

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 35

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The computers in the library were made available to fill out the 2009-2010 school forms.

WPHS Gets Ready for New Year

The main hall at West Potomac High School is a hive of activity this week as students prepare for the start of classes. In an effort to save on paper, the Back-to-School packet forms were made available online this year. Most forms can be completed electronically. For families without home computer access, the forms may be filled out on the computers in the library resource center. Returning students, which may near 2,100, receive their class schedules, a school agenda/planner, bus schedule and PTSA forms after submitting the final signed forms. A senior table was also set up. Plans are under way for fund-



Jane Quirk helps a parent locate the right bus route for her child to catch to school.

raising activities to raise the \$35,000 needed for the Class of 2010's all night graduation party. Forms can be dropped off at the high school through Thursday afternoon.



Barbara Miller checks in with the school staff and volunteers helping streamline the almost paperless process for the returning students.



Sveta Martinez checks over the information on her forms before submitting them on Monday morning.

Working To Reduce Cruiser-Car Crashes

Puller requests State Crime Commission to support her traffic safety bill.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

State Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller, who wants to prevent a repeat of an auto collision and fatal accident that took place in her district February 2008, has introduced legislation to require all police and emergency vehicle operators in the Commonwealth to turn on emergency equipment and slow down when running a red light.

This tragedy that killed Ashley McIntosh has focused the attention of those who believe the State

law is flawed and needs to be changed to protect those driving lawfully through heavily used intersections from police and other emergency vehicle drivers who, because of the discretionary language in the Virginia law, may endanger innocent people. Police, sheriff, and other public safety associations view the proposed change as an unnecessary infringement on their ability to perform their duties.

Puller, whose legislative district includes the accident site, said, "I am carrying this bill because I want to prevent unnecessary tragic auto accidents in the future such as the one which killed Ashley McIntosh." Her bill would change the Virginia law to require police and other emergency vehicle drivers to use their emergency equipment — flashing lights, siren, exhaust whistle, or other device designed to give automatically inter-

SEE A BILL, PAGE 3

MVHS's 30/30 Club

Santana Moss and friends look to the future beyond high school.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

When the Mount Vernon High School juniors showed up at the Mount Vernon County Club last year, most of them had never been to such a place. Giant columns greeted the at-risk students on the outside of the building, and gilded furniture greeted them indoors. But with the help of all-pro wide-

receiver Santana Moss and a group of volunteer mentors, the county club would be demystified.

First there was a good deal of encouragement to ditch their baggy pants in favor of khakis. Then there was the matter of the silverware.

"One of the kids looked at me and asked me what the heck he was supposed to do with all the

SEE 30/30, PAGE 3

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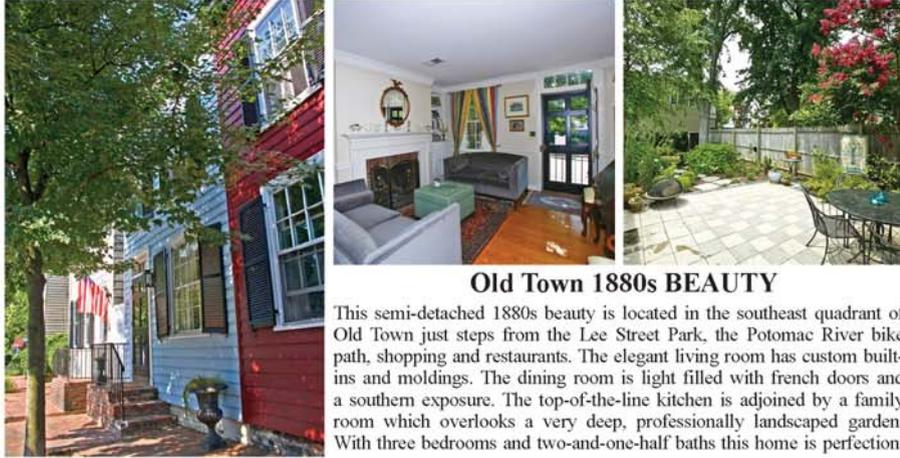
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A Bill for Ashley

FROM PAGE 1

mittent warning signals — and slow down, when on an emergency call and traveling through a red traffic light.

In the January 2009 legislative session, Puller introduced a bill, SB 847, “Emergency Vehicles Proceeding Past Red Lights,” to do this. It was assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee which voted not to report it to the full Senate for a vote. Undeterred, Puller then sent a letter to the State Crime Commission requesting its review and comment on her proposed changes to the Virginia law governing police and other emergency vehicle operator driving requirements. The commission, an advisory body of 13 members appointed by the governor and the state legislature, held a public meeting in May 2009 to hear testimony and discuss Puller’s bill. On Dec. 15 the commission will again meet to assess testimony and forward its views to the respective Courts of Justice Committees in the House and Senate.

Mark Hubbard, a registered lobbyist with McGuireWoods, Consulting, which is providing pro bono assistance to Puller on this matter, said, “We believe the Puller bill should be enacted. ... With the congested traffic situation in urban areas of the Commonwealth changes in the emergency procedures language in Virginia law are needed to protect the public from unnecessary accidents such as that which resulted in the fatal accident in Northern Virginia. ... We are hopeful that the commission will support the Puller legislation.”

Del. David Albo (R-42), chairman, House Courts of Justice Committee, and former co-chair of the State Crime Commission, said, “Senator Puller clearly believes that there is a flaw in the current Virginia law governing emergency operating procedures for police and other emergency vehicle drivers. ... I look forward to assessing Senator Puller’s bill, the State Crime Commission’s comments, as well as the views of public safety organizations and others when the bill comes before the Courts of Justice Committee.”

The president of the 900-member Fairfax Coalition of Police, Marshall Thielen does not support the Puller legislation: “The changes proposed would place an unnecessary burden on public safety personnel. ... Police must be free to make split second decisions and not be restricted by a requirement that may not fit the emergency.”

Thielen pointed out that in addition to the Fairfax County Police Coalition, the State Association of Chiefs of Police, the State Associa-

Proposed Revision

The current Virginia law governing emergency procedures allows police and other emergency vehicle drivers on an emergency call the discretion of whether or not to use their flashing lights and siren, or to slow down when entering an intersection showing a red traffic light.

State Sen. Toddy Puller’s proposed revision would require all police and other emergency vehicle drivers in the Commonwealth, when on an emergency call, to turn on their blinking/flashing lights and siren, and slow their vehicle to a safe speed when going through an intersection with a red light at all times.

tion of Sheriffs, and the Virginia State Police Association oppose Puller’s bill.

