn how to properly care for it and see if it is an 18th or 19th century piece. \$5/piece is requested. Reservations required, 703-838-

4994.

Music for Brass Quintet. 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear the United States Air Force Band. Free. Visit www.usafbnd.af.mil for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Benefit concert for Whitman-Walker Clinic. Donations accepted. Visit www.trinityalexandria.org or 703-549-5500 ext. 103.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

5K Run/Walk. 8:30 a.m. at South Run Park. The run benefits the National Capital Lyme Association. Registration day of or at www.active.com.

Soldier-Led Tour. 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Free. Learn about the defenses of Washington. Visit www.fortward.org or 703-838-4848.

Opening Reception. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St. See pieces from "International Children's Book Illustrators." Free. 703-798-8686.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Raceway Farms. Free.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear the American Balalaika Symphony. Visit www.absorchestra.org or 703-351-1331 for tickets.

Community Day. Noon-5 p.m. at UCM's Community Center at Creekside Village, 7966 Janna Lee Ave. Free. 703-799-3832.

Celebration. 6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Celebration of Gum Springs Community. Reserve, 703-799-1198.

Harambee Readers. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Black Girl, White Girl" by Joyce Carol Oates. Free. 703-765-3645.

"Paint" Alexandria 2009. The Art League is holding the event. \$40/artists of all media and skill levels can participate. Public can view artists in front of the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-2323 for more.

Spring Wildflower Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Browse trees, shrubs, vines and more. Free. Visit www.vnps.org or 703-642-5173.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. \$20/adult; \$10/children. 703-845-6097. Hear piano duo Christine and David Hagan.

Family Dance and Dinner. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Light Horse, 710 King St. Enjoy hamburgers and more with proceeds benefiting the Kathy Wilson Foundation. \$25/person; \$40/couple; \$7/child. Visit www.kathywilsonfoundation.org.



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Preparation Not Perfect for Track Standouts

Even without warm-up, area athletes shine at T.C. Invitational.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

It was cold and rainy when the starting gun sounded and Mount Vernon junior Clive Cameron took off in a preliminary heat of the 110-meter hurdles during last Saturday's T.C. Invitational. Cameron glided down the track, having no trouble clearing any hurdles, en route to an easy win and qualification in the finals later that day.

Too easy, if you ask his coach, Chris Loline, who approached his star runner holding up a stopwatch that had Cameron notching a time around 15.6 seconds, considerably slower than his normal times.

"This race and you," Loline said "it's like a fine oiled machine if you use it correctly."

The crux of the problem was Cameron hadn't warmed up properly, a dilemma that faced many athletes that took part in the 44-team, 800-participant event Saturday. With so many events and so many people, it's only human nature for a teenager to get caught up in all the faces and places.

Cameron has already qualified for the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac's Mark Hanak came in 14th place out of 38 runners in the 1600-meter run during last Saturday's T.C. Invitational.

state championships in both the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter dash, but if every race is like the 15.7 time he officially clocked in the prelims, chances are he won't be setting the state on fire any time soon.

"You've got kids right now who think they can hang out in the stands and step on the



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac senior Jon McCants won the 400-meter dash at the T.C. Invitational this past weekend and was also part of a magical race at the Penn Relays on April 25.

track and all of a sudden there's gonna be some immaculate conception, that it's all of a sudden gonna happen for them," said Loline. "You can almost sense the fact that they didn't get their body prepared before stepping on the track just from knowing your

SEE ATHLETES, PAGE 24

Myhre Puts Majors in District Finals

Senior scores last-minute goal, MV advances to finals on Friday.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Sometimes a coach will draw up that perfect play in an end-of-game situation, where everything seems to fall into place for game-winning heroics. More often than not, though, you end up with what happened in Tuesday night's rain-soaked National District boys' lacrosse semifinal between Mount Vernon and Yorktown, which took place at Washington-Lee.

Tied at eight apiece with just more than a minute remaining in regulation, Mount Vernon coach Dale Nalls had watched his Majors gradually lose a four-goal lead when he called a timeout to set up what he hoped would be the game-winning and final score.

Whatever strategy he devised hit the fan almost immediately as an errant pass forced senior Brian Green to chase down a loose ball at midfield. After calmly collecting it, Green began his charge to the net, finding fellow senior Austin Myhre behind the Yorktown net.

To Myhre's surprise, one move later he was standing alone in front of the goal mouth and firing a bouncing shot past the Patriot keeper to give Mount Vernon a dramatic 9-8 victory and a spot in Friday night's

National District championship against Falls Church.

"It wasn't even planned, it just happened," said Myhre. "I just felt that I got a step on my defender and I took it to the house. I'm so excited, this is my first time scoring a game winner."

If that wasn't exhilarating enough, the 30 seconds that followed could have been more nerve wracking, depending on whom one asks. Once Myhre scored, Yorktown coach Greg Beer asked the refs to check his stick to make sure it was legal. It was the exact move Nalls successfully pulled on Beer to get a Yorktown goal reversed when the two teams met earlier in the season.

