

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 30

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

JULY 30, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CAZETTE

Ed Clark Jr., president of The Wildlife Center of Virginia, holds one of the three young eagles that are to be released back into the state park on Saturday afternoon.

Rescued Eagles Take Flight

Three Bald Eagles released at Mason Neck.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Three rehabilitated, rescued eagles were released into the wild Saturday before more than 300 people at Mason Neck State Park.

The brown feathered first of year birds — they don't acquire their classic photogenic white head until they reach five years old — are "early jumpers," according to Edward Clark, Jr., president of the Virginia Wildlife Center. They left the nest earlier than they should have and would not have survived if not for alert rescuers who brought the birds into the Virginia Wildlife Center located in Waynesboro, Va. for medical care and rehabilitation.

According to the center's literature, the Wildlife Center was founded in 1982 and "is the nation's leading teaching and research hospital for native wildlife." It treats native wildlife at no charge. In 2007 it rescued 29 Bald Eagles; in 2008 36 Bald eagles were rescued. According to Clark

there are 16 active nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the north Potomac River region — the highest number ever recorded for the area. Occasionally one can observe an adult pair of Bald eagles roosting by a nest at the edge of the Bell Haven country club golf course off the western side of the Mt. Vernon Parkway by Dyke Marsh.

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, who attended the event, called the release very special, and in brief remarks characterized the birds as our national "symbol of American strength."

Asked what the release of the three Bald eagles meant to the Mason Neck Park, J.A. Lowery, park manager, said, "This represents 30 years

of effort by many citizens and the government; it is an incredible moment in the life of the park." One rescuer, Sarah Allison, who traveled from Fredericksburg to witness the release, said she found her stressed young eagle at a Girl Scout camp. She knew to take it to a raptor rescue site that in turn transported the stressed-out bird to the Wildlife Center. "I am ecstatic about

SEE RESCUED EAGLES, PAGE 8

At a Crossroads

Could lease to Wal Mart derail plans for region's revitalization?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

Mount Vernon residents have been dreaming for years of a revitalized Richmond Highway, a vision that includes moving away from old-fashioned urban sprawl of big-box stores and gigantic parking lots. The revitalization effort has prompted community meetings, plans for mixed-use development and even amendments to the county's comprehensive plan. But all those efforts could be undone now that a major property owner has submitted a building permit to county officials to build a Wal-Mart — exactly the kind of planning revitalization advocates have been trying to reverse.

"This will decimate the opportunity for revitalization," said Katherine Ward, co-chair of the

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. "We do not need, nor do we want, another Wal Mart on Route One."

The property, known as Kings Crossing, has long been seen as the key to the revitalization effort. Before

"Nobody is happy with this proposal."

— Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Maryland-based JBG Rosenthal purchased it, the site was being considered for a mixed-use development by Vienna-based JPI Development. But those plans were scuttled by a number of interests that

SEE ANOTHER, PAGE 18

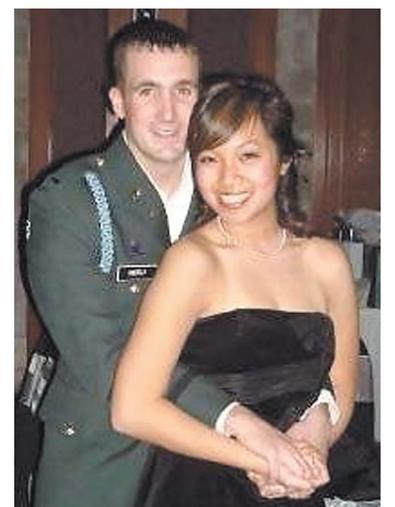
Dream Wedding for Two

Couple wins \$100,000 contest.

BY KRISTEN MCCARTHY
THE GAZETTE

Planning a wedding usually involves a devotion of time and careful planning to ensure that the day is perfect. However, for a local couple, every detail has been taken care of for them. All that they need to do is to show up.

SEE COUPLE WINS, PAGE 4 **Van Gno and Eric Oberly**



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807 North Howard Street, #222
\$285,000 | Alexandria, The Plaza
The Plaza is a two acre enclosed courtyard of lush landscaping, pool, walks and quiet places. This two bedroom, two bath split model is perfect for entertaining. Includes new paint, clean carpet, fully equipped updated kitchen, spacious and oversized closets, extra on-site storage and washer/dryer. Off street parking.

Fran Orr | 703.623.4070



DESIGNER TOUCHES

300 Princeton Boulevard
\$1,000,000 | Alexandria City
Bright and open with designer touches. 4 bedroom/office, studio, 3.5 baths, high ceilings, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, new kitchen with island, stainless steel appliances, granite, breakfast room opens to family room, deck with hot tub, finished lower level, walk to pool and Macarthur Elem.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



GLORIOUS RIVER VIEW

122 Madison Place
\$1,250,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Beautiful and pristine, this 3 level brick Townhome boasts gracious sun-filled rooms, high ceilings, thick moldings, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, a delightful bay window and inviting patio. The eat-in kitchen boasts new Jenn-Air appliances installed in June '09. 2 off-street parking spaces! Overlooking Potomac River and Founder's Park, a terrific Old Town value!

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



GARDEN PARADISE

1616 Sherwood Hall Lane
\$595,000 | Hollindale
Beautiful and private home tucked on a surprisingly secluded and delightfully large lot, filled with mature trees and flowers in bloom, with two decks, charming shed and an abundance of space. Nicely updated interior, with bright and open rooms, large recreation room, two fireplaces, hardwood flooring and French doors to gardens.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



TRUE COLORS OF OLD TOWN

125 North Payne Street
\$699,000 | Old Town Alexandria
A charming, sunny house with long garden, 2 bedrooms, new eat-in kitchen, 1.5 bathrooms. Close to King Street metro and shops. Exposed brick walls, neutral paint, cathedral ceilings, skylights, hardwood flooring! For information or floor plan call Marie! For more photos go to www.125NorthPayneSt.com. MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



NEW PRICE!

2151 Jamieson Avenue, #606-607
\$775,000 | Carlyle Towers/ Greater Old Town
Large, bright and open. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, glass enclosed balcony. Sunny views of the fountain park. Wood floors! Large eat in kitchen, expanded master bedroom with extra closet, garage parking. Tennis, concierge, 2 Metro stops, shops, dining and more! www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, NEW PRICE!

1205 Stonell Place
\$999,950 | Alexandria
Classic center hall colonial with loads of upgrades and designer touches. Spacious, elegant formal living and dining rooms, cozy family room with fireplace, sunny eat-in gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets, stainless appliances, master suite with fabulous bath and huge lower level rec room, bedroom & full bath! 2 car garage, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths.

Cindee Jackson | 703.518.6157



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6420 Wood Haven Road
\$949,000 | Alexandria South/New Alexandria
5,700+ sq ft, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car gar, 2 fireplaces, 10 foot ceilings, hwdws, kitchen w/ granite, island, breakfast bar, table space, large family rm. Private treed yard. Formal living rm/ dining rm, Master w/luxury tub and shower. Steps to bike path and shopping. GW Parkway south, right on Belle Haven Rd, left on Potomac Lane, left on Olde Towne Rd, right on Wood Haven Road.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



GREEN OASIS!

6123 Stegen
\$849,000 | Wilton Woods
The setting on this beautiful house is extraordinary --private, brick patio and walkways, mature trees and plantings, lighting, fountain. Must see this gorgeous landscape. The house feels new with many upgrades and convey items, including three large plasma TVs! Five bedrooms on 2nd level, fully equipped exercise room, 2-car garage.

Rita McCauley Redmond | 703.447.9114



DELIGHTFUL OLD TOWN!

811 Gibbon Street
\$514,900 | Old Town Alexandria
2 BR, 2.5 BA brick TH, updated baths, HW floors, crown molding, expansive wood-burning brick fireplace, large sunny kitchen, great open floor plan, master bath w/ skylight, spacious guest room, huge attic storage with potential for loft expansion, enclosed brick patio and off street parking. Great location just blocks to the heart of Old Town, The Beltway, Metro and More! www.JoyDeevy.com.

Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



HUGE LOT!

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 with sitting room, updated eat-in kitchen with granite counters, center island, new appliances, hardwood floors and more. Over 5,000+ Sq Ft. Many upgrades, freshly painted. More than enough room to grow and entertain.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



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What's New at MVCCA

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

As the largest single deliberative body in the area, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations' (MVCCA) positions are given serious consideration by local, state, and federal officials and private organizations such as the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, commercial, industrial, and non-profit organizations.

The council, which meets monthly, has nine standing and two special committees that meet to deliberate on a variety of budget, transportation, affordable housing, environment, public safety, education, zoning and other issues. Recommended positions are then forward to the council to be voted on by the presidents of the various associations. The positions embodied in the resolutions are then forwarded to the appropriate local, state, regional, and federal government entities, and the Federation of citizen associations for their consideration. The council next meets in September. The following news briefs are the result of actions and discussion from its July 22 meeting.

For a complete record of the proceedings of the MVCCA and its standing and special committees access their Web site: www.mvcca.org

RESOLUTIONS VOTED

- ❖ Require Tree Workers Certification and Licensing: Passed
- ❖ Regulation of Illegal and Intrusive Motorcycle Noise: tabled; Referred to Public Safety Committee.
- ❖ Resolution on the BRAC APR Nomination for 08-IV-9S (Telegraph Road & Parkway); support of Light industry zoning: Passed.
- ❖ Resolution on Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Redefine Residential Grade Level ("looming" ordinance): Passed.
- ❖ Resolution on Transportation to Call on VDOT and Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund study designs to upgrade Route 1 Highway: provided to Citizens Association members by the Transportation Committee as an information item to be voted on by the MVCCA in September.

OTHER ISSUES:

- ❖ Newington Civic Association representative attended to inform the membership that they opposed the Comprehensive Master Plan for Redevelopment of the Lorton Reformatory as currently designed by the Alexander Co., because it removed the previously agreed to "magnet housing" that was intended for use by artists, police, teachers, nurses, and firefighters.
- ❖ South County Council of Citizens Associations informed the membership that they are opposed to the installation of a new landfill in Lorton; Requested that MVCCA join in opposing the landfill project.
- ❖ Federation of Civic Associations liaison presented the U.S. Congressional Bill: HR 1635, Northern Virginia Metro Extension Act; to be voted on by MVCCA in September.

HYLAND REPORT

Highlights of Supervisor Gerald Hyland's remarks to the MVCCA:

- ❖ A new Walmart Retail Store is planned for Route 1 and North Kings Crossing site. This site is several miles north of the present one located at the intersection of Route 1 and Sherwood Hall Lane. He informed the members that it is a "by right" development project which does not require board approval. The county government would only be able to influence the project if the developers requested a special exception. Hyland does not support the project, offering that "no one is happy with this project."
- ❖ The Board of Supervisors convened a retreat recently. Among the subjects was the projected county revenue shortfall for the next fiscal year. Therefore, at the direction of the board, county staff are analyzing alternatives to achieve additional revenue. One alternative is to evaluate the worth of increasing the tax rate on: the meals tax, BPOL (business) tax, and the gross receipts tax.
- ❖ On July 13 the board approved the following Route 1 improvements: Mulligan road expansion to four lanes; authorized \$3 million for the design of a Route 1 highway expansion from Route 235 south to the Fairfax county parkway. This latter item was funded after the board requested funding assistance from the Virginia Department of Transportation for several years without success.

More Seek 'Gifted' Classes

Parents worry about impact on GT centers.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

In 2005, Anne Whipple was faced with a choice. Her son, then a rising third grader, had scored high enough on a standardized test to enroll in the local gifted and talented center at Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna.

But Whipple's base school, Great Falls Elementary, was also starting a brand new advanced academic program that officials promised would be comparable.

Great Falls was one of school system's first elementary schools to provide "level IV services," Fairfax's most advanced instructional programming, for students identified as gifted who wanted to stay at their base school.

Traditionally, elementary schools could only offer level IV services if they housed a regional gifted and talented center. With only a few locations in the county, each center pulls students from several communities and most students are leave their neighborhood school when they enroll.

Whipple, a former Great Falls Parent Teacher Association president, wanted her son to be challenged in class but she did not like the idea of sending him to the school in Vienna, away from his community and friends. So her family decided he would remain at Great Falls Elementary and enroll in the homegrown gifted and talented classes.

"The reason to have non-center level IV services is so you can keep kids in their own community. We can provide [gifted and talented education] without having to bus 25 kids all the way to Colvin Run," said Whipple.

"This is our school and our community. ... I have certainly heard the opinions that a proper center is better but there would have to be a really, really big difference in the quality of instruction for us to consider taking our kids out of our home community."

OTHER PARENTS share Whipple's sentiment and find the concept of "level IV services" at

Local Programs

Three elementary schools and one middle school in the Mount Vernon area provide level IV services, Fairfax County Public Schools' most advanced category of educational instruction.

Stratford Landing Elementary School's gifted and talented center serves students who have qualified for the advanced academic program from the following base elementary schools: Belle View, Bucknell, Fort Hunt, Groveton, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Stratford Landing and Waynewood.

Riverside Elementary School's gifted and talented center serves students who have qualified for the advanced academic program from the following base elementary schools: Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Washington Mill, Woodlawn and Woodley Hills.

Washington Mill also offers local level IV services, which school officials equate to gifted and talented centers, to its third and fourth grade students who qualify.

Students who are "center eligible" at all three programs can eventually matriculate to gifted and talented center at Sandburg Middle School.

base schools appealing.

At the request of a principal, Fairfax County school officials launched a pilot program providing local level IV services for "center eligible" students at Beech Tree Elementary in Annandale in 2004.

The principal pushed to offer advanced academic classes at the school because so many students were leaving Beech Tree early and transferring to the local gifted and talented center.

The success of the program at Beech Tree convinced officials to extend the arrangement to other neighborhood schools, like Great Falls, who also were also interested in retaining their local students that were "center eligible."

Since 2004, the number of base elementary schools offering local level IV services has grown to 33, more than the number of elementary schools with gifted and talented centers.

According to a School Board presentation July 13, families tend to choose enrolling their children in gifted and talented classes at the local school over sending them to a gifted and talented center somewhere else if they have the option.

Of the 602 elementary and middle school students who were both "center eligible" and had level IV services available at their neighborhood school last year, 53 percent chose to remain at

SEE MORE SEEK 'GT,' PAGE 7

Lightning Destroys Mount Vernon Home

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire at approximately 11:15 p.m., Thursday, July 23, in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 9309 Allwood Court.

Firefighters encountered heavy fire and smoke coming from the roof of the one-story home upon arrival. The fire was controlled by firefighters performing an exterior attack to the home due to the large volume of fire. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 50 minutes. The home was vacant. A neighbor reported the fire after they saw flames coming from the structure. The home was a total loss. There were no injuries.



This home on Allwood Court was struck by lightning July 23.

Damage is estimated at \$432,000. According to fire investigators, a lightning strike on the roof caused the fire.

Couple Wins \$100,000 Dream Wedding Contest

FROM PAGE 1

For the second consecutive year, WeddingChannel.com and US Weekly have promoted an online Dream Wedding contest. The winning couple receives a \$100,000 value wedding. Van Gno and Eric Oberly, an engaged couple, never dreamt of winning the contest. However, their dream became a reality when Gno submitted their story to

this wedding," said Charli Penn, managing editor of WeddingChannel.com.

Out of two to three thousand entries, Gno and Oberly were selected as one of the top 10 finalists for the contest by a group of editors from WeddingChannel.com and US Weekly. Next, they allowed people to select which couple they wanted to win the dream wedding by voting online. The editors made the final decision on who would win.

On June 24, WeddingChannel.com flew Gno and Oberly out to New York and told them that they were still selecting the winners. When the couple arrived, they learned that they were the actual winners. "I'd say disbelief, shock," said Gno, when she was asked about her initial reaction.

