

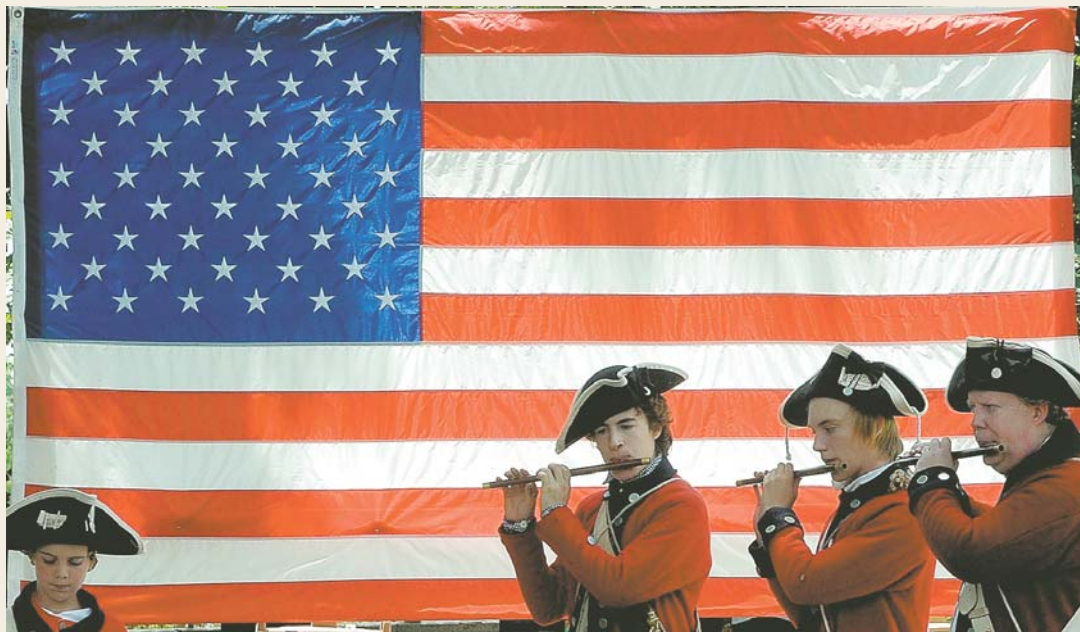
Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 39

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

OCTOBER 1, 2009



Fife and drums at the Mt. Vernon Estate.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Newcomers' & Community Guide 2009-10



Christmas at Woodlawn Plantation



Good Shepherd's International Festival



West Potomac Madrigals sing at the Mount Vernon Estate.

What's Ahead for Mount Vernon?

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Residents of Mount Vernon will see a number of issues shape their community in the near future. Here is an overview:

This section of the road runs through Ft. Belvoir and will be designed to handle the increased traffic created by the construction of a new comprehensive health facility in Fort Belvoir which is scheduled to be fully operational in 2011.

ROUTE 1 EXPANSION

The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$3 million to design a Route 1 expansion from four lanes to six lanes, anticipated to be completed by 2014-15. The work includes expanding a 2-mile section of the highway beginning at Route 235 south to the Fairfax County Parkway along with a median and turn around lane.

FORT BELVOIR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Military personnel and veterans in the area will soon be able to receive total medical care at Fort Belvoir's new 1.3 million square foot, \$807 million state of the art medical facility. The Fort Belvoir Community Hospital

NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

SEE SOME OF THE FORCES. PAGE 8

Hardison Leads West Potomac High

Education veteran is new Wolverine principal.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE GAZETTE

Cliff Hardison lounges in his office as the bell drones over the loud-speaker and ends West Potomac High School's Friday classes — signaling his second week as the new principal is officially over. He is chief of the 2,100 teenagers in his student body.

The West Springfield graduate is no stranger to Fairfax County, say-

ing he considered teaching since his youth. After a stint with the Marine Officer Training program, Hardison began his career as a multi-subject eighth grade teacher at Godwin Middle School.

Thirty-two years later, Hardison finds himself a veteran of the education system. He relocated more than once, obtaining his graduate degree in counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University and moving on to Virginia Tech for a doctorate in the leadership program.

"I've liked every aspect of my journey," Hardison said.

Although Hardison created his foundation through teaching, he

SEE NEW PRINCIPAL. PAGE 26

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Built in 1929 this special property is sited on a lovely one acre lot that is graced with mature trees and beautiful grounds. High ceilings, rich hardwood floors and gracious well proportioned rooms welcome owner and visitor alike. While it is prime for expansion it truly embodies the charm of yesteryear just as it is.

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com
MLS ID# FX7121352



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\$825,500



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
8901 Bridgehaven Ct. 22508



Escape to Nature

On a beautiful half acre this custom home offers one floor living, two-car garage, six bedrooms, three and half baths, hardwood floors, brick construction, quality updates. From GW parkway to right on Vernon View to left on Wakefield to right on Bridgehaven to 8901.

Ann Dozier Michael
703.608.5218
www.anndoziermichael.com
MLS ID# FX7164545



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

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Fabulous Whole House Renovation

The "Wow" factor is evident the minute you enter this all-brick Cape Cod offering open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, decorative fireplace in living room, dining room with french doors to private deck, three bedrooms, lower level rec room with wet bar, office nook, bedroom and full bath for overnight guests plus bonus loft. Stroll down the 'Avenue' for dinner and shopping.

Jennifer Walker
703.675.1566
www.jenwalker.com
MLS ID# AX7163051



ALEXANDRIA

\$1,550,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
6029 Woodmont Rd. 22307

Stately Stone Colonial

Step inside this stately stone Colonial and you will find wonderful spaces both inside and out for both your elegant and casual entertaining. Situated on a flat double lot with five bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths, and a two-car garage.

Mason Montague Bavin
703.338.6007
www.masonbavin.com
MLS ID# FX7151879



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$608,500



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
1184 N Phil Street 22314

Endless Charm and One Light to DC

Tucked away in a quiet enclave (Canal Way) of classic townhomes, this two-bedroom home employs timeless features and warm decor. With a bright, open floorplan, updated granite kitchen with exposed brick wall, sunny patio, and off-street parking--this home is a winner!

Janet Price
703.960.5858
www.janetpricehomes.com
MLS ID# AX7167961



ALEXANDRIA

\$799,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
6022 Fort Hunt Rd. 22307



Belle Haven Beauty

Charming stone and slate Colonial on a gorgeous lot right opposite Belle Haven Country Club! Paved walkways, garage + driveway for more than three cars; gracious interior with three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, updated kitchen/breakfast room, separate dining room, living room with fireplace, study and porch.

Barbara Cousens
703.966.4180
www.barbaracousens.com
MLS ID# FX7167587



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$499,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
1115 Cameron St #113



Convenient Location in Old Town

One block from King Street, 900 square feet, one-bedroom + den, designer kitchen, nine-foot ceilings, hardwood floors and crown molding. Fantastic rooftop terrace! One garage parking space with remote access. Private, street-level entry. Seven blocks to Metro.

Norah Wilson
703.593.1376
www.norahwilson.com
MLS ID# AX7131380



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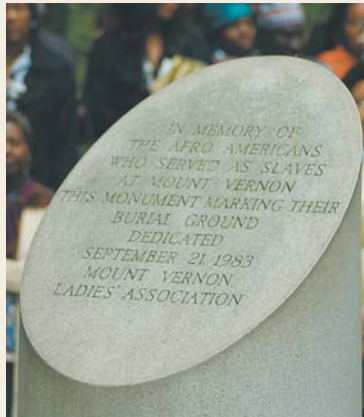
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Slave Memorial Commemoration

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE



The St. Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums with Tim Batten, Pipe Major, play music for guests attending the commemoration.



Guests gather around a monument located on the slave burial ground to pay tribute at the 26th Anniversary Slave Memorial Commemoration held at the Mt. Vernon Estate.



Nikki Giovanni Youth Writers: Drew Darden, Matt Convoe, Calvin Williams, Shakira Kemp and Deonna Dobson handed out pamphlets to guests arriving at the memorial commemoration on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Colonists Drive Out Tribes, Make Their Homes

COMPILED BY GERALD A. FILL

The Mount Vernon District includes, Mount Vernon, Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Mason Neck and parts of southeast Springfield, representing a population of approximately 117,000 within 60 square miles. It is one of eight magisterial districts in Fairfax County. Bordered by the Potomac River on the east, the district contains some of the county's wetlands and parks, the majority the county's historic sites, as well as a number of venues for biking, hiking, and boating and fishing.

HISTORY Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon district were home to the native Americans for over 1,500 years before Captain John Smith

sailed up the Potomac River and began to map the areas along the riverbank. When he arrived in 1608 the Moyumpse or Dogue tribe predominated. Tauxemont, their main village, was located in Mason Neck where they lived in long houses and raised corn, beans, squash and tobacco. The Potomac River provided an ample supply of fish and shellfish.

During the Susquehannock War in 1675, The Moyumpse sided with the Susquehannocks in a losing cause against the colonists. When the war ended they left the area along with the Susquehannocks who were driven out of their villages on the Maryland side of the Potomac. The colonists took over these villages and farmlands where they continued to grow the same crops and fished and hunted just as they had learned from the Indians.

Kings Charles II was exiled to Europe during the English Civil War in 1649. During his exile, King Charles granted all of the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers to seven of his loyal supporters. By 1690 all of this land was controlled by Lord Fairfax. Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, arrived in Virginia in 1737, installed his cousin William as his land agent, and by 1745 his proprietary extended to 5,282,000 acres.

WILLIAM FAIRFAX built the Belvoir mansion in 1741 on the Potomac River which is now the site of the present day Ft. Belvoir. In 1742 he cut a portion of the proprietary away from Prince William County and named it after his cousin, Lord Fairfax.

Fairfax County was primarily an agricul-

tural area where tobacco was farmed by slaves. Plantations were built along the Potomac, the most notable of them, Mt. Vernon which was acquired by George Washington in 1735. By the time Washington died in 1799, Mt. Vernon had grown to 8,000 acres, and was farmed by over 300 slaves. George Mason, another of America's founding fathers who fought to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution and authored the Virginia Declaration of Rights, lived south of Mt. Vernon in Gunston Hall overlooking Gunston Cove in Mason Neck. His home is preserved as a historic site today.

In 1790, the first census lists Fairfax County with a combined white and black population of 12,000. Earlier in 1782, 41

SEE FROM FARMLAND. PAGE 9

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like or dislike about living in Mount Vernon?

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/
THE GAZETTE



David Tomblin with daughter Evelyn, five years in the Wellington community.

"Yes, I like living here. It has a secluded feeling, away from the hustle and bustle. I also like the extensive bike paths."



Mary Peters, 15 years in the Hollin Hall community, travel agent.

"Yes, I like living here because of its diversity, convenience, friendly people, and it is a safe place to live."



Anne Heising, librarian at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, has lived on the immediate neighborhood for many years.

"Yes, I like living here because of its multicultural aspects, an area that accepts new Americans. I have established roots here and am involved in my church and active in personal artistic pursuits."



Uffe Mikkelsen, 17-year resident of Stratford landing community, owns and operates local gourmet food carryout store.

"Yes, the Mount Vernon community is a hidden jewel. It is a small, friendly community in spite of its geographic location in a suburb of the nation's capital. I know many of my customers on a first name basis and feel fortunate to be living and working here."

NEWCOMERS' & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Places To Go, People To Meet ...

COMPILED BY SENITRA MCCOMBS

October 2009

Fall Harvest Family Days at George Washington's Gristmill, on State Route 235, near Route 1. October 17-18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Create cornhusk dolls, learn about candle-making and see how the gristmill works. An on-site bake sale will offer fresh-baked goods, sandwiches and beverages. Free. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Mount Vernon Estate's Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. Features live entertainment, re-enactments, and tours of seldom open wine cellar vaults. This evening event celebrates the history of wine making by the founding fathers. Set for Oct. 2-4 from 6-9 p.m. Advance tickets suggested. \$30. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Art on the Avenue. Multicultural arts festival celebrating diversity through the arts in the Potomac West community. Artists and artisans of all kinds discuss and demonstrate their work. Also features tastings from restaurants and musical performances. Mount Vernon and Del Ray Avenues. Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Call 703-683-3100 or visit www.artontheavenue.org.

PLANNING AHEAD

Scottish Heritage Fair at Fort Ward Park at 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Sunday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A family celebration featuring music, Scottish dancing, Scottish clans, blackfoot sheep, Clydesdale horses, the swords of chivalry and more. Admission is free. For more information call the City's Special Events Hotline 703-883-4686.

Craft Sale at Hollin Hall Senior Center on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Over 30 crafters, silent auction, bake ale, lunch and more will be featured. Free. 703-765-4573.

November 2009

Veteran's Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. In honor of our nation's veterans, Mount Vernon admits free all active duty or retired military. Visitors are invited to place a flower at Washington's Tomb and join the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution at a 2 p.m. wreath-laying ceremony in honor of our nation's veterans. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Historic Alexandria Antiques Show & Sale. Features dealers from around the country as well as preview party, appraisals, lecture and tea. Holiday Inn & Suites, 625 First St. Nov.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Gunston Hall candlelit tours in December.