According to Cindy McIntosh-Colasanto, mother of the victim, 26 other states require the use of emergency equipment at all times when traveling through a red light. This past spring she testified before the State Crime Commission, urging that they support the bill. At that time she said: “Ashley had just left a polling place after doing her civic duty and voting in the Presidential Primary Election, but the laws of Virginia let her down. ... More than half the states in the U.S. require police officers to use both lights and a siren and to slow down when driving through red lights. This includes Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, and California. I hope you commissioners will agree that it is time the Commonwealth of Virginia does the same. ... It is too late for Ashley. But it is not too late to protect other daughters, and everyone in Virginia. ... Thousands of petition signers also agree with me.”

McIntosh-Colasanto has been able to obtain the support of over 3,000 petition signers.

Tappy Phillips, one of the supporters of a change in the Virginia law, said: “It is a very simple issue: when my family enters an intersection in Virginia with a green light, I expect them to make it to the other side alive, not be crushed by a speeding police car.”

When asked about the prospects for passage of the bill next year, McIntosh-Colasanto said: “I am cautiously optimistic; the members are discussing it, and they are now aware that half the states in the U.S. have language similar to Senator Puller’s. For the next several months I will be working to generate letters from the public to write to the State Crime Commission and to Virginia legislators across the Commonwealth to support this legislation that would indeed save lives.”

In addition, she plans on returning to the State Crime Commission for their regular meeting on Dec. 15 to again testify and urge members to back the change.



Adult mentor and at-risk high-school students are members of Santana’s 30/30 Club.

30/30 Connects Mentors, Students

FROM PAGE 1

forks,” said Kahan Dhillion, who owns a venture capital firm with Moss. “That was when I had to explain that one was for the salad, one was for the entree and the other was for desert.”

It was a teachable moment — one of many created by “Santana’s 30/30 Club.” The idea was launched back in 2006, when Dhillion and Mount Vernon High School Principal Nardos King were brainstorming over lunch one day about volunteering opportunities. They eventually created the idea of a 30/30 club, which would include 30 students over a period of 30 months — the duration of their time at the high school. Students were selected because they had problems with attendance, achievement or discipline. Now in its third and final year, the 21 remaining students will begin their senior year next week.

“It’s really turned into a family, and the kids are now holding each other accountable,” said King, who is beginning her third year as principal at the school. “I wasn’t expecting that to happen, but it just kind of evolved over the years.”

THE PROGRAM BEGAN with twice-a-month meetings between five volunteer mentors and 30 students. When they were meeting at school, the encounters would become guidance sessions — reviewing attendance records, achievement goals and discipline problems. Outside of school, the students attended concerts at Wolftrap and ate dinner at the ESPN Zone

thanks to Santana’s sponsorship. They even got to meet Moss at a Redskins football camp.

“Just having someone there to care about them and how they were doing in school really made a huge difference,” said Dhillion. “Extending that olive branch has really changed things for these kids.”

After the first year came to a close, King decided that the groups needed to meet more than twice a

week. So she arranged for all of the 30/30 students to be in a daily class with a teacher who was one of the volunteers in the program. That teacher, Karen Hertel, created an intelligence operation to gather information about each student’s attendance, achievement and discipline. She then used her daily interaction with the students to follow-up. So if a student didn’t turn in an Algebra homework assignment or was rude in English class, the student’s mentor would be informed almost immediately.

“They didn’t necessarily like that,” said King. “But it helped.”

Some of the original students moved away. Others were forced to leave Mount Vernon High School because of discipline problems. But the 21 students remain part of the program. King said that many of these students would likely have dropped out if they had not been involved in the program. So the fact that they are beginning their senior year and thinking about what they might do after graduating high school is a tremendous success for the program.

“This is not just about school,” said King. “We wanted to try to get these kids thinking about where they wanted to be 10 years from now.”

“This is not just about school. We wanted to try to get these kids thinking about where they wanted to be 10 years from now.”

— Nardos King, principal, Mount Vernon High School

NEWS

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Fairfax County Health Department staff members Maria Leonard and Marisa Lengor provide information on the flu virus.



Scott Bedio of the Salvation Army offers beverages and snacks to participants in Saturday's emergency drill.

'Get Ready Fairfax'



Members of the Fairfax County Health Department, Fairfax Medical Reserve Corp volunteers and community and county partners held a drill Saturday, Aug. 15, at a mock medication dispensing site in the parking lot of the South County Government Center. The exercise was funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

At the first station in the drill, the greeting unit includes Fairfax medical corps volunteers Rod Bubeck, Deborah Hardy and program manager Dianne Quebral.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE
Rod Bubeck talks to residents about the procedures that will be used in the event of an actual situation that requires the mass dispensing of medical supplies.



CERT volunteer Terri Akins is forming a September CERT training class at the Mount Vernon District Station. For more information visit www.fairfaxcountycert.org



NEWS

Grand Jury Indicts Hamilton

A Fairfax County grand jury has indicted a former youth sports coach on six felony charges involving sexual improprieties with children. He is John E. Hamilton of 14120 Gabrielle Way in Centreville's Centre Ridge community.



Hamilton

On May 22, Fairfax County police charged him with one count of aggravated sexual battery and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child by a person in a custodial or supervisory relationship. The complainant was a boy Hamilton coached in 1997, in the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association, when the boy was 12.

Then on June 5, police charged Hamilton with two counts of sodomy after two other people, one now 19, the other, 28, alleged that Hamilton sexually assaulted them when they were younger, lived in Mount Vernon's Hollin Hall area and were coached by Hamilton.

On Aug. 17, the grand jury indicted him on all six offenses. He's now scheduled to enter his pleas regarding these charges, Oct. 7, in Circuit Court.

Woman Robbed, Then Shot With BB

A 19-year-old woman was robbed while walking home from a friend's home on Sunday, Aug. 30 around 2:40 a.m. The woman was walking near Laramie Place and Tamarind Street when two men approached her, produced guns and demanded her belongings.

The victim complied and the suspects told her to run away.

As she turned to run, she saw a suspect point a gun at her and felt the sting of a BB pellet on her leg. The suspects then fled. The victim did not require medical attention.

The suspects were both described as black, around 18 years old, and wore blue jeans. One suspect wore a black scarf around his face and the other had a red, white, and blue motorcycle helmet on his head.

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

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ SEPTEMBER 3-9, 2009 ♦ 5

OPINION

Getting Ready To Vote

What questions would you like to ask?

On Nov. 3, about two months from now, Virginia voters will go to the polls to vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and every member of the House of Delegates.

Some local races are also on the ballot.

Here at the Connection, we invite our readers to tune in and help us fine tune questions and coverage of local candidates. Its common for Northern Virginia residents to be more focused on national politics than local politics.

But be forewarned that the winners of the state and local elections coming up will have an impact on your daily life, often in a very personal way.

Local elected officials will spend billions of dollars. With the current budget shortfalls, the

winners will also decide how where to cut tens of millions of dollars by cutting programs, projects and schools dear to many people's hearts. The safety net for the most vulnerable people in Virginia is in danger as well.

