

Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 43 MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER OCTOBER 29, 2009



St. James' Arts & Craft Fair co-chairs Ann Chadwick and Andy de la Cort.



"Glorious Goblets" hand-painted by Mary Sears.

Artists and Craftsmen

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

St. James Episcopal Church on Old Mill Road in Mount Vernon held its 2nd annual arts & craft fair on Saturday, Oct. 24. Fifty vendors set up tables and tents featuring a varied range of handmade items. This year's co-chairs Ann Chadwick and Andy de la

Cort were pleased with the community turnout. Tom Chadwick made his special recipe chili, grilled burgers and fries and served food throughout the day. The rain held off till almost three as the vendors began to pack up. The church plans to host the event again next year.



Volunteer Jane Fitz holds a cornucopia arrangement.



Tom Chadwick serves up another bowl of his trademark chili.



Potter Bruce Ciske holds one of his hand-built serving platters.



Shelly Perry holds one of her sister's hand-painted pitchers.

Police Are Looking for John Hamilton

Believing a Centreville man took it on the lam, rather than face the court, authorities have issued a new warrant for his arrest — and they're asking the public's help in finding him.

This spring, Fairfax County police charged John E. Hamilton, 37, with six felonies involving sexual crimes against children. He's a former youth sports coach and the alleged incidents happened several years ago. Following his arrest, Hamilton, of 14120 Gabrielle Way in Centre Ridge, was initially held without bond. However, he was later released from jail on \$32,000 bond.

On Aug. 17, the grand jury indicted him on all six counts, and he was slated to enter his pleas to them, Oct. 7, in Circuit Court at 10 a.m. However, when he failed to appear after a half hour, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Ian Rodway asked Judge



Hamilton

Randy Bellows to issue an expedited bench warrant for Hamilton's arrest.

"I'd heard that, since his arrest, he made a half-hearted attempt to do himself in," said Rodway. "So the commonwealth is concerned that, A., he may try to flee, or B., he may try to do himself in."

Bellows agreed and issued the bench warrant. He also recommended that, when Hamilton is found and re-arrested, he be held without bond. Nationwide extradition has also been authorized.

Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637. Or call Det. J. Hinson at 703-246-7523 or police at 703-691-2131.

— BONNIE HOBBS

School Projects on Tuesday's Ballot

Bond to aid Woodley Hills, Whitman Middle.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

In addition to choosing elected officials, on Nov. 3, voters will be asked to sign off on new debt in the amount of \$232,580,000 for future Fairfax County Public Schools' construction projects.

Voters will choose "yes" or "no" on the election ballot regarding whether the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should borrow

money and issue capital improvement bonds to pay for school building projects.

Should the bond measure pass, the school system is not bound to use the financing for any specific projects it mentions in conjunction with the funding. Nevertheless, the school board has laid out the capital improvements on which they intend to spend the extra cash.

At \$101.8 million, the renovation of Marshall High School is the largest item on the list of projects the new money would cover. The school system is also asking for \$50 million to cover the

SEE SCHOOL BOND, PAGE 10

Rethinking Route One

Forces have aligned to prompt drastic change along the corridor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is set to consider a number of proposals that could drastically reshape the Route One corridor, finally realizing plans that have been in the works for years.

Earlier this month, the board received a series of resolutions from the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations designed to improve traffic flow and provide for mass transit on Richmond Highway. The Board of Supervisors referred these proposals to its transportation committee.

"There is a lot of momentum behind this," said Kahan Dhillon,

chairman of the Mount Vernon Council's strategic planning committee. "Frankly, I have to say this is long overdue."

Dhillon said that Route One has been under-funded for years, and that the crisis created by the influx of more than 20,000 new commuters to Fort Belvoir has created a confluence of events that has opened the door to economic development. One resolution urges the county to help secure funding for widening Richmond Highway to six lanes from Buckman Road to Prince William County. Another resolution requests that the Virginia Department of Transportation undertake

SEE RETHINKING, PAGE 11

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Jennifer Walker
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,595,000



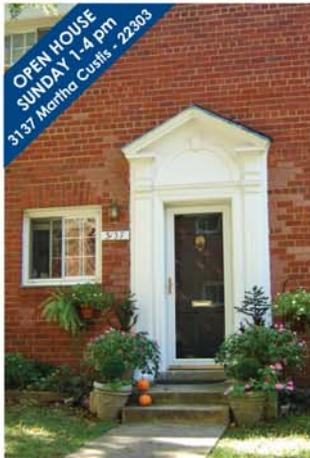
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permeates this sun-washed, completely renovated, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath, center hall Colonial in the heart of the historic district. Graceful arches, coffered ceilings, exposed brick walls, large windows, beautiful built-ins & warm wood floors add to the distinctive air of this handsome residence with gourmet kitchen, den & delightful walled garden.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$385,000



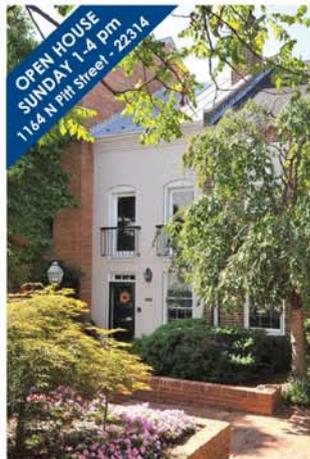
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WEEK IN MOUNT VERNON

Driver Dies after Hitting Tree

A 21-year-old Alexandria man died Tuesday, Oct. 20 around 2:39 a.m. after running off the road in the 11900 block of Henderson Road in the Clifton area. According to police, Kyle J. Sullivan, of Lake Cove Court, was driving a 2000 Volkswagen hatchback when he drove off the left side of the road, struck a tree and was ejected. He died at the scene. Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are continuing to investigate to determine the cause of the crash.

There were no passengers in the vehicle and no other vehicles involved.

Former Teacher Pleads Guilty To Sex with Student

Mark Allen Jackson, 43, of Alexandria, pleaded guilty Oct. 19 to traveling across state lines to have sex with a high school student, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Joseph Persichini Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office; and Col. David Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema.

Jackson faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison when he is sentenced on Jan. 8, 2010, before United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee.

In a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, Jackson admitted that he was an ROTC instructor at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Springdale, Md., and that he became acquainted with a female student in 2007. In approximately August 2008, Jackson became the student's ROTC instructor. On two occasions in December 2008 and one occasion in January 2009, when the student was 16 and Jackson was her ROTC instructor, Jackson picked the student up from her house in Maryland and drove her to his apartment in Virginia, where he engaged in sexual intercourse with her.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office and Fairfax County Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Patricia Haynes and Morris Parker are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

Man Robbed and Shot

A 21-year-old Dumfries man was robbed and shot around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. Three men were visiting together at an apartment building in the 2700 block of Arlington Drive when an altercation erupted. Two of the men allegedly assaulted, shot and robbed the other man, then fled. The victim sustained a gunshot wound to the lower body and was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The victim was unable to identify the suspects, despite being mildly acquainted with one of them.