The theme for the dream wedding contest this year is "Celebrity Inspired Wedding." The couple's favorite celebrity inspired wedding is Eva Longoria and Tony Parker's nuptials. Gno and Oberly's wedding will be held in Washington D.C. during September. However,



Van Gno and Eric Oberly

there is a catch. WeddingChannel.com and US Weekly are planning the entire event. "We tell them a vision and ideas for our wedding and they run with it. Everything is a surprise. They won't tell you anything. We know we have a wedding in D.C. in September," said Gno. Both are looking forward to seeing what their big day will be

like. "They have all these connections. It's a \$100,000 value wedding. People are contributing. All of their connections are making it a fabulous wedding," said Oberly.

Unlike many couples, Gno and Oberly will experience little stress in planning their wedding. Every detail will be organized by celebrity wedding planner Amy Shea Jacobs who coordinated Lisa

Loeb's wedding. Gno has been flown to New York twice to plan some of the details for the wedding, such as hair and make-up. She attended a hair trial with stylist Ricardo Rojas, who has done Mariah Carey's hair. Make-up artist Eve Pearl helped to select Gno's make-up for her wedding in September. Eve Pearl has worked with Brooke Shield's make-up. Gno even got to work out with trainer Marco Borges, whose list of clients include Beyonce, Jay-Z and Gwen Stefani.

Gno and Oberly met in November 2006 on the first day of a new job, at the Patent and Trademark Office. Both are patent examiners. Gno is originally from Orange County, Calif. and Oberly is originally from Greenfield, Ind. After meeting, they dated for two years. Oberly was deployed to Iraq in 2008 for a year. To keep in touch, the two exchanged letters, e-mails and spoke on the phone. Gno also sent multiple care packages. Oberly proposed to Gno in the Shenandoah Valley at sunset, when he was home on two-weeks leave from Iraq.

They really deserve this wedding."

— Charli Penn, managing editor, WeddingChannel.com

WeddingChannel.com after seeing an ad for the contest while browsing the Internet for wedding ideas.

"We were just looking for a couple with a great story. We also considered people's votes. They really deserve

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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.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

The Alexandria Giant Food at 6800 Richmond Highway, Beacon Mall, will celebrate its grand re-opening with tastings, live music and prizes. The celebration will continue throughout the weekend. The first 250 customers to enter the store at 6 a.m. receive a \$10 Giant gift card.

TUESDAY/AUG. 4

Huntington National Night Out. 5:30-10 p.m. In the Huntington Community, where a Flashlight Parade will take place at the corner of Fenwick Drive and Huntington Avenue at 8 p.m.

Engleside National Night Out. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Weenie Roast at the Simpson Home, 8444 Woodlawn Street, corner of Highland Lane and Woodlawn Street, across from Woodlawn Elementary.

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112. Free and open to public. Features a presentation entitled "Finding Your Family in the Library: Making the Most of Your Library's Resources." Presented by Don Wilson, librarian at the Bull Run Regional Library in Manassas. Go to: www.MVGenealogy.org or call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

South County Middle School Land Exchange

September 23, 2009

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on September 23, 2009, in Room 106/107 at the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, VA. The hearing is being held to receive public comment on the proposed land exchange in Mount Vernon District between the Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Public Schools.

The park property consists of an approximately 40-acre portion of Laurel Hill Park, identified on the Fairfax County Real Property Identification Map as Tax Map No. 107-3 ((1)) parcel 19 (part). The Park Authority would exchange this property for an approximately 40-acre parcel owned by Public Schools, identified as Tax Map No. 98-3 ((1)) 25. The proposed land exchange will allow the South County Middle School to be developed adjacent to the existing South County Secondary School. This consolidation will provide public schools with opportunities for shared building and facility uses. The development of the middle school will also provide the Park Authority with an entrance into the new park site and 118 shared parking spaces for off-hour use by park patrons.

Public input on the proposed land exchange can be sent to the Fairfax County Park Authority until August 24, 2009. Anyone wishing to speak at the public hearing may call Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer at 703-324-8662 or send an email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Speakers may also sign up the night of the hearing. Written comments should be directed to David R. Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 406, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. Email comments should be sent to: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

703-324-8700 • ONLINE : www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354



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OPEN SUN. 1-4



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Alex/Mount Vernon \$539,900
9413 Forest Haven

Lovely, renovated, 4BR, 3BA Rambler on a huge .59 acre private & wooded lot. Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates is a premiere waterfront community w/one of the finest marinas in N. VA. 3000 sq.ft. rambler w/updated kitchen & baths, refinished hdwd floors on main level & new ceramic tile floor & carpet in lower lvl. Freshly painted interior& exterior. This is a finely polished pearl! 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Alex, 25-30 minutes to Nat'l Airport, Pentagon or D.C.



Alex./Mount Vernon \$529,900
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, D.C./Pentagon.



Alex./Stratford \$559,900
8716 Linton Lane

Lovely 4BR, 2.5 BA Colonial w/brick front & carport. Very competitively priced in mid 500s. This is not a short sale or bank owned. Family room w/fireplace off the kitchen. Hardwood floors on the main & upper levels w/partial, unfinished basement which can be finished off or left as a workshop/storage area. Just down the street from Ft. Hunt Elem. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir & Huntington Metro.



Alex./Mount 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 G.W. Parkway—Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Ntl. Airport, D.C. & Pentagon.



Alex/Woodlawn Terrace \$239,900
8214 Ackley Street

Charming Cape Cod on a large, fenced .25 acre lot. Beautifully updated kitchen and baths. Nice addition with family room and workshop. Shows very well. Sold as is. 3 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Metro and Old Town, Alex. Short Sale, subject to third party approval.

SOLD



Alex./Hollin Hall Village \$372,000
2100 Shenandoah Road

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

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OPINION

Emphasis on Lyme Well Placed

Containing Lyme disease is important to health locally.

With the explosion in the local population of deer comes a smaller but significant explosion in cases of Lyme Disease.

Lyme is transmitted to humans from deer by way of a bite from a deer tick.

Deer ticks are tiny, and most often go unnoticed. The first symptoms of Lyme disease are often a fever, flu-like aches and headache. Sometimes victims exhibit a red ring or bulls eye pattern, presumably around the original tick bite. When treated early with antibiotics, most people recover fully.

But untreated early, the disease can be complex and difficult, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "After several months, approximately 60 percent of patients with untreated infection will begin to have intermittent bouts of arthritis, with severe joint pain and swelling. ... In addition, up to 5 percent of untreated patients may develop chronic neurological complaints months to years after infection." This can include problems with concentration and memory.

One of the obstacles to early treatment is the lack of a reliable diagnostic test for Lyme disease.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th), chairman of the bipartisan House Lyme Disease Caucus, announced an increase in the CDC's budget for Lyme disease by more than \$3.6 million to \$8.9 million. In particular the funding will encourage the CDC and NIH to develop more accurate diagnostic tests for Lyme, as well as more research, record keeping and education.

The seriousness of the problem locally was evidenced when more than 300 people turned out for an informational meeting on Lyme disease Wolf held last year.

For more, see www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/Lyme.

Hoping for Better

We've mentioned before that we're suffering from election fatigue and the summer doldrums, so like most people, we're not ready to focus on coming races in November. But given the crisis state of transportation funding, one could hope for more from the Republican and Democratic candidates for governor.

Creigh Deeds' (D) Web site, www.deedsforvirginia.com, offers a quick link to "Issues," but transportation does not appear

as one of his issues. One might assume that a contentious primary process would have forced Deeds to have a well-articulated plan by this point in the process.

To be fair, Deeds' transportation "plan" appears under the issue of economic plan: "Work with the General Assembly and local stakeholders to design and pass a long-term, multi-modal, statewide, creative transportation proposal in his first year as governor." To say this lacks substance is a bit of an understatement.

More to come, no doubt.

Meanwhile, Bob McDonnell (R) has proposed a detailed transportation plan which actually offers little more, because it includes no new source of revenue. McDonnell's plan mostly appears to call for shifting money from other priorities to transportation, also not much of a plan. Judge for yourself at www.bobmcdonnell.com.

