

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

MAY 21, 2009

McCants: From Worst to First

“One of the slowest” as a freshman, West Potomac senior wows at regionals.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

As West Potomac senior Chris Montgomery watched teammate and fellow senior Jon McCants, the anchor leg of his 4x400-meter relay team, cruise across the finish line for his third first-place medal at last week's Northern Region Outdoor Track and Field Championships, he couldn't help but laugh when the thought of McCants's early forays into running came up.

“The funny thing is that his freshman year, he was one of the slowest,” said Montgomery, who also came in third place in the 400-meter dash, one of the races McCants won. “Now I try to keep up with him, but he just pushes it into another gear.”

Montgomery, though, shouldn't be ashamed that he's in McCants's rearview mirror



PHOTO BY JASON MACKAY/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac senior Jon McCants finished a disappointing 13th in the triple jump at the Northern Region Championships last Friday, but used that poor performance to propel him to three first-place finishes later in the evening.

these days. Just about everyone else in the Northern Region is in the same boat.

McCants nearly stole the show at the regional meet, held at Lake

Braddock last Thursday and Friday, winning the 200- and 400-meter dashes on top of his strong anchor leg in the 4x400,

SEE MCCANTS, PAGE 20

Mount Vernon Hurdles the Field

It was only appropriate that the coming out party for Mount Vernon sophomore Amira Hill and junior Clive Cameron occurred at last week's Northern Region Championships held at the aptly named “Allen Johnson Track of Champions.”

A gold medalist who broke a world record at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Johnson's specialty was the 110-meter hurdle race. As coincidence would have it, Hill and Cameron took home three of the four hurdling events last Friday night, cementing Mount Vernon as the unlikely home of

hurdles in this area.

Hill earned first-place honors in both the girls' 100- and 300-meter hurdles, while Cameron broke a school record with his gold-medal winning time of 37.85 seconds in the boys' 300-meter hurdles. The performances propelled the Majors to a seventh and eighth place showing in the girls' and boys' team competitions, respectively.

So what's the secret to their success jumping over roadblocks that vary from being three to 28 feet apart depending on the event? According to Hill, all it takes is a will to win.

“You just have to have that adrenaline for it, you gotta have

that drive,” said Hill, who last year as a freshman missed out on qualifying for states by 0.1 seconds in a senior-laden hurdle field. “You can be fast, but you gotta want it for yourself.”

Part of the equation, though, is practice. And Mount Vernon coach Chris Lolagne has a unique approach when it comes to his two elite hurdlers. Every day, he has Cameron sprint laps alongside seniors Johnathon McMillon and Shaquille Thomas. But while McMillon and Thomas simply sprint, Cameron has to stay

SEE MT VERNON, PAGE 20

Being Watched

Metro officials receive preliminary approval of federal funding for new surveillance cameras.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

For years, cameras inside Metro stations have followed passengers as they wait for trains. Now officials with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority say they have received preliminary approval for federal money to pay for new cameras outside all stations in the system. The new external surveillance cameras could be up and operational within the next six months.

“When cameras were installed at certain stations in the District of Columbia, they experienced a dramatic decrease in crime,” said Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who represents the county on the WMATA board. “That's all the evidence I needed to support this.”

Last summer, the Metro Transit Police used crime statistics to identify 10 Virginia stations where cameras should be installed. That

High-Crime Metro Stations

Last summer, the Metro Transit Police Department identified 10 stations in Virginia with the highest crime rates:

- ❖ Franconia-Springfield
- ❖ Vienna
- ❖ West Falls Church
- ❖ Braddock Road
- ❖ East Falls Church
- ❖ King Street
- ❖ Huntington
- ❖ Dunn Loring
- ❖ Rosslyn
- ❖ Ballston

prompted McKay to support a line item in the Fairfax County budget appropriating about \$75,000 to install cameras at the two stations in Virginia with the highest amount of crime — Franconia-Springfield and Vienna. WMATA officials announced the installation of the new cameras earlier this month.

“Having cameras monitoring the

SEE CAMERAS, PAGE 4

Volunteer Coach Arrested

A police investigation was launched in late February of this year, when a 24-year-old victim of a sexual crime came forward after 12 years. Detectives from the county's Child Investigations Unit, assisted by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, conducted the investigation that led to the arrest of John E. Hamilton, 37, of 14120 Gabrielle Way in Centreville.

In a release from the Fairfax County Police, according to the male victim, who was 12 years old at the time of the offense, Hamilton engaged in inappropri-

ate sexual conduct with him periodically, from March through July of 1997. One incident occurred in the

parking lot of Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Another took place at Hamilton's home at that time, in the 6600 block of Wakefield Drive in the Belle View area. Hamilton was a little league baseball coach

SEE COACH, PAGE 4



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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY \$429,900



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This two-bedroom, three-level, all-brick, interior unit townhome is sure to delight. On the main level, an updated kitchen flows to open living and dining areas. Gleaming hardwood floors, replacement windows, and freshly painted interior give the home a bright, airy feeling. In the fenced back yard, a brick patio and pergola create a private oasis. Off-street parking and a terrific location, just a short walk from the restaurants and shops of Del Ray.

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ALEXANDRIA/SEMINARY VALLEY \$505,000



First Open ~ Wonderful, Renovated Split

This five-level, three-bedroom, two-bath, split-level home is a visionary renovation with new systems, new kitchen and baths, media room, gym/office, and a garage. Sited on a large fenced and landscaped lot. From 395: Seminary Rd East, right Pickett, right Pegram, right Taney, left Paxton, right Truman Ave to 5314 on left.

Susan Leavitt
703.855.2267
www.susanleavitt.com



\$699,000 ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN



Before and After! ~ Mirror Image Houses in the Heart of Belle Haven

These mirror-image Dutch Colonial homes were built in 1954. With approximately 3,000 square feet each, these classic structures reflect quality construction and design.

6015 Grove is an excellent example of classic features and is in very good condition. With a freshly painted exterior it features three bedrooms and two full baths (including an oversized master suite) on the upper level, and living room with wood burning fireplace, dining room, den, kitchen, half bath and sun porch on the main level. There's a full basement which is ready to become comfortable living space - driveway included! The backyard is brilliant with greenery and color!



Next door at **6017 Grove**, the owners have meticulously renovated this stunning home! Upstairs features four bedrooms and two full baths including a master suite with walk-in closet, balcony and limestone bath. The main level has a chef's kitchen with breakfast room, oversized living room, half bath, year-round sunroom, and dining room. Outside there are three lovely levels of stone terrace, complete with pergola. Downstairs is a family room, guest suite and mudroom. Off-street parking for two/three cars.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$545,000



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Ann Dozier Michael
703.608.5218
www.AnnDozierMichael.com
MLS ID# AX6974866



NEW ALEXANDRIA \$699,900



Modern Design and Functionality!

The lovely, open floor plan of this recently built home in New Alexandria features five bedrooms, a media room and loft. The gourmet eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar opens up to separate dining and family rooms framed by oversized windows and French doors - all overlooking a 25x14-foot deck and spacious fenced backyard. Bring offers!

Sue Goodhart
703.263.8321
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MLS ID# FX6966260



LORTON \$765,000



Estates Collection at Laurel Hill

Wentworth model features four bedrooms, three full and two half baths, marble foyer, front and rear staircases, two master suites (one with sitting room and luxury bath), extended gourmet kitchen with walk-in pantry. Lovely lot backs to parkland.

Tamara Inzunza
703.623.8759
www.MovingToNova.com
MLS ID# FX7042413



ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN \$1,895,000



The Earth Has Moved

There is a hole in the Earth at 2106 Windsor Road in Belle Haven! A new stone house is about to be built. Hurry now so you can customize this fantastic home and be in for the winter holidays! Five bedrooms, five full and one half baths, and with a two-car garage!

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Arrest Made 18 Years Later



Las Vegas, Nev. homicide detectives arrested Bruce Webster, 68, for abducting his estranged wife in Fairfax County two times nearly 20 years ago, according to a release from the Mount Vernon Police District.