14-16. Noon-8 p.m. Fri; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun. Call 703-549-5811 or visit www.funside.com.

City Of Alexandria Holiday Tree Lighting. Musical entertainment with greetings from the Mayor and Santa Claus in Market Square, 301 King St. Nov. 23 from 7-9 p.m. Free. Call 703-838-4844 or visit www.funside.com.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Learn about the Washington family's Christmas traditions, meet historic char-

acters and tour the home by candlelight, including the rarely seen third floor. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Nov. 28-30, Dec. 4-6 and Dec. 11-13 from 5-8 p.m. Adults: \$18, children 11 and under: \$12. Call 703-780-2000. www.mountvernon.org
Annual Scottish Preview at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., on Nov. 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring Scottish culture in Alexandria. This annual event honors Alexandria's Scottish heri-

tage with activities, performances and demonstrations. Call 703-838-4994. www.virginia.org

December 2009

Holidays at Mount Vernon. Nov. 28-Jan. 6 The Washington family's seasonal entertaining is interpreted daily, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day; themed Christmas Trees, gingerbread demonstration, historic chocolate demonstration. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-780-2000.

Plantation Christmas & Yuletide Christmas Dinner. Celebrate the season with a tour of the candle-lit house, cider by the glowing fire, open-hearth cooking demonstrations, and carriage rides. Buffet of Yuletide fare also available. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. 7-10 p.m. Dec. 11 6:30 p.m. 7 Dec. 12 4:30p.m., 6:00 p.m., & 8:00 p.m. www.gunstonhall.org. Call 703-550-9220.

Campagna Center's 37th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Parade honors Alexandria's Scottish heritage with more than 100 Scottish clans dressed in tartans and playing bagpipes, living history reenactment units, dog clubs and antique cars, Thursday Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. & Dec.

SEE AND THINGS. PAGE 5

Show the Girls Some Love Breast Health Events at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital



**Advances in Breast Care...
What Every Woman Should Know**
Wednesday, October 7, 2009 • 7 p.m.
David Weintritt, MD, Breast Surgeon
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

This session is FREE, but we ask that you call 703-750-8800 to register.

Breast Health & Women's Imaging Open House

Monday, October 19, 2009 • 5 - 7 p.m.
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Yellow Lobby
2501 Parker's Lane • Alexandria, VA

Be the first guests to tour our newly renovated Women's Imaging Center. Meet our Breast Health Professionals and our Women's Imaging team.



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

inova.org

NEWCOMERS' & COMMUNITY GUIDE

...And Things To Do

FROM PAGE 4

5, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Other Christmas Walk activities include a Taste of Scotland, sale of greens, musical performances, children's events, Christmas Marketplace. Parade is free. Call 703-838-5499 or visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com

Annual Holiday Parade of Boats. Alexandria's harbor lights up when brightly lit sailing and power leisure boats cruise along the Potomac River at the City's historic waterfront. Saturday, Dec. 5 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-838-5005 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

Holidays on the Avenue. The Del Ray neighborhood kicks off the holiday season with its annual holiday tree lighting at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center on Thursday Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Its luminaria display, with entertainment, stretches from Commonwealth to Monroe avenues along Mount Vernon Avenue. 6-9 p.m. Free. Call 703-838-4825 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

Campagna Center's 35th Annual Holiday Designer Tour of Homes. Features six charming, architecturally interesting homes decorated for the holidays. Old Town Alexandria. 703-549-0111.

Kwanzaa Craft & Game Workshop. Learn the background of Kwanzaa and how to construct small gifts (zawadi) that can easily be made at home. Alexandria Black History Resource Center, 902 Wythe Street Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. Free. Call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Enjoy the warmth and beauty of the holiday season at festively decorated historic sites in Old Town Alexandria. Tours are self-guided and highlight the social, musical and sentimental aspects of the holidays in 18th- and 19th-century Alexandria. Light refreshments served; trolley available between sites. Dec. 13, tours are from 5-9 p.m. \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$5 for children ages 6-17. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.historicalalexandria.org.

Christmas in Camp Open House. Learn how the holiday was observed during the Civil War with living history interpreters, period music and light refreshments. Victor 4301 W Braddock Road Dec. 12 from noon-4 p.m. Call 703-838-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

First Night Alexandria. Family-oriented, alcohol-free New Year's celebration with music, performing arts and fireworks at midnight. King and Washington streets and throughout Old



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

George Washington Parkway Classic

Town. Dec. 31 from 7 p.m.- midnight. Call 703-838-5005.

Ornament Decorating Workshop. Dec. 5 from 1-4 p.m. at the Archaeology Museum, 3rd floor Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Decorate an artifact-shaped, take-home dough ornament. Free. Reservations suggested. Visit 703/838-4399.

Soldier's Christmas. Dec. 1 from noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Features re-enactors, activities and more. Entrance fee. Visit www.nvrpa.org 703/352-5900.

celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of African-American Alexandrians. Alexandria Black History Resource Center, 638 N Alfred St. Call 703-838-4356.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Feb. 9 from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See re-enactments and learn how to handle a sword. Entry fee. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Walking with Washington. See the sites associated with George Washington on this two-hour walking tour. 301 King St., Market Square. Sundays in February, 1:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-838-4399 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

George Washington Symposium. The life of George Washington after the start of the Revolutionary War. February 21. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. From 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

George Washington Birthday Celebration weekend Feb. 13-15. A city-wide celebration for Alexandria's favorite son. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

George Washington Classic 10K Race. Feb. 14 at Eisenhower Avenue east of the Holiday Inn. Rain or shine. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

Birthnight Banquet & Ball. Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m. Tavern fare, toasts to George Washington and 18th-century dancing. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Advance reservations required. \$100 ticket includes banquet and ball, \$50 ticket for ball entrance only. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

Breakfast With George Washington. Feb. 14 and 15. Join Gen. Washington for a sample of his favorite breakfast, "hoecakes swimming in butter and honey," while supplies last. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Revolutionary War Encampment. Ongoing living history presentations and Civil War skirmish reenactment. Fort Ward Park, 4301 W Braddock Rd. Free. Call 703-838-4848.

Birthday Celebration at Mount Vernon. Feb. 16. Admission is free to George Washington's home with a wreath-laying ceremony followed by musical performances. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Call 703-780-2000 or visit

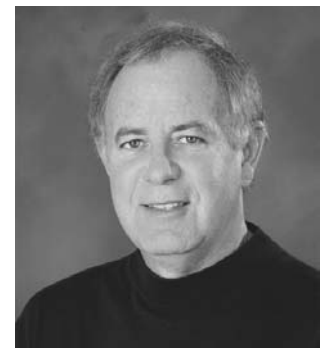
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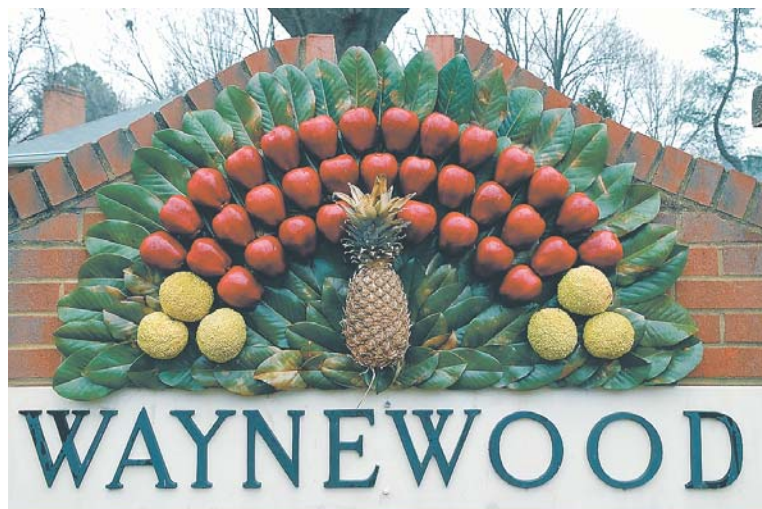
Mt. Vernon is Rex's hometown. He moved here in 1960 when his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed at the Pentagon. Rex also became a pilot, graduating from the Air Force Academy and flying for 20 years with the Air Force and Eastern Airlines.

Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

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WayneWood at Christmas

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SEE PLANNING, PAGE 18

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 1-7, 2009 ♦ 5

NEWCOMERS' GUIDE



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St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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Sunday services at 8 and 10 a.m.
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Phone: 703/765-3949

www.stmarksalex.org



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE

West Potomac High School

Public Schools Serving Mount Vernon

COMPILED BY GERALD A. FILL

The elementary schools in the Mount Vernon District are part of Cluster 4 and are divided into three pyramids. The schools from each pyramid feed into one middle school and one high school. The following list shows schools within each Mt. Vernon District high school pyramid. Residents can enter their street address at the boundary information page on the Fairfax County School Web site at <http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/to> to determine which schools student should attend. This site also contains school rankings, maps, school profiles, and can answer most questions about the school system or a particular school.

Cluster Staff

Scott Brabrand
 Assistant Superintendent
 Deborah Tyler
 Director
 Jennifer Ruff
 Executive Administrative Assistant
 8115 Gatehouse Rd.
 Falls Church, VA 22042
 Phone: 571-423-1140
 Fax: 571-423-1147
cluster4admin@fcps.edu

Support Team

The department contacts below help this cluster.
 Transportation (located at Virginia Hills)

Sandy Campanaro -
Sandy.Campanaro@fcps.edu,
 703-329-3600
 Student Services
 Elsie Scimecca -
Elsie.Scimecca@fcps.edu,
 571-423-426
 Special Education (located at Dunn Loring Center)
 Marilyn Lovett -
Marilyn.Lovett@fcps.edu,
 703-329-2530


West Potomac Pyramid

Belle View ES
 Grades: FECEP, K-6
 6701 Fort Hunt Road
 Alexandria, VA 22307
 703-660-8300
 Principal: Tom Kuntz
Thomas.Kuntz@fcps.edu
Bucknell ES
 Grades: Preschool, FECEP, K-6
 6925 University Drive
 Alexandria, VA 22307
 703-660-2900
 Principal: Sheila Eller
Sheila.Eller@fcps.edu
Fort Hunt ES
 Grades: K-6
 8832 Linton Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22308
 703-619-2600
 Principal: Barbara Leibbrandt
baleibbrandt@fcps.edu
Groveton ES
 Grades: K-6
 900 Harrison Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22306
 703-718-8000
 Principal: Richard Pollio
Richard.Pollio@fcps.edu

Hollin Meadows ES

Grades: K-6
 2310 Nordok Place
 Alexandria, VA 22306
 703-718-8300
 Principal: Jon Gates
Jon.Gates@fcps.edu
Hybla Valley ES
 Grades: FECEP, K-6
 3415 Lockheed Blvd.
 Alexandria, VA 22306
 703-718-7000
 Principal: Lauren Sheehy, Ed.D.
Lauren.Sheehy@fcps.edu
Stratford Landing ES
 Grades: Preschool, K-6
 8484 Riverside Rd
 Alexandria, VA 22308
 703-619-3600
 Principal: Maura Caulfield
Maura.Caulfield@fcps.edu
Waynewood ES
 Grades: K-6
 1205 Waynewood Blvd
 Alexandria, VA 22308
 703-704-7100
 Principal: James Meier
James.Meier@fcps.edu
Sandburg MS
 Grades: 7-8
 8428 Fort Hunt Road
 Alexandria, VA 22308
 703-799-6100
 Principal: Wendy Eaton
Wendy.Eaton@fcps.edu
Bryant Alternative High School
 2709 Popkins Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22306
 703-660-2000
 Principal: Jan McKee
Jan.McKee@fcps.edu
Landmark Career Academy

SEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
 PAGE 16




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 June McDaniel


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NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Important Numbers

EMERGENCY

Police, Fire, Ambulance: 9-1-1, TTY 911
Non-emergency
703-360-8400, TTY 703-204-2264

Fairfax County Government Emergency
Information Line
703-817-7771, TTY 711

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Poison Control
1-800-222-1222, TTY 711

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Supervisor Gerry Hyland: 703-780-7518
- ❖ County information: 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711
- ❖ Court information: 703-691-7320, TTY 711
- ❖ School information: 703-876-5230, TTY 711
- ❖ Tax information: 703-222-8234, TTY 711
- ❖ Mt. Vernon Fire Department: 703-780-0150

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Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
866 (DMVLINE) or 866-535-5137

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- ❖ Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative 703-698-5800



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

A break during Emergency Preparedness exercises at South County Government Center.

