

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 40

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

OCTOBER 8, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran addresses the anniversary gathering of the Friends of Dyke Marsh last Sunday afternoon at the home of Larry and Kathy Hirsch.

Celebrating Dyke's Marsh

The Friends of Dyke Marsh gathered Sunday, Oct. 4, at the home of Larry and Kathy Hirsch to honor the group's founders and U.S. Representatives John Dingell (D-15-Michigan) and Jim Moran (D-8-Virginia). Fifty years ago Dingell authored legislation that added the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve to the National Park Service system. Moran has introduced a resolution rec-

ognizing the significance of the preserve, H. Res. 701.

The Friends of Dyke Marsh is a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the 485-acre Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, the last enduring substantial freshwater tidal marsh in the Washington, D. C., area. (See www.fodm.org and <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/dyke-marsh.htm>.)

SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 8



Advisory committee member Jeb Byrne was also honored at the anniversary event. Pictured with him is his wife Bev.



Founder of the Friends of Dyke Marsh Ed Risley is honored.

Fairchild Donates 8.5 Acres to County

Land will be dedicated as the Elizabeth M. Fairchild Family Park.

GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

At its regularly scheduled meeting last week, the Board of Supervisors recognized and thanked longtime Mount Vernon-area resident Elizabeth M. Fairchild for her donation of land in the Spring Bank neighborhood.

The mother of five children and 17 grandchildren, Fairchild moved with her late husband Charles to Fairfax county in 1956. Board Chairman Sharon Bulova said, "Mrs. Fairchild's generous donation contributes greatly to the quality of the environment."

Supervisor Gerry Hyland said, "This land will provide a place for children to play and families to gather." Hyland later elaborated that it will also provide the county staff and the board an opportunity to use it as a neighborhood improvement model to hopefully be replicated elsewhere in the county.

"This donation will give us an opportunity to make long overdue environmental improvements in the Quander Brook watershed management area," said Hyland.

Fairchild commented that though she was "saddened that the original town center project of which this land would have become a part of did not go through, it is her hope that if that concept was to ever come back to the area, that this new park could be a part of the plan."

This decision advances the vision of a revitalized neighborhood, and also enables the county's watershed mitigation planned for the area to move forward since the county will now have ownership of the property.

David Dale, MVCCA co-chair, and president of the impacted Spring Bank Community Association (SBCA) said, "We are thrilled by the donation ... going back 20

SEE FAIRCHILD, PAGE 20

Pedestrian Dies After Crash

A 44-year-old man died of injuries he sustained while crossing Richmond Highway at the intersection of Backlick Road on Monday, Oct. 5.

According to police, James Griffith, of no fixed address, was crossing from east to west, against the green traffic signal and outside of the marked crosswalk around 9 p.m. when he was struck by a 1996 Toyota Corolla.

Griffith was transported to Inova

Mount Vernon Hospital where he was pronounced dead. No charges have been placed against the driver of the Toyota. Crash Reconstruction detectives continue to investigate. This is the 10th fatal crash involving pedestrians so far this year in Fairfax County. Last year at this time, there were two.

For information about the Fairfax County Pedestrian Program, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.

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Former Teacher Sentenced

He sexually assaulted female student.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE GAZETTE

For three hours last Friday, the 11-year-old girl sat between her mother and father in the first row of courtroom 4E in Fairfax County Circuit Court, waiting for her former tutor to be sentenced for sexually assaulting her.

It wasn't easy for her and it wasn't pleasant but, when his case was finally called, her patience was rewarded.

And when Rodney Bower left the courtroom, it was in handcuffs — on his way to serve five years in prison.

First, though, the victim — a student at Gunston Elementary, where Bower taught — took the witness stand and told the court how his actions had affected her. "Every day, I wonder if my life will ever be the same, because I was hurt so badly," she said. "I wonder if I will be OK."

"But for this man's actions, she'd have a normal life."

— Greg Holt, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney

The incident occurred sometime between Feb. 1-14, and police were called March 20 to begin investigating. The girl told them Bower, 54, of 2429 Temple Court in Alexandria, touched her inappropriately in her home, while tutoring her.

Bower taught in Fairfax County Public Schools since

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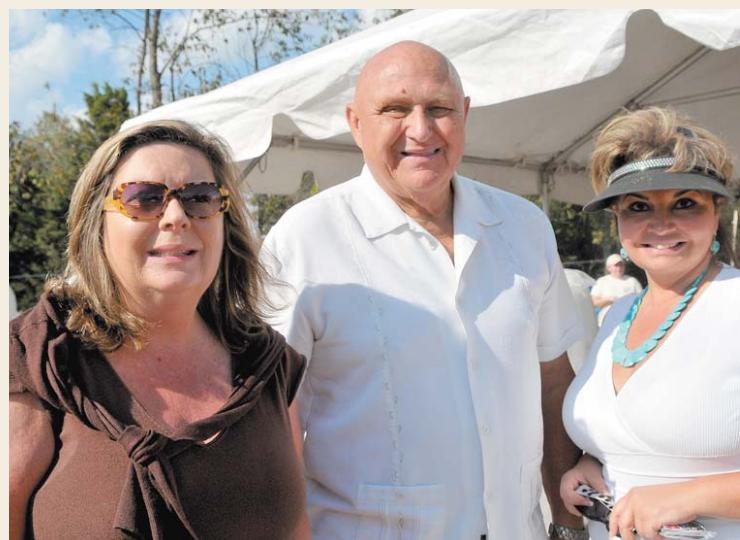
Members of the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics IAFF Local 2068 volunteered for kitchen duty at the 19th Annual Lobsterfest at the Justice Snowden Farm. Pictured during a break are President John Niemiec, Danny Gray, Will Bailey, Charles Pullen, John Harris and Dave and Carter Lyons.

Hyland Hosts 19th Lobsterfest

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Will Bailey unloads another basket of freshly steamed lobsters.



Mary Sterling Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland and Lawanda Swope.



The Harris family — Kathy, John, Anne and Mary Kate — has been helping with the cooking at the Lobsterfest's for years. Kathy times the lobsters and the mussels, John checks the temperature of the water and the chowder, Anne manages the food to be served and Mary Kate is kept busy taking and preparing customer orders.

Committee Hears Officers On Truck Safety

GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Department's Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Unit police officers — Senior Master Police Officer Mike Nichols and Officer Steve Lescalliet — briefed the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) Public Safety Committee Meeting, Oct. 1.

The officers' specialized work includes ensuring that the commercial trucks in Fairfax County are equipped with safe brakes, steering apparatus, and tires. In addition, they are inspecting for overweight trucks, monitor radiation and hazardous materials, and overall ensure that the commercial motor vehicle carriers are operating safely and in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth. When necessary and called upon, the police officers assigned to this unit — a total of four officers — are authorized to perform patrol officer functions, including participating in emergency response calls.

The team inspects or monitors motor vehicles entering and leaving special facilities: Three tank farms, three rock quarries, five landfills, four concrete plants, two recycling plants and UPS and FEDEX Distribution Facilities where they inspect HazMat materials.

In 2008, they inspected 1,768 commercial motor vehicles. They took 830 vehicles out of service for safety reasons. The number one reason for taking a vehicle out of service was faulty brakes.

Committee Chair Dallas Shawkey said, "The briefing was very helpful in informing the committee about the value of maintaining this specialized unit for motor vehicle and other safety inspections that they perform. We will be monitoring what the proposed FY 2011 budget proposal includes. Should there be a proposal to eliminate this function our committee will be ready to defend the importance of keeping this specialized function for the safety of

SEE OFFICERS, PAGE 10

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 8-14, 2009 ♦ 3

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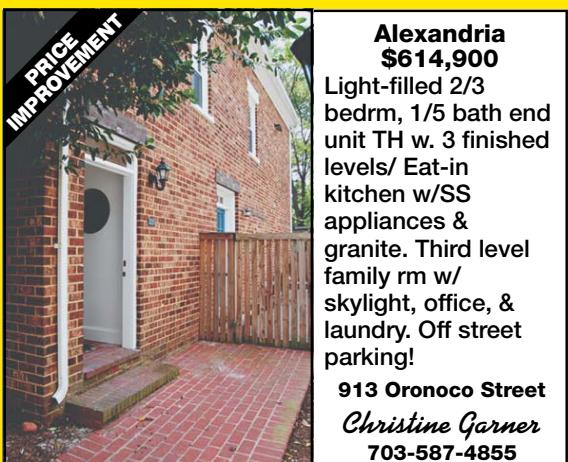
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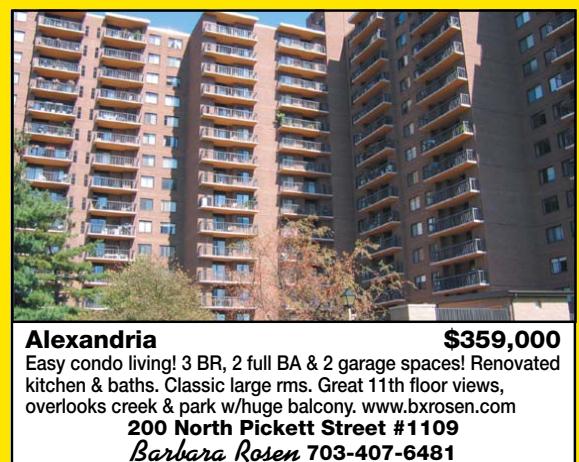
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NEWS



Members of the Fashion Show Committee with fashion show chairman, Sue Lord, flanked by YHGC President, Babs McClendon (left), and former President, Angelita Kabler (right).