The suspects were described as black, between 18 and 22 years old, around 5 feet 9 inches tall and wore black jeans and jackets.

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

Bank Robbery Suspect Identified

Detectives have obtained a robbery warrant for Quenten Sims,

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

Correction

In "Battling Scams," [Mount Vernon Gazette, Oct. 22] the lead paragraph should be clarified: Adam Wingo said fear of scam artistry among citizens because of unscrupulous tree cutters in Mount Vernon has created an atmosphere of distrust that has harmed his business. See his letter on Page 8.



Mount Vernon resident Christine Legowik arches as Madeleine Manaker gets some fine tuning by ballet instructor Virginia Britton.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ GAZETTE

Alexandria Ballet Needs Funds

Holiday show for children cancelled.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
THE GAZETTE

There will be no Sugar Plum Fairy twirling or Mouse King leaping for Alexandria children this holiday season. The Alexandria Ballet has cancelled the 2009 Nutcracker performances, another victim of the economic downturn.

In the past, Virginia Britton, owner and artistic director of the ballet, has been able to count on the kindness of "angels" to donate the \$25,000 price tag of the seasonal favorite. This year, however, Britton's angels had to tighten their purse strings, and ballet didn't make the cut.

According to Britton, ticket sales could generate enough money for the company's professional dancers. However, the up-front expense of renting the studio for rehearsals and performances would still need to be covered.

"If a large amount of money did come in at once, I don't think it's too late to salvage The Nutcracker this year," she said. "Most of the performers have danced it before. Everything's done except rehearsal for the young children in her classes who haven't performed it yet."

Britton's version of The Nutcracker, geared to young audiences, has been performed in this region for 19 years, many of those at The Atheneum in Old Town. For the past three years she's been teaching classes and performing The Nutcracker at the Alliance Dance Institute studio at Landmark Mall.

"There are few venues in this area for classes or performances," said Britton. "We are fortunate to be at Alliance Dance Institute where the space has sprung floors."

The Alexandria Ballet offers classes for children from age three through high school. Up to age eight, Britton teaches pre-ballet and creative movement.

BRITTON'S TEACHING methods allow her to include young students in her production of The Nutcracker. Some of the characters they dance include the mice, a little tea girl, and the guards.

One of those young students was Mary Kate Battle who started studying with "Miss Virginia" when she was 8 years old. She's a senior at Notre Dame now, and she still takes dance lessons a couple of times a week — for fun, according to her father, attorney Tim Battle of Mount Vernon.

"Mary Kate was thrilled to be part of The Nutcracker, first as a guard with a moustache. She just stood there, and she loved it," the father shared.

"The next year she was a guard without a moustache. She moved up and up until she was one of the flowers dancing on stage with the professionals. She still says it was the hardest thing she's ever done, but she kept up with the others and did a great job up on point for 4-1/2 minutes."

Battle says he's disappointed Britton's Nutcracker isn't happening this year.

"It's really a nice thing for the community," he said. "It reaches a lot of people who might not be able to afford the Kennedy Center for a ballet."

Another disappointed ballet lover is 13-year old Ella Boissonnault, a student at George Washington Middle School. She's been taking classes at The

SEE BALLET, PAGE 5



Ballet instructor Virginia Britton demonstrates the next movement.

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PEOPLE

Air Force Cadet Andre D. Ball has entered Basic Cadet Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in preparation to enter the first academic year at the academy. He is the son of Willie and Sherry Ball of Brentsmill Drive, Stafford. Ball is a 2008 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.

Alexander Ryjik, 16, of Alexandria won the gold medal against fencers of all ages (including adults) on Columbus Day weekend at the North American Cup in Des Moines, Iowa. The competition was sponsored by the United States Fencing Association.

Ryjik competed against 93 fencers to win the Cadet Men's Sabre, age 16 and under event. He is a member of the U.S. national team and a two-time national champion. Two weeks ago, he won the silver medal at the World Cup competition in Poland. He will once again represent the U.S. in Hungary this weekend and in Canada later this month. He attends Hayfield Secondary School.

He trains at the Virginia Academy of Fencing, the world's largest fencing school. The coach is Alexandre Ryjik, a Russian Fencing Master and a U.S. national team coach. He is also a professor of fencing at American University and George Mason University.

David A. Hollowich of Fort Belvoir was named to the Columbia College dean's list for the March to May 2009 award period.

Annie Trimmer, a flutist and a senior at West Potomac High School, was awarded the Rotary Club of Alexandria's Gold performance award and will now move on to compete in the Regional competition for the \$5,000 in music scholarships awarded each year by Rotary District 7610.

While Trimmer took the top Gold honors, Silver performance awards went to three students at St. Stephens & St. Agnes School: **Kelly Bragg**, a vocalist; **Will Jakes**, a cello player, and **Ian McLeod**, a pianist. Bragg and McLeod are seniors and Jakes is a junior. Bronze performance awards went to **Tia Norris-Towler**, a junior at T.C. Williams and to **Dorothea Kamara**, a senior at West Potomac High School.

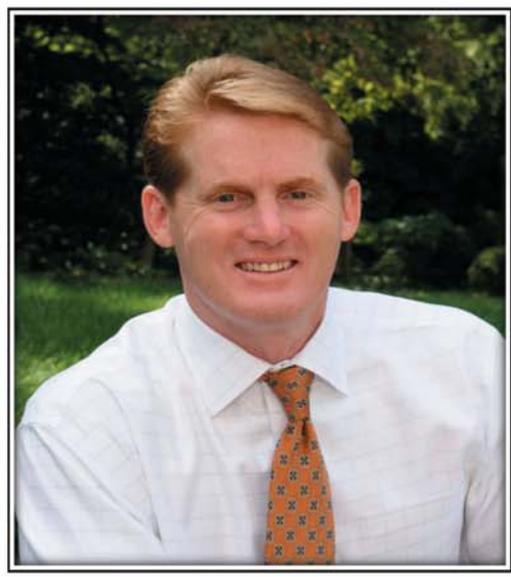
Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County public schools have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2009. The 45 students will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention Nov. 19-21 at the Homestead. These local students were selected for the 2009 VMEA Honors Choir:

♦ **West Potomac High School:** Joseph Benitez, Chris Tyson, Catherine Mullen, and alternate Sally Henrehan.



Award-Winning Business

Mt. Vernon resident Ashley McNeff, president of United States Homeland Investigations, receives the Alexandria 2009 Small Business of the Year award on Oct. 16 from Tina Leone, president of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. USHII conducts volunteer screenings and employee background screening for area businesses as well as youth sports leagues (coaches and volunteers), churches and non-profit organizations.