Gas

- ❖ Washington Gas 703-750-1000 Telephone
- ❖ Comcast of Virginia 703-841-7700
- ❖ Cox Communications 703-378-8422
- ❖ Verizon Virginia 888-553-1555
- Cable
- ❖ Cox Communications 703-378-8422
- Water
- ❖ Fairfax County Water Authority 703-698-5600

GOVERNMENT

- ❖ Board of Supervisors 703-324-3151, 703-324-3926
- ❖ Cable Communications and Consumer Protection 703-222-8435 711

- ❖ Celebrate Fairfax 703-324-3247 711 703-222-9784
- ❖ Circuit Court and Records 703-691-7320 711
- ❖ Civil Service Commission 703-324-2930 711 703-324-2936
- ❖ Clerk to the Board 703-324-3151 703-324-3926
- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney 703-246-2776 711
- ❖ Community and Recreation Services 703-324-4386 711 703-222-9792
- ❖ Community Services Board 703-324-7000, 703-802-3015
- ❖ Board of Supervisors 703-324-3151 711, 703-324-3926
- ❖ Communications and Consumer Protection 703-222-8435 711
- ❖ Celebrate Fairfax 703-324-3247 711, 703-222-9784
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- ❖ Commonwealth's Attorney 703-246-2776 711
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- ❖ General District Court 703-691-7320 711
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- ❖ Human Resources 703-222-5872 711, 703-324-3945
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- ❖ Library 703-324-3100 703-324-8365
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- ❖ Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District 703-324-1460, 703-324-1460
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- ❖ Park Authority 703-324-8702 711
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- ❖ Sheriff 703-246-3227 711, 703-691-9513
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Some of the Forces Shaping Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 1

will provide world class medicine and replace the current 51-year-old 46-bed DeWitt Hospital with a 120-bed facility with a staff of approximately 3,000. The complex will also include the Fort Belvoir Wounded Warriors in Transition Unit, a \$21 million project that will provide up to 276 units to help wounded service members transition from combat roles back into civilian life.

SEASONAL FLU VS. SWINE FLU

The swine flu virus is a mutation of the seasonal flu virus and primarily infects the young (6 months – 18 years), rather than the old. The seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against Swine flu. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that swine flu vaccine should be given to the following: high risk groups:

- ❖ Pregnant women
- ❖ Those who have direct contact with children younger than 6 months
- ❖ Emergency and health care personnel who have direct patient contact
- ❖ Children aged 6 months – 4 years
- ❖ Children 5 – 18 years with chronic medical conditions. Those with asthma have the highest risk.

The swine flu vaccine comes as nasal spray and traditional shots. They will be available in mid-October and administered in several locations which will be announced in the media, through the schools, and online.

Seniors and others under 65 with illnesses that compromise their immune systems are higher risk for the seasonal flu and should be vaccinated. The seasonal flu vaccine is available now in many locations which can be found online.

URBAN FOREST CONFERENCE

Trees Virginia and the Virginia Department of Forestry are sponsoring a conference for those who wish to better understand how the benefits of the urban forest can be quantified, valued, and used to influence public policy. The conference also hopes to foster a dialogue on the role cultural differences play in managing community forests. Advance registration is \$60 person or \$75 on-site. The conference will be held Friday, Nov. 13, at 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Algonkian Conference Center at Algonkian Regional Park, 47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR BUDGET

Fairfax County and Public School System staff will conduct a community dialogue to share input on the Fairfax County Budget on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the South County High School Cafeteria from 7 - 9 p.m.

To date there is a projected deficit for FY 2011 of approximately \$316 million as a result of continuing declines in the residential and commercial real estate market, which will require further elimination, modification, reorganization and/or reduc-



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland.

tion of county and school programs. This forecast does not take into account any growth in county agencies or in the school transfer. The deficit includes no employee compensation adjustments for FY 2011.

The FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan has been posted on the County web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

BUSINESS COUNSELING

By appointment, a Fairfax County Economic Development Authority staffer is available to provide free and confidential one-on-one counseling at the Mount Vernon District office to anyone interested in joining the Fairfax County business community, expanding an existing business in Fairfax County, or learning about other business services. Contact Ivy Richards of the FCEDA at 703-790-0600 or irichards@fceda.org.

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

Commonly referred to as MVCCA, the council is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of citizens' associations located in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District of Fairfax County. The purpose of the Mount Vernon Council is to represent and promote the interests of its member associations and to further the common good and general welfare of the residents of the Mount Vernon Magisterial District. The council takes positions on issues of concern to its members, which it presents to Mount Vernon's elected representatives and government entities including the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Planning Commission, as well as the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Leadership and administration is vested in three co-chairs and the Board of Directors.

To be eligible for membership the entity must be: a civic association, a community association, a property owners association, a homeowners association (HOA), or a condominium unit owners association. Every

citizens' association in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District is eligible for membership provided the association is organized, operated for nonpartisan civic activity, and is not engaged in the promotion of a commercial enterprise. A member association must represent at least 10 housing units.

The presidents of the member organizations, or their authorized representative, constitute the MVCCA General Council. The General Council elects the MVCCA officers and must approve the committee chair appointments. Positions on issues and other matters of interest to member associations are proposed by the committees, usually in the form of a resolution, reviewed by the Board of Directors, and submitted to the General Council for approval. The General Council usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month except August, in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Whitman Middle School. When school is not in session, other meeting locations are used. Committees usually meet during the first week of each month. All meetings are open to the public; however, the presiding chair may limit comments to the voting members. The proceedings of the General Council and committees, as well as the schedule of upcoming meetings, are published in the Mount Vernon Council's Record, which is available by subscription, on the Council's web page at <http://mvcca.org>, and in the Sherwood Regional Library.

The MVCCA recently voted on proposed changes to the county's Comprehensive Plan. The results will be sent to the county planning and zoning office for review and analysis, and then sent to the Planning Commission for its consideration. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing next year on the nominations prior to forwarding its recommended changes to the Board of Supervisors. The results of the Council's votes follows:

- ❖ North Gateway Community Business Center
Proposal: Multi-functional large scale

gateway to Mt. Vernon District with Visitors Center

Vote: 26 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention

- ❖ Kings Crossing/Penn Daw Community Business Center

Proposal: Mixed-use town center with no "big box" type retail store such as Walmart, which has expressed an interest in the site.

Vote: 26 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention

- ❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center Campus

Proposal: To consolidate all the public facilities; expand such public facilities where appropriate, but promote a campus-like setting which maximizes green space. This includes the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital; Whitman Middle School; Sherwood Library; Mt. Vernon Governmental Center which houses the Supervisor's offices and the Police Station; the Fire and Rescue Station; and the Justice Snowden Farm on Parkers Lane.

Vote: 22 yes; 1 no; 5 abstentions

- ❖ Justice Snowden Farm, on Parkers Lane

Proposal: To allow the construction of two additional single family homes; and to revise the zoning to be consistent with the existing covenants.

- ❖ Smitty's Lumbertaria, Route 1

Proposal: To create a village town center with residential, office, and retail space; essentially to increase density for this 23 acre site.

Vote: 23 yes; 0 no; 4 abstentions

- ❖ The former Mt. Vernon High School, presently leased by the Islamic Saudi Academy, which is scheduled to move to another part of the county after the lease is up.

Proposal: Use the existing main building for educational purposes; utilize part of the outbuildings space to house non-profit organizations.

Vote: 22 yes; 1 no; 4 abstentions

- ❖ Dogue Creek Treatment Plant

Proposal: Preserve as open space those areas not in use by the county.

Vote: 22 yes; 0 no; 4 abstentions

- ❖ Little Hunting Creek Treatment Plant

Proposal: Develop a nature pathway and boardwalk if and when the present use of the pumping station is no longer being utilized by the county.

Vote: 19 yes; 6 no; 2 abstentions.

- ❖ Hybla Valley/Gum Springs Community Business Center

Proposal: Ensure that whatever is developed in this region is consistent with the Little Hunting Creek Watershed Management Plan; to utilize low impact development practices which will better control storm water runoff.

Vote: 22 yes; 2 no; 0 abstentions

- ❖ Beacon/Groveton Business Center

Proposal: Any increased density in the area should be consistent with storm water runoff recommendations.

Vote: 22 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions

SENIORS SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

After two years of planning and fund-raising

SEE WHAT'S AHEAD. PAGE 26

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NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

From Farmland to Suburbia

FROM PAGE 3

percent of the population consisted of slaves. The Virginia General Assembly ceded a portion of Fairfax County to the District of Columbia in 1791. A portion of this land was later returned in 1847. This area became Arlington County and a part of the City of Alexandria.

Tobacco farming depleted the soil and the county seat was moved from Alexandria to Fairfax City in 1800. Farming and the economy began to decline. Over 4,000 slaves were sold to plantation owners in the deep South. The 1840s brought the beginning of an economic recovery when northern farmers known as "Yankees of Fairfax" began buying cheap farmland which they largely farmed with white labor or slaves, using such new farming methods as fertilizer and crop rotation. The fields came back, but the recovery was snuffed out by the Civil War which destroyed much of northern Virginia — Bull Run, Ox Hill, St. Mary's Church, Frying Pan Meetinghouse, Fairfax Courthouse — all are famous sites of bloody



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Colonial reenactment at George Washington's Grist Mill.

battles or skirmishes.

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR many freed slaves and soldiers who fought in the war decided to remain and make this area their home. The economy began to recover and Fairfax began to prosper, particularly in the area of dairy farming

The 1930s brought the Depression, the New Deal and the beginning of electrification. Roads were built and the county slowly began

to climb its way out of another poor economy. This new bedroom community began to prosper once again. The population ballooned from 40,000 in 1940 to over 1,000,000 people today. Fairfax County has become one of the nation's wealthiest, largest, and best educated counties sitting just at the edge of the nation's capital.

For more information on the Mount Vernon District go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>

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Farmers Markets Still Open

One more way to support local businesses and the economy.

There might be a chill in the air, but local farmers markets will be open well through October, with many open well into November and beyond, with markets in Alexandria and Leesburg open year round.

Farmers markets are a wonderful source of locally grown and produced items, including fruits and vegetables of many kinds, greens, apples, pumpkins, chrysanthemums, meat, dairy products, flowers, eggs, honey, baked goods, and more. The markets are colorful and friendly, and often also offer live music. Many markets include experts on gardening, landscaping and cooking. Recipes and tips for cooking with local produce are available.

But many farmers markets report a drop in customers after Labor Day.

Buying from local markets promotes local, sustainable and organic agriculture, and the local economy. Buying food grown close to home helps the environment and helps reduce global warming by saving the energy used to transport the produce.

Taking children to the farmers market to help pick out their fruits and vegetables can help expand their horizons on healthy foods.

EDITORIAL

SAMPLER OF LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

In Fairfax County, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm>
 Mount Vernon Farmers Market, Tuesdays, 8 a.m. – noon, through Nov. 24, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane
 Kingstowne Farmers Market, Fridays, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m., through Oct. 30, Kingstowne Town Center near the Sunoco Gas Station.
 Burke Farmers Market, Fridays, 8 a.m. – noon, through Oct. 31, in the Virginia Railway Express Parking Lot at 5671 Roberts Parkway
 Lorton Farmers Market, Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., through Oct. 25, Lorton VRE Station Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton.



In Alexandria, see <http://alexandriava.gov/FarmersMarket>

The Old Town Farmers Market in Alexandria is open year round, Saturdays, 5 - 10:30 a.m., at Market Square, 301 King Street, with free parking in the Market Square garage during the hours of the Farmers' Market.

Del Ray Farmers' Market, Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues, Saturdays, 8 a.m. - noon, through the first Saturday in December

Upper King Street Fresh Farmers' Market, King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King Street, every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., through Oct. 29

West End Farmers' Market, Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. through October.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave Campaign Signs Alone

To the Editor:

Should we teach high school students to engage with candidates and political issues, or to steal signs?

Something happened at Tuesday's back-to-school night at West Potomac High School that set a bad example for our kids.

Scott Surovell, a member of West Potomac's Class of 1989, was there as the Democratic candidate for the House of Delegates to greet students and parents. If elected, he would be the first West Potomac graduate in the state legislature and a great role model.

I am the Democratic precinct captain of the Belle Haven Precinct, which votes at West Potomac. I had placed about 40 Surovell signs (with "West Potomac HS, Class of '89" stickers attached) along Quander Road leading to the school from both directions. We display our candidates' signs on back-to-school nights every year.

After handing out our literature for an hour, I went to remove the signs and found that all 40 signs — \$50 worth of signs — had been stolen. They even stole the Surovell sign from the yard of an 87-year-old neighbor on Quander Road, and his sign had been up for over a week.

I have been precinct captain for five years and have represented our candidates at back-to-school nights for six years. Unfortunately,

sign stealing is not uncommon during an election — 2006 was especially bad. But what kind of message does it send our kids, when our candidate's signs are stolen during a back-to-school night.

I have mentored the Young Democrats at West Potomac since my son attended in 2005. I started and continue to do it to promote an interest in politics and involvement in their community. It teaches them the importance of evaluating the issues, forming a position, and working hard for the candidates they want to represent them in state and federal government.

During this election, I hope all candidates' supporters will behave in a way that they would be proud to model to the students of West Potomac High School. I hope all will engage with the candidates and issues and let the signs speak for themselves. Leave the signs alone!

Michael Arnold
Alexandria

Public Option Is Needed

To the Editor:

As a nurse practitioner in southern Fairfax County, I see people from all walks of life, both overinsured and underinsured; under Medicare and Medicaid; active duty service people and those receiving veterans' benefits.