Over the next two months, editors and reporters at the Connection Newspapers will interview each local candidate in a contested race. We'll ask questions to learn about each individual, his or her knowledge of local issues and whether they come to the race with a sense of public service. Do they bring intelligence, creativity, collegiality to problem solving? Where do they stand on issues ranging from funding mental-health care to providing a revenue stream to address transportation?

We invite our readers to help with the questioning process. What do readers and voters here want to know from their representatives in the House of Delegates? What qualities are you hoping for in the next Governor?

Send questions and comments to Mary Kimm, at mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com or 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strengthen Health System

To the Editor:

Healthcare reform is the need of the day. Insurance companies and other private companies involved in the present health care system are against the reform because they are afraid of competition. They have been jointly

and are responsible for increase in health care costs. A federal entity to provide health care like one in United Kingdom is needed in U.S.A. Health care reform will strengthen the system, not hurt, Medicare. People in Medicare will continue to choose their doctor and specialist.

Sohan Jindal
Alexandria

Need Protection From MVCCA?

To the Editor:

For much of the year, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) has been holding meetings of its Strategic Planning committee to formulate nominations to the Comprehensive Plan during the Area Plans

Review (APR) process occurring this year and through July 2010. The deadline for submission of nominations is Sept. 16. I live in Stratford Landing and am a member of the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association (SLCA) but currently not a member of its Executive Committee (EC) although I am a past member of that body.

Our community has been aware of the MVCCA meetings but neither our citizens as a whole nor our EC have voted on or even considered presenting the MVCCA with any proposed nominations.

The Little Hunting Creek pumping station is located deep within our community at the corner of Thomas J. Stockton Parkway and Londonderry Road. Changes to the Comprehensive Plan affecting the pumping station would only affect our community and no other. The pumping station lands have been a source of great controversy in our community for a number of years. The Web site at www.pumpingstation.org provides factual background. In 2004, a husband and wife couple living in our community proposed to the SLCA EC that it conduct a referendum of its membership to determine the community's view on creating open space and a park at the pumping station that would afford access to Little Hunting Creek, providing a walking path through the facility from the street

Register

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 3 election is Monday, Oct. 5. To register to vote, download a form from:

www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office. You can also register in person at the elections office during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered. If you are already registered to vote at your current address, you do not need to register again.

To find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day. Check with your local elections office for information on absentee voting:

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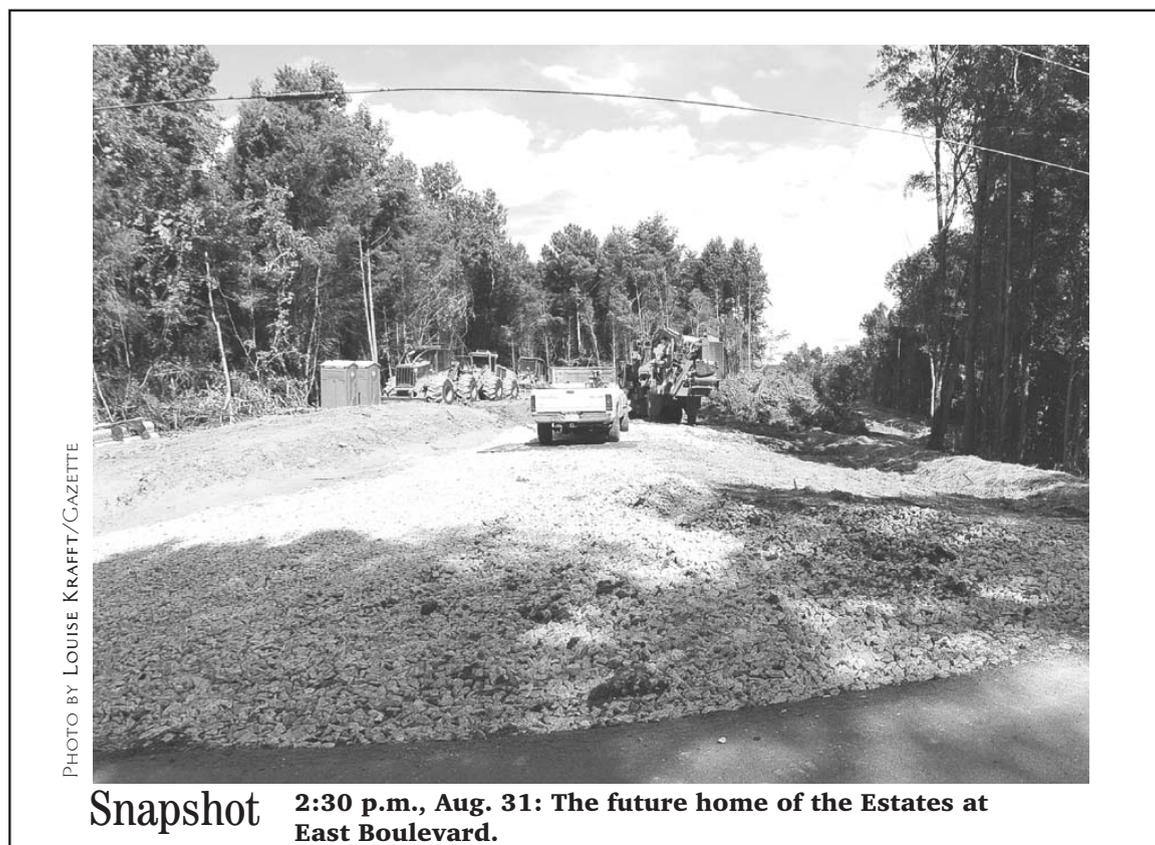


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Snapshot 2:30 p.m., Aug. 31: The future home of the Estates at East Boulevard.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



OPEN SUN. 1-4! PRICE REDUCED!

6621 Wakefield Drive #508
\$249,000 | River Towers
Light and bright two bedroom, 1.5 bath condo in River Towers. Located on 26 landscaped acres that backs to trees and wetlands. Move in ready and featuring updated kitchen and bath, custom blinds, fresh paint colors and large storage closet. Ample free parking, pool, tennis, convenient location to Old Town, GW Parkway plus more.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



JUST LISTED

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 rec room, two fireplaces, hardwood flooring and French doors to gardens.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



JUST LISTED!

8296 Glen Cove Ct
\$1,250,000 | Collingwood Estates
Private community of estate homes on wooded cul-de-sac near Mt Vernon. 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath colonial, two story foyer, 9 ft ceilings, kitchen with island, beautiful master suite, hardwood floors, extensive moldings, 2 fireplaces, home theater, sunroom, breakfast room, and deck. Near National Airport & Washington, DC.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



RIVER VIEW

122 Madison Place
\$1,250,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Perched on the banks of the Potomac River, this solid brick 3 bedroom 3.5 bath townhome features lovely moldings, high ceilings, updated kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Spacious family room could also serve as a terrific home office, play or exercise room. Two car garage. Just a stone's throw to the bike path shops & restaurants.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



3 BEDROOM PENTHOUSE!

2151 Jamieson Avenue, Unit 2101
\$835,000 | Coveted Carlyle Towers In Old Town
Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath + powder room! Beautiful sunset views, bamboo floors, 2 glass enclosed balconies. Kitchen has breakfast room, spacious 17' dining room, main foyer, 2 garage spaces, 2 storage spaces. Master with sitting room and bedroom 3 is a separate suite with full bath. www.CarlyleTowers2-2101_MLM1606@aol.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



EXPANSIVE HOME IN OLD TOWN

504 South Pitt Street
\$1,385,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Completely renovated semi-detached home in the heart of the SE Quadrant. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, family room with fireplace and doors leading to private back patio and yard. Two-story screened back porch with access from master bedroom, finished basement with wet bar. Only blocks to King Street and waterfront!