As chance would have it, though, Nalls had a plan for this. Before he let any of his players get on the bus to make the trek from Mount Vernon to Arlington, he checked each and every one of their sticks to be certain they were legal. "I was nervous as heck, though," admitted Nalls after Myhre's stick — and goal — were deemed acceptable.

THE MAJORS STAKED themselves to an early 5-1 lead in the first half thanks to goals from junior Brendan Doyle, Green, and Myhre, but watched it evaporate over the course of the second and third quarters



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon senior Austin Myhre scored the game winner in the Majors' 9-8 victory over Yorktown in the National District semifinals Tuesday. They take on Falls Church in the finals Friday night.

thanks to five unanswered Yorktown goals.

From there, the teams began trading goals. The game was a complete role reversal from the teams' lone meeting during the regular season, where Yorktown staked itself to a 9-4 lead, only to watch the Majors make a late charge to take the game, 10-9.

But the tide appeared to change in Mount

SEE ADVANCING, PAGE 24

A Race to Remember

On April 25 at the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, the West Potomac 4x400-meter relay team just wanted to be able to savor the memory of racing in one of the world's best track and field events. Instead, Joe Bradley, Jon McCants, Chris Montgomery, and Brandon Comfort came home having recorded the fastest 4x400 time in the state of Virginia this year and the fourth-best time in the entire nation. Here's an account of how it all went down from Bradley:

"We're warming up on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Our thoughts are on the race, and else where. Jon, Brandon and I are veterans and know not to expect anything too great, especially considering the competition in our heat. There are three Jamaican teams and the fastest 4x400-meter from California (Rancho Verde). We don't expect to stand a chance, we're out there to have fun. Chris is getting pumped for his second race in front of the stadium that weekend. We're all anticipant.

We get around to stretching, and right as we start to wrap it up, coach (Don Beeby) comes walking at a fast pace. He gives us a stern look and says, 'They've called your heat number. You guys need to go. Now!' So off we go, grabbing our spikes and jogging to the cow-call (the fence-divided area where they initially line the heats up, like cows). We get there and put our racing shoes on, and the man with the megaphone is calling heats 210-221. Our heat is number 204.

Brandon suddenly stops preparing. We all look up, and he looks as though he's done for. 'Guys,' he says gravely, 'I forgot the relay card.' 'Brandon, don't think. Just get it!' I say harshly.

Brandon runs in soaked feet all the way back to coach, snags the relay card from his sweats, and runs back to us. Jon takes the card while Brandon swiftly slides on his spikes and we begin to march. We move from official to official, encountering at least six. Each time our hearts sink, as we hope we haven't missed our race. Each official says the same thing: 'Oh! You're

late! Get up there, quick!

We come near the end, the paddock area. This is where the relays are organized by heat and prepare to step out on the track. We think and hope we're the last relay about to deploy on the paddock. But our luck has run out. It's apparently our heat that is stepping on to the starting line. We have made it, with barely seconds to spare.

Brandon ties his shoe, takes a baton and quickly readies himself. The race is only about to begin."

To see how Joe Bradley and the rest of the West Potomac 4x400 team recovered from almost missing the starting line to finishing as some of the nation's fastest runners, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the sports tab.

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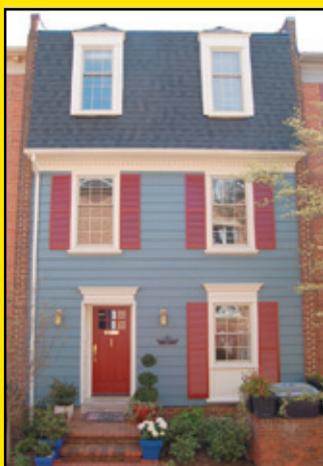
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SPORTS

Athletes Shine at T.C. Invitational

FROM PAGE 22

athlete. I could tell [Clive] just didn't properly prepare for the race today."

Loline said the warm up conundrum is the very reason why he shows up for big meets extra early. Most of his athletes lose track of time as they mingle with friends from other schools, and as a result "they just race cold turkey", which at best, decreases the chance of recording a fast time, and at worst, can result in injury.

THAT BEING SAID, a slow race or a poor time, especially in a prelim, can quickly be reversed. After his less-than-great time left him in fifth place in the finals of the 110-meter hurdles, Cameron improved his time by 0.6 seconds and placed third in the finals. Then with his body clicking on all cylinders, he followed that up with a first-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles, effectively eliminating any memories of that lackluster race in the morning.

His speedy recovery was a big reason the Mount Vernon boys' team came in fourth place overall, the best finish of any area school besides T.C. Williams. Senior Shaquille Thomas joined Cameron in the winner's circle, taking first place in the triple jump. But Cameron wasn't the only area athlete to use a race as a de facto warm up.