We need some sort of reform, and I think many would agree that

our insurance companies are not serving all of our interests. Health care, I feel, is a right, not a privilege; it should not be available to the highest bidder. Our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness cannot be met easily if we're not in good health. Reforming the way health care is paid for is necessary to pay for a good system, which many realize we don't have, despite the high price we're paying. Mandating coverage seems more like corporate welfare than helping the uninsured. We need to think about this and stop whining about "government run health."

If people are bankrupt, unhealthy and thus unproductive, they have strokes and other complications of poor maintenance of chronic illness: the government will pay the price in the end. So let's look at a public option to compete with the insurance companies, and involve more healthcare providers in the real reform that's needed to keep this country healthy and great.

Patricia Adams, MSN
Adult Nurse Practitioner
Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria

Signs as Freedom Of Speech

To the Editor:

This week in reference to the season's bumper crop of campaign signs Editor and Publisher Mary Kimm wrote that a little local en-

forcement would go a long way. She stated it is illegal to post political signs in road medians. She also chastised candidates for planting campaign signs in public right-of-ways.

Ms. Kimm needs to participate in another fall tradition and go back to school. For with some research she would learn that last year Virginia's Attorney General Robert F. McDonnell issued an opinion that posting political signs in state rights-of-ways is not prohibited. He also wrote that political signs are political speech. The First Amendment, penned by Mount Vernon's George Mason, affords political speech the highest form of protection under our Constitution.

Ms. Kimm would also learn that because of Mr. Mason's First Amendment we have newspapers and she has a job.

Instead of incorrectly blaming candidates and enthusiastic supporters, she can point her pen toward Bob McDonnell, our former Attorney General whose own signs can be found in medians.

While Ms. Kimm views political signs in roadways as screaming illustrations of flush campaign finances, I see demonstrations of our right to freedom of speech and celebrate them.

Deborah Matthews
Mount Vernon
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

Advancing the Environment

To the Editor:

Environmental concerns were at the heart of my interest and involvement in the recent nominations to amend the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan that the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) approved on Sept. 10. With every nomination, we wanted to strengthen protections of our natural resources and implement overdue storm water management plans to improve our streams, the Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay.

I am gratified that six of the 13 nominations would strengthen the environmental provisions of the Comprehensive Plan. Several would improve stormwater controls and reduce runoff in the Richmond Highway Corridor. Two others would protect environmentally sensitive areas from development, including the Little Hunting Creek pumping station site. This 9.6-acre parcel is owned by Fairfax County. In these days of tight budgets, the County could be tempted to sell off land that it owns. The current language in the County's Comprehensive Plan allows for the building of three houses per acre on the pumping station site. Up to 29 houses could be built.

Given the environmental sensitivity of Little Hunting Creek, I was delighted that, with this nomination, we moved one step closer to preserving these acres as open space. The nominations await review by County staff, as well as public testimony and hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. I am optimistic that these nine acres will remain undeveloped and a refuge for wildlife for many years to come.

Eleanor F. Quigley

Tree Commissioner for Mt. Vernon District & Member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the MVCCA

Seniors Stake In Health Reform

To the Editor:

I've read enough. Frank Medico's inappropriate attacks on government, especially Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid are at best horribly misleading, and at worst unconscionable. Mr. Medico's gross distortions need to be answered. Tom Fina does not stand alone. For starters, although Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid have long term financial issues which need to be addressed, they are not going bankrupt. They will survive if only because they have served this country so well. These great programs have saved the lives of thousands of Americans. Before Social Security, half of all seniors were below the poverty level; before Medicare, most seniors could not afford the high premiums demanded by private insurance because their age. Others were not accepted because of pre-existing conditions. Many, without insurance, simply got sick and died before their time.

Today, the highest rates of personal bankruptcies in America are due to health care

costs, a situation unknown in any other industrialized country. Today, an estimated 14,000 people lose their coverage every day; and an estimated 18,000 die prematurely because they can't get access to appropriate care, unable to afford health insurance. His statement that "80 percent to 85 percent of Americans don't want the government to takeover health care" may or may not be true. But we are not even talking about a government takeover health care in this debate. That was never anything like that suggested by the President or Congress which could lead to that conclusion ... nothing. The "public option" is provided as one choice for Americans, who are free to keep their own insurance. Indeed, a recently released New York Times/CBS poll (Sept. 19-23) shows that 65 percent of respondents would favor a "government administered health insurance plan-something like the Medicare coverage ..." It is not a lot different than our sons and daughters who have the choice of going to a public or a private college. Is Mr. Medico opposed to the Veterans Administration and their services that the government alone and completely provides to our valiant warriors, and veterans like Mr. Medico? Would he rather have private insurance companies manage their health care? Even our members of Congress rush to Bethesda naval hospital to get the first class treatment they receive there.

Every day in the news we hear about people denied coverage, life-saving drugs priced out of sight, insurance company executives receiving bonuses for denying claims. The U.S. is the only advanced country in the world that does not consider health care to be a right, but a privilege. The outcomes in most of the industrialized nations are also better and cost less as studies by the Commonwealth Fund, the World Health Organization, and the CIA World Fact Book (which ranks the average U.S. life expectancy 50th out of 224 countries) demonstrate year after year. Where universal care is not granted, the rich get the best care and the poor get the worst. Countries like Switzerland and the Netherlands even combine a robust private as well as public program which covers all their citizens. Benefits are in no way being cut through the pending legislation. In fact, in the current bills the "doughnut hole" (Medicare's Part D prescription drug program) will eventually be closed, preventive services will not have co-pays, premiums will be lower, the Medicare Trust Fund will be extended, and insurance companies will not be able to deny care for pre-existing conditions, or raise premiums if their insured gets sick.

Every poll shows that the great majority of Americans believe our health care system is broken, including many Republicans. Seniors have a major stake in the success of health care reform. The rate of growth of overall health care must be slowed and come closer to the growth of the rest of the economy as a whole. Seniors need to know that if the rise in health care costs in the country cannot be curbed through broad based health care reform, then Medicare

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

Council Reviews Land Use

Hyland reports on county actions.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) addressed the following issues at its Sept. 23 meeting.

LAUREL HILL ADAPTIVE REUSE AREA

Resolution to Oppose the Alexander Company Draft Master Plan for the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area (Former Lorton Reformatory Site, and former Workhouse site)

Vote: 22 - 0 - 0: Opposed the proposed master plan for the former Lorton Reformatory site.

The MVCCA opposed the proposed master plan for the following reasons:

- ❖ Questioned the financial viability and sustainability of the proposed master plan

- ❖ Opposed the substitution of publicly subsidized low income housing for the magnet/workforce housing

- ❖ Opposed the proposed scope and mix of new housing units

The MVCCA resolution in opposing the master plan called on the county government to conduct an independent financial and economic analysis of this and any future master plan proposal for these sites to ensure that the project is both viable and sustainable for the long term

MONOPOLE

Resolution to Support the Installation of a Cingular Wireless Monopole (85 ft. Antenna Tower) at 8717 Fort Hunt Road on the Masonic Lodge property

Vote: 22 - 3 - 1: Does not oppose the construction of the wireless antenna tower at the Masonic Lodge.

Since this MVCCA vote, the Fairfax County Planning Commission voted to support the special exception application to install the monopole; however, the commission directed that the antenna tower erected shall be in the form of a 85 ft. artificial tree to minimize the visual impact of the antenna tower for the surrounding neighborhood.

RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Resolution on the Improvement of Traffic Flow and Provision for Mass Transit on Richmond Highway

Vote: 24 - 0 - 0: Support of the resolution as proposed.

Support of this resolution included the following detailed proposed actions:

- ❖ Urged the Commonwealth Transportation Board, VDOT, FCDOT, and the Board of Supervisors to secure funding to complete the widening of Richmond Highway to six lanes from Buckman road (north) to Prince William County.
- ❖ Urged that VDOT undertake a Rich-

mond Highway Mass Transit Study

- ❖ Urged that the Board of Supervisors include in the Comprehensive Plan the current future concept of a widened Richmond Highway.

METRORAIL

Metrorail Extension Resolution to Support House Bill: H.R. 1635, the Northern Virginia Metrorail Extension Act.

Vote: 25 - 0 - 0: Resolution supports the passage of HR 1635.

U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly is the sponsor of HR 1635. The bill calls for the extension of Metrorail in northern Virginia. This includes extension of the blue, orange, and yellow lines and Metrorail capacity expansion. The MVCCA resolution supports the bill with the understanding that a priority be placed on the Yellow Line extension component along Richmond Highway extending south to Woodbridge.

HYLAND REPORT

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland briefed MVCCA attendees on the following Board of Supervisors matters submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their support on Aug. 3:

- ❖ Fairchild Property: Part of the historic Spring Bank estate, the Fairchild family is offering a deed of gift of the land to the county. This will help to restore and preserve Quander Brook. Hyland requested that the board accept the deed of gift of approximately 8.31 acres of land.

- ❖ Requested the supervisors' Legislative Committee support a change to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Section 527 review process and fee schedule (VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis Regulation). The present process, according to the MVCCA and others, is that it is costly and cumbersome, and discourages submissions by individuals and non-profit organizations who wish to participate in the development of the Comprehensive Plan in land use changes and delays revitalization projects.

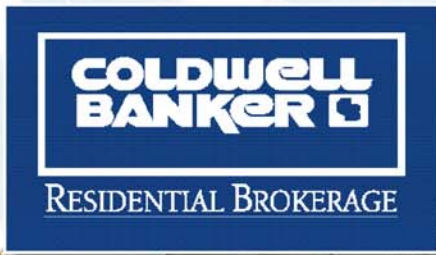
- ❖ Asked the Board of Supervisors to direct the staff to review the MVCCA recommendations for licensing or certification of tree cutters.

- ❖ Asked the Board of Supervisors to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding between Fairfax County and the City of Harbin, China, of the Peoples Republic of China. The agreement was delayed until the agreement could be written in both Chinese and English. The agreement essentially begins the process of economic and cultural exchanges between the two jurisdictions.

- ❖ Ms. Virginia Senior America, 2009, Mrs. Maureen Ribble. Requested that the Board of Supervisors invite Mrs. Ribble to come before the Board to recognize her outstanding achievement in being named the Ms. Virginia Senior America winner.

On Sept. 14, Hyland requested the

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 24



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To Qualify for the
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Homebuyer Tax Credit**



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5644 GLENWOOD DRIVE
\$825,000 | Alexandria/ Clermont
10 new homes on quiet street, by Morris Construction custom builders. Luxury colonials on large lots.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



9051 TOWER HOUSE PLACE
\$1,495,000 | Alexandria South / Fort Hunt
5 bedrooms, 3.55 baths, 2.5 car garage. 7,000 square feet of Southern charm!

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



125 NORTH PAYNE STREET
\$659,000 | Old Town Alexandria
2 beds, 1.5 baths, updated eat-in kitchen. Near King Street Metro & shops. www.125NorthPayneSt.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



PORTO VECCHIO PENTHOUSE!
\$1,600,000 | Old Town Alexandria
3 balconies, 50' circular terrace w/ Potomac views, private lobby & elevator, 4 BD, 4 BA. www.AlexPenthouse.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080




2509 LONDONDERRY ROAD
\$618,000 | Stratford Landing
4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, beautifully updated home with sunroom, exposed beams, hwdws, shows like a model!

Yvonne S. Croft | 703.973.1540



6226 FORT WILLARD
\$2,100,000 | Bellehaven
5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 10' ceilings, hardwood floors, state-of-the-art kitchen, sunroom addition, level lot.

Phyllis Patterson & Jeanne Warner | 703.518.6158



7608 SOUTHDOWN ROAD
\$2,600,000 | Waterfront Potomac
Striking water view villa with curved foyer, river views from arched French doors. www.7608Southdown.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



1554 MOUNT EAGLE PLACE
\$329,900 | Park Fairfax
Bright & open 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with hardwoods, fresh paint, views of trees, pool, tennis & more!

Jeanne Warner | 703.980.9106

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, 1:00 - 4:00!




4 ROSEMONT AVENUE
\$819,000 | Rosemont
Classic farmhouse in Rosemont on large lot with hardwoods, renovated kitchen, sunny family room addition.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



2823 YUCATAN STREET, N
\$899,900 | Arlington
5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 levels with large finished, walk-out basement. Screened porch and large yard.

Ann Lockwood | 703.299.8643




707 EAST TIMBER BRANCH PARKWAY
\$765,000 | Braddock Heights
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, pristine condition, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen, den and garage.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156




8296 GLEN COVE COURT
\$1,250,000 | Alexandria South / Fort Hunt
5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 6,500+ square feet, Dir: S on GW Pkway, R Collingwood, L Glen Cove.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



2121 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 1904
\$775,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 19th floor luxury condo: wood floors, beautiful balcony, 2 garage spaces.

Brenda Stone | 703.615.4862



2181 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 707
\$450,000 | Carlyle Towers
Fabulous 2 BR, 2 BA, luxury condo with enclosed balcony, storage and garage. Shows Beautifully.