Garden Club Prepares Fashion Show

While other donors were reducing their grants, the women of the Yacht Haven Garden Club in Mount Vernon increased their annual donations this year to help stimulate the local economy. A total of \$6,800 was donated to fund several projects. These include: an Eagle Scout project at West Potomac High School, benches for the Gunston Hall children's pro-

grams, UCM to provide fresh vegetables to needy families, Fern Valley at the National Arboretum and other local initiatives.

The club will hold its 26th annual fashion show luncheon fund-raiser on Thursday, Oct. 15, "East Meets West," at Ft. Belvoir Officer's Club. Fashions will be by Bloomingdales. Tickets are \$30. Call chairman, Sue Lord at 703-704-9081.



Open for Business

Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Sabrina and Lorne Campbell and their two girls, Marcia Crandall, Jeff Todd, and Sabrina's dad Dan Maher prepare for the ribbon cutting. Occasionally Cake features custom cakes, cupcakes with daily flavor specials, and cookies. Visit its Web site at <http://www.occasionallycake.com> and become a fan on Facebook. Occasionally Cake is located at 8859 Richmond Highway.

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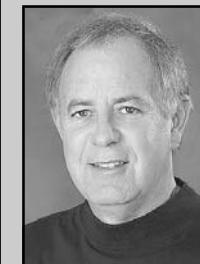
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**Alex./Woodlawn Terrace \$239,900
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OPINION

October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early detection is key to success.

Last week, the American Cancer Society reported that women diagnosed with breast cancer are seeing increasingly positive results from treatment, with mortality rates continuing to drop, a trend that began in 1990.

In 2009, I was one of more than 190,000 U.S. women diagnosed with breast cancer.

In June, still in the midst of a regimen of chemotherapy, I walked in the Komen Global Race for the Cure on the National Mall. It wasn't the first time I had participated in the event, but it was my first time as a breast cancer survivor.

Now finished with my treatment, this is my first October — Breast Cancer Awareness Month — as a member of the club of more than 2.5 million women in the country with a history of breast cancer. And like the majority of women whose breast cancer is detected

early, my prognosis is excellent.

Many, many readers and community members reached out to me warmly over the course of the year, and the support from coworkers, community members, breast cancer survivors, family and friends has been amazing and contributed mightily to my health and energy throughout my treatment.

But despite the advances in early detection, treatment and mortality rates, more than 40,000 women will die of breast cancer this year in this country.

As you think about breast cancer survivors and feel empathy for those in the midst of treatment, I urge the women reading this to be sure that they are taking care of themselves, for everyone reading this to be sure the women in their lives are as well.

Early detection is the key. Breast cancer is detected early by self-exams, by doctor exams and by mammograms. Be sure you show up for all of the above on your own behalf.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Misleading 'Talking Point'

To the Editor:

I write in response to the letter published in the Oct. 1 Gazette from Eleanor Quigley, the Mount Vernon Tree Commissioner, con-

cerning the MVCCA APR nomination directed to the Little Hunting Creek pumping station. She states:

"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."



Needs Volunteers

Habitat ReStore in Alexandria is celebrating its 5th anniversary in October. The ReStore — open Mondays-Fridays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. — is in need of volunteers to work there. The store is located at 7770 Richmond Highway, behind the Gold's Gym. For more information, see www.restorenova.org. To volunteer, call the ReStore directly at 703-360-6700.

Get Involved

Here are a few of many local events in October to support breast cancer awareness.

Breast Education Day, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, no registration required.

It's too late to join the **2009 Komen DC 3-Day** for the Cure, which takes place this weekend, but you can still donate, or sign up for the 2010 event at www.the3day.org. Thousands will walk 60 miles over three days to raise awareness and money.

20th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Conference

at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Saturday, Oct. 17, 9-3. Call 703-558-0913 to register. John T. Hazel, MD Conference Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington.

The annual **Walk to Fight Breast Cancer**, organized by the City of Alexandria's Office on Women and Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, is Saturday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. and includes 1.5K/3.5K/5K walk or run. Registration 6:30 am - 8 am inside the lobby of the AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theatres, 206 Swamp Fox Road.

www.alexancerwalk.com

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, **Breast Health and Women's Imaging Open House**, Monday, Oct. 19, 5 – 7 p.m., 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria.

Dine Out and Shop for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, Tuesday, Oct. 20. Restaurants, retail stores, spas, and many other businesses throughout Alexandria will be contributing a portion of their proceeds throughout the day to the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. All funds raised from this event will go to support Alexandria's Breast Cancer Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation.

www.alexancerwalk.com

Read "Race for the Cure, a Personal Note," from June: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=328740&paper=63&cat=110>

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

sewage under Little Hunting Creek, perhaps only 1-2 acres (up to 6 houses) remain for consideration of whether they could be developed with the likely number being considerably less given the density penalties exacted by section 2-308 of the Zoning Ordinance, applicable to sites where more than 30 percent of land area is floodplain and public utilities are located. Additionally, any proposed change in the character of use of any of the pumping station land would trigger the "2232" procedure, named after Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232. This procedure would result in a public hearing before the Planning Commission.

Since the land surrounding the buildings provides a sound, safety and smell buffer with respect to the adjacent Stratford Landing community, it is unlikely the Board of Supervisors would ever surplus any significant percentage of the available acreage. Moreover, it is speculative at best to suggest that any of the pumping station land could be developed for residences. Proponents of the MVCCA nomination have provided utterly no analysis on this point. They just utter "up to 29 houses."

H. Jay Spiegel

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One thing is clear — unless someone invents a way to dispose of human waste that eliminates the need for toilets and sewage pipes, the Little Hunting Creek pumping station will be at its current location for many generations, perhaps centuries to come. The use of the "talking point" "up to 29 houses" constitutes a thinly veiled attempt to create the specter of massive residential development at the pumping station, in order to scare and stampede the citizenry toward support of the MVCCA's nomination. I don't blame Ms. Quigley — I can't imagine she is the source of that "talking point."

The Stratford Landing Citizens' Association's (SLCA) Rules Committee has worked over the past weeks to prepare a Referendum that will seek the views of SLCA members concerning the pumping station issue. As a member of that committee, I have helped draft that Referendum.

I look forward to a full, fair and honest debate concerning the future wording of the Comprehensive Plan regarding the Little Hunting Creek pumping station.

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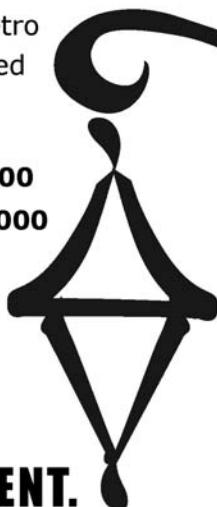
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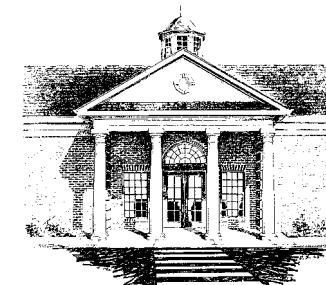
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NEWS

Marsh Advocates Question Treatment

Fairfax County will notify the public about what options the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers might implement to control hydrilla and other non-native plants growing in the Potomac River.

Last month, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) asked Fairfax County staff to contact the corps of engineers about what, if anything, can be done to control the hydrilla in the Potomac.