Ricardo Wanzer | 301.651.3871



LARGE, BRIGHT & OPEN!

2151 Jamieson Avenue, #606-607
\$775,000 | Coveted Carlyle Towers In 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



NEW PRICE

610 Taylor Run Parkway
\$879,000 | Alexandria
Charm and whimsy resounds in this bright and open home with four bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a finished lower level! Kitchen with granite counters, breakfast area, formal dining room, study with French doors, arched doorways, welcoming sun porch, large living room, spacious bedrooms, amazing yard with two garden patios!

Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813



COMING SOON

8302 Riverton
\$849,900 | Manors at Mt Vernon
Almost totally redone 3 finished level center hall colonial with a 2 car garage. Just painted, new roof, and more. New hardwoods on main and upper levels, redone kitchen with granite, stainless, cherry cabinets, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 updated baths. Great patio off the family room with fireplace. No need to click your heels -- you're Home! Call for more information

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



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New corner lot Townhouse in Belleview! Custom built property boasts 4 BR, 3.5 BA & beautiful details throughout! Crown moldings, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, fantastic deck on top floor. A rare find! Convenient to DC, bike paths, Old Town and the beltway. Don't miss this one -- it will go fast! www.1111street.com. Dir. GW Pkwy. South, right on Belleview, right on Potomac, right on I.

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



JUST LISTED

1250 S Washington Street, Unit 824
\$698,000 | Porto Vecchio / Old Town Alexandria
This two bedroom, two and half bath 1,582 sq feet condo has River Views from every window. Features balcony, fireplace, laundry room in unit, custom built-ins, large closet in master suite, marble floor in foyer, reserved parking space in garage and extra storage. Amenities: 24 hour security, limousine, pool, tennis, exercise room, sauna. dwilburndavis@aol.com

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

2415 Lakeshire Drive
\$1,175,000 | South Alexandria
New Price and new warm neutral colors! Sunny center hall colonial with open floor plan on .97 acres. Expansive master suite, 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, sunroom, gourmet eat-in kitchen with center island, hardwoods, numerous upgrades and all the bells and whistles you would expect in this great family friendly home. 5000+ Sq. Ft. Come take a look and be amazed at the value of your own private retreat.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

to the creek and perhaps a few amenities. The referendum was conducted in accordance with SLCA Bylaws with the community being given a full month to vote. Twenty-two percent of the members voted, more than double the quorum requirement, and 69 percent of the voters voted against the concept.

Since then, there have been several attempts to change the community's mind about the issue, with the same couple involved on some basis of advocacy — all have

failed. This history makes it clear that a majority of the Stratford Landing community would like the pumping station to be left as it is. In fact, Supervisor Gerry Hyland is on record as stating he would oppose any changes in use of the lands of the pumping station in the absence of a community consensus in favor. I confirmed this position during a telephone conversation this week with Brett Kenney, Supervisor Hyland's chief aide.

With this backdrop, last Thursday, I learned for the first time from a Gazette article, that the MVCCA's Strategic Planning

committee would be proposing an APR nomination directed to our pumping station. This surprised me because, three weeks ago, I met for over an hour with Kahan Dhillon, chairman of the committee, and he made no mention of any such proposed nomination. On Friday, after several e-mail exchanges and phone calls, I received the paperwork for the proposed nomination from Mr. Dhillon. To my surprise, one of its main drafters was none other than the wife of the couple living in our community. The nomination proposed (1) changing the designation of the 9-plus acre pumping station

site from R-3 zoning to open space, (2) creation of a publicly accessible park, and (3) consolidation of some of the land with an adjacent parcel owned by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) an organization with which the couple is quite active. In other words, having been thwarted in every attempt to create a park and open space at the pumping station against the will of our community, the wife of the couple had embarked on a strategy of using the MVCCA's APR process against her

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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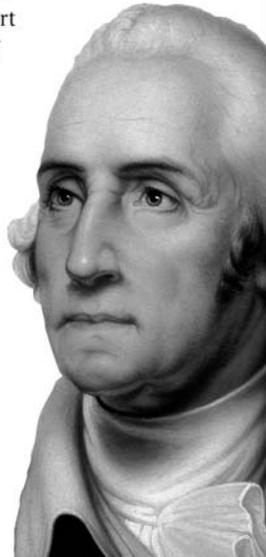
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Priorities Vs. Social Agenda

BY LINDA "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR



I was elected to the General Assembly alongside both of the current nominees for Governor, Creigh Deeds and Bob McDonnell. When you work with two people like that, you learn their values. This week, I was reminded of McDonnell's with the resurfacing of his master's thesis, penned just before the beginning of his legislative career.

Creigh has an impressive legislative scope. I remember his hard work on Kim Stan, Megan's Law, and choice. He also penned the modern Governor's Opportunity Fund, which has created some 78,000 jobs.

COMMENTARY

The same cannot be said for Bob McDonnell. I respect him as a person, but his record — especially his social agenda — troubles me.

While Creigh worked for schools and economic development, Bob McDonnell did the opposite. While Creigh worked on numerous policy issues, McDonnell sponsored 35 bills on abortion — not including his crusades against contraception and sexual education. McDonnell is entitled to his beliefs, but he has furthered them single-mindedly, neglecting important concerns.

But McDonnell's agenda goes even further. In his master's thesis at then-CBN University, McDonnell lays out not a youthful consideration of Reagan-era politics but rather a social vision for later legislative

efforts. His thesis is a blueprint of the extreme policy agenda that he pursued throughout his career in public life and would continue to pursue as Governor.

And I do mean "extreme." For instance, he attributes the American family's "break-down" to working mothers, feminism, and "the self-centeredness of modern individualism." He writes that school-based health clinics that dispense information about sexual health options promote promiscuity.

No wonder he's now trying to distance himself from this.

Bob McDonnell pursued these ideas as a legislator and Attorney General. He worked against women's rights, from equal pay to choice. He opposed bills on daycare safety regulations, such as criminal background checks on employees. He even voted to cut the Governor's Opportunity Fund — though the "new" McDonnell wants it increased.

TODAY, he has a transportation plan that drains \$5.4 billion — his own estimation — from education and other priorities.