More to come, no doubt.

Be sure that you're registered to vote; besides statewide races for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, all 100 seats in the House of Delegates are on the ballot Nov. 3. To check on your registration, see www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on voter information.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Involvement Appreciated

To the Editor:

An open letter to the citizens of the Mount Vernon District:

The co-chairs of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) wish to publicly thank the many citizens who joined us on July 11 for the MVCCA sponsored planning session regarding the upcoming Fairfax County Area Plan Review of the Comprehensive Plan (APR-

CP). This APR-CP process is providing the vehicle by which nominations for land use changes to the Comprehensive Plan takes place.

The coming together of this diverse group, including representatives from the MVCCA, non-profit groups, developers/landowners, the South County Federation, the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Community Association Presidents and neighbors, has helped everyone better understand what the various stakeholders would like to see

in regards to nominations for this up-coming APR-CP.

Each and everyone who participated rolled up their sleeves and worked harmoniously with each other to offer their thoughts and suggestions. These in-puts are being consolidated and draft nominations developed. The MVCCA will sponsor a second opportunity for all stakeholders to consider these draft nominations at our August 22 APR-CP event.

A hearty thanks to all who participated in the July event. The MVCCA looks forward to continu-

ing to work with all stakeholders as we move through this nomination process.

David Dale
Patrick Rea
Katherine Ward
MVCCA Co-Chairs

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Letters to the Editor
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1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314

Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Return Flight

On Aug. 8, the US Airways Do Crew will be doing their second volunteer project with Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services (GSH). The 10-member team was responsible for painting an apartment for GSH and making it ready for a new family to move in, from taping off the windows, to washing brushes when done.



Mount Vernon Gazette

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Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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A Connection Newspaper

More Seek 'GT'

FROM PAGE 3

their base school and 42 percent chose to attend the gifted and talented centers.

YET THE SPREAD of gifted and talented classes at base schools worries some people, including several local advocates for gifted education. The proliferation of base school gifted and talented programs has already begun to threaten the integrity of some gifted and talented centers.

Forest Edge Elementary may only have enough students for two classes of third grade at the Reston school's gifted and talented center next year, even though they typically have three classes per grade, said Shalini Bhatia, a Herndon resident who is president of the parent teacher association.

Bhatia said the drop off in center's enrollment is a direct result of some of the gifted and talented program's largest feeder schools, including Aldrin Elementary School in Reston, introducing local level IV services to their own campus next year.

The Forest Edge center already

lost some students when Bhatia's own base school, Forestville Elementary in Great Falls, started to offer local gifted and talented classes a few years ago, she said.

According to Carol Horn, Advanced Academics coordinator, Fairfax County Public Schools does not want to phase out gifted and talented centers and staff would be very pleased to see both local level IV services and center programs remain options for parents.

"Some of the centers have probably reduced in size but, at the same time, the centers are doing very well. I don't think local level IV services have drawn any centers down to the point where they are in danger of closing," said Horn.

The centers also have to be maintained because many Fairfax elementary schools do not have enough students who are "center eligible" to create viable gifted and talented classes, she added.

"We don't have 139 elementary schools that could offer local level IV services. There are students who won't have that option at their school," said Horn.

SEE PARENTS, PAGE 18

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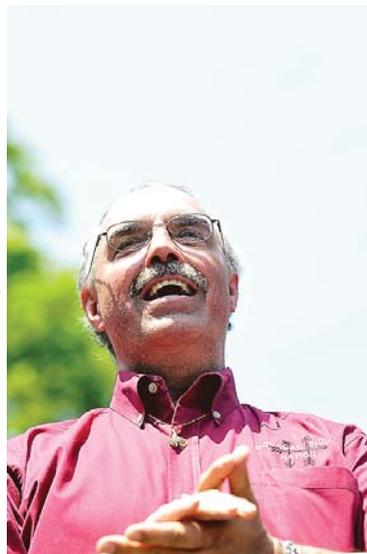
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NEWS



Wildlife Center executive vice president Randy Huwa.



Chief Kenneth Branham of the Monacan Nation.



Ed Clark holds Eagle #09-0856 while his brother Joel affixes an identifying marker band around one of the bird's claws. The band is large enough the eagle's claw will not be injured by it.

Rescued Eagles Take Flight

FROM PAGE 1
the release of the bird," she said.

For some a surprise and special guest in attendance was the chief of the Monacan Indian Nation. Chief Kenneth W. Branham, along with fellow Appomattock Indian, Ronnie Durie, traveled from Lynchburg to witness the release. Branham recalled to those in attendance that his tribe lived in Virginia before anyone and that the Bald Eagle has always been a very important aspect of Indian culture and is considered sacred. He welcomed the assemblage to the event and to his native land.

One person not at this historic occasion was the late Elizabeth Hartwell, a longstanding resident of Mt. Vernon and recognized for her persistent leadership over many years in preserving the Mason Neck area as a wildlife refuge. The refuge is named the Elizabeth Hartwell National Wildlife Refuge in recognition of her efforts. Her son, Rob Hartwell, who could not make the event had this to say in an interview earlier in the week: "If my mother were here she would be very gratified and proud to have played a role in preserving this habitat to the point of making it an attractive Bald Eagle release site. However,

in typical fashion she would also be concerned about complacency and that recent cuts in program funding are delaying efforts to prevent soil erosion at the Mason Neck shoreline, and cuts in funding that will hold up other maintenance among projects."

Asked to state the long-term threats still facing the Mason Neck refuge Hartwell said, "The overriding threat to the preservation of Mason Neck, as it was in my mother's lifetime, remains encroachment by developers. If sewage service is brought into the region, there could be as many as 300-400 homes built in the area. That would be a distinct threat to the pristine nature of Mason Neck Park which is so essential to the kind of habitat required of Bald Eagles. So long as sewage is not

"... it is an incredible moment in the life of the park."

— J.A. Lowery, park manager

brought into the Mason Neck area those homes cannot be built. Ed Clark could have released the three eagles elsewhere in Virginia; he chose Mason Neck because it is one of the best, if not the best places for Bald Eagle habitat in the State. We should all want to keep it that way."

Hartwell is the founder of the Elizabeth Hartwell Educational Foundation, which provides scholarship opportunities to students studying environmental protection and conservation.

The Three Eagles

According to the Wildlife Center of Virginia: Animals admitted to the center are given sequential patient numbers — in the order in which they are admitted. Patient #09-0856 was the 856th patient admitted to the center during 2009. Thus far in 2009, the center has admitted almost 1,800 patients.

* #09-0856. This eagle was rescued from its nest, toppled by a storm near the Possum Point Power Station in Prince William County. The bird, the smallest and weakest of three nestlings, was rescued by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries eagle biologist Jeff Cooper and admitted to the Center on May 27.

Upon admission, the eagle was thin and dehydrated, had a fractured left wing, and had trachial worms. The bird was treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, fluids, and pain medication. On May 31, Center veterinarians operated on the bird and successfully pinned the fracture of the left wing.

These pins were removed on June 12.

The bird has been moved to progressively larger outdoor flight pens at the Wildlife Center and demonstrated that it was ready for return to the wild.

* #09-1091. This eagle was found, on the ground near its nest and unable to fly, near the Coles Trip Girl Scout Camp near Brooke in Stafford County. The location is along Aquia Creek near the Potomac River. The eagle was rescued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent Stacie Allison, Sara Allison, Michelle Long, and Daniel Long. After its rescue, the eagle was first taken to area wildlife rehabilitator Kent Knowles.

The eagle was admitted to the Wildlife Center on June 9. Upon admission, the eagle was thin; the Center veterinary staff found no broken bones and two old scabs on the bird's legs [likely puncture wounds from siblings].

The young eagle spent time in the Center's outdoor flight pens and demonstrated that it is now ready for return to the wild.