Brenda Stone | 703.615.4862



6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE, #420
\$173,000 | River Towers
Fresh clean one bedroom with new paint, new carpeting, new kitchen floor; new windows ordered!

Meredith McCullough | 703.780.8843



240 SOUTH REYNOLDS STREET, #313
\$309,000 | Alexandria City
Great opportunity to live in a close-in location! Updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with fireplace & new granite!

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788

Old Town Alexandria, King Street Office
310 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703.518.8300 Main Office
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am - 6pm Saturday, 9am - 4pm Sunday, 10am - 4pm



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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, 1:00 - 4:00!

1029 ARCTURUS LANE
\$1,099,000 | Wellington
 5 beds, 4.5 baths on almost 1/2 acre lot. 2 car gar., 5,100 sq ft. Dir: GW Pkwy, R Wellington, L W Blvd, R Arcturus.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, 1:00 - 4:00!

1250 DARTMOUTH COURT
\$1,049,000 | Quaker Hill
 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 car garage, Duke St W, R Yale, L Dartmouth Dr, R Dartmouth Ct.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158

2151 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 606-607
\$750,000 | Carlyle Towers
 Fountain view, 3 beds, 3 baths, double unit! Luxury living w/ concierge, Metro. www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080

228 NORTH UNION STREET
\$1,095,000 | Old Town Alexandria
 Heart of Old Town, overlooking river, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 fps, hardwood floors, fine moldings & more!

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156

3012 MANNING STREET
\$329,900 | Del Ray
 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, bright and sunny, private back patio, near shops, dining and more!

Nora Partlow | 703.867.8872

8302 RIVERTON LANE
\$849,900 | Manors at Mt. Vernon
 Center hall colonial, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage, gourmet kitchen, hardwoods on top 2 levels.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788

6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE, #413
\$247,500 | River Towers
 Resort living in a peaceful setting, light and bright 2 bedrooms, 1 bath condo on 26 landscaped acres.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531

214 SOUTH HENRY STREET
\$695,000 | Old Town Alexandria
 Historic, 2 bedroom + loft, 3.5 bathroom home. Random width hwd floors, rooftop deck, large yard.

Cindee Jackson | 703.625.7667

2415 LAKESHIRE DRIVE
\$1,175,000 | South Alexandria
 Private oasis! Updated and expanded 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath center hall colonial on almost one acre!

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788

1822 CARPENTER ROAD
\$924,782 | Potomac Greens
 4 bedrooms, inc. 2 suites, 3.5 bathrooms, four levels. Gourmet. kitchen with island & granite, 3,082 sq ft!

John Ronveaux | 703.518.6159

906 S. WASHINGTON STREET, #307
\$318,000 | Bearings South
 Charming and spacious 1 bedroom condo on the GW Parkway. Hardwoods, updated kitchen with granite.

Mary Cay Harris | 703.518.2804

3900 FLAGSTONE TERRACE
\$395,000 | Mt Vernon
 4 beds, 3 baths, updated with gorgeous kitchen, sunny living room, hardwood floors, exceptional gardens.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703.518.6165

610 WEST TAYLOR RUN
\$875,000 | Alexandria
 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, finished lower level, large rooms, charming and welcoming! Great corner lot.

Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813

2121 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 510
\$400,000 | Carlyle Towers
 Stunning renovation. 1 BR, 1 BA luxury unit has new everything: wood floors, granite, SS appliances, bath.

Brenda Stone | 703.615.4862

3906 BARCROFT MEWS COURT
\$495,000 | Falls Church
 Incredible space for incredible price. End-unit townhome with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, cathedral ceilings.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703.518.6165

1111 I STREET, #C
\$799,000 | Belleview
 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, luxury townhome. On corner lot, nearly 3,500 sq ft of living space. www.1111IStreet.com

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207

Old Town Alexandria, King Street Office
 310 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703.518.8300 Main Office

Coldwell Banker received the highest numerical score among full service real estate firms for home sellers in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Home Buyer/Seller StudySM. Study based on 3,138 total evaluations measuring 5 firms and measures opinions of individuals who sold a home between March 2008 and April 2009. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed April-June 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

CHRIS WHITE

\$25,000,000+ worth of real estate SOLD so far this year!



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Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

LONG & FOSTER

ALEXANDRIA / OLD TOWN

#1 Long & Foster office in Northern Virginia!

JUST LISTED! **OPEN SUN!**

8108 East Boulevard Dr
\$2,395,000

Premier Property!
Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, L Herbert Springs, R East Blvd.

COMING SOON!

3706 Riverwood Court
\$820,000

Riverwood Gem!
The first home available in highly sought after Riverwood for months! This property is truly spectacular with exceptionally gorgeous pool and grounds. Three finished levels, four bedrooms, two car garage, top quality new roof and gourmet kitchen. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in the area's premier waterfront community. Best combination of premier location, fabulous home and gorgeous grounds available for this price in the area!

3906 Rive Drive
\$998,500

Stunning Property!
Truly the most spectacular property you will ever find! Unique home has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 finished levels including full walk-out lower level, 4/5 BRs, 3.5 BAs, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.

2701 BELLFOREST COURT #204
Vienna - \$363,950

WALK TO THE METRO! Plenty of built-ins, closets, 4x10 storage space and 2 indoor garage spaces. Open & spacious LR & chef's kitchen, separate DR, full-size W/D, gas fireplace, & balcony all complimented by large windows for a bright airy feel. 2BR & 2BA.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

JUST LISTED

7185 FAIRFIELD CT
Alexandria - \$339,000

MODEL HOME! Abs stunning 3 lvl TH w/top to bottom renovations! 2-3BR, 2 full & 2 half BA's, fin low lvl, sep LR w/gas FP & DR. New doors & windows, floors, new baths and newer AC, appliances, hwh, lighting, paint & more! A home to be proud of! Near METRO, OT, DC & Belvoir.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

OPEN SUN 1-4

523 NORTH PATRICK ST
Old Town
\$545,000

CHARMING PROPERTY!

- Hardwood floors throughout
- 2 spacious BR
- Kit w/SS appl & granite ct
- Open floor plan
- Nice backyard
- 1 off street prkg

Martine Imer 703.346.7283

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 facade 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.

OPEN SUN 1-4

600 SECOND ST #205
Alex / Liberty Row
\$795,000

Don't miss this fabulous, high end, luxury condo in OT. 2BR, 2.5BA + Den. This 1,769sqft home offers gourmet kit w/SS, granite & wine cooler. Also, bamboo floors, gas FP, W/D, plantation shutters, balcony, crown + 2 indoor garage spaces.

Adele dePolo 703.298.5987

OPEN SUN 1-4

633 SOUTH 20th ST
Crystal City / Addison Heights
\$579,000

Conveniently located blocks to Crystal City & Pentagon City METROS, this classic 1920's home is filled with warmth & charm! Beautifully updated 2BR/2BA home features wood floors, FP, gorgeous baths, & off-street parking. Enjoy the private landscaped yard(w/pool), dining on 23rd St & shopping at Pentagon City.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

OPEN SUN 1-4

540 SECOND ST #403
Old Town
\$649,000

Sophisticated light-filled top floor condo with 9 foot ceilings, hardwoods & plantation shutters. This 1,485 sqft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts Chef's kitchen, granite, stainless steel appliances, double sided fireplace and closets galore.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

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.)

PRICE SLASHED!

4307 Sheridan's Point
\$794,500

Georgian Colonial!
Large price reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mount Vernon location. This 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!

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!

OPEN SUN 1-4

1184 N PITT STREET
Old Town
\$699,000

Immaculate 3BR/2.5BA town home on 4 lvls in Canal Way. Features include hwd flrs, elegant living & dining rooms, granite counters, renovated baths, 2 fireplaces, brick patio & parking!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

7800 ELBA ROAD
Hollin Hills - \$859,000

Agents & Clients WINE & CHEESE
Oct. 2nd, 3-5pm

Please come by w/your clients during our HAPPY HOUR to view this large 2level "Best of Hollin Hills" home. Totally renovated - 4/6BR, 4BA, 2FP, vaulted ceilings, private park-like setting, deck, patio, fountain/pond & much more. Many unique & special features. Don't Miss This One!

Frank Roberts 703.898.0840

8801 THOMAS STOCKTON PKWY
Stratford - on - Potomac - \$850,000

With almost 4,000sqft, on over 1/3 acre, this beautiful home has been expanded and renovated. Large, luxurious living spaces abound & there is even a professional office for those who wish to work from home. Windows & roof replaced.

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 Bramble Lane
\$975,000

New Luxury Home!
This top quality luxury home is loaded with custom features, including a 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.

CONTRACT! 9500 Ferry Hall Court \$1,450,000

CONTRACT! 7116 Marlan Drive \$750,000

CONTRACT! 1210 N. Pegram Street \$1,351,500

OPEN SUN 1-4

2619 CHILDS LANE
Stratford - on - Potomac - \$595,500

PERFECT 7! That's the number of BRs in this lovely brick home + 4BAs. Backing to Little Hunting Creek, it has treed & seasonal water views & is within walking distance to Stratford ES.
DIR: from Alex/OT, S GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, L Riverside, R Covenish, R Camden, L Childs

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875

1923 SHIVER DRIVE
Alex / South - \$699,000

QUIET FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD!
Beautifully landscaped yard with slate patio & walk, large rear deck & garage. Center hall Colonial w/1st floor bedroom and bath. Granite, hardwood, skylights & more.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

706 FORDS LANDING WAY
Old Town - \$1,899,000

MOST AFFORDABLE & LARGEST MODEL! Ford's Landing waterfront residence w/ Potomac River views galore from patio, 3/4BR, 3.5BA on 4 lvls, gourmet kitchen/family room w/ center island, formal living & dining rooms, family room w/gas FP & 2 car garage.

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



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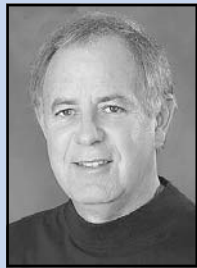


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Alex/Riverwood upper \$700s
3801 Riverwood Road
 Spectacular 4BR, 2.55 Bath Colonial in prestigious water-front community of Riverwood. 3000 sq. ft. of finished living space & plenty of storage plus a workshop in the basement. Meticulously maintained home offers 3 FPLS, freshly painted interior, refin hdwd floors, updated kitchen & baths w/beautiful corian counter tops. Cedar shake roof & spacious 2 car garage. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 35 minutes to Pentagon or D.C. Priced to sell!



Alex/Mt. Vernon \$949,900
9428 Mount Vernon Circle
 Spectacular all brick Colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious water front community Mt. Vernon on the Potomac. Main Level: Den/Study, LR, DR, totally renovated Kitchen (granite, top of line appliances, ceramic tile flr). Breakfast rm & sun rm. 4 spacious bedrooms & large unfin basement w/side entrance. Beautiful in-ground pool w/separate heated Jacuzzi. Superb landscaping. Access to dock & private slip-boaters haven! 5 min to Ft. Belvoir, 15 min to Old Town, 25 min to Ntl Airport.



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.



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



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

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NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Public Schools Serving Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 6

Mount Vernon Pyramid

Fort Belvoir ES

Grades: K-6
 5970 Meeres Road
 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
 703-781-2700

Principal: Jane Wilson
 Jane.Wilson@fcps.edu

Mount Vernon Woods ES

Grades: Preschool, K-6
 4015 Fielding St.
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 703-619-2800

Principal: Marie Lemmon
 Marie.Lemmon@fcps.edu

Riverside ES

Grades: FECEP, K-6
 8410 Old Mt Vernon Road
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 703-799-6000

Principal: Lori Morton
 Lori.Morton@fcps.edu

Washington Mill ES

Grades: K-6/9100 Cherrytree Dr.
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 703-619-2500

Principal: Tish Howard
 Tish.Howard@fcps.edu

Woodlawn ES

Grades: FECEP, K-6 8505 High-

land Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 703-619-4800

Principal: Stephanie Bisson
 Stephanie.Bisson@fcps.edu

Woodley Hills ES

Grades: K-6
 8718 Old Mt Vernon Road
 Alexandria, VA 22309
 703-799-2000

Principal: Sharon Aldredge
 Sharon.Aldredge@fcps.edu

Whitman MS

Grades: 7-8
 2500 Parkers Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22306
 703-660-2400

Principal: Otha Davis
 Otha.Davis@fcps.edu

Mount Vernon HS

Grades: 9-12 8515 Old Mt
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 Alexandria, VA 22309
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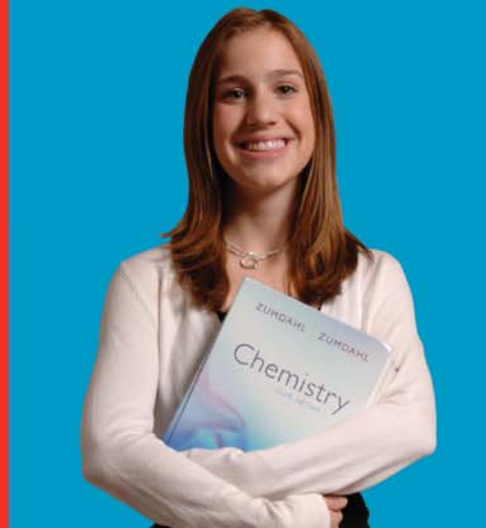
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 Nardos.King@fcps.edu

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Snakehead Sites Revisited

Invasive species appear to have gone.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

In the last episode, ferocious snakehead fish had taken over a pond at Mount Vernon Country Club. A pair of the invasive species had produced thousands of fry, which boiled the surface as they learned to breathe. Uncertain golfers shrank from the water's edge, trusty sand wedges at the ready.