That's not an agenda Virginia can afford, with statewide unemployment, millions uninsured, and other challenges in the next four years and beyond.

I support Creigh Deeds for Governor. He's a commonsense leader in the mold of Mark Warner. He will work for issues that matter to all Virginians, rather than taking us back into past social wars, as Bob McDonnell promises. Creigh Deeds will keep Virginia moving forward.



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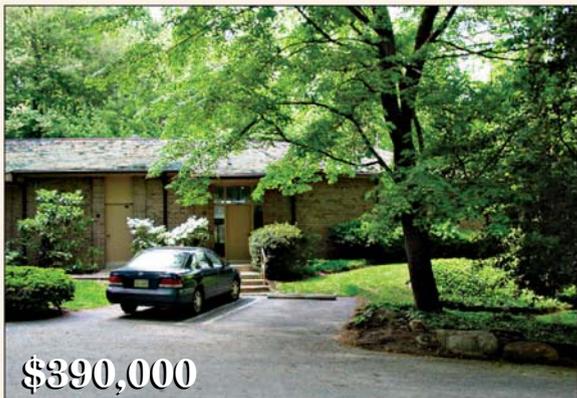
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NEW PRICE!

7501
Park Terrace Drive
\$1,150,000
Stunning!
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.)

JUST LISTED!

4401
Jackson Place
\$495,000
Special Value!
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!

PRICE SLASHED!

4307
Sheridan's Point
\$794,500
Georgian Colonial!
Large price reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mount Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! Three finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, two bonus rooms on lower level and dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Just off the GW Pkwy - easy commute to DC!

1110 WAYNEWOOD BLVD
Waynewood - \$519,000
Florida room addition, renovated Kitchen, Carport. 3BR/1.5BA. Great location within the Waynewood community.

www.WaynewoodRealtors.com
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

OPEN SUN 1-4

1100 NEAL DRIVE
Collingwood - \$626,800
Spacious, updated & renovated with new kitchen & baths, front porch, 2 car garage, hardwood. 4BR/3FBA.

JUST REDUCED plus \$10K in CLOSING COSTS!!

The Kohler Team
Elke 703.967.7633 or Heidi 703.609.7367

600 SECOND STREET #205
Alex / Liberty Row - \$795,000
NEW LISTING! 2BR / 2.5 BA plus Den! 1,769sqft! Bamboo floors, Gourmet Kitchen, Gas Fireplace, Balcony and 2 Garage spaces.

Adele dePolo 703.298.5987

WATERFRONT!

4003
Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,200,000
Riverfront!
Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!

WATERFRONT!

9380
Mt Vernon Circle
\$3,500,000
Private Estate!
Classic Colonial façade with magnificent interior featuring glass walled addition across the rear. Meticulously maintained four bedroom, three level home is loaded with special features and upgrades. Stunning custom addition overlooks beautifully landscaped yard & the most spectacular custom pool you'll ever find!

WATERFRONT!

9516
Mt Vernon Landing
\$2,900,000
Waterfront!
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mount Vernon on the Potomac! This spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. Six bedrooms, five baths, full walk out lower level and many rooms with dramatic river views.

1250 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET #404
Alex / Porto Vecchio - \$729,900
2BR with over 1,400sqft - all main rooms open to terrace or Arcade thru sliding glass doors. Remodeled kitchen, wood floors, storage and generous room sizes.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630

712 WOLFEST
Old Town - \$649,500
WOLFE STREET GEM Magnificent circa 1820 historic plaqued 2BR/1.5BA end unit TH in heart of OT. New updated Granite/SS Kit w/ exposed Wood Beams, period Hutch, Old Pine Floors, Crown moulding, large "6 over 6" windows bask rms in warm glows. Fabulously deep garden. 4 blocks to King Street.

Phillip G. Matyas 703.518.8727

OPEN SUN 1-4

8801 THOMAS STOCKTON PKWY
Alex / Stratford \$850,000
THE 3 "Ls" Large, Lovely & Located! This gorgeous home of almost 4,000sqft sits on 1/3 acre across from Little Hunting Creek & has been totally renovated & expanded. DIR: from Alex south on GW Pkwy, right on Stratford Lane, left on Camden & left on Thomas Stockton Pkwy to 8801.

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875

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

9411
Brambly Lane
\$975,000
Luxury Home!
This top quality luxury home is loaded with custom features, including: an exceptionally bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, fabulous large family room, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail and the most spectacular master suite you'll ever find! This home is almost complete and ready for occupancy! Special financing is available.

SOLD!

1210
N Pegram Street
\$1,351,500
Special Financing!
Interest rate as low as 3.78% with just 10% down payment makes Alexandria's most exciting new luxury home surprisingly easy to buy! Stunning home offers stately room sizes, open floor plan, 3 car garage and virtually every modern amenity. Nothing in Alexandria matches this home in terms of price & financing!

7937 BOLLING DRIVE
Alex / South - \$579,000
Brick 4BR/2BA with new kitchen appliances, new Washer & Dryer, new tile floors & new carpet. Freshly painted. Parking.

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447
bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com

501 ROBINSON COURT
Alex / Maple Grove - \$619,000
Well maintained 3BR, 2.5BA home with updated kitchen, new windows, cathedral ceilings, large storage/laundry room, hardwood floors, a beautiful yard with patio and more. A must see!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

610 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
Alex / Old Town - \$1,495,000
Detached 3,300sqft home with 3BR, 4.5BA, chef's kitchen, bird's eye maple floors, roof deck with fireplace, 2 car garage, and private backyard

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

CONTRACT!

9304
Allwood Drive
\$639,000
"Green" House!
Expanded and updated, this spectacular home features uniquely bright, open floor plan, soaring cathedral ceilings and updated kitchen and baths. Expansion was done with carefully selected natural materials to minimize environmental impact. Prime location on large lot in the heart of Mount Vernon's nicest neighborhoods. "One of a kind" home!

CONTRACT!

9500
Ferry Hall Court
\$1,450,000
Dream Home!
Builder's loss is your gain! Originally priced at almost \$2,000,000 and just reduced another \$300,000 to create a once in a lifetime opportunity! Stunning model offers the best of everything: open floor plan, high ceilings, 6BR, 6.5BA, three finished levels, top of the line kitchen & baths, three car garage and more!

SOLD!

9511 Mt Vernon Landing
\$900,000

7107 Colgate Drive
\$598,900

6412 Potomac Avenue
\$538,900

7114 Coventry Road
\$548,500

5904 MOUNT EAGLE DRIVE, Unit #1505
Alex / Montebello - \$375,000
PRICE REDUCTION!
"G" model w/major upgrades including kitchen w/new maple, SS, W/D, granite & Pergo. 2BR, 2BA home you will not want to miss in Montebello!