Webster, of Las Vegas, is charged with two counts of abduction and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The charges stem from an investigation by the

Fairfax County Police Cold Case Squad, assisted by Las Vegas police and the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Cold Case detectives learned about the 1990 abductions while investigating the murder of the same victim, Joann Webster, 44 at the time of her death. She was found murdered in her Fairfax County home, 8601 Sacramento Drive, on Feb. 16, 1991. That homicide is still under investigation.

According to police, Bruce Webster, a former Fairfax County Police Officer, abducted Joann Webster, his estranged wife, on May 18, 1990, and again on Jan. 1, 1991. Bruce Webster was arrested on Jan. 7, 1991, for the second abduction and a preliminary hearing was scheduled. Webster did not appear in court and a warrant charging him with failure to appear was issued. Webster left the area and could not be located. The case eventually transferred to the Cold Case Squad.

It was reopened in November 2007. Webster was located and interviewed in Las Vegas on Jan. 14, 2009. He was indicted in Fairfax County on May 18 for both abductions and the weapons charge. On May 21, Webster was arrested in Las Vegas and he remains in custody there awaiting extradition.

Sickles To Meet Constituents

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) will be holding community hours this Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hayfield Giant, where constituents can come meet him, ask him questions, and discuss any issues they are concerned with.

SRA Opens Renovated Pool

The board, visiting dignitaries and members of the Stratford Recreation Association opened a newly renovated \$750,000 pool in Stratford Landing last week.

Established over 40 years ago, the SRA became a focal point for community activities. The renovation includes two new swimming lanes — bringing the total number of lanes to eight — and a deeper diving well with new competition boards. In addition, the pool offers a state-of-the-art and ADA compliant zero entry in the shallow end. At the grand re-opening celebration a new flag was raised as presented by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. State Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Kristen Amundson also attended the event.

Two DWI Arrests at Checkpoint

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Saturday, May 23 from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Sunday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were checked to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 849 motorists passed through the checkpoint in the southbound lanes of Richmond Highway near the intersection of Dawn Drive. Two arrests were made for DWI.

Business Compliance Checks

Officers from the Mount Vernon District Station Neighborhood Patrol Unit, along with a member of the Traffic Safety Services Unit conducted stings at several locations in the Alexandria and Mount Vernon areas of Fairfax County on Thursday, May 21. The sting was part of the ongoing Youth Alcohol/Business Compliance enforcement campaign. As a result of this operation, 20 locations were entered. No arrests were made inside the establishments. One arrest was made for the illegal purchase of alcohol in front of the 7-Eleven Store located at 7330 Richmond Highway.



At the campaign kickoff were Clerk of the Court John Frey, candidate for 44th district delegate Jay McConville, Alexandria City Councilman-elect Frank Fannon, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), and former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis.

McConville Launches Campaign

More than 120 people turned out on May 17 to see Jay McConville, a local community leader and business man, kick off his campaign for the House of Delegates. McConville is running in the 44th district, which covers Alexandria, Fort Hunt, and Mount Vernon, against incumbent Kris Amundson (D). The election is Nov. 3.

McConville is the president of the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association and an executive with Chandler May, a manufacturing company. He is also known locally for being lead singer in playing trumpet in two bands and as a triathlete, both of which he's used to raise money for charities, including cancer research. McConville is a veteran and served with distinction as an Army intelligence officer in Desert Storm.

McConville's kick-off was held at a locally-owned garden shop, Holly, Woods, and Vines on Richmond Highway. The site was chosen to highlight McConville's agenda for job creation, which, along

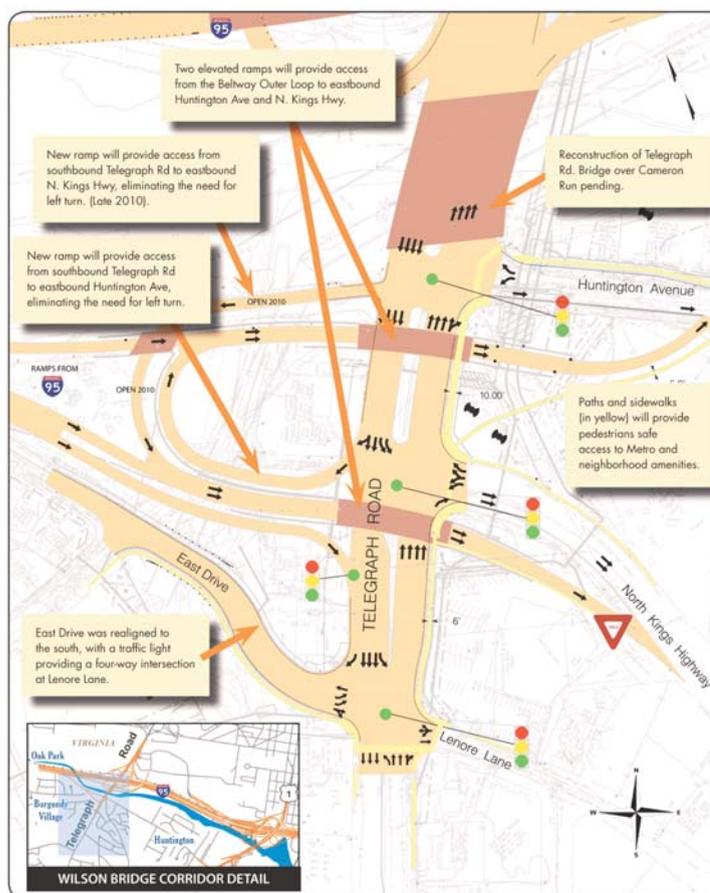
with transportation, are the two major issues of his campaign.

The event included newly elected Alexandria City Councilman Frank Fannon (R), the first Republican elected to that Board in nearly a decade, and Clerk of the Court John Frey (R), the only county-wide elected Republican official. Frey and Fannon, along with Fairfax County Republican Chairman Anthony Bedell (R), addressed the crowd before McConville spoke.

Also in the crowd was former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R), his wife and former state Sen. Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R), Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), and former Arlington School Board member Dave Foster (R), now a candidate running for the Republican nomination for Attorney General.

McConville said he was running because he loved Mt. Vernon, and he felt the call to serve as he did when he joined the military two decades ago.

TELEGRAPH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: NEW RAMP FROM THE OUTER LOOP (I-95/495 NORTHBOUND) AND TELEGRAPH ROAD TO LOCAL AREA SIDE STREETS



Easing Telegraph Road

New ramps from the Capital Beltway's Outer Loop (I-95/495 North) at Telegraph Road will open on Saturday, May 30, allowing motorists to travel from the Beltway above Telegraph Road to eastbound Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway without sitting at a traffic signal.

New Surveillance Cameras for Metro Stations

FROM PAGE 1

streets leading to our stations gives us extra eyes to see what's going on in and around our system," said Metro Transit Police Chief Michael Taborn in a written statement announcing 20 new external surveillance cameras at 12 stations throughout the system. "We are concerned about improving the safety of our customers not only as they travel through the system, but also as they get to and from our stations."

Earlier this month, Metro board members were informed that the authority has received preliminary approval for federal funding to extend the cameras throughout the entire system — with new cameras being installed at every Metro station on the map. Some of the money will come from the Department of Transportation while the rest of it will come from stimulus money flowing out of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Although official notification of the federal money has not yet been issued, WMATA officials say they are anticipating approval in the next few weeks.

"We certainly anticipate receiving the money for this," said Cathy Asato, a spokeswoman for WMATA. "At this point, it's a matter of dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's."

Expanded use of surveillance cameras could spark a new debate about the expectation of privacy and the nature of fighting

crime in the 21st century. Some have argued in recent years that a growing reliance on security cameras is a burdensome intrusion into the lives of law-abiding citizens. The American Civil Liberties Union, for example, has often been critical of the technology.

"Many localities that have introduced security cameras in select locations have discovered that the cameras did not reduce crime overall," said Kent Willis, executive director of ACLU of Virginia. "They simply caused crime to be moved to another location outside the cameras' range."