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Ballet Cancels Holiday Show

FROM PAGE 3

Alexandria Ballet since she was 5 years old, has danced the role of Clara in The Nutcracker for the past two years, and was supposed to do it again this year.

"I think dancing is cool," said Boissonnault. "You can express yourself without words and it's a nice break from reality. It's fun to get in front of an audience and just let go."

An accomplished dancer for her young age, Boissonnault has studied during summers with The Washington School for Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet in New York, but says she likes "Miss Virginia" best.

"She's not like other dance teachers," Boissonnault said. "Most schools I've been to are concerned with developing technique. Miss Virginia lets you put yourself into it, to add your own touch. It's more you."

"Here it's like family — The Alexandria Ballet family. It's special because when you come here you're always going to fit in somehow."

As the sole proprietor of The Alexandria Ballet, Britton wears many hats, but prefers the more artistic and creative roles of her company. She crafted and decorated all the costumes for The Nutcracker, designed the set and choreographed the one-hour shortened version. Her program maintains the artistic integrity of the ballet while keeping up the interest of young audiences. She includes a narrator who engages children in the audience at the start of the performance by having them practice boos for the

mouse king and yeas for the prince. Her Nutcracker finishes with the Russian Dance as the finale — a rousing, happy ending to a first exposure for many to classical ballet.

IF A NEW ANGEL doesn't find its way to The Alexandria Ballet in time for this year's performance of The Nutcracker, Britton has a plan to revive the ballet for the 2010 holiday season. She is incorporating, filing for 501C3 non-profit status and creating "The Friends of The Alexandria Ballet." Ballet lovers and others who wish

to help can contact her at 703-568-4425 or visit the Web site www.thealexandriaballet.com.

"One year when the sugar plum fairy came on stage with her wand," she recalled, "a little girl in the audience yelled out, 'That's me!' The adults at the performance and all of us back stage gave a simultaneous, 'Awwwww.'"

That's the kind of reaction that brings the dancers and the audiences back year after year.

If there's an angel out there trying to earn its wings this season, Miss Virginia and her dancers are standing by.



Christine Legowik rises on her toes.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

WEEK IN MOUNT VERNON

FROM PAGE 3

43, of no fixed address. The investigation revealed he is suspected of robbing the TD Bank in the Beacon Hill area on Oct. 10. Police are asking the public's assistance in locating Sims.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of

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



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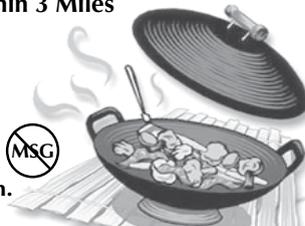
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OBITUARY

Jean Zacharias Pfeiffer

Jean Zacharias Pfeiffer, 91, a long-time resident of the Mount Vernon area, died on Oct. 9, 2009, at Carriage Hill of Bethesda, Md. Jean, daughter of Adele and Herbert Zacharias, was a native of Jacksonville, Fla. She attended Florida State College for Women, now Florida State University, in Tallahassee, and the American School of Design in New York City. Jean worked as a fashion illustrator for John Wanamaker's in New York City, as well as other department stores. In 1942, Jean married Paul Norman Pfeiffer, later the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the U.S. Maritime Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Mr. Pfeiffer died in 2000.



The couple settled in Northern Virginia in 1946 and had two children. In the late 1950s and 1960s, Jean was active in Democratic Party politics, working as vice-president and precinct operations chairperson in the Mount Vernon district. An accomplished musician, she studied the organ under Herman Berlinski, Minister of Music at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. She was the organist for Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church in Alexandria, and the assistant organist for St. Mark's

Lutheran Church in Springfield, among other churches and synagogues. She was a member of the American Guild of Organists.

She is survived by her daughter, Andrea, a lawyer and an Administrative Law Judge for the City of New York, her son, David, an archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration, and four grandchildren, Susan Birnbaum Fisher, Molly Birnbaum, Matthew Pfeiffer and Neal Pfeiffer.

She was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, Oct. 26, 2009. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

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To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

ONGOING

NAACP, Fairfax County Branch. 7 p.m. Meets on second Tuesday of the month at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 703-591-4488 or send email to info@naacp.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Mount Vernon Distance Learning. 1 p.m. Free. First in War: George Washington and the American Revolution. A panel of historians will explore how Washington's leadership was instrumental in securing American independence. Mount Vernon's distance learning take place in the Distance Learning Classroom, which is housed in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center at Mount Vernon. Visit mountvernon.org/learn.

FRIDAY/OCT. 30

Free Bicycle Clinic. 6-8 p.m. Learn how to fix a tire, basic accessories needed for a bike ride, what gear you need for winter riding. At the Bicycle Pro Shop, sponsored by Ciclovía Alexandria Bicycle Club, At Bicycle Pro shop, 3240 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call Susan Schneider at 703-303-7222.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Thursday, November 12th
at 12:00 noon on site
The Belle Grae Inn
Staunton, Virginia

Previews: October 17, October 24 and October 31
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm or by appointment

SALE #1: The Old Inn and The Townhouse
515 W Frederick Street & 519 W Frederick Street

The Old Inn	The Townhouse
-Building Size: 5,721 sf	-Building Size: 2,726 sf
-Lot Size: 1.019 acres	-Lot Size: 0.177 acres
-Tax Assessed Value: \$638,540.00	-Tax Assessed Value: \$237,170.00
-2 Story Brick Inn	-2 Story Brick, 4 Units
-6 Bedrooms, 6 Baths, 4 Half-Baths, 4 Dining/Sitting Rooms	-Unit 1: 1 BR, 1 BA -Unit 2: 1 BR, 1 BA, Hot Tub, Wet Bar, Parlor
-Garden Room	-Unit 3: 1 BR, 1 BA
-Service Bar	-Unit 4: 2 BR, 1 BA, Wet Bar
-Full Cook's Kitchen	

SALE #2: The Jefferson House
113 - 115 N Jefferson Street

-Building Size: 2,598 sf	-2 Story Frame, 4 Units
-Lot Size: 0.092 acres	-All Units include:
-Tax Assessed Value: \$318,750.00	1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Parlor/Sitting Room & Wet Bar

SALE #3: The Guest House
117 N Jefferson Street

-Building Size: 1,366 sf	-2 Story Frame
-Lot Size: 0.05 acres	-Kitchen
-Tax Assessed Value: \$112,470.00	-Living Room -3 Bedrooms -2 Baths

SALE #4: The Hideaway House
121 N Jefferson Street

-Building Size: 1,260 sf	-2 Story Frame
-Lot Size: 0.05 acres	-Kitchen
-Tax Assessed Value: \$111,820.00	-Living Room -2 Bedrooms -2 Baths

SALE #5: The Hilltop House
127 N Jefferson Street

-Building Size: 1,972 sf	-2 Story Frame/Duplex
-Lot Size: 0.067 acres	-Unit 1: Kitchen, Living Room, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath
-Tax Assessed Value: \$159,350.00	-Unit 2: Kitchen, Living Room, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath

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Photo by Jenny Rulley

A TOP CONSUMER-RATED BANK — Washington Consumers' Checkbook Magazine

OPINION

Vote Nov. 3 Outcome of governor's race depends on who in Northern Virginia turns out to vote.