Due to budget cuts, Virginia recently stopped participating in a hydrilla-control program with Maryland and Washington D.C. and Hyland said he had received many complaints about plant overgrowth that made swimming and boating in the river difficult.

But the Friends of Dyke Marsh, who are particularly concerned about the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, expressed reservations about the use of herbicide or another chemical to control hydrilla and other unwanted weeds. As the organization understands it, those types of chemicals cannot distinguish between native and non-native plants, wrote the group's president, Glenda Booth, in a letter to Hyland.

In her letter, Booth also mentions that mowing is a frequently used solution for eliminating hydrilla, though she admits it is not permanent.

As recommended by Booth in her letter, Hyland has requested that Fairfax County staff inform the U.S. National Park Service and Virginia Institute of



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

President of the Friends of Dyke's Marsh Glenda Booth and Kathy Hirsch welcome U.S. Rep. John Dingell to the gathering last Sunday afternoon. The event honored the group's founders and U.S. Representatives John Dingell (D-15-Michigan) and Jim Moran (D-8-Virginia).

Marine Science of the methods for hydrilla-control being considered.

"Officials with the U.S. National Park Service, the federal managers of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, and scientists with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have a great deal of experience in addressing invasive aquatic plants like hydrilla," wrote Booth in her letter to Hyland.

— JULIA O'DONOCHUE

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NEWS

Former Teacher Sentenced to Five Years in Prison

FROM PAGE 3

2000 and had been at Gunston since 2005. He taught fifth grade and accelerated math but, after his March 23 arrest, he was placed on unpaid leave.

Charged with aggravated sexual battery, he pleaded guilty July 16 in Circuit Court, returning Oct. 2 for sentencing. The only one to testify that day, the victim told Judge Gaylord Finch she'd been receiving weekly therapy for five months and it will continue. And when Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Greg Holt asked her if she wanted Bower to go to jail as punishment for what he did to her, she said she did.

"He was your teacher and you were very close to him?" asked defense attorney Bill Hicks. "Yes," replied the child. "You'd been alone with him a number of times when he never touched you?" asked Hicks. Again, she answered yes.

"It didn't ruin your life? You had a good summer?" asked Hicks. "Yes," she replied.

But Holt didn't let Hicks's assumptions go unanswered. "Children are resilient, but no one knows how it'll affect her [in the long run]," said the prosecutor. "It runs deep; this event will always be inside [the victim]. Her inability to trust adults, especially men, will stay with her."

Clearly, said Holt, Bower was a man in a position of trust — a school teacher who violated that status by what he did to the girl. He said it affected her whole family and altered their lives. For example, said Holt, the child's older sister must now protect her.

"But for this man's actions, she'd have a normal life," said Holt. "Now, she avoids the room where this happened and she's got to go to therapy." Holt then asked Finch to give Bower a sentence reflecting the seriousness of the crime.

Hicks said a psychiatrist who'd examined his client concluded that "he doesn't present an increased risk of sexual violence and has no history of it." Hicks said the doctor called the girl's sexual assault a "situational offense," rather than one due to a sexual disorder on Bower's part.

"There's already been significant punishment imposed on this gentleman," said Hicks. "He's lost his reputation, and his friends among teachers and parents. He's lost his job; he loved teaching and was a good teacher. He'll have to register as a sex offender, and it'll be a huge mark of Cain on him until the day he dies."

Hicks said Bower's "aged considerably" since his arrest and has many ailments. Requesting a suspended prison sentence,

plus probation, Hicks said sending Bower to prison would serve no purpose. Furthermore, he told Finch, "It's dangerous for a man with a charge like this to be sent to prison. He's not a big man — he can't defend himself — so you may well be sentencing him to death."

Bower then stood and told the victim and her family how sorry he was. "I've never done anything like this before in my life," he said. "I'm ashamed of myself and I sincerely regret it. I also apologize to my wife;

she's been beside me, all the time."

But the judge had the last word, sentencing Bower to 10 years in prison, suspending five years, and placing him on five years probation upon his release. Finch also ordered him to receive sex-offender treatment, undergo polygraph tests and register as a sex offender.

"You are to have no contact with the victim or any other minors," he added. "And you must relinquish any guardianship you may have over any minors."

Officers Address Truck Safety

FROM PAGE 3

citizens in the Route 1 corridor and county-wide."

In other committee matters, the issue of motorcycle muffler noise standards was presented by the Environment Committee chair. After some discussion it was determined that there was insufficient information on the subject for the Public Safety Committee to take a position. "We need to do more research on the subject

before commenting. The intent of the proposal, to control motorcycle muffler noise, is a good one; however, we need to know about what is practical for an inspection standard, and what is the most cost effective means of going about implementing the proposed standard," said Shawkey.

The next Public Safety Committee meetings are scheduled for Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

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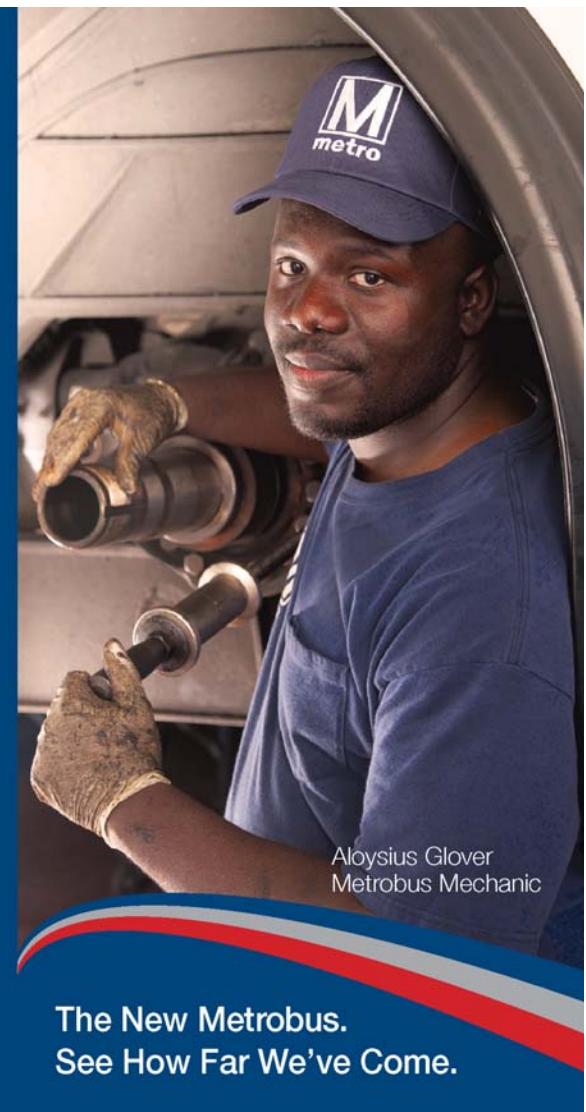
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NEWS

McKay Wants To Eliminate Human Signs

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) wants Fairfax County drivers to be focused on the road, not a human being swinging a big arrow in the middle of the traffic median on Richmond Highway.

"There are many of these 'human' signs in my district, most notably in the months leading up to the April 15 federal income tax deadline, where costumed advertisers direct drivers to tax preparation services,"

said McKay at a Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting Oct. 5.

The supervisor is particularly concerned about people standing in the rights-of-way, such as road medians, or on sidewalks, very close to the road, dressed in costume and/or moving signs, he wrote in a board matter.

McKay wants the supervisors' legislative committee to determine what, if any, authority the county may have to regulate

such forms of advertising practices.

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) also expressed concern over what she called "rooster tail" signs, which are cloth and blow in the wind.

"They are proliferating at a tremendous rate in my district and they are almost as distracting as having a person standing there," said Gross.