PUBLIC-SAFETY officials say surveillance footage is often useful in prosecutions, even when crimes happen outside the frame of surveillance cameras. Back in 2006, for example, prosecutors in Alexandria used surveillance footage from inside the Suitland Metro station to construct a timeline that became a critical piece of evidence in the prosecution of a murder. The footage did not show a crime in progress, but prosecutors were able to use it as a key piece of evidence — placing their suspect in the right place at the right time and securing a conviction.

"I'm a big proponent of this type of technology," said Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel. "I would like to see it extended well beyond Metro stations."

But the tension between privacy and se-

curity in the modern world has created a nuanced discussion about the costs and benefits of surveillance cameras. Supporters of increased use of cameras point to example such as London and Tampa, where they say increased use of cameras has been a deterrent to crime. Opponents say that criminals simply move their crimes outside the area of surveillance. Others strike a tone of reluctant consent.

"I don't think cameras are warranted," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, who is also a member of the WMATA board. "I'm not opposed to them, but I also think that cameras don't stop crimes from happening."

Crime statistics compiled by the Metro Transit Police Department showed that stations with parking garages tend to have the most instances of crime. Public-safety officials say this is because people tend to leave valuables in their cars, which is often an invitation to criminals. Yet the Braddock Road Metro station ranked number four on Virginia's top-10 high-crime list, and people who live near that particular station say they have been concerned about a number of recent armed robberies near the station in the last year.

"That really had people on edge," said Leslie Zupan, president of the Inner City Civic Association. "So anything WMATA can do to encourage a sense of safety at the Braddock Road Metro station would be welcomed by our neighborhood."

Volunteer Coach Arrested for Sex Offenses

FROM PAGE 1

for the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association at that time.

During the investigation, detectives learned that Hamilton currently had a 16-year-old, foreign exchange student living with him. That student has been removed from the home by authorities.

Hamilton was arrested at his home on Friday, May 22, shortly before 10 a.m. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and was charged with one count of aggravated sexual battery and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child by a person in custodial or supervisory relationship. He was held without bond.

Detectives are asking parents who are concerned that Hamilton may have engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with their children or those who may have been a victim themselves, to call police.

The investigation continues and additional charges are possible.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637. Or call Detective J. Hinson at 703-246-7893 or the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131.



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Mount Vernon Country Club, Monday, June 1st - 11 a.m. Registration, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start



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BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 3

Seniors Health Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Inova Mount Vernon Hospital lobby, 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria. Receive free massages and screenings, and receive current information from medical professionals who specialize in treatment of stroke, high cholesterol and other pressing health concerns. call 703-750-8800 or visit www.inova.org/events.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

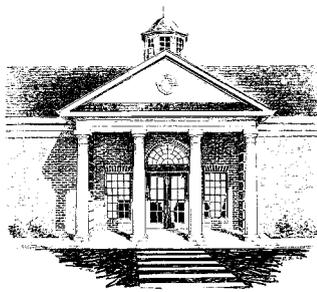
Business Networking Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At the Hilton at Mark Center Hotel, 5000 Seminary Rd. Free parking. Cast bar. "Mini Menu" for \$5. Sponsored by the West End Business Association, 703-845-2645. Open to all.

ONGOING

Hopkins House (www.hopkinshouse.org) is a local charity that provides preschool services for children and offers family education workshops for parents. This time of year donations of facial tissue, diapers/pull-ups, wipes, batteries, construction paper, and crayons are needed. 703-539-4232 ext. 4086.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Alex/Mt. Vernon \$619,900

9005 Nomini Lane

Large, stately Colonial w/2 car garage on quiet cul-de-sac. Beautifully updated kitchen opens to breakfast area & family room w/fireplace. Gorgeous hdwd flrs. Huge bedrooms. Spacious master bedroom w/lg dressing area & walk-in closet. Private, landscaped backyard w/new exquisite patio-great for entertaining. Unfinished basement offers ample storage-Scenic commute along GW Parkway - Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Ntl Airport, D.C. & Pentagon.



Great Falls \$875,000

12134 Holly Knoll Circle

Scenic Waterfront Colonial in Great Falls—6 BRs, 3.5 BAs, formal dining room w/fireplace, lovely remodeled kitchen, screened porch & deck overlooking stunning backyard w/koi pond/waterfall & 170' of scenic waterfront on 4-acre pond.

Library, new hardwood floors, replacement windows, central vac, alarm, underground sprinkler. Au pair/in-law suite in fully finished walk-out basement w/2nd kitchen & full bath.



Alex./Mount Vernon \$550,000

9326 Craig Avenue

Large brick 5 BR, 3 BA split w/2-car garage on a .4 acre lot in lovely Mt. Vernon area w/lots of trees. 2 fireplaces, energy efficient replacement windows, beautiful refinished hdwd floors on main level, new carpeting, landscaped fenced rear lot w/huge

deck off sunroom addition, freshly painted interior & exterior. Superbly priced so renovate kitchen/baths to your desire. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Alex, Old Town, DC/Pentagon.

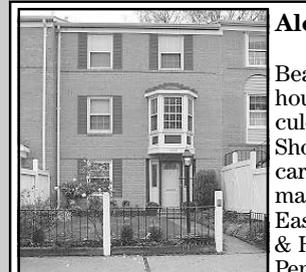


Alex./Hollin Hall Village \$389,900

2100 Shenandoah Road

Lovely, updated 2 BR+Den Rambler on a large beautiful Hollin Hall lot—Numerous updates: kitchen w/C.T. floor, cherry cabinets & granite counters – Newer roof & plumbing, replacement windows & an updated bath – Private, fenced, beautiful garden

patio. Wayneswood Elementary, easy commutes to Old Town, Ft. Belvoir, National Airport, Pentagon and D.C.



Alex./Pinewood Lake \$269,900

4332 Birchlake Court

Beautifully updated 3/4 bedroom town house w/2.5 baths. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac w/wonderful views of the lake. Shows like a model—fresh paint, newer carpeting & light fixtures. Meticulously maintained & great location by the lake.

Easy Commute to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town & Huntington Metro, National Airport, Pentagon & D.C.



Alex./Stratford \$559,900

8716 Linton Lane

Coming Soon in Stratford on the Potomac—Lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial w/brick front & carport. Very competitively priced in mid 500s. Actually the lowest priced Colonial in 22308! This is not a short sale or bank owned. Fam rm w/FPL off the kitchen.

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Alex./Riverside Ests. \$468,500

8426 Cherry Valley Lane

Large, lovely, 5BR, 3BA Split in popular Riverside Estates. Riverside's largest split w/ 2 car garage. Spacious FR w/FPL & beautiful sun rm addition. Neutral carpets over hdwd floors on main lvl & upgraded berber on lower lvl. Kit

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Three of students (in white) from the combined Hayfield/West Potomac Robotics Club participate in the Annapolis competition.

Robotics Club Competes in Annapolis

The competition season recently ended and the combined Hayfield and West Potomac Robotics Club experienced mixed success. They participated in regional competitions in Washington D.C. and Annapolis that consisted of about 65 teams each. At the start of each competition, officials quizzed the students on their robot to determine how well they understood the design.

In both competitions, the Hayfield and West Potomac Robotics Club achieved the highest grade possible. In addition, their computerized modeling and simulation took third place at the Annapolis com-

petition. Their robot finished the competition in the middle of the pack at the D.C. competition and in the bottom third at Annapolis. While the club's goal was to win these competitions, their results fueled their drive for next year. Several meetings were held on what could be done differently to improve their robot's design and build process. The club has continued to meet every other week to prepare for next year.

The club welcomes new members and mentors. Interested persons can contact either Hayfield Secondary School or West Potomac High School for more information.

**You Deserve a Day
Just for You.**

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital would like to welcome you to our annual Seniors Health Fair.

Come to our main lobby desk on Wednesday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll pamper you with free health screenings and free health and wellness information.

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To register, call 703-750-8800.



Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.



PHOTO BY FRED DIERKSMEIER

Scholarships for Junior Volunteers

The Shirley Grant scholarships were awarded to three junior volunteers at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. The winners each volunteered 150 hours, are graduating high school seniors and plan to major in health related areas while in college. Pictured with their parents, from left to right, are: Mrs. Khan; Niaz Khan, scholarship winner; Mr. Khan; Maggie Chaing, scholarship winner; Mrs. Chaing, parent; Mrs. Conner, parent; Meghan Conner, scholarship winner.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

The **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary** is currently accepting applications for adult volunteers. A variety of positions are available and every effort is made to match the volunteer's availability, interest and abilities. The hospital is located at 2501 Parker's Lane. Call 703-664-7260 or visit www.inova.org for more information.

Mt. Vernon Meals on Wheels is seeking a volunteer driver coordinator and a volunteer treasurer. For more information, please call Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Intake

Line: 703-324-5406, TTY: 703-449-1186, e-mail DFSAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa.

The **Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club** helps the children of this area enjoy special educational and recreational trips, summer camps, and many other healthy activities. For those who would like to give more service to the Mt. Vernon community, the club meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. for dinner and a program at the Mount Vernon Country Club on Old Mill Road. Contact Bruce or Joanne Malkin at 703-360-7725 or jbmalkin@verizon.net



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Remembering on Memorial Day 2009

On Memorial Day, we recognize that here in Northern Virginia, many local families continue to bear the personal sacrifice of having lost a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan. Nearly 4,300 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and more than 680 more have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "Danny really had a heart of gold," said his mother. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him."

2Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington. He graduated from West Point and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence branch.

Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Brown, a leader who often insisted on riding in the lead vehicles of convoys, the ones most likely to be targeted in an attack, was three weeks away from completing his tour of duty.

HERE ARE the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Specialist Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 years old when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities, including dur-

ing Memorial Day weekend.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007.

Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds suffered during combat in Anbar province in Iraq.

Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. He

had been a respected football and basketball player at J.E.B. Stuart High School and had proposed to his high-school sweetheart about three weeks before he was killed.

Airman 1st Class Lee Bernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, who, at age 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005.

Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005.

Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his heli-



U.S. Army Specialist Christopher Neiberger's headstone at Arlington National Cemetery.

PHOTO TAKEN BY DR. RICHARD E. NEIBERGER

copter was brought down in Iraq.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 28, 2005.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl.

Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount

Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army

Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Write

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LETTERS

Issue Far From Over

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my extreme disappointment that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will be eliminating 40+ library assistant (clerical) positions next year, including the full time position at Mount Vernon High School. I understand we are facing difficult financial challenges but eliminating the clerical positions in middle and high school libraries is not the right choice. I strongly believe the function of the library is a critical part of the school system. Some of the library media services which will be eliminated, curtailed, or reduced with the absence of clerical help include: closing the library after school, lunch and planning periods; delaying new library material for circulation; limiting time to update student and staff account information; curtailing weekly overdue reports; limiting the number of scheduled classes and books students checkout. There will be a backlog of books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials to be shelved (library circulation average 4,000

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

items a month). Ultimately it's the students who will suffer the most from this decision with the lack of library materials and research opportunities curtailed.

The job of the library support staff is to provide assistance that will allow the librarian to work directly with teachers, students and faculty in the school. Library support staff is required to have a general knowledge of the library media programs and specific skills necessary to perform these duties. The principal assigns office support to the library from the school's clerical allocation. With the elimination of numerous library support positions in middle and high school libraries, FCPS is out of compliance with the state-mandated staffing guidelines The Standards of Quality set forth by the state of Virginia as noted below:

The Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, which can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Accountability/soafulltxt.pdf>, states:

"Each school shall have at a minimum the staff as specified in the Standards of Quality with proper licenses and endorsements for the position they hold."

The Standards of Quality, which are a part of the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-253.13:2, which can be found at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+coh+22.1-253.13:2+700045>, states:

"5. Clerical personnel in elementary schools, part-time to 299 students, one full-time at 300 students; clerical personnel in middle schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students; clerical personnel in high schools, one full-time and one additional full-time for each 600 students beyond 200 students and one full-time for the library at 750 students."

This information is also available at www.fcps.edu under

FY2010 Budget, Staffing Standards Comparison, FCPS High School 9-12 Staffing Standards, and Office Personnel. Using this guideline, it seems Fairfax County middle and high schools have more than 750 students and qualify for full-time clerical support in the library according to the legal Code of Virginia.

How is FCPS justifying getting around this policy? Are the middle and high schools still going to be accredited? I have asked these same questions up the chain of command in FCPS. I received one reply from Debra Reeder, director of Employment Services, on behalf of Dr. Jack Dale, superintendent for FCPS, which states in part: "Total clerical allocations, based on formula, are made to schools on an annual basis. Principals have the discretion to utilize the staff in the way that best meets the needs of the school programs and meet minimum state requirements. I feel sure that all principals will develop creative methods for providing the necessary clerical staffing throughout their schools." How can minimum state standards be met when numerous clerical positions are being eliminated in the library?

The librarians were blind-sided by this budget cut decision. Does FCPS think it will be business as usual for librarians; that nothing will change? Why has FCPS put librarians in this terrible predicament? The reality is librarians are not going to work twice as hard with no clerical help and no pay raises. With this proposed change, the ability of the library media center to serve its students and staff will be greatly damaged. All library media centers, regardless of size, need an adequate level of clerical support staff. The budget decisions may be over but the issue is far from over.

Joyce Ramos

Library Admin. Asst.
Mount Vernon High School

Traffic Frustrations

To the Editor:

While it is understandable where a speed limit change might be considered on a road that has little in the way of obstruction (intersections / traffic lights, etc), for VDOT to even be looking at the Route 1 corridor from Alexandria down towards Ft. Belvoir amazes me. As a resident of the Mount Vernon area since birth, I travel up and down this very stretch of highway every day — both morning and evening. It is a rare event that I am able to reach and sustain 45 MPH for any appreciable length of time. It matters not what time of day you travel from the Woodlawn area to the Wilson Bridge interchange, you spend the bulk of your time sitting stopped at ill-timed traffic lights every few blocks (at times it seems like every few feet). While safety has to be the last word in relation to issues like this, there also needs to be some priority given to the practical needs of everyone using the highway. I cannot underscore enough the amount of time and expensive gasoline that is wasted on the Route 1 corridor every day.

At a time when money and resources are tight and will undoubtedly grow even tighter with ever increasing government control being phased in related to automobiles and fuel use, somebody needs to be willing to stand up and expect that the government agency in charge of our highways (VDOT) use more than statistics when making a snap judgment to further impede traffic flow more than they already have. Their incompetent handling of traffic signal timing on Route 1 costs us a fortune and now they want to slow things down even more. If VDOT wants to do something to help the motorists and pedestrians along Route 1, I believe that we would be better served if they would spend the same effort and resources and work on getting the traffic lights synchronized for smooth traffic flow and provide better crossing safety zones for pedestrians.

It looks to me like Virginia wants to use safety as an excuse to install another speeding ticket funding source and do nothing to actually help traffic congestion, fuel conservation and overall savings to families who now need every penny.

My message to VDOT is get Route 1 up to speed not slow it down.

Garry A.Scutt
Alexandria

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Connie McKeen 703.866.8118



OPEN SUN. 1-4

8817 LINTON LANE
Mt Vernon / Stratford - \$599,000

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Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



619 SOUTH ST ASAPH STREET
Alexandria - \$2,500,000

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1122 Waynewood Boulevard
\$589,000 | Alexandria South / Waynewood
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Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



UNSURPASSED CHARM

5959 Wilton Road
\$750,000 | Wilton Woods
Absolutely delightful five bedroom, two and a half bath brick cape cod situated on a beautifully landscaped 34,000 square foot lot in sought-after Wilton Woods. Hardwood floors, plaster walls, two fireplaces, screened porch. Located just a short distance to Browne Academy, Burgundy Farm Country Day School and the Huntington Metro.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



LIVE AT CARLYLE!