Susan Haughton 703.470.4545

RENTALS

6538 Morning Glen Ct \$1,450
Landsdowne Townhouse 3BR/1.5BA/1FP 1prkg
Georgia McLaughlin 571.628.4663

261 S Pickett St #401 \$1,750
Hillwood Garden 2BR/2BA 1prkg
Bob Gering 703.683.0400

1250 S Washington St \$2,350
Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise 1BR/1.5BA 1prkg
Pat Tierney 703.850.5630

7870 Southdown Rd \$3,000
Wellington Villa Bungalow 3BR/2BA/1FP
Suzanne Briar 703.728.4999

OPEN SUN. 1-4

5903 MOUNT EAGLE DRIVE, Unit #108
Alex / Montebello - \$500,000
WELL APPOINTED & upgraded 3BR, 2BA home with hwd, new berber, tile, granite to maple in kitchens & baths and more. You have to see it - it's gorgeous!

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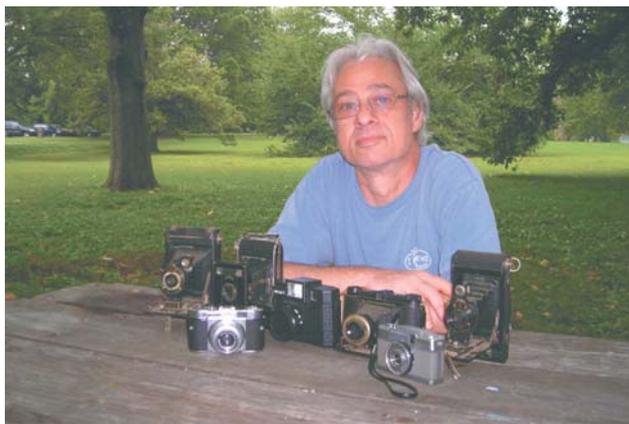
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PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE PACKET
Watercolor artist Jane Gillette in her second floor studio at 213 King Street draws inspiration from her surroundings and experiences.



Ed Hirschfield with some of the antique cameras he uses to create his photographs. With a vast arsenal of antique cameras at his disposal, Hirschfield sometimes waits for hours for just the perfect angle of light.



PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE PACKET
Contemporary folk artist Pat Palermino describes her work as “humorous, whimsical and a whole lot of fun.”

Annual Festival Features Local Artists

Jane Gillette, Watercolor Artist

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
 GAZETTE PACKET

There was a time when watercolor artist Jane Gillette hoped people would buy paintings that meant something to her. But experience taught her that people want a painting that means something to them.

“Sometimes I have the good fortune to sell a painting that means something special to both of us,” she said. “When it comes together like that, it’s a really great feeling.”

An exhibitor in the Alexandria Festival of the Arts since its inception, Gillette says she loves the quality of the show.

“It really forces me to grow not only in my work, but in the way I display my work, too,” she said. And, since it’s a juried show, she says being selected to display at the festival denotes a certain level of success.

“People don’t come into my booth and wonder who I am. Just being in the show gives artists a certain credibility. It helps people know they’re buying something of value.”

Originally from Iowa, Gillette’s been an Alexandria resident for 30 years. She earned a BA in fine arts from the University of Iowa where she painted in oil. Now, it’s strictly watercolor.

“I like its portability,” she said. “I can pack my materials in a box, stick it in a suitcase and go anywhere.”

All of Gillette’s work is original. Her subjects range from florals and botanicals to her friends that play golf and even her kitty. She also paints architecture and landmarks — including Alexandria buildings and scenes.

“People will come into my booth and say I’m so happy to see somebody local,” according to Gillette. They’re also drawn into her booth by the bold, intense colors she uses.

“I use the colors I love — bright colors, especially yellows. I think it has something to do with growing up in Iowa with cornfields all around,” she said.

Yellow is a theme in some of her new work this year, which includes a series of little strips of sunflowers. Patrons will also see tulips in new sizes, small paintings of Baltimore’s Fells Point, and a whole lot of mini Alexandria doorways.

“Just the doorways — in 5”x5” and 6”x6” sizes,” she said. “Something for everyone.”

Gillette says she loves seeing the patrons who come by her booth every year at this arts festival.

“I love the local support,” she said. “I love it when a patron can’t decide which painting they like better so they buy two. Every year has a different feel.”

Too often, Gillette feels, people are thrown off by the myth that art has to be an investment.

Ed Hirschfield, Photographer

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
 GAZETTE PACKET

Growing up in Essex County, N.J., Ed Hirschfield never thought of himself as creative. Sports were more his thing.

But when he was 13, Hirschfield received a gift that changed his life — a home photography developing kit.

“It just triggered something in me,” he said. “I was fascinated the first time I saw a print come up in the developing tray, and that feeling never went away. It’s still the same thrill.”

After earning a fine arts degree in photography from George Washington University, Hirschfield worked the kind of jobs that artists often do — bar tending, restaurant managing — all the while trying to figure out how to make a living at photography. About 14 years ago, he made the transition to full-time artist.

Hirschfield describes the D.C.-area art crowd as sophisticated, knowledgeable, and appreciative of the work that it takes to create art.

He says if people want to experience what a good arts festival is like, the Alexandria Festival of the Arts is the one to see.

“You’ll be exposed to passionate, talented, high-quality artists,” according to Hirschfield. “And, the experience of talking to the actual artist is quite special. They share their passion for what they do, and it’s contagious. You can get the story behind the work directly from the artist, and you get to understand and appreciate what went into it.”

“That work of art displayed on your wall is no longer anonymous.”

Returning patrons to the Alexandria Festival of the Arts who are fans of Hirschfield’s vibrant painted photographs will be treated to something new hanging on the walls of his booth. They’ll still be able to enjoy and purchase his familiar hand-painted individual prints.

But Hirschfield is eager to have folks experience a new technique he’s been developing since last fall. This new work involves distressing and laminating together multiple negatives shot with a variety of antique cameras. The combined negatives are then printed, toned and sometimes hand-painted.

This new process, he feels, allows him to be a little more creative. “It’s time to see how the public responds,” said Hirschfield.

Hirschfield has never worked in digital photography, preferring to preserve the tradition of the craft.

“When I take a photograph, I like to wait for the right light rather than create light on a computer. And in the darkroom, I’m able to bring a uniqueness to each image,” he said.

Pat Palermino, Contemporary American Folk Artist

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
 GAZETTE PACKET

Some of Pat Palermino’s ideas for paintings come to her in dreams. Sometimes she’s inspired by her travels up and down the east coast or the familiar sights in and around Alexandria.

But whatever the source or subject, the paintings all share her signature bold, bright colors and touch of playfulness.

“A lot of people tell me they like the colors,” said Palermino. “They may be too much for some people, but I like bright colors,” she notes while pointing out the bright red counter in her white kitchen with the colorful collection of antique advertising signs adorning the walls.

Palermino describes herself as a self-taught contemporary folk artist and her work as humorous, whimsical and always a lot of fun: “Even the historical buildings have something fun going on in the painting.”