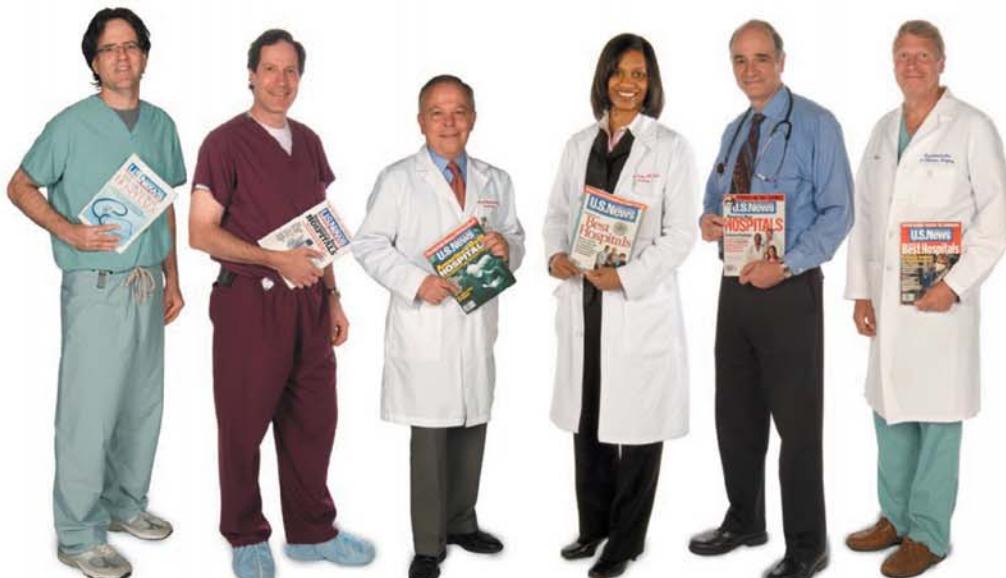
SEE DISCUSSING, PAGE 23

Correction

Contact information for Mount Vernon at Home should be: jeffreed@mountvernonathome.org and the telephone number is 703-303-4060.

Clarification

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations' Comprehensive Plan nomination for Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station specifies "Portions not in use by DPWES [Department of Public Works and Environmental Services] should be preserved as open space." According to the MVCCA Web site, it does not include the recommendation for a nature pathway or boardwalk.



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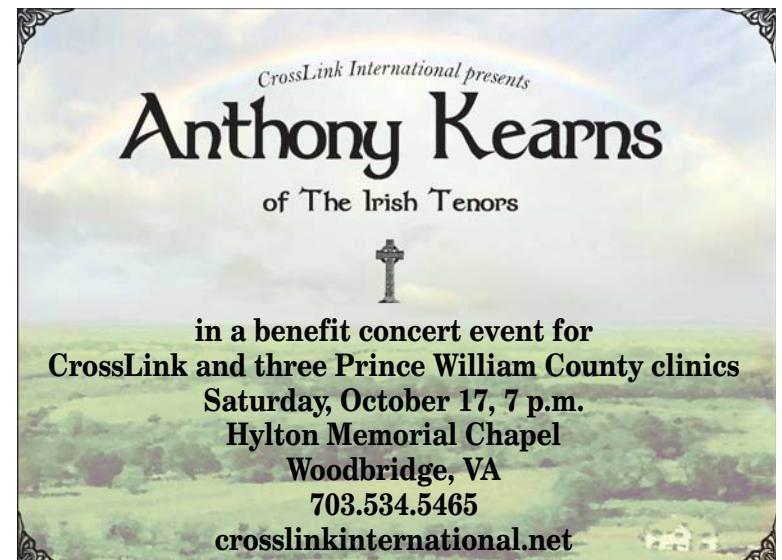
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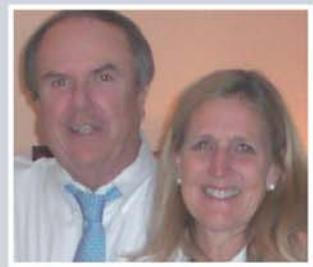
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4821
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Character abounds in this fabulous Cape Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated by its caring owners. Four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificient half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland.



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8108
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WATERFRONT!

9380
Mt Vernon Circle
\$3,500,000
Private Estate!

Classic Colonial faade 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!



OPEN SUN 1-4

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 BA's 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.



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Alexandria
\$935,500

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Sheridan's Point
\$794,500
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NEW PRICE!

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\$847,000**

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Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



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Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,200,000
Riverfront!

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WATERFRONT!

9411
Bramley Lane
\$975,000
New Luxury Home!

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**8826
Camden Street
\$989,500
Stratford Landing!**

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**3847 WATKINS MILL RD
Townes at Cameron Parke
\$499,900**

West of Old Town Alexandria, Close to 2 METRO stations is this beautiful & spacious 3BR/2.5 bath townhome. Lots of upgrades. Features include: fireplace, brick lower level fenced in patio, large deck off the kitchen. Pool, Garage and the Dash bus stop.

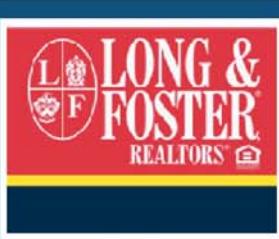
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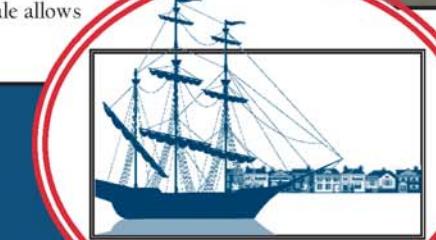


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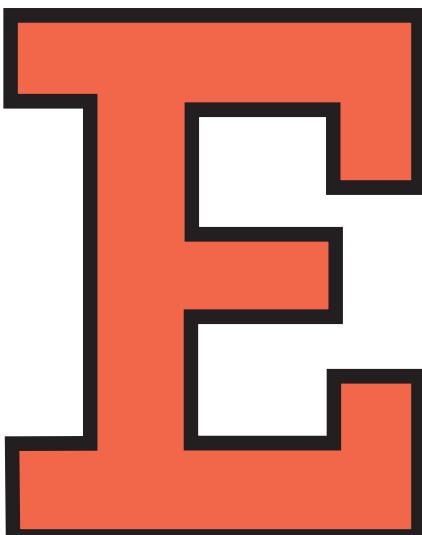


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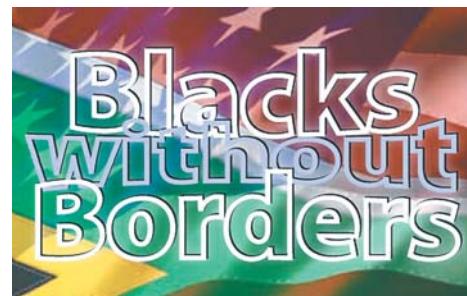


"From Florida to Coahuila."



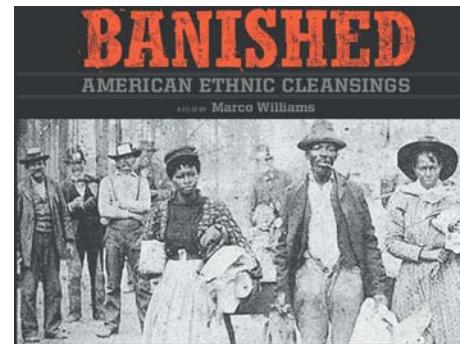
TOM DEWOLF /THE GAZETTE

"Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North." Whip and manacles reportedly found at The Mount, the mansion originally built by James DeWolf.

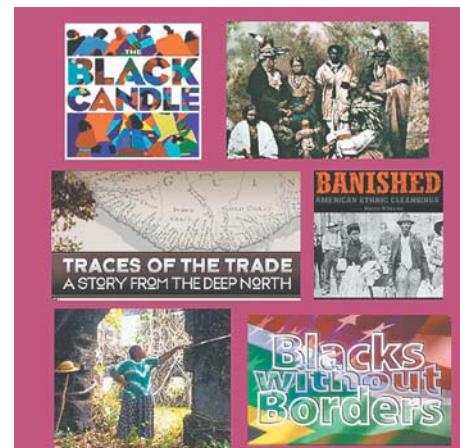


"Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American Dream in South Africa."

FREE MONTHLY FILM SCREENINGS BEGIN OCT. 10



"Banished"



"SankofaSpirit"



"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration."



"The Language You Cry In"

Movies with a Mission

The Alexandria Black History Museum is partnering with SankofaSpirit to share its "Movies with a Mission" with local audiences. This new monthly series begins on Saturday, Oct. 10, and continues on the second Saturday of each month through Saturday, March 13. Screenings begin at 4:30 p.m. at the museum, 902 Wythe Street, and will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk.

"Movies with a Mission" are free monthly films from and about Africa and the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-838-4356.

OCT. 10

"Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North."