2151 Jamieson Avenue #606-607
\$795,000 | Carlyle Towers/ Greater Old Town
Terrific open floor plan! 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large eat-in kitchen, extra large 305+ enclosed balcony, wood floors, upgraded appliances, French doors, enlarged master bedroom, and garage parking. Sunny Views of park, fountain and trees. Close to restaurants, movies, Dash bus, and 2 Metro stops. www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



STUNNING RENOVATION

8301 Crown Court Road
\$769,000 | Riverside
No expense spared in this 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bath Riverside center hall colonial on .28 acres! Eat-in kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, formal living and dining rooms, crown molding, hardwood floors, renovated baths, recessed lighting, finished lower level rec room and 5th bedroom, new Anderson windows, fenced yard and 2 car garage.

Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



COTTAGE CHARM, HUGE LOT

7713 Schelhorn Road
\$425,000 | South Alexandria
How Sweet It is..... Delightful home with cottage charm and whimsy at a bargain price, just waiting for the perfect touch to unveil its true potential! Over 3/4 lot surrounded by mature trees and plantings, four bedrooms, three full bathrooms, kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring, back deck, great close-in location!

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2511 Appian Court
\$650,000 | Milway Meadows
Stunning renovation. 4 bedroom plus study, 2 full, 2 half baths, 1 car garage, formal living room and dining room, hardwood flooring, sunroom with vaulted ceilings, family room with fireplace off spacious eat in kitchen. Dir: S on Geo Wash Pkwy, R Morningside cross Ft Hunt to Sherwood Hall, R Davenport, L Elba, L Lisbon, L Milway to Appian.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

409 North Columbus Street
\$699,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Great opportunity to get this all brick townhouse! Charm and sunlight abound with its 12' ceilings and original wood floors. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, private patio, new roof and zoned air conditioning. From Washington and King Street, take Washington North, left onto Princess and first right onto Columbus to 409.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



CHARMING HOME

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



NEW LISTING!

8708 Bradgate Road
\$619,000 | Stratford Landing
Beautifully updated 4 BR, 3 BA split foyer in sought after Stratford Landing. Updated kitchen with glass tile backplash and granite countertops, refinished hardwood floors plus tile and granite flooring. All bathrooms have been remodeled. Extra bonus room and family room with a fireplace in basement. Stunning two level deck, patio and beautiful landscaping in back. A MUST see!

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



PRICE REDUCTION

6641 Wakefield Drive #703
\$292,000 | River Towers
Three bedroom, two 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, a natural bird sanctuary. Ample parking, swimming pool, tennis courts, picnic grove w/ grills and more. Convenient to Old Town, shops, restaurants and bus to Metro.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



JUST LISTED IN OLD TOWN

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



GRAND 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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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

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

Frann Orr | 703.623.4070



HEART OF BELLE HAVEN

6226 Ft. Willard Circle
\$2,100,000 | Belle Haven
 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath, on level lot, 10' ceilings, fine architectural details, hardwood floors. Gracious living room, formal dining room, sun-filled family room, state-of-the-art kitchen, sun/breakfast room, fabulous master bedroom and bathroom, lower level recreation room.

Jeanne Warner | 703.980.9106
 Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



RIVER VIEWS

8307 East Boulevard Drive
\$1,900,000 | Alexandria South
 Featured in the Washington Post, and on the House and Garden Show, this brick colonial boasts grand room sizes, fine moldings, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, abundant storage, oversized two car garage. This 5 bedroom plus 5 1/2 + 1/2 + 1/2 bath home features a fabulous artist studio plus fully finished basement with huge game room.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS - OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1503 River Farm Drive
\$1,799,000 | South Alexandria
 6,800 sq ft colonial on grand lot with tiered decks overlooking the Potomac River. 6 bedrooms, five full bathrooms and one half bathroom. Sunny kitchen with breakfast bar, two story foyer, formal dining room and living room, sunroom with bar, family room with fireplace, library. Bedrooms include two suites, plus a lower level guest area. Dir: From Old Town; S along the Geo Wash Pkwy, R River Farm Dr to 1503.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



NEW LISTING - OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2415 Lakeshire Drive
\$1,195,000 | South Alexandria
 Almost 1 acre in 22308 and a fabulous house comes with it! .97 acres of backyard oasis, a sunlit center hall colonial with 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car garage, sunroom, huge master, updated eat-in kitchen, many upgrades. More than enough room to grow and entertain. Directions: From GW Pkwy South: Collingwood exit, cross Fort Hunt Rd. 1st stop sign, left Riverside, 2nd right Lakeshire to 2415.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



JUST REDUCED

305 Cameron Street
\$1,650,000 | Old Town
 Opportunity to own a piece of history at an exceptional price. The Duvall House offers spacious and elegant rooms, 8 fireplaces, beautiful original random width pine floors suitable for professional offices or a charming upscale retail boutique. Excellent location across from City Hall and near the Potomac River.

Cindee Jackson | 703.518.6157



JUST LISTED

1005 Danton Lane
\$925,000 | Waynewood
 Fabulous three bedroom, three and a half bath colonial on beautifully landscaped lot with towering trees. Gracious colonial boasts three bay windows, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, butler's pantry, huge first floor family room, screened porch plus garage. Expansion potential in lower level could provide additional bedroom. This is a gem!

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



CLASSIC COLONIAL

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. Hardwood floors, kitchen with granite and center island, family room with vaulted ceilings opens to stone patio and landscaped backyard. Easy commute to DC along the Pkwy. Over 5100 finished square feet on 3 levels. Gorgeous landscaping, Waynewood School and just steps to the bike path. www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



BELLE HAVEN BEAUTY

6212 Foxcroft Road
\$1,350,000 | Belle Haven
 Gorgeous 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath brick center hall colonial on level lot in heart of Belle Haven. 10' ceilings, fine architectural details, hardwood floors. Gracious living room, formal dining room, sun-filled family room, state-of-the-art kitchen, charming sun/breakfast room, fabulous master bedroom and bathroom, lower level recreation room.

Jeanne Warner | 703.980.9106

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MUSIC

Fairfax Symphony: Great Expectations

Last Wednesday, May 21, the board of the Fairfax Symphony named Christopher Zimmerman as its new music director.

"I want to give people music that is entertaining, but music that is food for thought, food for their heart and soul. It has to be more than toe-tapping," Zimmerman said.

Six guest conductors — chosen from 249 applicants across the globe — auditioned at the six Masterworks Concerts to be the orchestra's first new music director in 37 years.

The standing ovation 1,200 patrons of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra gave guest conductor Christopher Zimmerman on May 2 garnered four curtain calls.

"He immediately took command ... and knew exactly what he wanted," said Tim Wade, principal second violinist who has performed with the orchestra for 29 years. "He knew his scores inside and out, and at the same time, he was a joy to watch — his movements, his facial expressions. His musicality is outstanding, he knows just what to say."

"You have a window of opportunity to really make



PHOTO BY BARRY WHEELER

Christopher Zimmerman, here as guest conductor of the Fairfax Symphony last month, has been named the symphony's new music director.

a big splash," said Elizabeth Murphy, executive director.

Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org or call 703-563-1990 to order tickets, \$25 and up (\$15 for students), for the 2009-2010 season.

Performances take place at George Mason University, Concert Hall of the Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax.

Visit www.connectionnewspapers.com for more on the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Zimmerman.

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COME HIKE AT MADEIRA

Sunday, June 7: 1-3pm

Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt: Led by Madeira biology and environmental science teacher, Heidi Freeman. Appropriate for kids of all ages and their parents.