Palermino recalls her talent for drawing started to show up in first or second grade.

“All through school,” she said, “teachers would give me special assignments to make posters for school events because they all knew I could draw.”

By her early teens, she had added painting to her artistic repertoire.

But when it was time to go off to college, even though she loved art, Palermino chose a Catholic school for nursing.

“They didn’t have art classes,” she said. “But there was a place where some of the nuns used to paint, and we’d sneak up there and finish their work,” she added with a mischievous grin.

Palermino worked several years in nursing and public health. She first came to Alexandria in 1971, moving often with her Naval officer husband and three children. But they always returned to Alexandria.

“I love Alexandria. I love the look and feel of it — the water, the people, good restaurants — just a lot going on. It’s just a lot of fun.”

Once the family returned to Alexandria for good and her children were in high school, Palermino, who works in acrylic on canvas or Masonite board, decided to start painting full time. She opened her studio in 1992 and entered her first art show the next year in Fairfax County.

“I was shocked when I sold my first five paintings.”

Now, Palermino has original paintings hanging in permanent museum collections including The White House.



The show features 200 artists and \$15 million in artwork available for sale.

Art Festival Returns

WHAT: 7th Annual Alexandria Festival of the Arts
WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Admission is free and open to the public.
WHERE: Old Town, on King Street from Washington down to the Potomac River at the Torpedo Factory
 Navigational address: 480 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The Alexandria Festival of the Arts celebrates its seventh anniversary on Sept. 12–13, as King Street in Alexandria's Old Town is transformed into an outdoor art gallery complete with 200 artists and \$15 million in artwork available for sale. Admission is free and open to the public.

Produced by Howard Alan Events, the Alexandria Festival of the Arts is ranked one of the top 100 festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist, the nation's leading publication for art and craft shows. It is also included on the Harris List as one of the Nation's best art shows. The artists, juried by an independent panel of expert judges, are hand-selected from hundreds of applicants



The show is ranked one of the top 100 festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist.

based on quality and diversity. All of their artwork is original and handmade in America.

Prices range from \$25 hand-designed earrings to \$20,000 metal sculptures. The event appeals to those looking for a free and fun weekend activity, as well as serious art buyers looking to add to their collections.

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Saturday - Steak and Chop Night
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

Taste of Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Del Ray restaurants and eateries will showcase their offerings with music in Market Square. On Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

The Trio Hermitage. 7-9 p.m. Free. Will perform classical music on the piano, cello, and flute. The trio consists of Svetlana Nikonova and Varvara Zakharevich of the Washington Balalaika Society, and Zahar Zaharevich of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Big Chalk Draw, 8-10 a.m., Free community art event for the whole family. Practice getting up early for school and bring along your friends and your creative energy. Chalk drawing will take place in our studio parking lot from 8 to 10 am, Friday Sept 4. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Go to www.artatthecenter.org

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Monarch Magic. 2-3 p.m. For ages 6 and older with adult. Kids will enjoy making a caterpillar cage to house their newly adopted monarch larva and adding a milkweed plant for it to snack on. Cost is \$18. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp.

MONDAY/SEPT. 7

International Festival. 12:30-6 p.m. Includes live entertainment, children's rides, international food, white



African Children's Choir

elephant sale, beverages, games and more. Tickets must be purchased for some activities. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-780-4055 or visit www.gs-cc.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Art is Everywhere. 6-9 p.m. Free. Part of the Second Thursday Art Night. Treat the whole family to an evening of open studios, wine and sweets, and a fun craft activity for kids. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Rick Udler in Concert — Music at the Athenaeum. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Go to nvfaa.org.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

"Bronx Princess" Screening.

7 p.m. Port of Harlem magazine and the Alexandria Black History Museum will preview the new documentary "Bronx Princess," followed by a short discussion. "Bronx Princess" follows the real-life journey of headstrong 17-year-old Rocky as she leaves behind her mother in New York City to reunite with her father, a chief in Ghana, West Africa.

Filed during the tumultuous summer between high school and college, "Bronx Princess" tells Rocky's coming-of-age story. By confronting her parents' ideas of adulthood, Rocky reconciles her African heritage with her dream of independence. PBS will broadcast the 40-minute TV movie on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 10 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the Parker-Gray Historic District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call the museum at 703-838-4356.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

African Children's Choir. 7:30 p.m. The choir performs throughout the world in such venues as the UN, Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden to raise funds for Africa's children through the choir's programs. An offering will be received. At Washington Street United Methodist Church. Call 703-836-4324.

"That Day in September." Zemfira Stage presents one performance of the true story of playwright Artie Van Why's experience surviving 9/11 and

how he coped with the changes that experience brought to his life. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15/general, \$10/seniors and students. For information about Zemfira Stage call 703-615-6626. For reservations call 703-318-0619 or 703-615-6626.

Free Concert. At 7:30 p.m. By the internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.africanchildrenschoir.com or call 703-836-4324.

Irish Band. Piper Cillian Vallely and flutist Kevin Crawford from the Irish band Lunsá. At 8 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$29 at the door, children under 14 with an adult half price. Call 800-404-9049.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Church Yard Sale and Fair. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tons of household items, toys, clothing, etc. Games and prizes for the kids, glitter face painting, hot dogs, drinks and bake sale. At Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Go to www.calvarypres.org.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike at Lincoln Ave., Alexandria, two blocks west of I-395. Rain date Sept 19. Call 703-354-5176 or lincolniamc@verizon.net; www.lincolniamc.org.

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West Potomac, Mount Vernon Face Off in Rivalry

Wolverines enter tonight's game as more experienced team.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac offensive line, which returns all five starters and averages more than 250 pounds, has the makings of a dominant force.

Tonight, those in charge of security for the Wolverines' no-huddle spread offense will get to show their on-field skills during a 7:30 p.m. match-up with Mount Vernon at WPHS. On Tuesday, some members of the West Potomac O-line displayed their trash-talking talents toward the rival Majors.

Left guard Dan Carriker's description of the West Potomac-Mount Vernon rivalry: "It is our time to put [the Majors] in the dirt and end their season for them right then and there."

Right tackle Samlullah Ahmady gave the Majors even less of a chance.

"Mount Vernon doesn't deserve to be on the same field with us," he said.

Center Matt Campbell brought up more than football.

"We're born and bred to hate Mount Vernon," he said. "We don't like to be near them. Every time I'm over there, I just don't like them. I don't like to be over there. I hate their school. It's like a prison to me."

"I just don't like Mount Vernon in general."

Earlier in the day, Mount Vernon coach Tom Glynn described the rivalry this way: "We don't really like the West Potomac Weasels. Oh, I'm sorry, Wolverines."

While the smack talk came from both directions, West Potomac held an advantage in verbal jabs thrown. Good thing for the Wolverines, they appear to hold the advantage in talent and experience necessary to back up their pregame chatter.