It's all about turnout. Statewide, voters in Virginia will pick a new governor and attorney general, vote for lieutenant governor, plus one House of Delegates seat. Turnout for these "off year" elections is notoriously low, meaning every vote will count.

The outcome will also count. Both statewide and in delegate races, there are stark differences between candidates. In a very tough economic environment, those who are elected will have tremendous influence on some very important details of living and working in Virginia.

You can find a link to all of the Connection's election coverage, plus to the Voters Guide of the League of Women Voters, which was published last week in the Connection, at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

VOTERS' RIGHTS, excerpts from the State Board of Elections:

As a Virginia voter, you have the following rights:

- ❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials
- ❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.
- ❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.
- ❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate.
- ❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.
- ❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID.
- ❖ To vote by provisional ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted.
- ❖ To bring your child age 15 or younger into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.
- ❖ To vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close.

IF YOU FEEL your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident before the polls have closed, preferably while you are still there. Contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via email at info@sbe.virginia.gov.

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

For more information and to find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, or consult the local office of elections:

Fairfax County Office of Elections

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035-0081
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/>
703-222-0776 phone
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extend Metro

To the Editor:

The person we choose to represent us in the Virginia House of Delegates on Nov. 3 is critical to the future of the Route 1 corridor. ("They're Seeking Votes in 44th District," Mount Vernon Gazette Oct. 22-28.)

From the start of his campaign, Scott Surovell has proposed extending Metro down U. S. 1, widening the road and putting in bus lanes.

With the Fort Belvoir "align-

ment" looming and bringing 19,000 jobs with it, not to mention the added contractor jobs that will follow, the already jammed Route 1 corridor will come to a virtual standstill. Streamlined transit down Route 1 will not only alleviate congestion, it will bring economic prosperity to our area — good jobs, affordable housing and better stores. People should not have to fight their way cross-county to Tyson's Corner to buy their children's shoes. With sound investment, U. S. 1 could become the "Tyson's Corner" for the south

county. Metro would be the catalyst. I urge my friends to vote for Scott Surovell on Nov. 3.

Mary Chambliss

Regulate Tree Care Companies

To the Editor:

An open letter to Supervisor Jeff McKay (D) Lee district.

Dear Mr. McKay,

Let me introduce myself, I am Adam Wingo, of Out on a Limb Tree Service, 866-987-2288. We

are a tree care company licensed in Fairfax County. I am an ISA Certified Arborist #MA-4773A, we are current members of the BBB, and have an A+ rating with the BBB. We have been awarded Angie's List top service award, The Angie's List Super Service award for 2008. We are dedicated to excellent business practices, and our clients will support this claim.

Recently, the newspaper Mount Vernon Gazette ran an article that was aptly titled "Out on a Limb", though accidental, the newspaper headline made people think that the title had a relationship to our business name. I have read and re-read this article and I can attest that there isn't any mention of my specific company being a fraudulent company, however, it has sparked an interest in this topic of regulation of tree care companies in Virginia.

Personally, I totally support an industry wide (Virginia) adoption of a regulation that allows the state of Virginia to certify and license a tree care company as a "Virginia Tree Expert" company. As a tree care professional, I can state without reservation that clients view tree workers as experts. There seems to be an awe-inspiring effect for a person that climbs up trees, with ropes, harnesses and chainsaws, to do tree care/trimming operations. Unfortunately, there are many companies/individuals that do not possess our level of integrity to the citizens of Virginia or any other community. Many of these people are in Vir

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

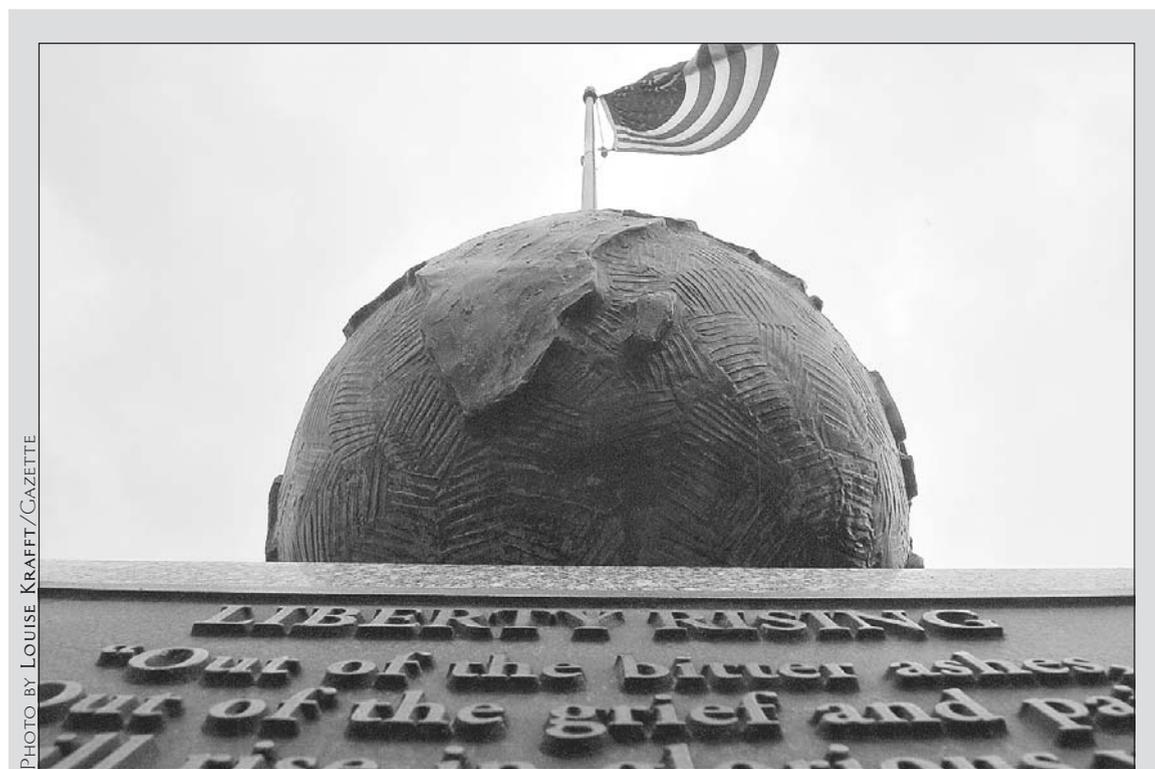


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Snapshot 1:15 p.m., Oct. 24, Good Shepherd Catholic Church 9/11 memorial.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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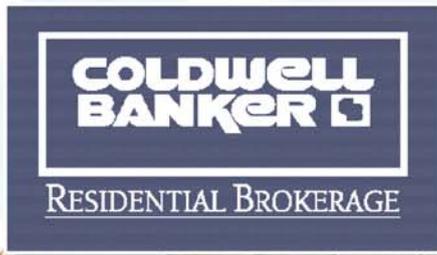
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707 EAST TIMBER BRANCH PARKWAY
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Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