In the series premiere, this film follows the disturbing journey of discovery into the history and "living consequences" of slavery. Katrina Browne discovered that her slave-trading ancestors from Rhode Island were not an aberration. Rather, they were the most prominent actors in the North's vast complicity in slavery, buried in myths of Northern

innocence. Browne, a direct descendant of slaver Mark Anthony DeWolf, and nine other descendants, traveled from Rhode Island to Ghana to Cuba and back, revisiting the Triangle Trade that made the DeWolfs the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North" is Browne's spellbinding account of the journey that resulted.

NOV. 14

"Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American Dream in South Africa."

This ground-breaking documentary takes a heartfelt look at the emotional journey of a group of African Americans who called it quits in the U.S. to start a new life in South Africa, chronicling 12 modern-day globetrotters who have uprooted their lives in pursuit of their dreams and are finding that America is not the only land of opportunity. The film provides a candid and touching tale of sacrifice, hardship and great rewards by U.S.-born citizens as they adjust to the cultural differences and combat negative perceptions that America may garner in other parts of the world.

DEC. 12

"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration."

This landmark, vibrant documentary uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American

experience. Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, "The Black Candle" is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa are so important to African-Americans today. It traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

JAN. 9

"Banished."

This documentary investigates ethnic cleansing in post-reconstruction America. How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Filmmaker Marco Williams visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of "banishment"—a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. The wounds of history are opened as Williams sits down with KKK leaders, white residents of these all-white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike.

FEB. 13

"The Language You Cry In."

This film tells an amazing scholarly detective story that searches for—and finds—meaningful links between African Americans and their ancestral past, bridging hundreds of years and thousands of miles from the Gullah people of present-day Georgia back to 18th-century Sierra Leone. It recounts the even more remarkable saga of how

Alexandria Black History Museum presents cinema about African experience.

African Americans have retained links with their African past despite the horrors of the middle passage, slavery and segregation.

MARCH 13

"From Florida to Coahuila." The final film in this series explores the African legacy in Mexico and focuses on Africans who escaped from slavery in the United States and made their way to the Spanish colony of Florida. There they intermarried with the Seminoles and eventually moved into Mexico and gradually integrated into that culture. A fascinating exploration of a cultural identity that transcends the constraints of political borders!

Founded in 2002, Atlanta-based SankofaSpirit is dedicated to providing cultural and educational programs and services that focus on Africa and the African Diaspora. Through its program and services, SankofaSpirit encourages people of African descent to reconnect with their great legacy. For more information, visit www.sankofaspirt.com.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the historic Parker-Gray community and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about the museum and Alexandria's rich African-American heritage, visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Local Fall Fairs & Bazaar Schedule

♦ Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fun Fair
Woodlawn UMC Church
7730 Fordson Road
703-360-9450

♦ Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mega Craft Sale
Hollin Hall Senior Center
1500 Shenandoah Road
703-765-4573

♦ Oct. 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Annual Fall Fair
Burgundy Farm Country Day School
3700 Burgundy Farm
703-960-3431

♦ Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fall Festival
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
1427 W. Braddock Road
703-998-4170

♦ Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Winter Wonderland
St. Rita's Catholic Church
3815 Russell Road
703-836-3538

♦ Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Road
703-765-6555

♦ Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Emmanuel Church Bazaar
1608 Russell Road
703-683-0798

♦ Nov. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar
Washington Street United Methodist Church
115 S. Washington Street
703-836-4324

♦ Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart
Pohick Church
9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton
703-339-6572

♦ Nov. 21, 9:30-4 p.m.

Holiday Shop
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
1909 Windmill Lane
703-765-5950

♦ Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Christmas Bazaar
St. Mary's Catholic School
400 Green Street
703-549-1646

COMMUNITY

Alexandria Family Fall Fest

DATE: SATURDAY, OCT. 17
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

WHERE: ARMISTEAD L.
BOOTHE PARK — 520
CAMERON STATION BLVD.
(NEXT TO SAMUEL TUCKER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

SCHEDULED EVENTS:
10 a.m. — Welcome
10:15 a.m. — Beale Street Puppets

11 a.m. — United Studios of Self Defense Demo
12 p.m. — Beale Street Puppets
1 p.m. — Janet Lagah-Bona
1:15 p.m. — St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Magic Show
2:15 p.m. — Beale Street Puppets

Free activities/booths
Pumpkin Painting by Browne Academy • Bicycle Safety • Fire Department Display • Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center • Hay Ride • Exhibitors • Art Activity with St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School • Robbie the Recycling Squirrel • And more.

Cost is \$5/ticket or 4 for \$15:
Pony Rides • Moon Bounce • Bouncy Boxing • Scarecrow Building • Refreshments and Kettle Korn Sales

Sponsored by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in partnership with Browne Academy and St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.

Call the Events Hotline at 703-883-4686. The City of Alexandria complies with the American with Disabilities Act for qualified individuals. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call 703-838-4902 ten days prior to event.

MUSIC

The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Oct. 7: An Evening with KEM, a benefit for The Carpenter's Shelter

Oct. 8-9: Nanci Griffith w/ Eric Brace & Peter Cooper with Mike Auldrige

Oct. 10: Tom Paxton with the Kennedys

Oct. 11: Girlyman with special guest PO' Girl

Oct. 12: Renaissance "40th Anniversary Tour"

Oct. 13: Marc Broussard "Welcome to My Living Room"

Oct. 14: Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen with the Grascals

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10:30 AM til 3:00 PM

A family-owned Northern Italian restaurant in Del Ray neighborhood offering moderately priced dishes in single and famiglia (shared) portion sizes, and a communal table for group get-togethers, gives solo diners the chance to make new friends, or enjoy glass of wine and antipasti. Large Wine selection with over 50 offered by the glass.

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Featured Special Event:

Fall Harvest Family Days

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Celebrate the fall harvest with a cornucopia of family fun including free wagon rides and a straw bale maze! Meet General Washington, make a cornhusk doll, and learn to dance 18th-century style. Included in Estate admission.

Sightseeing cruises are half-price. Free admission to the Distillery & Gristmill with Estate admission!

**FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION AT
VISIT.MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000**



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Wiener Schnitzel.....\$12.95
Sauerkraut & Hot German Potato Salad

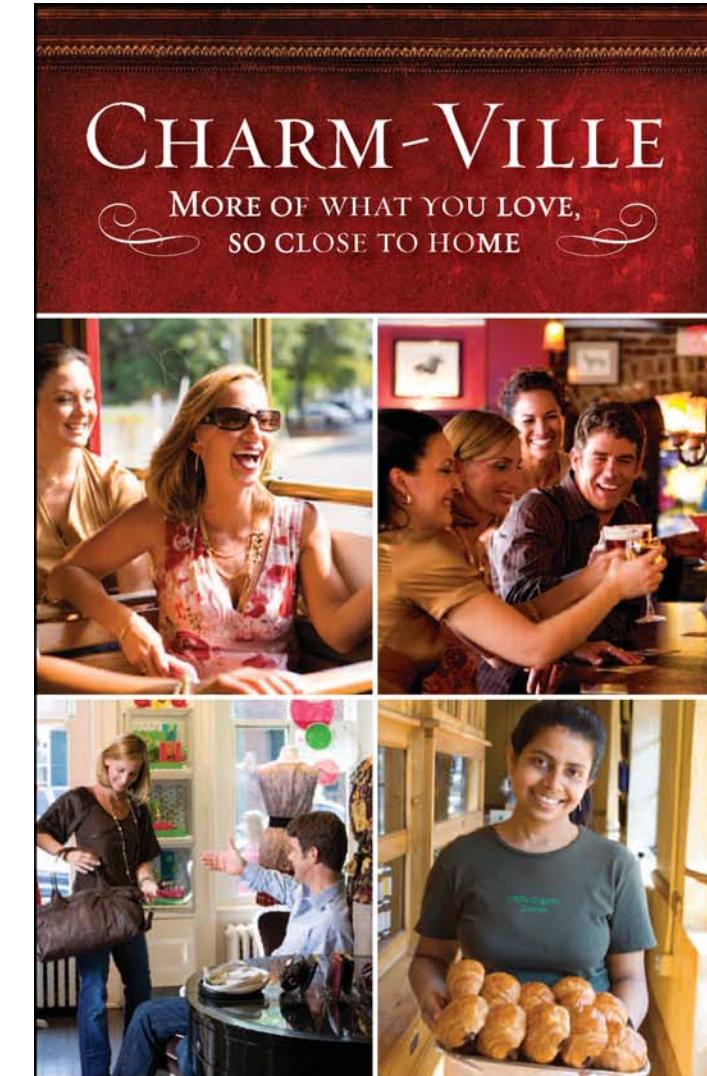
Bratwurst or Knockwurst.....\$10.95
Sauerkraut & Hot German Potato Salad

Thursday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Oct. 31

Elsie's Magic Skillet Restaurant
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M-Sat 6AM-10PM
Sun 6AM-2PM

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Nationally recognized for its early-American architecture, hotels, unique boutiques, award-winning restaurants and historic attractions, Alexandria is a uniquely memorable place to shop, dine and celebrate. Go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com to plan your visit around our many events, such as:

- October 9-10: Old Town Food and Wine Festival
- October 10: Alexandria Arts Safari
- October 17-18: Fall Harvest Family Days
- October 24: Death Comes to Carlyle House
- November 13-15: Historic Alexandria Antiques Show & Sale

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COMMUNITY

Boutique Week Is Oct. 10-18

For nine days in October, Alexandria's Boutique Week will offer 50 more reasons to shop in Alexandria. From Saturday, Oct. 10, through Sunday, Oct. 18, retailers throughout the city will offer discounts and complimentary gifts with visit or purchase of clothing, accessories, home décor, art, food and wine. Even the dog can get a deal.