* #09-1148. This Bald Eagle was first seen during the week of June 8 on the ground near its nest along the

Pamunkey River in New Kent County. It had a slight droop in its right wing and was unable to fly. Wildlife rehabilitators Barb Rondeau and Amber Kimmich rescued the bird and provided preliminary treatment; the eagle was transported to the Wildlife Center on June 13 by volunteers Barbara Monaghan and Mike Fowler.

Upon admission, the eagle was bright and alert. Radiographs found no fractures; blood tests results, including a test for exposure to lead, were all within normal ranges. The eagle was found to have parasites in its gastrointestinal tract — a common issue. The bird also had some damaged tail feathers. The bird was treated for parasites and with an anti-inflammatory drug.

Like the other two eagles released on July 25, #09-1148 "graduated" through a series of progressively larger outdoor flight pens at the Center. All three shared one of the Center's largest flight pens; like its pen-mates, #09-1148 demonstrated to the Center's rehabilitation and veterinary staff that it was now ready for release to the wild.



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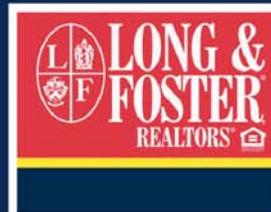
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Places to Pamper Your Pet

Alexandria offers many options for pet services.

BY ERICA KICAK-VANDERHOEVEN
THE GAZETTE

Alexandrians love their animals. Few other communities are so dog friendly, and very few other places can support such a wide range of pet specialty shops. These local stores have everything any pet could want or even dream of, and they offer services to make every owner happy.

For Pet's Sake

1537 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, 703-931-2600; Open Tuesdays-Fridays until 6 p.m., Saturdays until 5 p.m.; opens at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays so customers can come before work

For Pet's Sake groomers groom all types of dogs and cats. There are nine groomers on staff, making it much easier to arrange appointments. The different groomers specialize in different sizes of animal and hair types. The store also sells food, treats, leashes and shampoos.

Royal Pet Kennel

5916 North Kings Hwy., Alexandria; royalpetkennel.com; 703-354-7222; kennel drop-off Mondays-Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Royal Pet Kennel was once a full-service pet shop. Although it now sticks to just running a kennel, the store's days as a pet shop have left the staff experienced with all varieties of pets. While many boarding facilities serve just dogs and cats, this kennel boards dogs, cats,



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Elmer watches over the four-footed traffic in the Royal Pet Kennel.

birds, rabbits, and other exotic animals — including one gecko that they board twice a year. “If it's your pet, we board it,” they say.

The family-owned business also sells some pet supplies, but most of the sales are to their boarding customers. The store is most concerned with being a high-quality kennel.

Pet Sage

2391 S. Dove St., Alexandria; petsage.com; 703-299-5044; Open Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays until 8 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Open since 1995, Pet Sage is best described as a “health-food store for animals,” primarily dogs and cats. The store sells natural and organic pet foods and treats, raw foods, and also the ingredient for owners that want to prepare their own pet food. Other health-related offerings include herbal therapies for pet's health problems, such as arthritis, and botanical skin care products for dogs.

It also sells pet store basics like toys, bedding, and kitty litter, except that in this store those products are more eco-friendly than most of the products on the market.

Dogtopia

3121 Colvin St., Alexandria; dogdaycare.com/alexandria; 703-751-PETS; Open Weekdays 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, for boarding only, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

After taking their own dog to Dogtopia's Tysons Corner location for several years, Jeff and Sandy Lutton decided to open a Dogtopia in Alexandria.

Dogtopia is an open facility, which means that rather than being kept in their own pens, the dogs can be out playing with other dogs. They are put into groups based on their sizes and temperaments, and there are even Webcams so that owners can peek in on their dogs and see if they're happy. The facility also has groomers on site so that boarded dogs can be groomed, without their owners having to make appointments on their own time.

Chateau Animaux

101 S. St. Asaph St., Alexandria; chateau-animaux.com; 703-518-5188; Open Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Summer), Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (6 p.m. in Summer)



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Alexandria resident Bailey Rosenberg.

Chateau-Animaux is a specialty pet bakery, serving “the best treats in the DC area.” Treats are sold by the pound, in varieties that put basic milkbones to shame. Some treats come frosted and in shapes, including some varieties that sound just like human treats — like doughnuts, animal crackers and bar cookies.

Still, this bakery is health conscious, offering treats free of soy, corn, and wheat, to which many dogs have allergies or sensitivities. It also has a section for cats, as well as basic pet products, like leashes and collars.

Old Town School for Dogs

529 Oronoco St., Alexandria; otsfd.com; 703-836-7643; Open Weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At dog daycares, dogs can burn off extra energy, but at Old Town School for Dogs, the animals actually learn to become better behaved. The school has classes during the day, as well as offering private one-on-one lessons for dogs and their owners. Day classes also include head-start for puppies.

Along with training, there is also walk-in nail clipping and a selection of basic and variety dog and cat supplies.

Barkley Square Bakery And Boutique

2006 Mt Vernon Ave., Alexandria; barkleysquarebakery.com; 703-548-DOGG; Open Weekdays 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Described as a “one-stop shop,” Barkley Square Bakery and Boutique has on-site grooming and pet-sitting services attached to the bakery and retail. The shop also offers Old Town Excursions and dog walking for tourists. For local dogs, the bakery also caters dog birthday parties, complete with cake (pupcakes) and ice cream that can be enjoyed by both dogs and humans.

Treat offerings include all-natural bakery fresh cheese, peanut butter, chicken, or beef-based treats, as well as longer-lasting boxed treats.

Old Town Doggie Wash

105 Moncure Dr., Alexandria; oldtowndoggiewash.com; 703-566-1111; Open Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays 4 p.m.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Nature's Nibbles provides a self-service doggie wash for customers.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Emerson keeps a nose on the employee entrance at For Pets Sake.

to 7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Old Town Doggie Wash is perfect for owners that don't want the mess of bathing their dogs in their own homes and for dogs that don't want the stress of being groomed by an unfamiliar person. This dog salon is self-service. Owners can bring their dogs to use the deep sinks to wash their dogs, and are provided with brushes, shampoos and hair dryers.

Nature's Nibbles

2601 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; naturesnibbles.com; 701-931-5241; Open Tuesdays-Fridays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sundays 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Nature's Nibbles sells only all-natural dog and cat food and treats. All-natural means that the food is human-grade and does not include byproducts, wheat, corn, soy, or gluten. “We don't believe all-natural has to be more expensive,” says the store's owner, who also believes that dogs and cats on all-natural diets will need to eat less, shed less, and visit the veterinarian less.

It sells dry foods, canned foods, and frozen, freeze-dried, and dehydrated raw foods. It also has all-natural treats and raw bones, which help to keep dogs' teeth clean.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 30

Music at Twilight Concert at Fort Ward Park. 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music from the Irish Breakfast Band. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. Call the Special Events Hotline at 703-883-4686 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Jim Stephanson and John Previti. 7-9 p.m. Blues, swing and jazz-inspired tunes. Free. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

Pizza Party and Family Orientation. 7 p.m. At Uhler Street Playground, Mount Vernon Community School, 2601 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. The orientation will take place in the school auditorium. Contact Wendy Moniz at wendymoniz@comcast.net or 703-683-6961.

18th-Century Dance Classes at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Also Thursdays, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this fun and educational series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Saturday, Aug. 15. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The cost for lessons is \$30 for the series or \$12 per class. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-838-4242.

Groovy Mr. Nate. 11 am. Join Mr. Nate in making music! Recommended for ages 2 & up. At Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555, ext. 3.

Summer Quest Junior Event. 7 p.m. "Secondhand Stars" Bob Brown Puppets, a "green" variety show with recycled materials. At the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Rd. This program is recommended for ages 5 and under, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-519-6000.

"The Fugue," the film. 9:30 p.m. screening of film produced by Kathryn O'Sullivan. "The Fugue" is a thriller about a young graphic designer living in Chinatown who is haunted by the spirit of a dead childhood friend. It was filmed last summer in the area. At the Old Town Theater on King Street in Alexandria. Admission to the premiere is free. Call O'Sullivan at 703-464-5709.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Jeff Majors in Concert. 8 p.m. As part of his National Tour for the Homeless, gospel/jazz artist Jeff Majors is giving a concert to benefit the ministries of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. At Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Rd., Alexandria. Admission free but tickets required. Contact Rising Hope at 703-360-1976 or email risinghope@risinghopeumc.org.