8296 GLEN COVE COURT
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Mark Souder | 703.856.5538



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9061 TOWER HOUSE PLACE
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Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



1822 CARPENTER ROAD
\$924,782 | Potomac Greens
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John Ronveaux | 703.518.6159



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Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



CARLYLE TOWERS!
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7804 ASHLEY GLEN ROAD
\$419,500 | Annandale/ Lafayette Village
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8302 RIVERTON
\$849,900 | Manors at Mt. Vernon
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School Bond To Aid Woodley Hills, Whitman Middle

FROM PAGE 1

cost of a new middle school in the South County area, which Lorton area residents have been lobbying for over the past few years.

The next largest item on the list is "roof replacement" at \$11.25 million. There is also \$9.75 million requested for modular units, otherwise known as classroom trailers.

Several schools are also on the docket for capacity enhancements and modifications, mostly likely because their student population has outgrown the physical plant.

These schools include Spring Hill Elementary (\$6.33 million) in McLean and Cunningham Park (\$3.46 million) in Vienna.

There are also several elementary schools in the Springfield area including Kings Park Elementary (\$5.66 million), Crestwood El-

ementary (\$4.15 million), Lynbrook Elementary (\$4.78 million), Springfield Estates Elementary (\$3.26 million) and West Springfield Elementary (\$3.93 million).

Two schools in the Mount Vernon area — Woodley Hills Elementary (\$4.96 million) and Whitman Middle School (\$4.26 million) — would also get money for expansion and modification should the bond pass. Additionally, the bond would also cover \$2.5 million in planning money for the reno-

vation of Mount Vernon's Sandburg Middle School.

In more general repairs, the school system is also asking for \$5.75 million to do heating, ventilation and air conditioning system repairs; \$3.25 million to comply with the American with Disabilities Act; \$3.25 million for athletic infrastructure upgrades; \$1.5 million in security upgrades and \$1.25 million for paving, according to a school system press release.

Elect Gail "for Rail" Parker



Virginia House of Delegates, November 3, 2009

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OCT. 29 - 7pm
Thursday

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Rethinking Route One

FROM PAGE 1

a study to explore the feasibility of light rail or monorail along the corridor.

"At this point, the whole community needs to get involved in lobbying the Board of Supervisors to make this happen," said Catherine Voorhees, chairwoman of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Transportation Committee. "Transportation money is given to the Board of Supervisors, and we want the money moved to our end of the county."

SUPERVISORS ALSO received a request from the board of directors of the new National Museum of the United States Army to fund a series of access roads. Because the site for the new museum — near the Fairfax County Parkway and Kingman Gate — is federal land, appropriations for improvements require congressional approval. As a result, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) requested the museum's board of directors to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to add funding for fire access, parking, circulation and an access road to the amphitheater. Supervisors referred this request to its legislative committee.

"People have been so focused on the

20,000 plus new commuters to Fort Belvoir that many people have overlooked the impact the museum is going to have," said Dhillon. This is going to dramatically increase the number of cars we have on a corridor that's already stretched beyond the breaking point."

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) is pushing the Department of Defense to fund improvements to Route One. He recently met with the department's undersecretary for building and installations to make the case for expanding the use of money available through the Defense Access Roads program. The money is currently limited to projects inside of military installments, but Moran would like to see money used on the Route One

corridor because of the thousands of new military jobs that will be adding commuters to Route One when military jobs move to Fort Belvoir.

"We are going to push for this legislatively," said Austin Durrer, Moran's chief of staff. "When the Defense Authorization Bill comes up next year, we are going to try to change the language in the Defense Access Roads criteria."

"... the whole community needs to get involved in lobbying the Board of Supervisors to make this happen."

— Catherine Voorhees

HALLOWEEN HOME OPENER



The Wizards take on the New Jersey Nets on Halloween night, Saturday, October 31 at 7pm. Bring the family and scream for the home team! Giveaways and prizes make this game a real treat:



- Mask giveaway**—first 10,000 fans receive Gilbert Arenas masks
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Dear Virginia Voter:

On behalf of Virginia members of the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA!), I urge you to vote next Tuesday, November 3rd for Creigh Deeds for Governor, Jody Wagner for Lieutenant Governor and Steve Shannon for Attorney General. The stakes have never been higher for Virginia.

When American working families are struggling to pay a mortgage or medical expenses, we continue to see that we live in a world with serious inequities between management and working families. We represent all that is fair in America: family-supporting wages, affordable healthcare for all, quality craftsmanship and the best value for taxpayers who rely on the roads, bridges and tunnels that we build. LiUNA! works with our employers to keep them competitive while still providing employer paid family health care coverage and retirement benefits. This is good for all Virginians!

The Democratic ticket consisting of Mr. Deeds, Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Shannon will create a climate in Virginia where both labor and businesses can work together to create a positive economic environment that creates good-paying jobs with benefits. They understand the importance of economic recovery and how to forge alliances where both workers and management reap the benefit.

While the opponents of the Democratic ticket have chastised them for their support of these principles, Mr. Deeds, Mrs. Wagner and Mr. Shannon have refused to compromise their support of middle and working class families, nor should they. LiUNA! firmly believes that we should never have to apologize or be ashamed to ask for living wages and healthcare for all, and we are proud to support candidates that want to keep Virginia moving forward instead of backward. A vote against these principles is a vote against working families. Again, the members of LiUNA! in Virginia ask for your support of the Democratic ticket on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Martire
Vice President and Regional Manager
Laborers International Union of North America
Mid-Atlantic Region

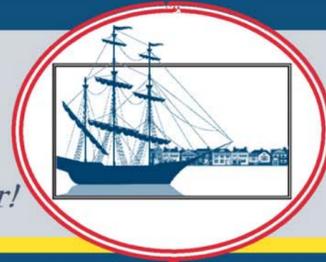
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OPEN SUN!

1208 Tatum Drive \$875,000 Villamay!
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OPEN SUN!

4816 Stillwell Avenue \$575,000 Renovated!
Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R 2nd Old Mill Rd, R Buckner, R Stillwell.

JUST LISTED!

1810 Hollindale Dr \$675,000 Gorgeous Setting!
Estate sale of spacious rambler on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!