A full list of Boutique Week offers and a downloadable entry form can be found at www.AlexandriaBoutiqueWeek.com.

Sampling of the deals offered during Alexandria Boutique Week:

Clothing

- ❖ Free gift with purchase at Hysteria and The Shoe Hive;
- ❖ 10 percent off purchase and free gift at Mint Condition, a new, upscale consignment boutique;
- ❖ 15 percent off purchase at Apple Seed Maternity and Baby Boutique;
- ❖ 10 percent off \$75 purchase at Bloomers, an underwear, loungewear and sleepwear boutique;
- ❖ 20 percent off purchase at Monday's Child, a children's boutique selling classic clothes;
- ❖ Free gift with \$25 purchase at Elinor Coleman Vintage Mirage, a vintage clothing and jewelry boutique

featuring items from the Victorian era to the present;

- ❖ Free gift with \$100 purchase at Treat;

Beauty and Accessories

- ❖ 15 percent off jewelry at The Antique Guild;
- ❖ 10 percent off purchase and free jewelry cleaning at Lawrence Miller & Co.;
- ❖ 15 percent off Longchamp handbags, luggage and accessories at Embellishments of Alexandria;
- ❖ Free goodie bag of deluxe-size samples with \$50 purchase at Bellacara, a bath and body care boutique;

Home Décor

- ❖ Free gift with \$100 purchase at Red Barn Mercantile;
- ❖ 25 percent off sale items at Decorium Gift & Home;
- ❖ 20 percent off entire store at Conrad's Furniture Gallery;

Art and History

- ❖ \$10 off original artwork at The Art League Gallery;
- ❖ 10 percent off purchases of \$50 or more at Arts Afire Glass Studio;
- ❖ 20 percent off purchase at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum Store and at the Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Store;
- ❖ Free gift with \$15 purchase at The

Virginia Shop;

Food and Wine

- ❖ Spend \$30 at ACKC in Del Ray and get a \$15 gift card;
- ❖ 50 percent off second entrée or 20 percent off retail purchase at Grape + Bean;
- ❖ 15 percent off purchase of \$50 at La Cuisine, The Cook's Resource;
- ❖ 10 percent off any bulk candy purchase at The Sugar Cube;

Pets

- ❖ 15 percent off on one pound our more assorted gourmet dog biscuits or buy two 14 oz. bags of Zanadoo dog biscuits get one free at Chateau Animaux;
- ❖ 15 percent off dog costumes at Barkley Square;

Along with the Boutique Week specials, one shopper will walk away with a grand prize shopping package worth over \$1,000 and includes a one-night stay at the Morrison House hotel, located in historic Old Town Alexandria, and an Alexandria shopping spree.

To be eligible for the drawing, download the entry form at www.AlexandriaBoutiqueWeek.com and get it stamped by at five of the participating retailers. The form must be submitted by Sunday, Oct. 18, in one of three ways: (1) drop off flyer at participating shops or at the (2) Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House at 221 King Street, Alexandria; or (3) mail to ACVA at 421 King Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314.



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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.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 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.

Andrew McKnight Performs. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10 and available online at nvfaa.org or at the door. Call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/OCT. 9

Jazz Percussionist Robert Jospé. 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.

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 kclment@nvcc.edu.

Oktobeerfest 2009. Noon to 6 p.m. Good food, good beer, live music and fun for the whole family. Admission is free and tickets will be sold for beer, food, activities. Outdoors at Rustico Restaurant, 827 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-224-5051 or go to www.rusticorestaurant.com.

Apothecary Open House. 1-5 p.m. Free. Includes tours, activities, and craft demonstrations. Learn about herbs and discover the important role the apothecary played in early Alexandria. At the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-3852 or http://oha.alexandriava.gov/apothecary/.

OCT. 10-11

Author Joe David Speaks. Author of "Gourmet Getaways" will share his

OCT. 9-10

Repertory Opera Theater of Washington. 8 p.m. \$20/adults, \$15/students and seniors. Presents Vincenzo Bellini's I Capuleti e i Montecchi, based on "Romeo and Juliet." At Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 571-403-0814.

Cooking philosophy on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. At the Wine Food Festival, Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Old Town Alexandria.

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.

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

Music for String Quartet. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

OCT. 16-DEC. 11

Spring Forest Qigong Practice

Sessions. 10-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$10/session. Qigong is the study of energy utilizing mental concentration, breath, and body movement. At the Institute for the Advancement of Service, 111 South Columbus St., Alexandria. Call 703-706-5333.

OCT. 16-31

"Inherit the Wind" — a fictionalized account of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial in Tennessee. Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31 at 8 p.m., and Oct. 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church – Wesley Hall, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Go to www.acctonline.org or 703-660-2611.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Family Fall Festival. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Armistead Booth Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd. Call the Events Hotline at 703-883-4686 or the Special Events Office at 703-746-5418.

St. Aidan's Octoberfest and Silent Auction. 3-7 p.m. German Food and Music. Kinderfest from 3-5 p.m. Games, Pumpkin Patch, Face Painting. Fun for everyone. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. www.staidansepiscopal.org.

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 Gadsby's 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.

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Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night

Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.

Tuesday - Greek Night

Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

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

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm

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LETTERS

Need True Health Reform

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.

On Aug. 25 I asked U.S. Sen. Mark Warner where he stood on the public option in health insurance reform. I was at a Faith Health Reform town hall meeting at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington organized by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

My understanding of his answer was that

1. He is not committed to the public option.

2. He believes in competition.

3. He thinks taxpayers already pay for the 47 million uninsured Americans through emergency care services.

Several faith leaders in attendance called for a reconsideration of "extending health care to the uninsured." One bluntly argued that the debate on health reform has been hijacked by a few far-right groups and away from reforming health insurance for the uninsured and underinsured.

I was disappointed by Senator Warner's answer. I am from Romania and have lived under a com-

mand economy for most of my formative years. I believe in competition myself. I would be the last person to recommend anything government-run. However, this country has tried relying on private health insurance to provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans. What we got was insurance company bureaucrats rationing health care so they could further increase profits.

During your remarks, Senator Warner, you mentioned 'incentives' for insurance companies not to hype costs. 'Incentives' have been used in Virginia to attract companies, they were offered tax breaks to do business in Virginia over other states. If by incentives for the health care system you have in mind the same notion of giving tax-payer money to incentivize insurers to lower costs, you have lost my vote. Despite your belief in a free market and competition, you seem to support a tax-payer funded system of incentives for the health care private sector. This is not competition. True competition would mean that health insurers compete for patients by offering the best care for the least cost. What you are proposing is simply giving away tax payer money to the insurance in-

dustry. The competition would not be among health insurers to lower costs in order to attract patients, it would be a competition to get our tax money in the form of government 'incentives.'

The president's initial proposal to use the Public Option to compete with private health providers is about the true spirit of competition, even if it means competing with a government-run program. Much as I hate to see my health in the hands of a government-run program, the reality is that existing individual private insurance market is not affordable for people like me, nor is it competitive. I am lucky: I can afford a basic emergency health insurance that costs \$3,800 per year, which does not even cover something as necessary as a colonoscopy. If I get into an accident, the insurance will cover my costs only after a hefty premium of \$5,000. Mine is a very basic type of insurance, and every month when I send them a check, I grind my teeth. I am essentially paying almost \$4,000 a year, to enjoy the benefit of being covered against an accident, only after I pay another \$5,000 into the coffers of insurance agencies. For rich people, these numbers probably mean nothing. For those on a low-

income budget, they might be thinking "you at least can afford an emergency health insurance, we cannot even afford that." The reality is that the "competition" that has been in place in this country among insurers is a competition over healthy, wealthy patients and not competition to provide the best coverage for the lowest cost.