Along with a strong offensive line, West Potomac has a slew of talented skill position players, including quarterback Colin Mathewson, receivers Shawn Lee, Deondre Essex and running backs Darel Layne and Edward Johnson.

The defense is led by D-linemen Francisco Jimenez and Akram Mohamed, linebacker



The West Potomac offensive line competes during a scrimmage against Washington-Lee. The Wolverines return all five starters on the O-line.

Shakil White and a secondary that head coach Eric Henderson praises.

After Tuesday's practice, Henderson spoke to the team about having the chance to do something special in 2009 and to focus on getting better. Step one is beating Mount Vernon.

"We just want to be a better team after the [Mount Vernon] game than we are right now," Henderson said. "We want to do things the way that we are coached to do and we want to do it with just a little extra flavor — because it's Mount Vernon."

Campbell said the Wolverines have something to prove.

"We're looking to be one of the most dominant forces in the Patriot District and in the region," the senior said. "[We're] trying to take over, prove our point that we're not just a bunch of small highway kids, that we're a bunch of weight-trained, committed athletes that are out here to play."

MOUNT VERNON enters

the season as a relatively inexperienced group, which lost a lot of size on the offensive line. The Majors' option offense, which pounded people out of the wishbone last season, may use more shotgun in 2009.

Vernon, but a win would be the ultimate statement.

"I know a lot of those kids," Sable said, "so it would be nice to knock them off — have bragging rights over them."



The Mount Vernon football team and its option offense look to knock off West Potomac tonight.

MILITARY NOTES

Air Force Airman **Andrew C. Desjardins** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Desjardins is the son of Doreen and Alan Desjardins of Alexandria. He graduated from a home school program in 2006.

Army Spec. **Tamekia A. Powell** has graduated from basic combat training at

Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. She is the daughter of Annie Powell of Alexandria. Powell received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from Georgia Southern University, Statesboro.

John Raney, Alexandria resident and 30-year Marine Corps veteran, won with D.C. Lottery's Deal or No Deal Second Chance Drawing. He received a trip

to Hollywood and a chance to win money on "Deal or No Deal."

Air Force Airman Christina E. Sprayberry graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

She is the granddaughter of Ann Roberson of Suzanne Drive, Longview, Texas, and daughter of Cindy

Sprayberry of Gardenia Court, Alexandria. Sprayberry is a 2008 graduate of Cypress-Springs High School, Cypress, Texas.

Navy Ensign Daryl A. Dawson, daughter of Debbie and Cutler Dawson of Alexandria, and fellow sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93) homeported in

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, are currently on a six-month deployment to the Seventh Fleet area of operation with the John C. Stennis Strike Group and Destroyer Squadron 15.

Dawson is a 2003 graduate of Norfolk Academy of Norfolk, Va., and joined the Navy in May 2007. She is a 2007 graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., with a BS degree.

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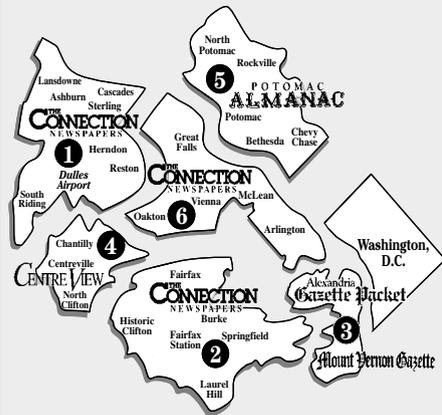
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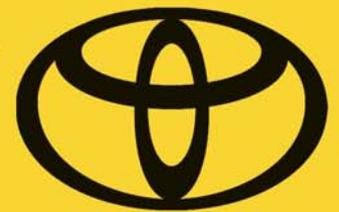
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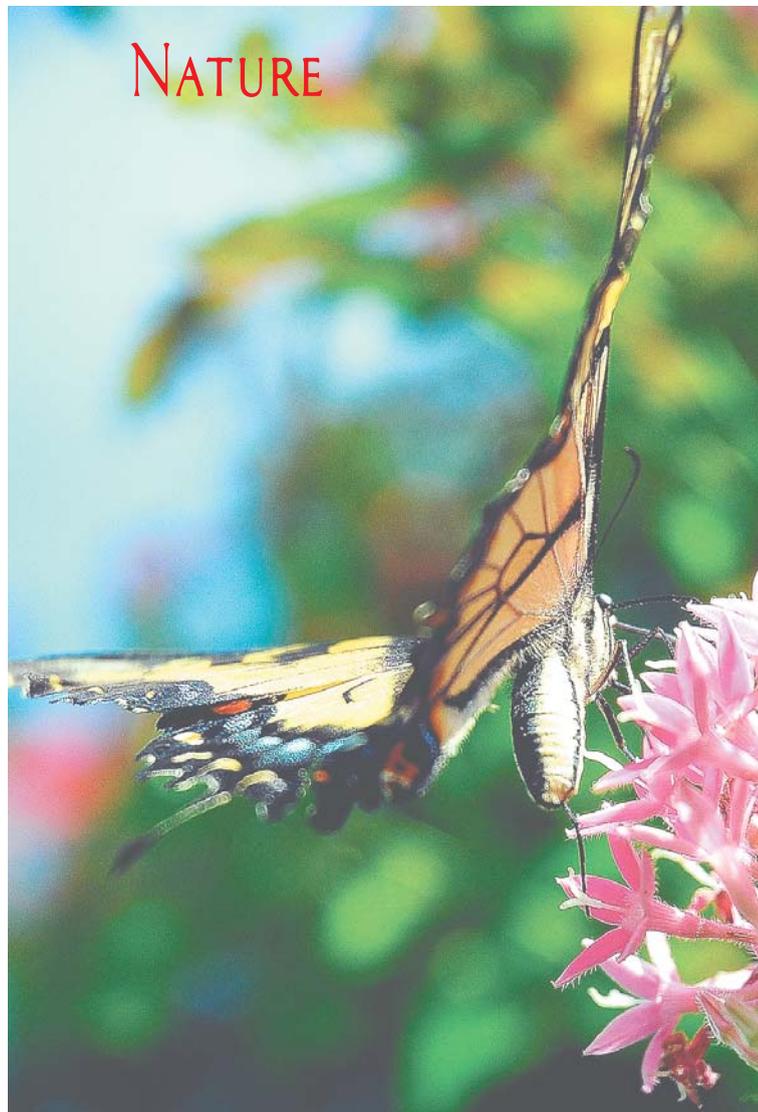
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NATURE

Butterflies alight onto the late summer blooms in the river garden.

Summer Landscape



PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE

One of the pair of historic White House gates now in the garden at River Farm. These gates were commissioned by President James Monroe as the White House was being reconstructed following its burning during the War of 1812. They were installed in 1819 and stood at the northeast entrance for almost 120 years.



A show of Black-eyed Susan's.



Hydrangea bushes border the entrance to one of the many walkways in the gardens at River Farm.