OPEN SUN 1-4

400 COMMON-WEALTH AVE #203 \$435,000
1930's CHARM fully renovated in '05. Beautiful 2BR condo, hardwood floors, granite counters, SS, laundry, large windows, high ceilings & gen. closets. EXCELLENT LOCATION in Rosemont - treed street & 4 blks to King St METRO.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

5641 GARY AVENUE \$629,000
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Roz Tashakkori 703.994.7828

1915 QUAKER LA ParkFairfax \$315,000
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Norma Stratton 703.966.0756

3906 Rive Drive \$998,500 Stunning Property!
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4821 Stillwell Avenue \$499,000 Curb Appeal!
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JUST LISTED!

3706 Riverwood Court \$820,000 Riverwood Gem!
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1732 W ABINGDON DRIVE #202 Alexandria \$250,000
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Martha Deal 703.622.6797

OPEN SUN 1-4

429 CAMERON STREET Alex / Old Town \$789,000
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To view home prior to Open House, please call...
Phillip G. Matyas 703.518.8727

OPEN SUN 1-4

828 SLATERS LANE #104 Alexandria \$769,000
SPECTACULAR CONDO! 1,890sqft!! 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 Master suites, gourmet kit, 9' ceilings, Gas fireplace, Plantation shutters & hardwoods thru-out, handicap accessible + 2 inside parking spaces. City views from rooftop. Shops & rests.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
Shane Canny 703.346.2067**

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.)

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!

NEW PRICE!

4401 Jackson Place \$2,395,000 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

300 COMMON-WEALTH AVE #1 Alex / \$344,900
WALK TO METRO & DEL RAY! Charming 2BR sparkling home, hwdws, darling screened in porch off kit, off-st assigned parking - only 3 blks to King St METRO, shops & restaurants. Located in a gorgeous single family neighborhood.

**The Kohler Team
Heidi 703.609.7367 / Elke 703.967.7633**

116 ROBERTS LANE #301 Alexandria \$330,000
ALEXANDRIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET! The location and space you need, the updated kitchen you want. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. Come check out this move-in ready unit.

**Susan Haughton 703.470.4545
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913**

9326 OLD MANSION ROAD Alexandria - \$3,950,000
5BR/5.5BA historic villa on banks of the Potomac. Gourmet kit, media room, heated pool, open air cabana, outdoor kit & sweeping year round views. Subdivided lot also available for \$1,250,000.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

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!

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.

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!

REDUCED!

610 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET Alex / Old Town - \$1,295,000
Detached 3,300 sqft home with 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, chef's kitchen, bird's eye maple floors, roof deck with fireplace, 2 car garage and private backyard

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

118 HILTON STREET Alex / \$ 575,900
STORYBOOK CAPE COD. Must see inside! Darling 4BR/2BA on hill above King St METRO. Pottery Barn inside. Wood flrs, FP, Slate floor sunroom. Updated Kit/Baths. Walk to METRO, PTO, Hoffman. 1.5 miles on Trolley to waterfront. Great home! Great location!

Email delaine@anf.com for more information:
Delaine Campbell 703.518.8740

1110 WAYNEWOOD BLVD Alex / \$499,900
GREAT LOCATION! Short walk to pool, tennis & elementary school. Public bus at front door. Well cared for - neat & clean. Renovated kitchen, extra high ceiling in LR, carpet, oversized shed, flag stone entry walk & patio off sunroom.

**www.WaynwoodRealtors.com
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633**



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Thurs, Nov 19, 9-10am
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703.548.6912

Grades 4-12. CommonwealthAcademy.org

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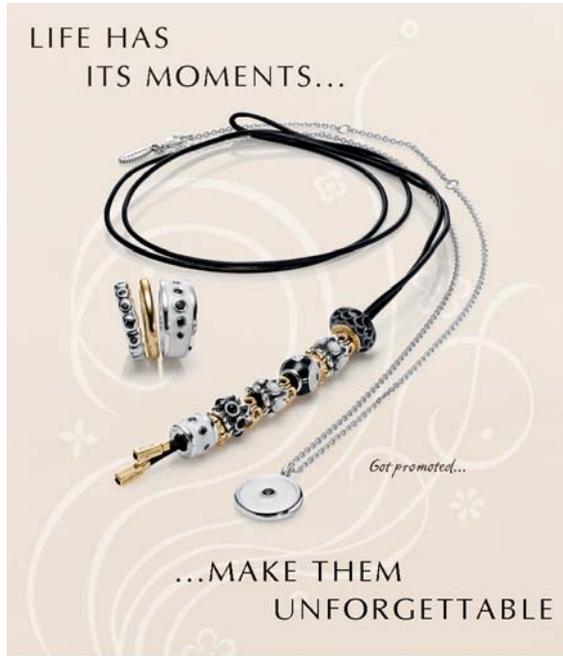
Alexandria Country Day School

Please join us for an Open House Event:
November 12, December 2, January 13
www.acdsnet.org

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7
SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Smoke Alarms Inspections. 9 a.m. to noon. Firefighters from the area will canvass homes checking for working smoke alarms in selected neighborhoods. Contact Capt. Willie F. Bailey, Public Affairs and Life Safety Education, at 703-246-3801.

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

Commonwealth Academy Open House. 1-4 p.m. Learn about its award winning college-prep program for students with learning differences and AD/HD. Grades 4-12. Meet with faculty and staff and tour the school. At the Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6912 or go to www.CommonwealthAcademy.com

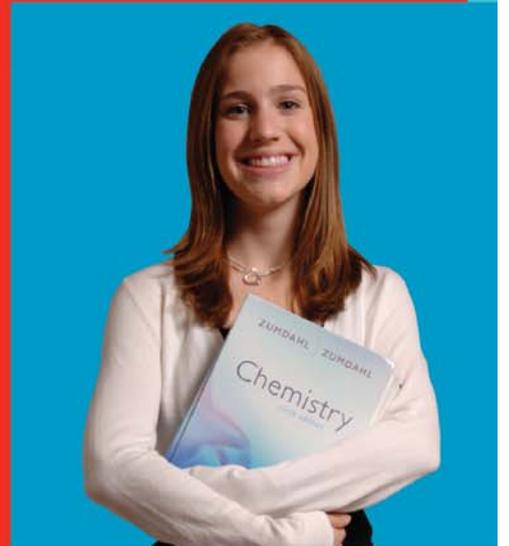
NOV. 2-3

Career Camp at West Potomac Academy. \$30/day. A two-day Career Camp, offering students in grades 4-8 the opportunity to explore classes in health and human services and communications and the arts. Contact West Potomac Academy at 703-718-2750 or Maria Kappel at makappel@fcps.edu.

THURSDAY/NOV. 5

Does Mom Really Need to Move? 7-9 p.m. Free seminar. Explore housing alternatives for your loved one. At Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Alexandria. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa, e-mail caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5205, TTY 703-449-1186.