I pray Senator Warner will reconsider his views. We need real health insurance reform with true competition. Otherwise relying on the same private insurers to compete without any competition will guarantee one thing: the status quo.

Georgeta Pourchot

Alexandria

First, Do No Harm

To the Editor:

Here we go again. Mr. Glazer accuses me of making inappropriate attacks on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security when I discussed health care reform. Mr. Glazer, my comments are not "horribly misleading, and at worst unconscionable" but dealt with government-run programs that are going broke and I don't have faith

in a government run health care system. When programs are running out of funds and the Federal deficit has skyrocketed making it very difficult to fix the existing systems, won't some recipients be adversely affected? Further, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee has cut a half trillion dollars from Medicare making the financial picture worse and possibly have serious consequences for seniors.

Mr. Glazer also implies that I am opposed to health care reform. Apparently he has not read, or chose to ignore, my earlier letters to the Gazette editor where I presented several examples of what could be done to improve the current health care system including increased competition, reducing costs and improving health care without the government coming between the doctors and patients.

Health and end-of-life decisions must be made by families and their doctors and not by some bureaucrat such as "Health Choice Commissioner" who will set health care standards for patients as discussed in the version of the health care bill I am familiar with that has passed the House of Representatives.

If the "public option" is so great as Mr. Glazer contends, why was it voted down in the U.S. Senate Finance Committee twice on Sept. 30 and now the U.S. Senate leader is looking into schemes to attach the health bill as an amendment to another bill because the votes are not there to pass the health care bill with a public option.

In designing any health care system the U.S. Congress would do well to follow one of the doctor's oaths that states "Do no harm." As an old saying goes, "Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water" for ideological reasons. Quality health care at reasonable costs are too important for all of us.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

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:

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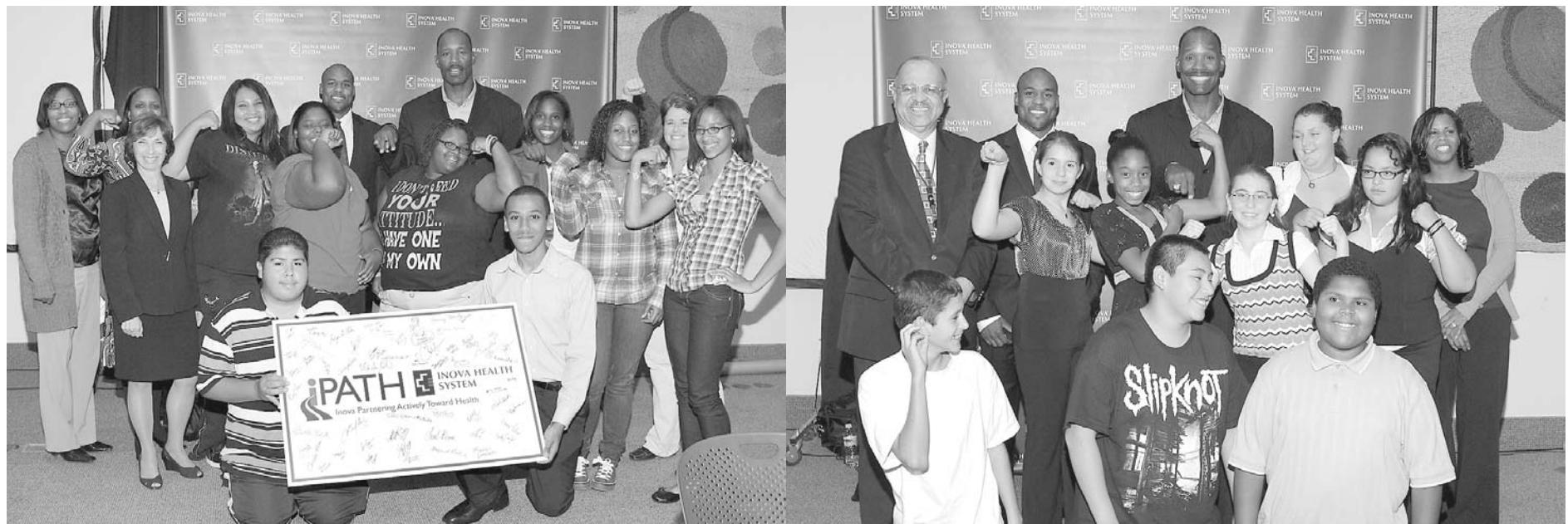
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SCHOOLS



iPath for Students

Students from Mount Vernon High School (left) and Walt Whitman Middle School (right) joined former Redskins Cliff Russell and Super Bowl Champion Charles Mann at Inova Fairfax Hospital Oct. 5 for the launch of a new pilot program that will help area students engage in health-oriented activities and expose students to careers in medicine. Known as iPATH, Inova Partnering Actively Toward Health, the 10-week after-school program will provide students fun activities and nutrition and exercise lessons to help them reach their full fitness potential.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Mount Vernon High School Class of 2011 is conducting its fall mulch sale on Saturday, Oct. 24. Pick up in MVHS parking lot. Orders must be made by Tuesday, Oct. 13. Limited delivery area for orders of 10 or more bags. For information call Paula Weinberg at 703-360-4029. email: MvhSmulchsale@gmail.com.

The Class of 2013 will be running a carwash at Mount Vernon High School

on the following Saturdays this fall: Oct. 17, and Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. Donations will be accepted and funds will be used to support the Class of 2013 activities.

MVHS is in search of its oldest living alumnus. The Mount Vernon Student Government Association would like to honor them in a parade/showcase to celebrate the 70th year anniversary during Homecoming Week on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 12:30 p.m. and again during the football halftime ceremony on Oct. 16. Respond to Joy.McManus@fcps.edu.

MVHS is also searching for all former MVHS Homecoming Kings and Queens. If you have contact information for any former MVHS Homecoming Kings and

Queens, have them contact Nardos King @ Nardos.King@fcps.edu

MVHS is in Search of Photographs of its Military Families. On Friday, Dec. 18, Mount Vernon High School will present its second annual Multicultural Awareness Day Program, "Embracing Seventy Years of Diversity". The program will take place from 7:30 -10:45 a.m. in the Michael Skinner Field House. As part of the program, MVHS would like to do a tribute to its students' parents serving America in the military. If possible, the pictures should include the Mount Vernon High School students with their parents dressed in their uniforms. If this is not possible, separate pictures can be used. If you would like to be a part of this celebration, please

send your pictures electronically to the following email address: Gayle.Smith@fcps.edu. Submit your pictures by Friday, Oct. 23.

West Potomac's Class of 2010 has begun fundraising to support an All-Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC) at Dave and Buster's on June 20.

Seniors will earn a profit from selling Virginia Diner nuts, Innisbrook wrapping paper and related products, Sees candies, and van Bourgondien Dutch flower bulbs. The top seller will receive a \$100 prize, and any student selling more than \$300 can attend the ANGC for only \$5.

If you would like to support fundraising for the all night grad party, but don't know a West Potomac senior to purchase from, you can order

Innisbrook products online. Go to www.innisbrook.com and select Parents EZ. The West Potomac school number for Innisbrook is 105939. Virginia Diner nut products can be ordered at www.virginiadiner.com.

All orders must be received by Wednesday, September 30.

To order flower bulbs, or if you have any questions, email angc2010@gmail.com

The Class of 1980 at Fort Hunt High School will hold its 30th Reunion in the summer of 2010. Details about the reunion can be found at fhhs80.com. Volunteers are needed to help organize and plan the upcoming event. Visit the web site to register and stay posted on all the happenings as they unfold.

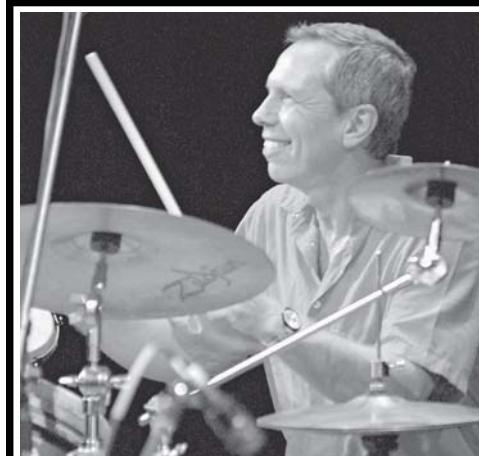
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NEWS



The Board of Supervisors recognized longtime resident, entrepreneur and developer Elizabeth M. Fairchild for her donation of a nearly 8.5 acres of land along the Richmond Highway Commercial Revitalization District.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, between 7:15 and 8:00 p.m. a very brief fireworks display will take place as part of a private event at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption.