Alexandria Citizens Band. 7:30 p.m. concert. Jack Dusek, interim conductor. At Market Square, 301 King St., Old Towne Alexandria. Call 703-339-6643 or go to www.band.alexandria.va.us.

SATURDAY, AUG. 1

Potomac River Moonlight Dance Cruise. 8:30-11:30 p.m. CAC of Washington, an organization of 250 single Catholics in the area, is sponsoring its night cruise aboard the Cherry Blossom. Boarding begins at 8:15 p.m. at the foot of North Union



AUG. 13, 14, 15

"Peter Pan." 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Presented by Morningstar Productions, which consists entirely of home-educated students in grades 7 through 12 residing in Northern Virginia. At Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Road, Alexandria. \$8/adult, \$5/student/child. Gina Smithers at Smithersgm@gmail.com or 703-577-3966.

and Cameron Streets. Admission is \$47. Contact Michael Coogan at 301-916-6336 or email: dance@dcsinglecatholicpro.org or visit us at www.DCSingleCatholicPro.org

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Celebrates the 235th birthday of the Historic Fire Company, Restoration and Repainting of the Cupola. Hosted by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. View a collection of antique and modern fire equipment and apparatus. At 107 South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets, which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Admission is free. Call 703-838-3891 or visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Soldier-Led Walking Tours at Fort Ward. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. Participants begin the tour inside the Museum with a brief orientation of the Defenses of Washington. Visitors will learn about Fort Ward's construction and a soldier's life in the Defenses of Washington as they explore the Officers' Hut, the preserved walls of the fort, and the restored Northwest Bastion during the hour-long tour. At 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-838-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Floral Design Lecture: Preserving and Drying Your Garden Treasures. 9:30-11 a.m. Get a jump on winter by saving your garden treasures, before they disappear. Bruce Nash demonstrates several methods for preserving and drying your flowers and foliage, and shows you beautiful arrangement possibilities. \$18. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

Midwifery in the 1700s at Carlyle House Historic Park. Noon to 4 p.m. A reenactment of the Day John Carlyle Moved into his Alexandria Home and a Lecture by Scholar Leni Sorenson on Childbirth in the 1700's. At 2 p.m., Leni Sorenson, Research Historian at Monticello, will present a free lecture titled "Brought to Bed: Childbearing and Medicine in Early Federal America." A \$5 donation is suggested for the lecture. Carlyle House is located at 121 North Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.nvrpa.org, or call 703-549-2997.

Railroad Days at The Lyceum. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Potomac Division of the National Model Railroad Association will present working HO

gauge trains and a digital command system. Learn about miniature trains and Operation Lifesaver, a national railroad safety program. Admission is free. At 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4994 or www.AlexandriaHistory.org.

Jonathan Parker Performs. 10 p.m. The Saint Stephens/Saint Agnes graduate earned a degree in Jazz Studies at the Oberlin Music Conservatory and has been performing in Shanghai and Beijing. Scheduled to perform at Hard Times Café in Alexandria. \$5 cover, reservations suggested.

SUNDAY/AUG. 2

1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Enjoy a conversation with Mrs. Sarah Brent Mason and some of her friends about redecorating her home, Gunston Hall. George Mason and his family moved into Gunston Hall 250 years ago. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. 703-550-9220 or <http://www.gunstonhall.org>. Included in site admission: \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6 to 18, younger free.

Architecture in the Afternoon Tours. 2 p.m. Discover the architecture of George Mason's 250-year old home. This 90-minute tour explores the mansion's exterior and interior. Visit with costumed interpreters directly after the tour. Regular admission. Friends free. The tour is recommended for adults and young persons over 12 years old. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. Call 703-550-9220 or <http://www.gunstonhall.org>.

Railroad Days at The Lyceum. 1-5 p.m. The Potomac Division of the National Model Railroad Association will present working HO gauge trains and a digital command system. Learn about miniature trains and Operation Lifesaver, a national railroad safety program. Admission is free. At 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4994 or www.AlexandriaHistory.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 6

Jim Stephanson and John Previti. 7-9 p.m. Blues, swing and jazz-inspired tunes. Free. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

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Despite Loss, It's Full Speed Ahead for Aces

Team misses out on playoffs, but sets new attendance record.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

As the sun set on Frank E. Mann Field and the second season of Alexandria Aces baseball Monday night, the director of the team, Frank Fannon, turned to say something to Aces President Pat Malone as the two glanced throughout the crowd.

Children were running around the sides of the bleachers, while families mingled, enjoying a summer night of competitive baseball. That the Aces ended up losing, 9-6, to the Silver Spring-Tacoma Thunderbolts, costing themselves a spot in the 2009 Cal Ripken Senior Collegiate Baseball League (CRSBL) playoffs, was a moot point.

"You've got to be proud of what you started," recalled Malone of what Fannon said. "But I didn't need him to remind me of that. Alexandria is a place where collegiate summer baseball is actively growing and growing in such a way that it shocked me how many people showed up this year."

Though final attendance numbers have yet to be tallied, the Aces drew more than 4,000 fans to the baseball diamond next to Cora Kelly Recreation Center, eclipsing last season's mark of around 3,000. Once again, the Aces are likely to rank second in attendance within the CRSBL.

The Aces are also on more solid ground financially than a year ago, according to Malone, in contrast to other non-profits that

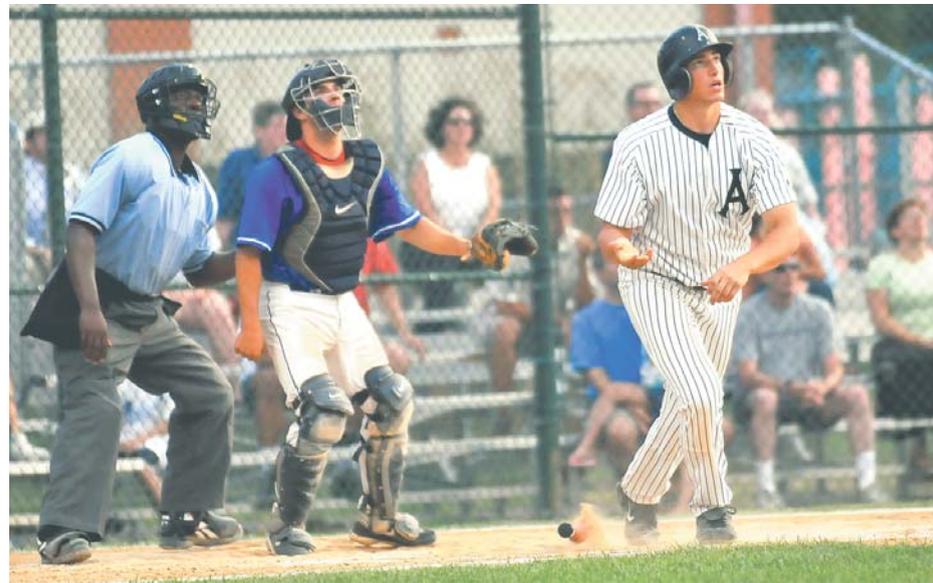


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Jessie Sikorski (Johns Hopkins) and company can't help but watch his towering homerun during Monday's season-ending game against the Silver Spring-Tacoma Thunderbolts.

have felt the brunt of the recession. Malone declined to reveal specific figures since final financial numbers have yet to be tabulated.

"With any new business, you have struggles at the beginning and we learned a lot from that and made improvements," said Fannon.

WITH ITS SECOND season now in the rearview mirror Malone, Fannon, and the rest of the Aces organization have already begun to look towards 2010. The outfield at Mann Field will be dug up in the coming weeks, with completely new sod and a drainage system scheduled to be installed that will make the playing surface "one of the best in the Mid Atlantic" according to

Malone.