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Sunday, December 6 • 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 21 • 7:30 p.m.

Please contact the Admissions Office at 703.556.8273 for program details or to arrange an alternate time to visit.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Trick or Treat with Boutiques

The Old Town Boutique District is having its first-ever Trick or Treat with the Boutiques, Saturday, Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Young and old alike will be given a trick or a treat (but mostly treats!) when they visit the 27 stores in the Old Town Boutique District. Some stores are having extra events like an olive oil tasting at La Cuisine, a tarot card reader at Red Barn Mercantile, mini pumpkin decorating at Apple Seed, and a Halloween costume contest at Pink and Brown.

These special treats, discounts and events will be available during daylight hours (sorry vampires), so families can spend the afternoon trick or treating in Old Town and still have time to make it to their after-dark Halloween festivities.

A special "Trick or Treat with the Boutiques" Poster will be displayed in all participating stores.

Ofrenda: Day of the Dead

Masked Ball, parade, art exhibition in Dia de los Muertos tradition.

Art Outlet presents Ofrenda 2009, an art exhibition of local artists' shrines, altars, and other art in the Mexican Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) tradition, along with a masked ball and parade. The third annual Ofrenda exhibition is presented in partnership with the Torpedo Factory Art Center on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria.

A free Masked Ball will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 3 p.m. to midnight. Revelers are invited to come to the Ofrenda reception and parade dressed in the style of Day of the Dead, or decked out in Halloween finery.

An artist-led sugar skull activity and Mariachi performance by Mariachi Estrellas will kick off the celebration from 3 to 4 p.m. Live music including rock, swing, and blues will be interspersed with belly dancing and silk trapeze performances throughout the event. Guests can participate in the exhibition by bringing personal remembrances — ofrendas — to contribute to the artist-made public altar honoring those who have left us.

The Ofrenda Parade will be held from 7-7:45 p.m., Oct. 31, and is open to anyone. It will be led by drummers, fire dancers, artists in costumes, and Day of the Dead puppets. It will begin at the historic Market Square near City Hall at 301 King Street at 7 p.m. and end at the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 7:45 p.m. with a drum circle.

Members of the public wishing to join the parade can come in their costumes, bring puppets, shrines, and noise makers. For details, go to ofrendaparade@artoutlet.org.

An art exhibition will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. Art Outlet has curated 1152 square feet of wall exhibition space (18 panels, courtesy of Artomatic) and space for sculpture/media on the first floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. A public altar outside the Torpedo Factory will include candles and incense. Artist-made Dia de los Muertos altars and ofrendas will draw the beloved dead to visit their loved ones, feast on their favorite food and drink and listen to their favorite music



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Torpedo Factory Artists president Rosemary Feit Covey and Art Outlet founder and president Henrik Sundqvist try on a few of Anthony Delfin's hand-made masks for the upcoming parade and masked ball.

— remembering the dead and celebrating life. Artwork in a variety of media will be presented.

Exhibiting artists will include: Michael Auger, Kathlyn Avila-Reyes, Jennifer Beinhacker, Jennifer Bishop, Ismael Carrillo, Kate Clark, Andrea Collins, Rosemary Feit Covey, Anthony Delfin, Jackie Ehle, Cavan Fleming, Ric Garcia, Jeannette Herrera, Kevin Irvin, Jessica Jastrzebski, Rebecca Marion Kallem, Lori Katz, Shauna Lee Lange, Emily Green Liddle, Carolina Mayorga, Peggy Meckling, Heather Miller, Mara Odette, Claudia & Sergio Olivos, Chris Peloso, Kevin Chopper Peshkepia, Caren Quinn, Lisa Rosenstein, Skeeter Scheid, Heather Schmaedeke, Hillary Sloate, Kenya Rene Smith, Constance Springer Zabowski, Neil Leon Stavely, Erika Stone, Henrik Sundqvist, Roy Utley, and Alexandra Zealand.

Go to Art Outlet: www.artoutlet.org, 571-214-9994; Torpedo Factory Art Center: www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Oct. 31 Schedule

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Free sugar skull activity with artist Heather Schmaedeke
 3 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. — Mariachi Estrellas (traditional Mariachi music)
 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. — Parliament Hill (Acoustic Folk)
 5:30 - 5:45 p.m. — Moira (Silk Trapeze Aerialist)
 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. — Wes Tucker & the Skilletts (Blues/Rock)
 6:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. — Belly Dancing
 7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. — Parade with drummers from Market Square to Torpedo Factory
 7:45 - 8 p.m. — Drum Circle at Torpedo Factory
 8 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. — Belly Dancing
 8:15 p.m. - 9 p.m. — Hootenanny Orchestra (Swing)
 9 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. — Moira (Silk Trapeze Aerialist)
 9:15 - 10 p.m. — American Sinners (Rock)
 10:15 p.m. - 11 p.m. — Demivolt (Rock)
 12 midnight — Event ends



THURSDAYS, NOV. 5, 12, 19

18th-Century Dance Classes. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Singles or couples are welcome. Cost is \$30 for the series of \$12/per class. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21. Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or go to www.gadsbystavern.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Home for the Holidays Reception, Shopping



Home for the Holidays. Friday, Nov. 6 from 5-9 p.m. \$75/person. Cocktail reception and holiday shopping. Featuring upscale vendors: Usbourne Books, Shawn Pincus, FOR EWE, Edith Addelston, Seahorse Designs, Jennifer Hogan, Paperworks, Susan Hyre, Two Swans, Margaretta Danshaw, Miche Bag Shows, Chris Fancone Miche, Southwestern Silver, Karen Domenici, The Perfect Buddha, Nista Woodward, NeCCandi, Carolyn Olsen, Longwood Antiques, Lynn Bartlett, Natural Design, Anne Krieg. Sponsored by the Friends of UCM. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, The Historic Home, Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. RSVP by Oct. 30. Call 703-403-4410. Go to www.ucmagency.org. To purchase tickets online: <http://ucmhomefortheholidays.eventbrite.com>.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCT. 29
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. 30
Sculptor Exhibition. 7-9 p.m. Sculptor Damian Yanessa will be showing his newest work, which features large mixed-media sculpture and light installation based on technology as the subject matter. At 2413 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray, between the Red Caboose Café and Cheesetique.

Tom Goss Performs with Michael Yugo. 9 p.m. At Firelies Del Ray, 1501 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-548-7200. Go to www.tomgossmusic.com.

Candlelight Ghost Tours. 8-10 p.m. Visitors will view the museum by candlelight while hearing the ghost stories and creepy history of the Lee-Fendall House. Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/children ages 5-12. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronco St., Alexandria.