West Potomac senior Heba Sekander ran her prelim race for the girls' 100-meter hurdles and then promptly jogged over to the sand pit and scored a personal record of 31.75 feet in the triple jump, good for ninth place in the overall competition.

"When they're doing multiple events, I don't want them doing too much warming up because you get a lot of your warm up doing the events," said West Potomac assistant coach Joshua Rodriguez. "She did hurdles and I figured she was ready to go right out into the jump."

OTHER STRONG SHOWINGS came from Mount Vernon's Candace McCray, who took second in the 400-meter dash and followed that up with a second-place showing in the 4x100-meter relay alongside teammates Miranda Haynes, Shaniece Stevenson, and Amira Hill. Hill also took second place in the 300-meter hurdles.

For West Potomac, it was all about the pole vault. Seniors Kaitlyn Anderson and Meghan Connor swept the top two positions in the girls' pole vault despite the wet weather. The Wolverine girls' 4x100 relay consisting of juniors Kiara Artis, Ashleigh White, and Nishma Brown and freshman Dale Lescher finished just behind Mount Vernon in third place.

On the boys' side, senior Jon McCants continued to show why he's one of the fastest competitors in the Northern Region, taking first place by close to 0.5 seconds in the 400-meter dash.

Because in the end, what makes it hard to focus at a large meet — all the people in attendance — is what makes winning that much more sweet.

"I loved [big meets] when I was jumping," said Rodriguez, a 2006 West Potomac grad. "You get to stand out and show everybody around what you're capable of."

Advancing To Finals

FROM PAGE 22

Vernon's favor for good Tuesday after junior Habib Balde laid out a Yorktown player on what appeared to be a legal hit with eight minutes remaining. The refs disagreed and called a penalty, giving the Patriots a man advantage. But Doyle somehow broke free of the Yorktown defense a la Randy Moss on a go pattern in football, and scored a shorthanded breakaway goal that appeared to break the Patriots' spirit.

This being the playoffs, though, Yorktown had a response. With less than two minutes remaining, Patriot sophomore Michael Crowe tied the game for a fourth time. That's when Myhre ditched the game plan and took matters into his own stick, something his teammates are grateful for now that they have the opportunity to face Falls Church, their lone district loss during the regular season.

"Game winners in the regular season are nice," said Doyle of Myhre. "But playoff game winners, the last two minutes, you can't beat it."

THE MOUNT VERNON GIRLS weren't so fortunate when it came to end-of-the-game heroics in their semifinal matchup with Falls

Church Tuesday night in the rain. The Majors fell behind early, 9-1, and looked like they might just give in to the poor weather and an even worse start trailing 12-6 with 20 minutes remaining in the game.

All of a sudden, though, something clicked. Led by all-district selections Grace Valentine and Megan Gibbs and junior Lacy Rolling, the Majors tallied seven of the game's next eight scores to tie the game at 13 with less than five minutes to go. But as is the case in a lot of near-comebacks, Mount Vernon ran out of gas, giving up a Falls Church goal at the three-minute mark that ended up standing the test of time. Although the loss was a letdown, the furious comeback should serve the Majors well when they play in next week's Northern Region tournament.

"[The loss] is a killer, an absolute killer, particularly because they didn't play their game at all in the first half," said coach Meaghan Cromwell. "That's what is hard to watch as a coach, to know your team can do so much better. Unfortunately we fell short one, but it happens. I'm proud of them."

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Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)
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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
James T. Freeman of Lansdowne, VA, formerly of North
Springfield, VA died April 26, 2009 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital.
Born in Whitman, MA, Nov. 18, 1919, he served in the U.S.
Navy during WWII. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering
from George Washington University, in Washington, DC. Mr.
Freeman retired from the FBI as a Special Agent. He was inter-
ested in youth sports and volunteered with the North Spring-
field Little League.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gloria; four children:
Cynthia (David) Foulke of Leesburg, Patricia (Michael) Fitzpat-
rick of Virginia Beach, Thomas Freeman of Leesburg, and An-
drew (Natalie) Freeman of Falls Church; and six grandchildren:
Grace, David, Stephen and Evan Foulke and Catie and Connor
Fitzpatrick.

Funeral services will be held at Loudoun Funeral Chapel 158
Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg, VA on Friday, May 1, 2009 at
11am.

Interment will be held privately in Quantico National Cemetery.

21 Announcements

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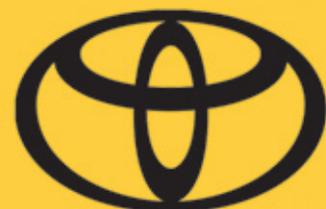
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To learn more or to schedule a visit, please call us at **703-768-0234**.

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3:00-5:00 pm
Featuring the Woodson Jazz Band
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Featuring Alexandria Symphony
 RSVP to Sarah Nye
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