Well, the snakeheads appear to be gone.

On Sept. 22, with a documentary film crew in tow, Virginia state fisheries expert John Odenkirk searched the ponds and creeks of the golf course for the northern snakehead, *Channa argus*. During multiple visits last year and this spring, Odenkirk had found several adults and lots of small fry, but this time he found none. Using mild electric current to briefly



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/THE GAZETTE

Snakehead expert John Odenkirk, with a backpack fish shocker, and his assistant, Mike Isel, search for the invasive fish at Mount Vernon Country Club. Camera-man Doug Gritzmacher and sound technician Rob Shire, record the survey.

stun fish, he instead found a healthy population of other species, including a sweet four-pound largemouth bass.

"I'm not ready to say that the snakeheads are permanently gone," Odenkirk said afterward. "Although our data is sketchy, they may have simply migrated down stream to a small bay where Dogue Creek empties into the

Potomac." Odenkirk, everyone's go-to expert on snakeheads, theorizes that the fish may seek deeper water in the fall as they prepare for winter. Four inches of rain fell in one day at Mount Vernon in late August, so the pond and a nearby creek became one for a few hours. That might have

SEE SNAKEHEADS, PAGE 24

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NEWCOMERS' & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Planning Ahead

FROM PAGE 5

www.mountvernon.org.
Ceremony Honoring The Unknown Soldier of the Revolution. This ceremony, held at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, will honor the unknown soldier of the Revolutionary War. Monday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. Free. 321 S Fairfax St. Free. Call 703-991-4474. www.washingtonbirthday.net

George Washington Birthday Parade. The largest parade honoring the first president and Alexandria's hometown hero features marching bands, floats, military and reenactment units, Masonic groups, equestrian entries, antique cars and, of course, George and Martha Washington, throughout Old Town Alexandria. Monday, Feb. 16 from 1-3 p.m. Free. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.

March 2009

Annual Needlework Exhibition. March 1-31. The largest and most prestigious needlework exhibit in the country. View amateur and professional stitchery at the plantation George Washington gave to his granddaughter, Eleanor "Nelly" Custis Lewis. Woodlawn Plantation, 9000 Richmond Highway, Mount Vernon. Call 703-220-2082 or visit www.woodlawn1805.org.

Annual Antiques in Alexandria. Features 60 dealers from around the country. March 11-14, at Episcopal High

School, Flippin Field House, 3901 W Braddock Road. Call 703-548-7469.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration & Parade. March 1. Join the festivities, including the Fun Dog Show, Classic Car Competition and the 23rd Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Parade. Old Town Alexandria. Free. Call 703-237-2199 or visit www.ballyshanners.org.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. March 20 from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See re-enactments and learn how to handle a sword. Entry fee. Visitor call 703-838-4242.

April 2010

Annual Historic Garden Tour of Alexandria. This tour features a mix of private and public properties. Saturday, March 27 Call 703-838-5005 or visit www.VAGardenweek.org.

Great Rum Punch. April 14 from 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy different concoctions while taking part in an auction. \$50/person. Reservations required. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

May 2010

Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. May 15 - 17. This elegant evening celebrates the history of wine and highlights the successes and failures of our Founding Fathers' wine-making endeavors. The

evening also features live entertainment, reenactments and tours of the rarely open cellar vaults. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

June 2009

28th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival. Jazz, rock n' roll and oldies, visiting tall ships, living history exhibits, children's events, arts & crafts and concession stands. Oronoco Bay Park, Union and Madison streets. Call 703-549-8300 or www.waterfrontfestival.org.

Juneteenth Commemoration. Juneteenth celebrates the joyous day in African-American history when slaves in Texas first learned of their emancipation. Family-oriented celebration includes music, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, entertainment and food. 900 block Wythe St. Free. Call 703-838-4356.

Annual Alexandria Guitar Festival. Master classes and concerts by internationally acclaimed artists, such as Nathan Fischer, Risa Carlson, Nicholas Goluses and others. Performances at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S Fairfax St. Visit www.alexandriaguitarfestival.com.

July 2010

An American Celebration at Mount Vernon — An Independence Day celebration held on July 4th. An all-day celebration at the home of George Washington, with wreath-laying, the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CZETTE

Last year's performance by Aldersgate Children's Theatre

National Concert Band of America, an 18th-century style celebration and free birthday cake for all. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

U.S. and Alexandria Birthday Celebration. Observe the 256th birthday of Alexandria and the 229th birthday of the country with a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, birthday cake, food and fireworks. Evening culminates in Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" with the firing of cannon. Grand finale fireworks. Oronoco Bay Park, Union and Madison Streets.

Free. Call 703-883-4686 or visit www.alexsym.org.

Carlyle Housewarming. Music, refreshments and costumed interpreters bring Carlyle House alive, recalling when John Carlyle and his bride Sarah Fairfax moved into their newly-built mansion in 1753. Carlyle House Museum and Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St. Free. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.carlylehouse.org.

August 2010

Ethnic Festivals in August. Each festival shares the culture of its people through entertainment, food and arts & crafts. Festivals are coordinated with co-sponsoring organizations and occur rain or shine. Irish Festival, Cambodian Community Day, American Indian Festival. Call 703-883-4686.

Tavern Day At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. A day of tavern life with displays, activities and programs. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Free. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Annual Friendship Firehouse Festival. Aug. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. See antique fire-fighting equipment, crafts, displays and live music with special treats for children. Food and beverages available. 107 S. Alfred St. Free. Call 703-838-4994.

September 2010

Alexandria Festival of the Arts. A weekend-long outdoor festival featuring fine art produced by more than 150 of the nation's top award-winning artists. Fine art for sale including sculptures, paintings, photography, fused glass, jewelry and more. Free. Call 703-838-4200 or visit www.artfestival.com.

18th-Century Fair At Mount Vernon. More than 70 juried artisans demonstrate their crafts and sell their wares, with Colonial music, entertainment, including fire-eaters and grave robbers, and hearty food. George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Sept. 19-20. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Annual Tour of Historic Alexandria Homes. Tour some of the city's most beautifully restored and decorated homes. Old Town. Call 703-683-5544 for information, 703-461-9492 for tickets or visit www.thetwig.org.

Seaport Day 2009. Celebrate the city's seaport heritage with model-boat building, boat rides, food and exhibits. Waterfront Park at the foot of Prince St. Free. Call 703-549-7078 or visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

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NOW THROUGH OCT. 25

Repetition in Clay: Disciplined Creativity.

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NOW THROUGH JAN. 4, 2010

(Image on right) Eyes on Nature. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A Botanical Art Exhibit at River Farm. 15 area artists will be displaying their works: orchids, peonies, arrays of spring bulbs and other flowers will be on display. These will be portrayed in watercolor, graphite, colored pencil or gouache. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Contact Dan Scott at 703-768-5700 ext. 114 or dscott@ahs.org.



SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Art Exhibition and Sale. 12-5 p.m. Free. Work in a variety of media will be displayed, including: acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, digital media, etc. Presented by the Kingstowne Area Artists Association. At the Snyder Center, 6450 South Van Dorn Street, Alexandria. Contact Ginny Sywyj at duchessducky@msn.com or Nancy Hannans at nancy.hannans@yahoo.com.



OCT. 7-NOV. 1

Gallery West Presents: Brush, Spirit, Fire.

Artists Kimberley Bush, Genevieve Lynn, and Gail Saour display their talents in raku ceramic, Chinese brush painting, and abstract color/pattern painting. Meet the artists and enjoy refreshments at the opening reception on Oct. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. The Alexandria Second Thursday Art Walk reception is on Oct. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. At 1213 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-6006 or visit www.gallery-west.com



NOW THROUGH OCT. 4

Gallery West Presents: Petals and Leaves, Blossoms and Greens. New Paintings by Kathy Guzman

The solo show at Gallery West, 1213 King Street, Alexandria, is called "Petals and Leaves, Blossoms and Greens." The exhibition features an exploration of lines, shapes and colors of flowers and greens in different settings and environments by Kathy Guzman. Member work will also be on display at the gallery. Located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, Gallery West is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2009. The gallery is opened 11 - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Images of member work are on view at the gallery's web site: www.gallery-west.com.



NOW THROUGH OCT. 5

(Image on right): Brenda Barthell's Solo Show at The Art League.

"The Special Relationship" describes the historic, diplomatic, and political connection between the UK and U.S. These paintings, however, represent a personal bond and one that may be familiar to others who have divided roots. Gallery Hours: Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, 12 noon-6 p.m. Exhibitions and events are free.



OCT. 2-25

Del Ray Artisans members will present an exhibition of their artwork at the Del Ray Artisans gallery, in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. The opening reception will be at the gallery on Friday, Oct. 2 from 7-9:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

"The Arts Build Communities" is a statewide theme established by Virginians for the Arts Foundation. The message is the same, regardless of the medium: The arts strengthen our communities, lift our spirits and build a better quality of life for all. In this, the third all member show for 2009, Del Ray Artisans reflect on the positive impact of art through a variety of media. You are invited to come visit the gallery and enjoy the experience! Go to www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 18

"From There 2 Here." At the Target Gallery. Exhibition features artwork from three regional art centers that were inspired by the Torpedo Factory's groundbreaking concept. The participating art centers are Liberty Town Arts Workshop (Fredericksburg), GoggleWorks Center for the Arts (Reading, PA) and the Prizery (South Boston, VA).

NOW THROUGH OCT. 30

Andrew Macdonald: Celebrating Authentic Places and Cultures. At the AHM Fine Art Gallery, 215 South Union St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 603-512-9379 or 571-970-1466 or visit ahmacdonald@mac.com.



Hidden Treasure

OCT. 1-29

Reflections of the Feminine Divine. This exhibition explores the power of symbols to evoke feelings and give form to the unexplainable. For artist Vera Vandendries, this archetype holds deep universal meaning associated with the underlying power in nature, and the beauty, harmony, and order in this world. Presented by Empowered Women International and Convergence Gallery. Opening reception and artist talk is Sunday, Oct. 18 from 3-5 p.m. at Convergence Gallery, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Convergence Gallery Open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



NOW THROUGH OCT. 12

Artist Elisabeth G. Hudgins Common Threads, mixed media paintings. The Gallery Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria.



NOV. 4-DEC. 31

Gallery West Presents: The 30th Anniversary Celebration/Small Works Show. Opening Reception: Saturday, Nov. 7 from 5 - 8 p.m.

2nd Thursday Reception: Nov. 12, 6 - 9 p.m. Join the members of Gallery West in a month-long celebration of the gallery's 30th year. The birthday bash, which is open to the public, will be held at the gallery on Nov. 7th from 5 - 8 p.m. Refreshments, including birthday cake, will be offered, as well as gift give-aways and other surprises. The gallery is located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District, between Payne and Fayette. Shopping and fine dining are nearby. The gallery is open from 11 - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Images of work by the members are on view at the gallery's website: www.gallery-west.com. Call 703-549-6006.

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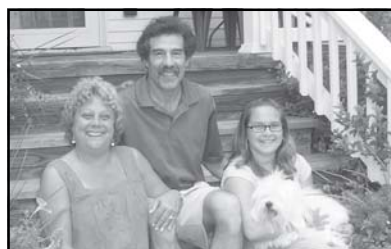
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Tuesday - Greek Night

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Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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Sunday

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ENTERTAINMENT

Art on the Ave. Is Oct. 3

The 14th annual Art on the Avenue festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The event is free and open to all. Held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Art on the Avenue celebrates the diversity of the Potomac West community. Now in its 14th year, the event is entirely volunteer-run, with support from the local business community.

Art on the Avenue strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work. Last year's event drew more than 45,000 people from throughout the metropolitan Washington area.

The multicultural arts and music festival features over 325 area artists and craftspeople selling their original works, international food, and three stages of live music. Free children's craft activities and entertainment, artists' demonstrations and a pie-baking contest complete the day's program.

Free DASH transportation will be provided from the Braddock Road Metro Station. Call 703-683-3100, or visit www.artontheavenue.org.



LOCAL THEATER

NOW THROUGH OCT. 11

"Glorious!" Story by Peter Quilter.