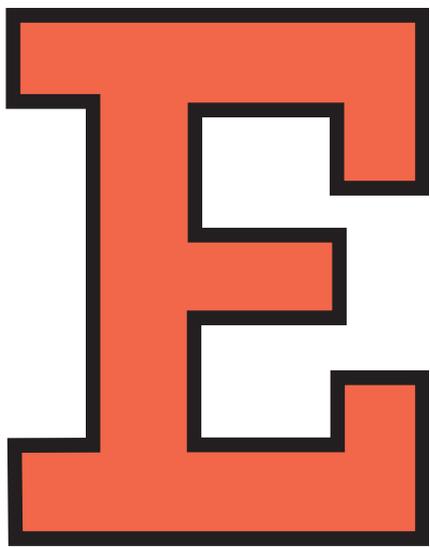
Flora and Fauna of Potomac Gorge: Brent Steury, Supervisory Biologist and Natural Resources Manager of the George Washington Parkway, will guide the hike and identify endangered plant life and abundant wildlife.

Bring a picnic to enjoy before the hikes set off at 1pm. Remember sunscreen, bug spray and sneakers. Please don't bring your dog. Rain or shine. Parking information available at the gatehouse.



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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra in costume.

The WBS Orchestra

The WBS Orchestra is organized in instrumental sections similar to a symphony orchestra, under the direction of a conductor. The instruments include domras in five voices (first and second prima domra, alto, tenor and bass), six sizes of balalaikas (prima, sekunda, alto, bass, contrabass), guslis, accordions/bayans, wind instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and folk winds), and both conventional and folk percussion instruments.

A Russian Folk Music Concert

Washington Balalaika Society celebrates 20th anniversary.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Think Russian folk music. Think “Dr. Zhivago.” Think all-volunteer, unpaid musicians ages 8-80’s. That’s the Washington Balalaika Society (WBS).

The 65-member orchestra is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with the spring concert, “Those Were the Days,” on Saturday, June 6 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Members of the 90-voice Metropolitan Chorus will also be performing in Gliere’s Hymn to a Great City and Borodin’s Polovtsian Dances from the opera “Prince Igor.” Barry Hemphill is its director. Alexandria’s Mayor William Euille will welcome the audience.

For the unfamiliar, popular Balalaika songs are “Sabre Dance,” “Moscow Nights March” and “Those Were the Days.”

“It is emotional music. It’s music that you tend to remember,” said founder Max McCullough, 72, of McLean.

He adds: “Russian music, mostly in minor keys, is either sad or happy music with a sad sound that really reflects the long 2,000 years of suffering and toil as the history of the Russian people.”

McCullough moved here from Houston where he was president of the Houston Balalaika Society with his wife Francie Fite, a divorce attorney. They organized the group with the help of Joel Leonard of Alexandria. With only eight musicians at the start, the concerts were informal but quickly earned notices. A life-long amateur musician, McCullough would learn to play almost all of the stringed instruments and be conductor for its first 14 years.

“Because we were here in our nation’s capital, we attracted some attention,” said McCullough.

One of the first shows was at The Birchmere and one of the earliest successes was pairing up with the Paul Hill Chorale at The Kennedy Center, which is now called the Master Chorale of Washington.



Andrei Saveliev of Falls Church.

A milestone came in 1998 when they were selected to help celebrate the 850th anniversary of the founding of Moscow at Carnegie Hall.

Organizer Joel Leonard, 70, of Alexandria said he found people from the Tacoma Mandoliers who could play mandolin, and trained them on playing the domra. The first real concert was at Langley High School.

“As soon as people found out about us, we were in demand from the very beginning,” said Leonard.

What is it about Balalaika music that’s inspiring? “It’s the richness and emotionalism of the music. I loved it the minute I heard it,” said Leonard.

He adds: “We try to maintain our focus on the traditions of the great folk orchestras of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and use the same arrangements.”

Leonard discovered that his parents were of Russian and Ukrainian decent, but never talked about it when he was growing up. “They were Jews who were forced to immigrate.”

While conducting a two-year search for the Russian conductor, Svetlana Nikonova, 42, they formed a guild and started fund-raising and going after grant money. Leonard calls her “very gifted ... She pushes you to sound better and better,” he said.

Once they hired Nikonova to be artistic director in 2003, they made the leap to sounding more professional.

Playing since the age of 6, Nikonova at-



Conductor Svetlana Nikonova, artistic director and arranger

tended the musical college and conservatory in St. Petersburg. By age 30, she was conducting the top Russian folk orchestra in her country. Her husband plays bayan (accordion), daughter Vavara plays percussion and son Zachar plays cello.

“Since we are a Russian folk instrument orchestra, we are trying to play more Russian music with Russian composers,” she said. “We are trying to bring the spirit of Russian music and culture here.”

She says she teaches mostly English-speaking Americans how to “feel the phrase” — how to interpret the Russian folk traditions.

“Most Russian songs are sad but we have a lot of happy songs,” she says. “It’s like every culture ... We have a lot of sad music stories but we also have a happy side of the culture.”

FALLS CHURCH RESIDENT Andrei Saveliev, 45, has been playing the Balalaika instrument all of his life. He’s also a Balalaika music teacher. A graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, he moved here in 1997 from Russia and works by day for Ikea.

He says Balalaika music, with its lush, soulful melodies, was more popular over the Russian radio about 30 years ago than it is today. He compares the faster Balalaika songs to American square dance music because of its rhythms; it’s what farmers used to play for entertainment after a long day in the fields.

Saveliev enjoys bringing the “Russian experience” to American audiences. “We were raised on those melodies,” he said.

Teresa Allen, 51, of Fairfax is a general internist by day who plays the prima domra in

To Go

“Those Were the Days” featuring Russian, Ukrainian and eastern European folk music. Arrangements by composers such as Khachaturian, Gliere and Borodin.

Saturday, June 6
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert hall,
NVCC, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N.
Beauregard St., Alexandria

Svetlana Nikonova — Conductor
Alexander Tsygankov — Domra
Anatoly Panchoshny — Basso
Andrei Saveliev — Balalaika
Tickets: \$35 reserved box seats; \$25 general admission; \$20 seniors; \$15 groups and students; Free-Children 12 and under with adult.

Order online at www.balalaika.org
Send check to WBS, 4910 Gadsen Drive,
Fairfax VA 22032. Call 703-549-2010.

the WBS. She started out playing violin and mandolin and didn’t even know what a domra was. “I walked in with minimal knowledge and found that they were so open and helpful, and I feel like I really progressed in the last few years.”

She adds: “It’s really nice to be able to join a group and know relatively little about a particular type of music and to grow with that and to learn.”

Board Member Elizabeth Gardner of Arlington was trained in opera and classical music then switched to playing instruments. After taking guitar lessons from a Ukrainian who was the concert mistress of the Washington Balalaika Society, she says she got hooked on the orchestra.

“It’s difficult enough to keep it interesting,” said Gardner who plays the tenor domra, “but not so difficult that it’s frustrating as a player.”

She adds: “The folk music of Russia is much more complex than the folk music of the United States. The chord structure is more complex.”

“The majority of the Russian folk music is in minor keys and there are three different versions of the minor scales — that allows for more variations in melodic lines,” Gardner said.

One of the perks of the WBS is it has several smaller ensembles that get hired to play at public events, like the Northern Virginia Arts Festival last week. There’s also a Children’s Music Academy that teaches children ages 7-14 to play Russian folk instruments. Classes are taught by Nikonova and meet Saturday afternoons once a week. Tuition for the children’s academy is \$60/month plus instrument rental. Call 703-644-9151.

LOCAL THEATER

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to the Alexandria Gazette Packet and Mount Vernon Gazette at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-917-6407.

Ongoing Events

See "Rosa de Dos Aromas (Two-Scented Rose)" at Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., from now through June 13. \$25/person; \$20/student, senior. Visit www.teatrodelauna.org or 703-548-3092.

"Tomorrow's Stars," summer drama camp by The Little Theatre of Alexandria. For children ages 5-12. Early June offerings include a mornings-only drama camp for rising K-2nd graders. Mid-summer session features a two-week camp that features morning drama classes and/or afternoon musical theatre instruction. Contact the theatre office weekdays at 703-683-5778, ext.2, or check for classes on the web site: <http://www.thelittletheatre.com>.