In addition, the Aces have tentatively planned an October banquet and silent auction, as well as a spring golf tournament that will help raise money for more bleachers, an improved concession stand, and, maybe in the not so distant future, even some locker rooms.

The Aces have gone from a dream of Malone's — he created the team, its uniforms, and its logo — to a bona fide entertainment establishment within Alexandria. Thanks in large part to the strong support at home, the Aces finished with a 12-9 record at Mann Field, while stumbling to a 5-14 mark on the road

"We certainly feel that we're in this for the long term," said Malone. "We think the

Alexandria Aces will be part of the community for many years. We want to grow and have the community grow with us."

THE NEXT STEP, though, is to improve the product on the field a bit. This year's team, once again managed by Eric Williams, finished with a 17-25 record, two and a half games out of the final playoff spot. Third baseman Drew Walker of Armstrong Atlantic State in Georgia led the team offensively with a .283 batting average. Outfielder Tommy Grandieri of Penn had a team-high four homeruns.

But neither Malone nor Fannon wants to miss the playoffs next season. Fannon said out-of-town players have enjoyed living in Alexandria so much that the team plans to pursue some higher quality college prospects from the ACC and SEC for 2010.

Malone has dreams of an Aces team that also includes the best players coming out of Alexandria. Already, Whit Mayberry of St. Stephen's/St. Agnes has signed on to play for University of Virginia this fall, making him a prime candidate for the Aces. There's also Matt Kilby, a senior at T.C. Williams next year, who is generating legitimate Division-I buzz, and college-level prospects like Frankie Zare, Dan Nicoll, and John Robertson of Bishop Ireton.

If anything, attracting local players to Mann Field will only further strengthen the young bond the Aces and Alexandria have begun to develop.

"I'd love for [players from Alexandria] to come back and play for the Aces," said Malone. "That's what we're doing this for. It's a form of inspiration because kids in the city get to see college players. We've still got a lot of stitching to do, but I think we're growing as part of the fabric of the city."

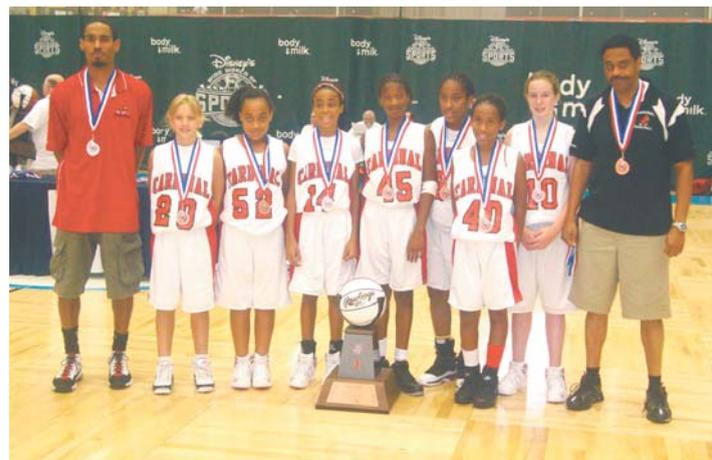
MOUNT VERNON SPORTS BRIEFS

AAU basketball

The Cardinal 10U Girls AAU Basketball Team placed 4th at the recent 10u AAU Div I National Championships held at the Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida, July 14-20. The Cardinal girls are led by head coach Carroll Payton and assistant coaches Andre Speight and Megan Chesley. According to Payton, the Cardinal players were extremely undersized but they made up for it with speed and a trapping full court defense. The tallest Cardinal player was 5-foot-6, while eventual National Champion, SE Tennessee Pride, had two players 6-feet or taller.

"I'm extremely proud of these players and what they accomplished, particularly because this is their first year playing together and most had never played at the National level before," said Payton.

He expects them to only get better in the future. The Cardinal players who attended were Chanece Bigelow, Tierra Cochraham, Jada Graves, Meagan Hendrick, Courtnee Henry, Erin Irving, Paige Russell, Nia Speight, and Nia Washington.



COURTESY OF CARROLL PAYTON

Cardinal 10U Girls AAU Basketball Team, from left to right: Assistant Coach Andre Speight, Paige Russell, Tierra Cochraham, Nia Washington, Jada Graves, Erin Irving, Nia Speight, Meagan Hendrick, and head coach Carroll Payton. Not pictured Chanece Bigelow, Courtnee Henry, and Assistant Coach Meagan Chesley.

Fort Hunt Lax

Recently the Fort Hunt Nation, a collection of rising seventh and eighth grade girls' lacrosse players, made it all the way to the

Club National Championships final. Fort Hunt defeated two clubs from Baltimore and a club from Severna Park, Md., areas known to have notoriously strong programs, en route to the finals. They went 3-0-1 in

pool play. The team lost in the finals, 7-4, to the M&D Club. Fort Hunt Nation led 4-1 at halftime, though. For the tournament, Fort Hunt Nation outscored its opposition, 61-31.



The Fort Hunt Nation: Standing – Olivia Cole, Hannah Singerling, Lizzie Schwein, Natalie Irwin, Coach Rick Sofield, Charlotte Sofield, Mary Patalita, Maggie Jackson, Olivia Mikkelsen, Caitlyn Luzik, Coach Will Donahoe, Avery Donahoe, Heather Pearson, Sophie Davidson, Kendall Cunningham; Sitting – Madison Condon, Kelly Myers. Team members missing from photo – Katherine Fannon, Jordan Elliot.

COMMUNITY

Friendship Firehouse Fest Is Aug. 1

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association will hold its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This family event will take place in the 100 block of South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets, which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Admission is free.

Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the special role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. This year, festival guests will see the recently restored cupola, repainted to its original color after preservation experts analyzed and matched paint chips.

The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire, Rescue and EMS Department, a display of modern fire apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand.

Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Children will receive free fire helmets and balloons. In addition to the day's outdoor events, festival participants will be able to experience the history of the Fire Company through a tour of the Friendship Firehouse Museum.

The building was originally built as a firehouse in 1855, remodeled in 1871 and restored again in 1992 before undergoing roof and cupola repairs this year. The Engine Room on the first floor showcases historic firefighting equipment, including hand-drawn fire engines, leather water buckets, axes, and sections of early rubber hose.



The second floor houses exhibits on the Friendship Fire Company, also known as "George Washington's Fire Company," which was Alexandria's first fire company and has been a source of civic pride since its founding in 1774.

Now a philanthropic organization focusing on fire and life safety, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association remains active in community events, including this year's Festival, which marks the 235th anniversary of the Company.



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6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)

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Another Wal-Mart Proposed for Richmond Highway

FROM PAGE 1

wanted to see less residential land use, a coalition that included Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations and the Spring Bank Community Association.

"It's too bad that proposal never got to the Board of Supervisors because I would have voted for it," said Jeff McKay, who represents the Lee District. "Now we're stuck with a Wal Mart for decades."

FAIRFAX COUNTY government officials are still reviewing the building permit and site plan, which were submitted earlier this year. Now that JBG Rosenthal has moved forward with its plan for retrofitting the old Michael's Arts and Crafts Store into a Wal Mart, those who have been advocating revitalization are scrambling to adjust to the new reality. Some say that revitalization efforts for the property may still be salvageable by encouraging the property owner to include design features that might allow for the big-box store to be incorporated into an urban landscape like the Reston Town



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Site of a future Wal-Mart?

Center.

"Unfortunately, for that to happen the economic climate would have to be favorable," said Debi Sandlin, executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. "And that probably won't happen for another three years."

Even if the economic climate was ripe for that kind of development, others say that a

host of problems stand in the way of a Wal Mart being incorporated into a mixed-use development that revitalization advocates have been planning for years. First, the property owner and the leased business would both be required to cooperate. Second, other retailers would want to locate near a Wal Mart. Ultimately, the decision of JBG Rosenthal to move forward with its

plans to obtain building permits for a Wal Mart at Kings Crossing are being perceived as a major setback to the revitalization effort. "Nobody is happy with this proposal," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland told the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations last week.