The joyful Florence Foster Jenkins had a passion for singing, but a voice of disastrous proportions that left audiences crying with laughter. Spinning from her bizarre recording sessions, unbelievable recitals and an ultimate triumph at New York's Carnegie Hall - this is a true, heart-warming story about a group of eccentric friends who lived their dreams. Dominion Stage. Theatre One at Gunston, 2700 S. Lang Street in Arlington. 703-683-0502 <http://www.dominionstage.org>

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3

"Bye Bye Birdie." The play is a satire done with the fondest affection that tells the story of a rock and roll singer who is about to be inducted into the army. Memorable songs include *An English Teacher*, *What Did I Ever See in Him?* *Put On a Happy Face*, *One Boy*, *A Lot of Livin' to Do*, *Kids*, *Rosie* and *Spanish Rose*. The Arlington Players. Thomas Jefferson Theatre. 703-549-1063 <http://www.thearlingtonplayers.org>

NOW THROUGH OCT. 10

"A Piece of My Heart". Six women relive harrowing and life-altering experiences in Vietnam. At Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. Performances most weeks are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., with weekend matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 3, 4, and 10. Tickets and information are available at www.AmericanCentury.org or by calling the theater at 703-998-4555.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 18



"The Quality of Life." 8 p.m. At Arena Stage in Crystal City. The play is newly rewritten by Emmy Award-winning Jane Anderson (TV's *Mad Men* and *Normal*) and directed by Lisa Peterson (Arena's *The Rainmaker*). Tickets are \$22-\$66. Showtimes are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. (6 p.m. curtain on 9/27); Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (no matinee 9/12); Weekday matinees at noon on Oct. 7 and 13. Tickets are \$25-\$66 plus applicable fees. Go to www.arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Arena Stage Sales Office at 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 11

Dominion Stage kicks off its 60th anniversary season with "Glorious!," which runs weekends from now

NOW THROUGH OCT. 18

Musical of Musicals ("The Musical!") At MetroStage. The play is a funny parody of five Broadway composers, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Kander and Ebb, Jerry Herman and Andrew Lloyd Webber, with the music by Eric Rockwell, lyrics by Joanne Bogart, and book by Rockwell and Bogart. Performances are now through Oct. 18, Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 5 and 8:30, Sundays at 3 and 7. Tickets are \$45-50. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria. Fully accessible, free parking, great dining. Call 800-494-8497 or go online to www.boxofficetickets.com. Call 703-548-9044.

through Oct. 11, with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Gunston Arts Center - Theater One, located at 2700 S. Lang Street in Arlington. Seating is General Admission; Tickets are available online for pre-purchase at www.DominionStage.org. Group Discounts available. Reservations can be made online or by calling 703-683-0502.

In 2009/10, Dominion Stage, formerly The Failington Players, celebrates 60 seasons of entertaining audiences in the Northern Virginia/DC Metropolitan area. Their three show anniversary season also includes "Reefer Madness, The Musical" (Jan 2010), and "Love! Valour! Compassion!" (May 2010). Dominion Stage is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit community theater organization.

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 703-778-9412 with questions.

THURSDAY/OCT. 1

KUKU. 7-9 p.m. Free. KUKU performs uniquely soulful and captivating music inspired by his African heritage. Often singing in his native Yoruba tongue, this self-taught musician has enchanted audiences throughout the Washington, DC area. 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.

GIANT YARD SALE at Washington Farm UMC, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - rain or shine. Proceeds used to further church programs. Admission Free.

OCT. 2, 3, 4

Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. Wines from 17 Virginia wineries and live blues music. Tickets are \$30/person. Fruit and cheese boxes are available by advance purchase (\$24 each; serves two). For details, go to www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Oktoberfest. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At FireFlies Restaurant & Bar and parking lot, in the Del Ray Neighborhood, 1501 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-548-7200 or visit www.firefliesdelray.com.

Blessing of the Animals. 11 a.m. At Aldersgate Church on the front lawn. Bring along a pet of any kind (leashed or caged) to be blessed. At 1301 Collingwood Road in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria. Call 703-765-6555 or visit www.aldersgate.net.

Solo Piano with Robin Spielberg. 8 p.m. Seats are \$16. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 1-800-836-0833, ext. 5.

Apothecary Open House. At the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. 1-5 p.m. Free admission, tours and hands-on activities. Visitors will learn about the curative properties of plants in their own backyard, while discovering the important role the apothecary played in early Alexandria. At 105-107 South Fairfax Street in Alexandria. Call 703-838-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org

American Balalaika Symphony Performs. 7:30 p.m. Under the artistic direction of Peter Trofimenko, the ABS presents "Bitten by the Beat," the first concert of the 2009-10 season, At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20/advance, \$25 at door. Charge online at www.ABSorchestra.org or call 703-351-1331.

SUNDAY/OCT. 4

"Recession-Proof Wine" Tasting. 3-5 p.m. \$25/person. Taste six highly-ranked but reasonably-priced (under \$20 a bottle) wines and learn from the experts. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronco Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789.

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong. 4:40 p.m. With Colin Lynch, organist. Music by Herbert Murrill, Henry Ley, William, Smith and Samuel S. Wesley. At Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1450 or email Jason Abel, Director of Music.

Bach Vespers. 6 p.m. With Paul Stetsenko, organist, music by J. S.



FRIDAY/OCT. 9

Jazz Percussionist Robert Jospe. 7:30 p.m. Robert Jospé and Inner Rhythm, featuring guest guitarist Royce Campbell, Pendleton Hall at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. Free. Call 703-933-4135 or email arts@episcopalhighschool.org.

Bach, woven into a vesper liturgy in the tradition of ancient worship. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

OCT. 4-31

16th Annual Pumpkin Sale. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria (Corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane). All proceeds go directly to charity (ALIVE, Carpenter's Shelter, Network Preschool, New Mexico Navajo Indians and many more). Contact Susan D. Dawson at 703-931-4349 or SDDawson@comcast.net.

THURSDAY/OCT. 8

Second Thursday Art Night: Dig It! 6-9 p.m. Free. History Scavenger Hunt, open studios and kids' activities. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; call 703-838-4565

FRIDAY/OCT. 9

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. Private non-profit dancing club holds dances from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month; waltz, rumba, fox trot, cha cha, swing, tango, and more to live music on large wooden dance floor, Mt Vernon area; \$15 per person. Reservations required. Go to www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Alexandria Arts Safari Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. Children will enjoy the Clay Experience, Arts Safari Painting, Fabric Collage, Treasure Box Making, Giant Papier Mache Animal, and more. Free admission. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Community Fall Festival. Noon to 5 p.m. Free. Offers job training, computer clean-up clinic, employment and career development information, as well as free shredding to dispose of documents safely. At the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Contact Kathy M. Clement at 703-933-5081 or kclement@nvcc.edu.

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Jim Stephanson and John Previti. 7-9 p.m. Free. Guitarist Jim Stephanson and bassist John Previti will treat visitors to an evening of blues, swing, and jazz inspired tunes. 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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Fall Festival. 3-6 p.m. Free. Enjoy Kids Games & Crafts, German Food, Bake Sale, Book Sale, also seasonal flu shots and blood pressure checks. At Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Call Lynne Rizzo at 703-678-9324

UpBeat OffBeat Auction. 7-10 p.m. Del Ray Artisans' classic whacky artful fund-raiser, featuring a live auction of home furnishings "extremely made over" by local artists. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Details and tickets (\$15 in advance / \$20 at the door) at www.theDelRayArtisans.org.

Wine Party. 7-10 p.m. "La Fête de Lafayette" wine party in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, the hero of the American Revolution. After-five attire is requested, and reservations are required. Tickets are \$50 a piece for Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society members and \$65 each for non-members. At Gadsbys Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Tickets may be purchased online at www.gadsbystavern.org or by calling 703-838-4242.

Outdoor Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors will feature handcrafted items, including jewelry, fabric arts, knitting, oil & watercolor paintings, and more. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 514 Oronco St., Alexandria.

OCT. 17-18

Mount Vernon's Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entire family will enjoy autumn activities including horse-drawn wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, a straw bale maze, early-American games, music and demonstrations. \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children 6-11; free for children under 5. At George Washington's Farm, Mount Vernon.



SUNDAY/OCT. 18

Concert. 7 p.m. Miche Fambro, and Brad Yoder with Jason Rafalak. \$18 general, \$15 members or in advance. Contact: Kay at kay@focusmusic.org, 703-501-6061, or log onto FocusMusic.org. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Go to Visit.MountVernon.org for more information.

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

Big Lebowsky Bash. 9 p.m. \$12 donation. Costume party and screening of the Coen Brothers' movie, "The Big Lebowski," benefitting Community Family Life Services. At the Old Town Theater, 815 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-684-6000.

Lynn Hollyfield and Grace Griffith.

7-9 p.m. Free. Lynn Hollyfield and Grace Griffith perform traditional and contemporary folk music. 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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For Schirf, Motivating with Positive Attitude

Wolverine field hockey players speak highly of first-year coach.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

First-year West Potomac field hockey coach Mary Caye Schirf found out she had breast cancer four years ago. One year later, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Schirf is a practical joker, played field hockey at Slippery Rock University, used to be a competitive figure skater and insists she knows when someone is lying to her.

She also loves to talk.

It doesn't take long after entering a conversation with Schirf to notice her fun-loving attitude — or in some cases, hear about her life experiences — and her positive point of view. Schirf used her positive approach and a personal touch to win over the West Potomac field hockey team during her first season as head coach.

The Wolverines are 6-4 and travel to take on Wakefield today. But while the team has a winning record on the field, it's Schirf's approach to coaching which has them enjoying the season.

"She's very dedicated. She really does a lot for us. She comes out here every day with our best interest at heart," midfielder Laura Reynolds said. "I think she puts us first, which is really important and really different for us as a team. We've had coaches in the past who just kind of [coached as if] it's what they do in their free time. For her, it's what she does. It's about love. I think



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac field hockey players take part in a teamwork exercise while first-year head coach Mary Caye Schirf observes during Tuesday's practice at West Potomac High School.

the girls have really felt that and appreciated it."

Schirf, who coached at South Lakes in 2007 but did not return because she was taking care of her ill grandmother, remembers how she was coached during her high school and college days and wanted to take a different approach. Too many times it seemed like coaches were only interested in what happened on the field. Schirf wants her players to know she has their best interest at heart, which involves getting to know the players and how to help each succeed.

And keeping things positive.

"I spend half my time listening because that's what they need," Schirf said. "I think now in today's time, it's kind of like the

parents are all working and it's really busy, so just to have somebody that listens to what you have to say [is important]. ... I know the kind of coach that I don't want to be, because I had those coaches. That's just somebody that comes out and gives the time — I want a coach that gives me time, to let me show you what I can do for you. If I'm having a hard day, I'm going to be able to go to that coach and say, 'Listen, coach, this is the deal.'

"I'm trying to learn about these kids. I'm trying to do it differently than the way I was coached."

Schirf, who teaches elementary physical education and outdoor education, uses team-bonding techniques the players find amusing. On Tuesday, the coach had play-

ers stand on a tarp while folding and unfolding it, relying on each other for balance.

"It's never a dull moment with her," midfielder Kelsey Donovan said. "We're always having fun. I've never left here without laughing or smiling, which is completely different from last year."

Midfielder Toni O'Boyle said the environment around the team allows her to play free and loose.

"I'm more motivated because I know I won't be criticized if I make a mistake," she said. "It will be constructive."

It's not always about fun, though. The tarp exercise was preceded by a team conversation about Friday's 4-0 loss to South County. Schirf, who missed the game due to illness, was told the team appeared to lack competitive fire.

The coach also has hurt feelings. Rather than give in to a common right-of-passage theme by naming a senior captain, Schirf elected who she felt was the most deserving. That player was Donovan, a junior. Players voted on the other two captains and chose Reynolds and O'Boyle — both juniors.

Schirf said the team can continue its on-field success, which has been helped by leading goal scorer Rachel Browning and goalkeeper Livvy Mickevicius, if they believe in themselves. Schirf's coaching style could have a lot to do with whether the team can keep its confidence up.

For now, it appears to be working.

"She loves to talk," Donovan said of her coach while laughing. "It's not a problem. Last year [coaches were] like, 'Go run. Go stretch. Maybe do some corners. Let's do some of that, what do you call it, scrimmage?' And now it's like, 'Guys, let's talk about the game, let's do some team bonding on a tarp.'"

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Football Battling Injuries

West Potomac head football coach Eric Henderson addressed his team before its season opener against Mount Vernon and told the Wolverines they had a chance to be something special. With playmakers on both sides of the ball, Henderson went as far as to say the talent at some positions was the best he'd coached at West Potomac.

The Wolverines blasted Mount Vernon, 42-3, in the opener, but have since run into problems. West Potomac has lost its last three games by a combined score of 108-49. The Wolverines lost their Patriot District opener to West Springfield, 38-28, on Friday.

Injuries have been one problem.

Starting quarterback Colin Mathewson was hurt Sept. 17 against Chantilly and didn't play against West Springfield. Henderson said Mathewson is day to day.

West Potomac has been without standout receiver Will Rosenkranz all season. Henderson also said left tackle Matt Cunningham, right tackle Samlullah Ahmady are banged up.

"I've never seen anything like this," Henderson said.