"Giant" through May 31 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Based on the novel by Edna Ferber. \$49-\$77/person. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-SEAT.

"The Prince Who Hopped a Bus" is playing through May 29.

Natural Theatricals presents free evenings of storytelling and spoken word. This original program is suitable for families and recommended for audiences ages 8 to 88. Advance tickets or reservations are not needed. Friday, May 22, and Friday, May 29. All performances start at 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Contact info@naturaltheatricals.com or call Brian at 703-739-9338. www.naturaltheatricals.com.

MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., presents "Heroes" extended through May 31. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$40-45. Visit www.metrostage.org or 800-494-8497 or 703-548-9044 for tickets.

Signature Theatre presents "See What I Wanna See" through May 31 at Ark Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Tickets range between \$49-\$77. Visit www.signature-theatre.org for more.

Port City Playhouse presents "The Curious Savage" from May 29 through June 14 at Lee Center for the Performing Arts, 1108 Jefferson St. Shows are Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m. with special Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.com for more.

See "Legacy of Light" through June 14 at Arena Stage. Tickets are \$25-\$66/person. Visit www.arena-stage.org or 202-488-3300.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MAY 28

Taste of Old Town North. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Food and beverage samplings from area restaurants. Free admission. Held at Montgomery Park, between Montgomery and First Streets in the Old Town North section. Call 703-836-8066.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Pentecost Concert. 8 p.m. Bach's Cantata No. 34 "O Ewiges Feuer" ("O Eternal Fire...") At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6100, ext. 13.

Celebrate the opening of the movie "Night at the Museum 2: Battle at the Smithsonian" by having a "Night at Mount Vernon"! George Washington's home is opening its doors for an unprecedented evening event May 29-31, from 6 to 9 p.m. Stroll the lantern-lit grounds and immerse yourself in the 18th century as the sun sets on the plantation. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$7 for youth ages 6-11. Advanced ticket purchase is available online through Visit.MountVernon.org and in person at the Ford Orientation Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to Visit.MountVernon.org.

Basic Gardening Series: A Garden Made in the Shade. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring's Master Gardeners share gardening tips on shade plants, clarify simple

steps and debunk horticulture myths. \$12/session. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

Music for Tuba. 8 p.m. Featuring Sgt. Gil Corella of the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive., Alexandria. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Relay for Life. 4 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School, Alexandria. Fund-raiser for The American Cancer Society. Visit www.RelayForLife.org.

Rummage Sale.

7 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, to support mission trip to Navajo Reservation in Arizona. Go to www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Voice and Piano Recital: Collaboration At Its Best. 7:30 p.m. Florence Gill (soprano) and Larissa Smith (piano) perform works by Gershwin, Floyd, Korngold, Schumann, Liszt, Chopin, Crumb and Ginastera at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 240-412-5844.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8



Civil War Sharpshooters

Reenactors representing the famed Civil War "Brady's Michigan Sharpshooters" come to Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site on Saturday, May 30 for a special living history program.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Featured activities will include a rifle display and presentation, skirmish drills, camp life scenarios, and a bugling demonstration to illustrate how riflemen moved and fired by signal calls. A clerk impression will take place in the Officers' Hut. Admission is free for this family-friendly event; donations are welcome. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-838-4848 or visit www.forward.org.

p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center. Go to www.vgmb.com, 703-281-3331.

Mayor's Cup Rugby Challenge. 10:30 a.m. start time. Free. The City of Alexandria, the Potomac Rugby Union and Alexandria Rugby present the Mayor's Cup Rugby Challenge Match. At George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Includes a youth clinic open to all youth at 1 p.m.

Living History Program. 10 a.m.-3

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Enjoy a rifle display, presentation, drills and more. Free. 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org for more.

Boating Safety Class. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway. \$40/person; \$60/couple. 703-780-0160 to register.

Old Cars in Alexandria. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Browse photos, see old cars and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

Outdoor Fun Storytime. Ages 3-6. 11:30 a.m. Celebrate summer and the fun outdoor activities that come along with it. Free. 703-548-4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. www.hooray4books.com

Pairing Tea with Food. 2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Look at the traditional pairings and make room on the table for some new creative combos. \$18. Call 703-941-7987 to register.

Propagating Woody Plants. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Work alongside Mary Frogale, Green Spring's propagator, to learn a new skill. \$28. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

All Alexandria Reads 2009 Finale: Story Time with Author Mary Quattlebaum. 11 a.m. Quattlebaum is the author of the Jackson Jones series! Free. Open to the public. Barnes & Noble, Potomac Yards, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway.

"dance4spaces" Spring Dance Concert. 7 p.m. At the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center in Alexandria. Guest artist Jocelyn Gordon. 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Adults \$10, ages 12-17 \$5, under 12 free. Email:

ccpdance@gmail.com, 703-683-2070, or go to www.ccpdance.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

Prince William Community Band Festival. 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the Sean T. Cunningham Community Plaza, 1 County Complex Ct, Woodbridge. The Mount Vernon Community Band will join the Prince William Community Band and the Loudoun Symphonic Winds in and afternoon of free concerts. Go to www.pwcb.org.

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

Dance Performance. 4:30 p.m. at King Street Gardens Park. See Jane Franklin Dance perform "Incidence." Free. Visit www.janefranklinedance.blogspot.com or 703-933-1111.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 3

Concert Band and Singing Sergeants. 8 p.m. Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Shaped Voice Singing Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Go to www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Old Town Farmers Market starts. 3-7 p.m. Continues each Wednesday through Oct. 28. Held at King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King St. (just a few steps from the King Street Metro - across from the Hilton).

Around the World of Strings. West Potomac High School Orchestra performs in the Kogelman Theater, Springbank Arts Building.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

West Potomac students move through the dance in the opening selection from "A Chorus Line"

20 Years/20 Shows at West Potomac

On Thursday, June 4 through Saturday, June 6, the West Potomac High School Choral Department will present "20 Years/20 Shows: The Best of WPHS Choral Spring Shows!" — a spectacular staged program of songs and dances from the past 20 years of choral productions. Included will be Broadway songs, classic standards by Gershwin, Ellington, and Berlin; and many popular songs from various decades of the 20th century. Starring in the program will be the 100-plus singers in the choral department, including the Bunchagize, Bella Voce, Colonial Singers, Freshman Concert Women, and the Symphonic Women

Special guests include faculty favorites Garry Relton and Steve Rice; the "Pyramid Kids" — children from Hollin Meadows, Belle View, Ft. Hunt, Waynewood, Groveton, and Stratford Landing elementary schools, and singers from Sandburg Intermediate School.

The program will also feature a few solos by WP Choral alumni who are singing professionally. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the WPHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets may order be ordered online at www.westpotomacchoirs.org.

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Wolverine Breakthrough Falls Short in Quarterfinals

After first-round upset, West Potomac's softball team loses in regional quarterfinals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE GAZETTE

Maurice Tawil's three years as head coach of the McLean High girls' softball team would make for a successful manual on how to get progressively better with each season.

The Highlanders, who have shown steady improvement since Tawil took over the program in 2007, won their biggest game during his time defeating a tough, scrappy West Potomac squad, 7-2, in a Northern Region quarterfinal playoff game over the Memorial Day weekend.

West Potomac (10-9) can take solace in losing to an up-and-coming McLean squad after a fairly successful season under first year head coach Rick Anderson came to a close. The Wolverines, the fourth place team from the Patriot District, won a first-round region playoff game over Yorktown. In the process they showed the pieces may already be in place to improve in the same manner

as the opposing Highlanders have in recent years.

"It was a great year," said Anderson. "We had lots of fun and the girls played really hard. The seniors adapted well [to the new coaching staff], drove the team well and were enthusiastic. We have a lot to build on."