ALTHOUGH LANDOWNERS such as JBG Rosenthal have a "by right" ability to locate a store such as Wal Mart at this location, some revitalization advocates aren't ready to give up quite yet. Even with the building permits moving through the county government, some say the comprehensive plan can be used to encourage the kind of transit-oriented development that has long been a dream for many along the corridor. Those efforts will culminate in August and September, when nominations will be considered during an Area Plans Review process for the southern half of Fairfax County.

"The comprehensive plan has the potential to create significant incentives for quality mixed-use development at this site," said Kahan Dhillon, chairman of the Mount Vernon Council's Strategic Planning Committee. "Whether or not the property owner responds to that is another story."

Parents Worry about GT Growth's Effect on Centers

FROM PAGE 7

And though the number of base schools with level IV services is rapidly increasing, only about 795 students across the county participate in these programs at the 33 schools that offer them. There are 5,549 elementary students in the county in the 24 centers, according to School Board documents.

WITH JUST under 800 students participating across 33 schools, there are several places with local gifted and talented programs that fall short of having a full class of students who are "center eligible" at every grade level.

For example, only 10 to 12 students in Bhatia's daughter's class had qualified to attend Forest Edge's gifted and talented center, yet the base school now has its own gifted and talented classes.

This is largely because the standards for being accepted into gifted and talented class

at a base school are more flexible than those for being accepted into a center program.

Students must achieve a certain standardized test score to be considered "center eligible." But base school principals who do not have enough students qualifying to fill an entire gifted and talented class can accept other students into a local level IV services program if they think they will be able to perform academically.

Unlike centers where students only take their classes with other students enrolled in the same program, pupils at a school that offers local level IV services can place into advanced classes for individual subject areas.

"There might be kids in some classes who have not been identified as 'center eligible' but that does mean they aren't 'subject eligible,'" said Waters.

But for many, the notion that all the students participating in a local level IV services class at a base school do not have to

be "center eligible" means that the programs are automatically not on equal footing.

"I really find it a miracle that suddenly a school that could only identify 15 children as qualified to go to a center can suddenly find 25 to 28 kids for its own [gifted and talented class]," said Bhatia.

Others said that a local school's gifted and talented program that had been filled up with students who had not been accepted to the center in the first place could not produce the same social atmosphere.

"In the centers, because they are all qualified, there is not a stigma against being smart. If the kids were not in that sort of protected environment, they might be ridiculed for being outstanding students and they might hold back from truly expressing their gifted potential," said Michael Crowe, a Springfield resident who secretary of the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted.

"I believe if they had local level IV services at his base school, they wouldn't have

a peer group anything like this. Only five kids from Dranesville [Elementary School] got invited to [the center] and it just wouldn't be the same," said Suzanne Spector, a Herndon resident whose son attends the Clearview Elementary School gifted and talented center.

Some base elementary schools with gifted and talented services, like Spring Hill in McLean, have close to 80 students in every grade who are "center eligible." Other schools have five or fewer children that qualify and would not be able to provide the same type of learning experience for their gifted pupils, she said.

But school officials say that local level IV services are on par academically with the program offered at the gifted and talented centers, even if all the students are not all "center eligible."

"When I got to visit local level IV services classes, I can't tell you who is 'center eligible' and who is not," said Horn.

Virginia Minorities More Likely To Be Uninsured

The group Health Care for America Now released a study this month that shows an inequity in the health care people who are racial minorities and/or women have when compared to their white and/or male counterparts. The following are some of the statistics included in the report:

- ❖ Thirty-one percent of Latina women in Virginia receive no prenatal care, compared to 21 percent of African American women and 10 percent of white women.

- ❖ The infant mortality rate — the num-

ber of deaths per 1,000 live births — is 13.7 for African Americans, 6 for whites and 5.2 for Latinos in Virginia.

- ❖ The annual AIDS case rate (per 100,000 people) is 3.8 percent for whites, 30.9 for African Americans and 18.5 for Latinos in Virginia.

- ❖ About 12 percent of whites, 17 percent of African Americans and 45 percent of Latinos lack health insurance in Virginia. In the United States in general, about 12.1 of whites, 20.4 percent of African Ameri-

cans and 33.5 percent of Latinos lack health insurance.

- ❖ In Virginia, about 14.7 percent of all women go without health insurance, compared to 17.7 percent nationwide. The numbers for black women are also slightly lower in Virginia, where about 20.7 percent go without health insurance, compared to 22.5 percent nationwide. The percentage of uninsured Latina women is much higher in Virginia, about 42.5 percent, when compared to the national figure of 37.3 percent.

SCHOOL NOTES

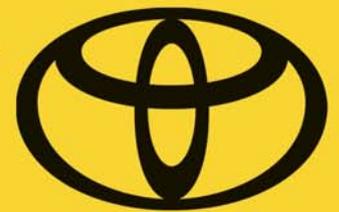
Alexandria resident **Rebecca Siegal**, 18, won the 2008 Sea Scout of the Year award and the Catherine A. Mullikin Sea Scout Volunteer of the Year Award. The latter is named for a Sea Scout who was killed by a drunk driver in 1998. Siegal, a homeschooled high school senior, is also taking courses at Northern Virginia Community College. She plans to complete her associate's degree in 2010, then transfer as a junior to a university. Her goals include working in a field using her passion for geology, anthropology, archaeology and forensic science.

The following Alexandria students were named to the high list at Episcopal High School: **Elizabeth Agnew; Pendleton Agnew, Jr.; Claire Battis; Paige Micklem; Angeliqne Phillips; Charles Snow; Ashley Stevens** and **William Winkenwerder III.**

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2204 Sherwood Hill, 22306

See It Online

Looking for the serenity of a country getaway with City convenience? Then this charming 1930s home, sited on a glorious one acre lot that is graced with mature trees and beautiful grounds is waiting for you. Live, entertain and enjoy in a home that embodies all of the charm of yesteryear.

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457 www.robinarnoldsells.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$469,900



Terrific Townhouse Awaits...

you right here in the heart of Old Town. Live within walking distance of two Metros, great restaurants and shops! This two-bedroom townhouse is move-in ready. Beautiful front yard and back patio and plenty of space to spread out and live in between. Finished walk-out basement with full bath, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, too! More photos at jenwalker.com.

Jennifer Walker
703.675.1566 www.jenwalker.com
MLS ID# AX7112249



ALEXANDRIA

\$619,874



Filled with Sunshine!

Elegantly appointed three-level townhome, boasting bright and open spaces and beautiful finishes. Open floor plan perfect for entertaining guests from kitchen to dining to living room. Each of the three bedrooms has its own full bathroom plus a half bath on the main level. Cameron Station offers maintained walking/jogging trails and community center. Right on the DASH and Metro Bus Line, and a shuttle to the Metro, making getting to anywhere a breeze.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.286.1239 www.lizluke.com
MLS ID# AX7118028



ALEXANDRIA

\$323,000



White Picket Fences & The Metro!

Delightful porches and a show-stopping kitchen are just some of the highlights of this wonderful two-bedroom, one-bath brick duplex renovation across from Huntington Metro. Fully-fenced, this commuter's dream features freshly painted walls, gleaming hardwoods, granite with gas range and side-by-side refrigerator, CAC & finished basement.

Jane Manstof 571.276.8116
Honor Vandevor 703.615.0363
www.honorjane.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$545,000



Calling all Clever Investors

Open this Sunday from 1-4 this brand new building has a state of the art one-bedroom apartment on the second floor and first floor commercial space. Beautiful construction. Two-zone heating and air conditioning. Ask about financing.

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



ALEXANDRIA/BRADDOCK HEIGHTS

\$669,900



Charming Cape Cod in Braddock Heights

Enchanting, four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath Cape Cod renovated to perfection! Sited on a lovely lot in Braddock Heights this charmer features newly renovated kitchen and baths, a finished walk-out basement with a wet bar and a private fenced yard. Freshly painted, with gleaming hardwoods and beautiful landscaping, moving in will be a snap!

Sue Goodhart
703.263.8321 www.suegoodhart.com
MLS ID# AX7059096



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