To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

FROM PAGE 1

years ago the community has viewed the donated land as ideally suitable for a community park It has the potential to trans-

form the area into an environmentally attractive park that, once the stream is cleaned up and managed properly, walking trails can be installed for the community to use, the present wildlife (deer, fox,

hawks, raccoons, etc.) may continue to call it home, and the beautiful trees (oak, locust, beech, etc) may continue to thrive and provide a beautiful landscape for everyone to enjoy."

Fairchild Donates Land to County

Traffic was light on Sunday morning last month as eight volunteers came to beautify the intersection at Gunston Road and Richmond Highway.

Volunteers from the Mason Neck Lions Club and the Mason Neck community began arriving at 8 a.m. with weed wackers, power mowers, wheel barrows, shovels, rakes and hay forks.

The weeds had grown four-feet tall since VDOT ceased mowing the traffic mediums and intersection islands due to budgetary reductions. The volunteers first collected and removed the litter, illegal advertising signage and other trash from the traffic islands.

The weeds were cut down to ground level and the cuttings bagged for the removal by VDOT. A layer of shredded wood mulch was then applied to help inhibit weed growth.

The Mason Neck Lions Club organized this project, provided the loan of tools and donated bottled water and soft drinks. Fairfax County Solid Waste Management



Volunteers Tom Nally, Dave Collyer, Frances and Mike Mohr, Chris Schreiner, Dick Kennedy, Richard Ryan and Joe Chudzik participated in the beautification project.

Division provided free mulch. Clean Fairfax Council donated anti-litter logo giveaways, caps, Frisbees and air fresheners. Participating volunteers will receive a certificate of appreciation from the

state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

More work is needed to complete the project at the four traffic islands. There is a proposal to plant daffodils there in the fall.

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SPORTS

First-Year WP Coach Finds Lineup, Win

Robinson leads West Potomac in kills during victory over Mount Vernon.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

First-year West Potomac volleyball coach Rebecca Waters said the Wolverines' 1-5 start was due in part to shuffling players in and out while trying to find a consistent lineup.

On Sept. 30, the Wolverines appeared to solve two problems. West Potomac defeated rival Mount Vernon, 3-0 (26-24, 25-10, 25-22), to break a minor two-game losing streak. Along with the victory, Waters said she decided upon a starting lineup shortly after the match.

"I think we have found a workable lineup," Waters said. "Now it's just a matter of getting them used to being next to one another and having them all click. So, hopefully we'll be able to have it down to a science before the tournament."

Six-foot junior Angela Robinson is one of West Potomac's middle blockers. She finished with a match-high seven kills against the Majors. Her kill started a 4-0 run in game one to seal a come-from-behind, 26-



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac middle blocker Angela Robinson hits a ball over the net during a victory over Mount Vernon on Sept. 30.

24 victory. She also had three aces in game three.

"It's just being familiar with your players and what you do," Robinson said of the Wolverines' lineup jelling. "It's just familiarizing yourself — becoming a family on the court and knowing where everyone is going to be and what you need to do with each other."

Waters said six-foot sophomore Lara Chilton is her other middle blocker. Seniors Linnea Markson (5-8) and Mallorie Calvert (5-5) are the outside hitters, sophomore Morgan Maniglia (5-8) is the opposite hitter and senior Maddie Tindle (5-8) is the setter.

Waters said she is considering junior Alexx Graybill (5-4) as a defensive player.

"We're coming together," Calvert said. "It's taken some time, but we're finally getting to that point where we're all comfortable with each other and we know who can do what."

Markson finished with four kills against Mount Vernon. Maniglia tallied three and Calvert added two.

Mount Vernon entered the match having yet to win a game. The Majors battled in game one, scoring four straight points late to take a 24-22 lead. On the verge of allowing Mount Vernon its first game win of the season, West Potomac responded with four straight points for the win. Robinson started the rally with the kill and Tindle added an ace.

Mount Vernon setter Alexis Gable said coming so close was disappointing, but the Majors should gain confidence.

"It was frustrating because we know we can do a lot better," she said. "A few games back our [performance] wasn't that great. It was really not close at all. Tonight, I think that gave us confidence because we were so close and we played really well."

Ericka Frank and Anita Johnson each finished with six kills for Mount Vernon. Sabrina Person had three kills and Natalie Dailey had two.

West Potomac lost to Lee, 3-1, on Monday and faced Wakefield on Wednesday. Results of the Wakefield match were not available as of press time. The Wolverines travel to take on Hayfield on Tuesday.

Mount Vernon hosts Hayfield on Oct. 15.

West Potomac Girls XC Wins Octoberfest Invitational

The West Potomac girls cross country team took first place at the Octoberfest Invitational on Saturday at Great Meadows Course. The Wolverines finished with 187 points, 34 better than second-place Bishop O'Connell.

Wolverine co-captain Julianne Bigler led the team with an eighth-place finish, recording a time of 19 minutes, 2 seconds.

"She's gotten better every single week," West Potomac coach Don Beeby said, "so I'm encouraged by her performance."

Sarah Jane Underwood placed 32nd for West Potomac with a time of 19:53. Dale Lescher was 39th (20:03), co-captain Kelsey Rosenberg was 48th (20:12) and Sami Miller took 60th (20:28).

Despite the win, Beeby was hesitant to speak too highly of the performance. Patriot District foe Lake Braddock, one of the top programs in the state, was not at the meet. Beeby said he hopes the Wolverines take care of business later in the year.

"It's sort of a best of the rest situation," the coach said of the win. "We've had a fairly comfortable and fairly successful season. We're crossing our fingers and hoping we dot our I's and cross our T's at the end of the season."

The girls also took second at the Oatlands Plantation on Sept. 26. Bigler took eighth (19:15), Underwood was 10th (19:28) and

Rosenberg placed 12th (19:30).

Beeby said he was pleased with the leadership of senior co-captains Bigler and Rosenberg.

"They lead by example," he said. "They're great as far as motivation for our younger kids. ... We consider our captains an extension of our coaching staff."

The boys took eighth place at Octoberfest and ninth at Oatlands. The Wolverines will compete in the Glory Days Invitational on Saturday.

WP Football Drops Fourth Straight

The West Potomac football team lost to South County, 23-7, on Friday. The Wolverines have lost four straight games after defeating Mount Vernon by 39 points in their season opener.

West Potomac grabbed a 7-0 lead over South County when quarterback Nik Dimitrijevic connected with Shawn Lee for a 24-yard touchdown pass in the opening quarter.

South County tied the game with a second-quarter touchdown before pulling away with 16 third-quarter points.

Dimitrijevic completed 13 of 28 passes for 110 yards and one touchdown for West



COURTESY PHOTO

The West Potomac girls cross country team won the Octoberfest Invitational on Saturday. Pictured from left: Colleen Boyle, Sami Miller, Mackenzie Cate, Kelsey Rosenberg, Julianne Bigler, Dale Lescher and Sarah Jane Underwood.

Potomac. He was intercepted twice.

E.J. Johnson led the Wolverines with 58 rushing yards on 14 carries. Lee caught six passes for 63 yards a touchdown.

West Potomac, which fell to 0-2 in the Patriot District, travels to face Woodson on Friday.

MV Football Loses To Centreville

The Mount Vernon football team fell to 0-5 with a 50-21 loss to Centreville on Friday. The 21 points were a season-high for the Majors. Mount Vernon looks to improve

its 0-2 National District record Friday when it travels to play Hayfield.

Fort Hunt Basketball Tryouts Approaching

Tryouts for the county 10-year-old traveling basketball team will be held from 5:45-7:15 p.m. Oct. 14 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.

Contact Catherine Gorham at gorhamca@aol.com with questions.

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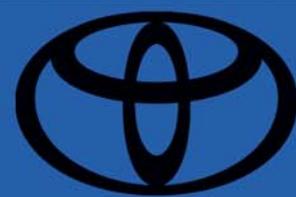
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