Nik Dimitrijevic took over for Mathewson at quarterback. Against West Springfield, Dimitrijevic completed 14 of 29 passes for 235 yards and three touchdowns. He was intercepted once.

West Potomac (1-3 overall, 0-1 Patriot District) hosts South County (3-1, 0-1) at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

"Injuries hurt, we kind of lost our focus with Westfield (35-14 loss), we got our heads handed to

us by Chantilly (35-7 loss) and the kids are unsure of themselves," Henderson said when asked about the team's struggles. "Now it's just a function of tightening down the discipline, make sure they do everything that they're supposed to do and hopefully through effort and pride, the kids will respond. If they don't, then we just keep grinding."

Mount Vernon Scores Season-High Point Total

The Mount Vernon football team lost to Stuart, 19-17, on Friday. The 17 points were a season-high for the Majors, who had been outscored 100-3 in their first three games.

Mount Vernon (0-4 overall, 0-2 National District) travels to face

PHOTO BY
RICHARD MAPLE
West Potomac's Daryl Copeland, left, caught three passes for 56 yards during Friday's loss to West Springfield.



Centreville on Friday.

Fort Hunt Hoop Tryouts Approaching

Tryouts for the county 10-year-old traveling basketball team will be held from 5:45-7:15 p.m. Oct. 5 and 14, and from 7:15-8:45 p.m. Oct. 7 at Fort Hunt Elementary

School.

County basketball clinics and tryouts are posted at FHYAA.org. If the child is 10 as of Oct. 1, 2009, he is eligible to try out for the county travel team. The child must attend at least one tryout to be considered to the county team. Contact Catherine Gorham at gorhamca@aol.com with questions.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

premiums, out-of-pocket costs, prescription drugs prices, which are directly linked to these trends, will continue to rise. They will eventually become unsustainable for both seniors and the government. This is a virtual certainty. The health care system in America has to be fixed and fixed soon. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity. We cannot let the Medicos and their irrational, anti-government; misleading rhetoric lead us down the path of no return. We must seize the time now; later is not an option.

John Glaser
Hollinwood Drive
Alexandria

Help Future Generations

To the Editor:

There are so many arguments about health care reform that the opportunities are in danger of being lost. But our country has a great opportunity to fix at least two serious problems. The first is we need to make sure that every woman can get maternity coverage. For example, if pregnancy is defined as pre-existing, then a woman might not be able to afford needed maternity care. A second reason to improve the current system is to make sure that children who are born with a birth defect or serious condition, including disabilities caused by being born preterm, can get the quality, affordable and comprehensive medical care they need to survive and thrive. This is not about special interests; it's about our families. As a March of Dimes volunteer, the health of women, newborns, and children matters to me. I hope that our leaders in Washington remember this and don't lose sight of what this generation should be doing to ensure healthy future generations.

Susan Brandt
Tower Hill Circle, Alexandria

More Than Majority Rule

To the Editor:

Bill Davis of Alexandria responded to my earlier published letter concerning the Mount Vernon Council's (MVCCA) approval of a nomination to the Comprehensive Plan directed to the Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station. In reply, Mr. Davis is both misinformed and uninformed. Let's take misinformed first. An earlier version of the proposed nomination included a provision concerning "public access" into the Pumping Station lands. That provision was removed from the proposed nomination prior to the vote by the MVCCA Council and is not included in the nomination that was filed and will be considered by the APR Taskforce, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Thus Mr. Davis is misinformed when he states that the Pumping Station nomination provides a nature pathway and boardwalk. It does not.

On the uninformed front, apparently, Mr. Davis is not aware that the nomination was proposed without any prior notice to the community most affected by its ramifications, namely, the Stratford Landing community. Stratford Landing provided no input during the process of crafting and proposing the nomination. The MVCCA leadership begs to differ, stating that their process was a public one, and that Stratford Landing and its residents had every opportunity to participate in the process. After the first "charette," conducted by the MVCCA's Strategic Planning Committee in July, its Chairman, Kahan Dhillon, invited me to meet with him to discuss the Committee process and make suggestions as to how that process could be improved. The first question I posed of Mr. Dhillon was whether property owners affected by proposed nominations had been notified of proposed nominations so that they could attend meetings and participate in the process. He answered in the negative, and I suggested that such notification be given

in writing in advance of the August meeting of the Committee at Mount Vernon High School to afford those property owners the ability to participate. He agreed this was a good idea and later informed me that he had done so.

However, concerning the Pumping Station nomination, no one on the MVCCA formally informed the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association (SLCA) of the impending nomination to afford our community the ability to participate. Although we don't own the property, we are the community most affected and should have been formally informed by the MVCCA, particularly since the SLCA is a member of the MVCCA (and a charter member at that). While this may fit Mr. Davis' definition of democratic procedure, it doesn't fit mine.

One further point concerning Mr. Davis' comments. Supervisor Hyland has gone on record as stating that there will be no changes in the character of use of the Pumping Station lands unless a consensus of the Stratford Landing community favors such changes. Thus, regardless of whether the MVCCA wishes to impose its agenda on our community, any proposed changes in the character of use of the Pumping Station lands will be dead on arrival without agreement by a consensus of the Stratford Landing community.

According respect to an affected neighborhood, even in the face of the contrary will of the so-called majority, is not an unusual arrangement, even for the MVCCA. Last year, a property owner proposed rezoning their land to increase potential density (the Leatherland property). The adjacent community, represented by the

Newington Civic Association, objected to the development even though the result would have been the opportunity for the community (the majority) to gain the benefit of 15 pages worth of proffers concerning all manner of issues including transportation, schools, stormwater, tree cover, etc. The MVCCA supported the adjacent community's opposition and opposed the development, despite its obvious benefits to the community at large (the majority). (See MVCCA Resolution at this link: <http://www.mvcca.org/Resolutions/Leatherland%203%2008%20MVCCA1-resolution.pdf>). The Newington Civic Association's opposition was supported by Supervisor Hyland when he led the opposition to the proposal and it was defeated by the Board of Supervisors. During the BRAC APR cycle that concluded earlier this year, concerning one nomination identified as BRAC APR Item No. 08-IV-9S, Supervisor Hyland permitted the Comprehensive Plan Amendment that was enacted to include a provision requiring approval of aspects of a development proposal by the adjacent community. See the link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr/brac/2007-16.pdf> and pages 14-16 of the section concerning the Franconia-Springfield area.

The Stratford Landing community will request nothing less from our supervisor than that which he has pledged he will do — that is, protect us against any possible changes in the use of the Pumping Station lands absent approval by a consensus of the Stratford Landing community. Majority doesn't always rule.

H. Jay Spiegel

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Gazette, 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-778-9410. By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/THE GAZETTE

A film crew interviews Odenkirk about snakehead fish at Mount Vernon Country Club. Left to right, cameraman Gritzmacher, producer Erika Trott, and soundman Shire.

Snakeheads Revisited

FROM PAGE 17

provided an escape route for the fish in the pond to head south.

"The water temperatures have dropped 12 to 15 degrees since July, and the days are shorter," said Odenkirk. "We noticed such a migration before with one tagged fish, but it's too early to draw any conclusions. We'll see next spring."

Slightly disquieted by the absence of snakeheads was Erika Trott, who led the film crew for Hoff Productions, a leading TV documentary producer. "We have been commissioned to produce a television special on invasive fish — snakeheads, Humboldt squid, and Asian carp," she said.

"But we still got great footage of John and the environment."

Citing contractual agreements, Trott declined to identify her client but said that the program will appear on a major cable TV channel in 2010. Hoff produced a 2007 special titled "Fishzilla, Snakehead Invasion," also featuring Odenkirk, for the National Geographic Channel.

Pete Van Pelt, Mount Vernon's general manager, said the club is happy to help further the understanding of snakeheads. "We want to do our part," he said, "and John's surveys don't inhibit play. Also, it's great to know that our fish population is healthy and balanced. The snakeheads haven't disrupted anything here."

Council Reviews Land Use

FROM PAGE 11

Board of Supervisors to consider his requests on the following matters:

- Verizon Dig on Lookout Court. This issue was brought up in response to a constituent complaint that Verizon and the county did not coordinate their construction responsibilities resulting in the defacing of the road which recently was replaced. Verizon spray painted the newly patched road in preparation of fiber optic cable installation. Thus, the road will require cutting and patching the road once again. Hyland requested that the Board direct the Department of Transportation staff to discuss with VDOT ways to improve coordination.

- Hydrilla in Little Hunting Creek and other bays, coves, and creeks in the Potomac river area. This is in response to the Wessynton community's concerns. Requested the board to ask the staff to study ways to control the hydrilla. Budget constraints have recently ended the control efforts by the Commonwealth of Virginia and

the hydrilla is growing faster than has been seen in the recent past. Asked the board to direct the staff to discuss this matter with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Council of Governments, who in the past partnered with Virginia and Maryland, and the District of Columbia to control the growth of hydrilla.

OTHER ISSUES

Gretchen Walzl, president, Hollin Hall Civic Association, announced that her organization will host a Candidates Night Debate on Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m., at the Hollin Hall Community Center, Shenandoah Road. The debate is between the two candidates seeking the open 44th State Delegate seat: Scott Surovell, the Democratic nominee, and Jay McConville, the Republican nominee. Questions are being solicited from the community in advance. The debate will be conducted by members of the West Potomac High School debate team. The debate rules include that on the night of the debate the audience will not be allowed to pose questions.

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NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

New Principal at WPHS

FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO BY ANSLEY LABARRE/THE GAZETTE

Cliff Hardison is the new principal at West Potomac High School.

says he began searching for ways to advance his career while contributing to change in the school system. He decided to become a principal, working as an administrative principal at Hayfield Secondary and as an assistant principal at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Now at West Potomac, Hardison prefers to be mobile in the halls among students rather than sit officially behind his desk.

The former cross-country and track and field coach focuses on seizing opportunities and teaching problem-solving. Hardison expresses optimism for his own future and that of the high school, citing consistency as the key to success.

But Hardison knows there will be obstacles along the way. With the upcoming year projected to have the worst economic repercussions on budgets in the aftermath of the recession, Hardison says his faculty will be expected to do more with fewer resources as class sizes continue to increase.

Hardison also knows the varying skill sets among his teachers will present a challenge. He says he will work with staff to ensure the fundamentals of literacy, numeracy and

technology are instilled in every student.

"Without confidence in those three areas, you're going to be relegated to second-class citizenship in the world," said Hardison. "And we don't want any of our kids being second-class citizens before they even start."

A parent himself, Hardison also expresses his concern with student safety and acknowledges the school's primary function is to serve as a secure learning environment. He arms himself with that basic principle as he looks ahead to upcoming year.

"Our goal is to make sure the school is consistent in the product it produces," said Hardison. "The product being all kids are here to learn and are pushed to achieve their best."

What's Ahead for Mount Vernon?

FROM PAGE 8

ing, Mount Vernon At Home (MVAH) is ready to open its doors and begin helping senior citizens who wish to maintain their independence and continue to live at home and within the Mount Vernon community. When fully operational (projected October, 2009) the MVAH will partner with existing governmental and private resources to provide its paying members with volunteer assistance, supportive services, and a variety of cultural and educational events targeted to their needs and desires.

MVAH services are expected to include the following:

- Transportation:
 - ❖ Rides to medical appointments
 - ❖ Rides to shop for food and other needs
 - ❖ Carpools to recreation activities
- Educational & Cultural:
 - ❖ Lectures and discussion groups on current events and special interests to seniors
 - ❖ Group visits to museums, musical and theater performances
- Social Activities:
 - ❖ Dances
 - ❖ Organize support groups as needed
 - ❖ Restaurant outings
- Health Services:
 - ❖ Advice about medical visits
 - ❖ Advice about health insurance claims

❖ Information about reliable home health care, respite care, rehabilitation services, hospice care, etc.

Home and Administrative Advice:

- ❖ Referrals for reliable home repair, maintenance, and safety contractors
- ❖ Advice on paying bills and preparing tax submissions
- ❖ Legal advice.

❖ An easily accessible and regularly updated calendar of activities, and a phone and email contact person to request help, counseling, etc., on any matter of concern to the member.

Contact information: Visit www.mountvernonathome.org, email: JeffReed!@mountvernonathome.org, or mail to MVAH, P. O. Box 7493, Alexandria, VA 22307, or call 703-768-6590.

MVAH Service Area by Zip Codes includes 22306, 22307, 22308 and 22309. Its Service Area is located within a 14-square-mile area in eastern Fairfax County. It is bounded on the north by the Alexandria city boundary line; on the south by Mt. Vernon and Dogue Creek; on the east by the Potomac river; on the west by U.S. Route 1 (Richmond Highway). The Montebello apartment complex on Mt. Eagle drive west of U.S. Route 1 is also included in the service area.

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Another announcement will be made if the Low Income Housing Waiting List reopens.

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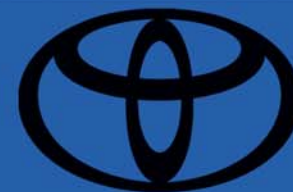
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