MONDAY'S HOLIDAY evening game, played under overcast conditions and some light rain, saved its dramatics for the latter innings. McLean looked to be in control of things through five innings. Sophomore pitcher Jamie Bell had limited West Potomac to just three hits in five shutout innings of work. The McLean offense, meanwhile, had scored a second inning run thanks to an RBI double by Allison Wilhelm, and tallied two more in the third inning on an RBI single off the bat of Megan Sullivan. On the Sullivan groundball base hit into right field, a second run ultimately crossed the plate as a result of a West Potomac defensive error.

But West Potomac, which had not scored after loading the bases on three walks in the fifth, finally got on the scoreboard in the top half of the sixth inning. Jess Harrington started the inning with a walk. Bell, however, retired the next two hitters and was one out away from keeping the shutout intact. But Wolverine hitter Maggie

Berrigan reached on an infield single to set up runners on first and third.

That set up the strangest play of the game. Kelly Wood, the Wolverines' No. 9 hitter, grounded a single into right field. One run scored on the hit. Wood, however, was caught in a rundown between first and second and appeared to be tagged out at first before a second run had crossed the plate.

But following a lengthy umpires' meeting, it was ruled Wood was safe at first as a result of a McLean infielder dropping the ball on the tag. Thus, the second run was allowed and the Wolverines closed to within 3-2. Bell got out of the inning by retiring the next batter and the game moved into McLean's bottom half of the sixth.

There, any hopes of a West Potomac comeback pretty much ended as the Highlanders busted things open with four runs. The big blow was a two-out, three-run home run off the bat of No. 3 hitter Lauren Sutherland that made the score 7-2. West Potomac went down in order in the seventh to give McLean the victory.

In the loss, West Potomac received a fine pitching effort from freshman Morgan Maniglia, who also threw a gem in the 3-2 upset victory over Yorktown last Friday.

"She pitched a beautiful game," said Anderson, who said Maniglia was his team's choice for the All-Tournament team. "It was a good game and we hung in there."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac freshman pitcher Morgan Maniglia helped lead the Wolverines to a first round regional playoff upset over Yorktown last Friday.

McCants Goes from Worst to First

FROM PAGE 1

therefore cementing himself as a dark horse heading into this weekend's state championships in Newport News, Va.

McCants led the Wolverine boys' team to a second-place finish in the team competition, behind just South Lakes, who featured the only male athlete comparable to McCants in this area, senior Vincent Brown.

"I just know all the hard work I put in paid off," said McCants, who could have medaled in four events had he not had a disappointing showing in the triple jump. "All the pain is worth it because when you get three gold medals, it just feels great."

IT WASN'T ALWAYS golden for McCants, though. He began running competitively as

a tall, lanky, and shy freshman. His form was awful, he wasn't all that fast, and got lost in the shuffle thanks to a combination of those factors.

But beneath that reserved demeanor was a highly motivated individual waiting to be unleashed. When his times began improving his sophomore season, it spurred McCants to work even harder. As a junior at the Northern Region outdoor meet, he took third in the 400-meter dash and helped West Potomac to another 4x400-meter relay victory. But it wasn't enough. McCants wanted to be mentioned among the elite.

"A lot of kids who are fast like him just settle," said sprint coach Andrew DeCoster. "But every practice while other kids slink off to the bathroom, he just goes out and runs. By working hard, he has found ...

something he can get better and better at."

But what sets McCants apart from the average hard worker is his sheer competitive instinct. West Potomac coaches marvel at how McCants just hits another gear when someone approaches him in a race. Earlier this season at the prestigious Penn Relays, he anchored the Wolverines' 4x400-meter relay team that finished with the fastest recorded time in all of Virginia.

Described as "quiet" by friends and coaches, McCants "just hates losing." So what about that poor showing in the triple jump last week? Well, DeCoster thinks it was the main reason his star runner blew away the competition in his other three races.

"He's a lot of talent and a lot of just competitive drive," said DeCoster. "He's really quiet, but if you know him well, you can see it in his face. So that triple jump just fired him up extra for the other races."

AS A RESULT, McCants is starting to pick up some serious interest from colleges. His plan is to walk on to the Virginia Tech track and field team next fall, but a strong showing this weekend at the state meet could ratchet up interest from other schools with scholarships available.

Still, even with all the accolades coming his way of late, McCants can't help but marvel at how far he has come.

"If you had seen me freshman year," McCants said as he waited to collect his third gold medal. "You wouldn't believe that I would be here now."

Mount Vernon Hurdles the Field

FROM PAGE 1

even while leaping over hurdles. Hill follows the same template in workouts.

"Sometimes I keep up with them, not all the time," said Cameron, a junior who didn't even qualify for the final heat in the hurdle events as a freshman and sophomore at regionals. "There are some days when I just can't."

The Majors' dynamic duo now moves onto the state meet, where both have the ability to finish in the top-eight, which would earn them all-state honors.

Other strong finishers from this area at the regional meet included West Potomac's Meghan Conner, who took second place in the pole vault competition. The Wolverines' Sarah Jane Underwood and Julianne Bigler both finished third in the 800- and 3200-meter runs. Overall, the West Potomac girls' took fourth place. On the boys' side, Joe Bradley came in third in the 800-meter run. For Mount Vernon, McMillon took second place in the triple jump, while Josh Edmonds finished in third place in the discus throw.

But nobody on the Majors or West Potomac could match the leaping prowess of Hill or Cameron. "They're putting themselves in a really elite company in terms of hurdles and they're both coming back," said Lolagne. "One can only tell what's in store for them next year."

MOUNT VERNON SPORTS BRIEFS

First Round Losses for MV Baseball, Softball

Both the Mount Vernon baseball and softball teams lost in their first round Northern Region tournament matchups last Friday night.

The Major baseball team fell victim to a stellar pitching performance, losing 7-2 to Lake Braddock, winners of

two of the past three regional titles. Led by starter Brian Derner, the Bruins pitching staff carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning before Mount Vernon's Mike Murdock broke it up with a triple. The Majors scored a run in both the sixth and seventh innings. Mount Vernon ended the season with a 15-9 record.

Meanwhile, the Mount Vernon softball team dropped its first round regional game, 2-1, to Patriot District foe Annandale.

Roxie Godfrey Named Teacher of the Year

Roxie Godfrey, who teaches family and consumer sciences at Mount Vernon High School, has been named the Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year.



Roxie Godfrey

Godfrey, who has taught in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for more than 17 years, teaches Gourmet Foods, International Foods and Hospitality, and Fitness and Foods and has also served as lead teacher in charge of managing the family and consumer sciences department. At Mount Vernon, she has also served as career and technical education department chair. She recently developed an online family and consumer sciences Life Planning course for high school students. Godfrey was instrumental in starting a chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and helping her students win district and state competitions.

Godfrey earned her bachelor's degree in home economics education and home management from Texas Tech University and her master's and doctoral degrees in education — with a specialty in distance education — from Regent University.

Godfrey was formally honored at the 2009 Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences State Conference last month and will be recognized at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Conference in June.

Meeting To Review Route One Safety Improvements

The state Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting on May 28 for residents of the Mount Vernon District to discuss the proposal to lower the speed limit on Richmond Highway from 45 mph to 35 mph and to provide the community with the opportunity to learn about VDOT's safety study on how to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety along the Route One corridor.

The meeting will be held at the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Gain from Stimulus Plan

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation and the Advisory Board Program are sponsoring a panel discussion on the federal Economic Stimulus Plan on Tuesday, June 16, 8:15 - 10:15 a.m. at South County Government Center.

Cost is \$15 if registered by June 12 and \$20 by June 16. Contact the SFDC at 703-360-5008 or info@sfdc.org.



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Snapshot Star Trek beams down by a contorted Willow in the window of the Virginia Florist Shop, 10:02 p.m., May 15.

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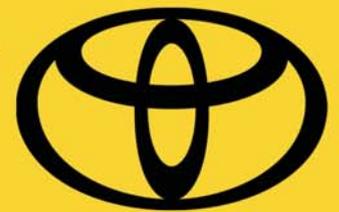
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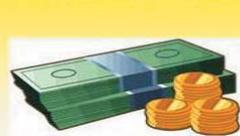
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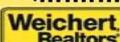
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