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. 30-31
Mount Vernon Kiwanis Peanut Day Fund-Raiser. 3-9 p.m. on Friday and 9-5 p.m. on Saturday. MVKC members will be distributing roasted peanuts to all donors with Roy Rogers meal certificates. At the Wal-Mart entrance, Richmond Highway. Visit www.mtvernonkiwanis.org.

Woodlawn's Haunted History Tours. 6-8:40 p.m. \$15/person. At 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Intersection of Richmond Highway and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Call 703-780-4000 ext. 26327 to reserve your space and for more information.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31
Anthology, The Band. 8 p.m. Performs at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-8899.

Halloween Monster Organ Concert. 4 p.m. Features organists Victoria Shields, Douglas Back, Carol Schaub, Irvin Peterson and Julie Vidrick-Evans. Wear your costume, bring the kids and come hear scary organ music to get in the ghouling mood! At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington St. Old Town Alexandria. Go to www.wsumc.com.

Halloween Parade and Party. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Parade, games and treats. Sponsored by the Stoneybrook Community Association. The Fairfax County Fire Department will have a fire truck there so children can meet the firefighters. Held at the end of Cold Spring Lane. Call Sylvia Frazier at 703-768-0769 or cesylfrazier@cox.net.

Howl-O-Ween Fund-Raiser. 1-4 p.m. \$5 donation. Costume contest, hospital tours, door prizes, pet-friendly vendors, pet adoption, pet activities, and children's activities. Barkley Square Bakery and Canine Caterers will provide free treats and food for the animals. At Paws, Purrs & Exotics Animal Hospital, 133 South Peyton St., Alexandria. Contact Andrea Rodgers at 202-422-2692, missa@askmissa.com, or visit <http://www.pawspurrsandexotics.com>.

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VICKI WILL FIGHT TO REVIVE OUR ECONOMY. Vicki will fight to cut red tape for entrepreneurs who want to start small businesses, streamline our state budget, and provide tax credits for businesses that create good new jobs.

VICKI WILL FIGHT TO IMPROVE OUR ROADS. Vicki will work to provide a \$500 tax credit for individuals who use public transportation. She will fight to harness the power of Virginia's renewable energy resources to invest more money in fixing our roads.

VICKI WILL LEAD THE EFFORT TO REFORM OUR SCHOOLS. Vicki will sponsor legislation to help talented mid-career professionals become teachers, and she will fight to change Virginia's law to make our state eligible for millions of dollars in federal education grants.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

German Music Concert. 2 p.m. Heustreu Musikverein, special guests from Heustreu, Germany, perform in concert. Dr. Garwood Whaley, Wind Ensemble Conductor Emeritus, will be conducting a piece on the program. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students, seniors. At Garwood Whaley Auditorium, Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

Jazz Jam. 7 p.m. The Rick Whitehead Trio will lead a Jazz Jam. \$10 donation. At the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-768-5821.

"Classic Broadway." 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25/adults, \$20 seniors, \$5/students and children. Presented by the New Dominion Chorale. In addition to lush arrangements from "Kiss Me Kate," "Desert Song," and "Showboat," the program includes medleys from "Phantom of the Opera" and the music of Gershwin performed by piano artist Tom Pandolfi. With Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano and Bob McDonald, baritone. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall on the Alexandria campus of NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Go to www.newdominion.org. Call 703-442-9404.

MONDAY/NOV. 2

Inaugural Organ Concert. 8 p.m. Free. The concert features Thom Robertson, Organist. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road (corner of W. Glebe), Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

TUESDAY/NOV. 3

Concert. 8 p.m. Susanna Phillips, soprano, with Craig Terry, piano. The

recital at Bishop Ireton is sponsored by Christ Church Alexandria to benefit the music program at local area schools. At Bishop Ireton Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by contacting Christ Church at 703-549-1450 or jabel@HistoricChristChurch.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 5

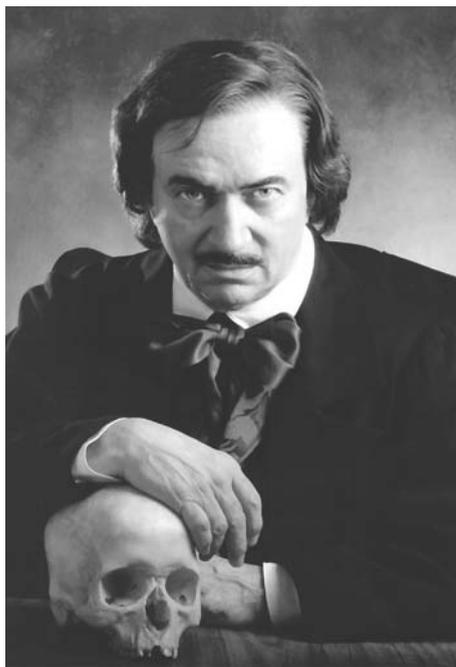
Author Marybeth Hicks. 6:30-8:30 p.m. On Redefining What's Cool for Our Kids. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria.

KUKU. 7-9 p.m. Free. KUKU performs uniquely soulful and captivating music inspired by his African heritage. 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.

Market Day. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. handcrafted gifts including specialized ornaments, designer handbags, jewelry, embroidered and monogrammed gifts, kitchenware, dolls, quality cosmetics and more. At Plymouth Haven Christian Preschool, 8600 Plymouth Road in Alexandria, corner of Plymouth Road and Fort Hunt Road.

THURSDAYS, NOV. 5, 12, 19

18th-Century Dance Classes. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Singles or couples are welcome. Cost is \$30 for the series of \$12/per class. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21. Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street,



OCT. 30-31

Edgar Allen Poe. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to recreate Edgar Allan Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before he died. He performs "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," or "The Tell-Tale Heart," along with well-known poems "The Raven" and "El Dorado." At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or go to www.gadsbystavern.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

Pipe Organ Concert. 8 p.m. Free. Maurice Duruflé's Requiem and Suite

pour Orgue in celebration of a new Di Gennaro-Hart pipe organ. Featuring Nathan Laube, Organist; Debby Wenner, Mezzo-Soprano; Jonathan Hoffman, Baritone; Thom Robertson, Music Director; and the Grace Church Choral Society. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road (corner of W. Glebe), Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Alexandria Choral Society. 8 p.m. Past to Present: ACS Celebrates its 40th Season. Cost is \$20 for adults/\$10 for seniors and military/children under 12 years of age are free. At Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria. To purchase tickets, go to www.alexchorsociety.org or call 703-548-4734 or email: alexandriachorsociety@gmail.com.

Tap Dance Show. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13. The Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble presents "MYTE Plays Well with Others." At the Ernst Cultural Center of the Annandale campus of NVCC, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/85694. Visit MYTE at www.metroyouthtap.org or call 703-339-0444.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Re-enactment of 18th century swordplay and display and discussion of weapons. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. \$6 admission. At 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Dance Slam. 7 p.m. Choreographers Collaboration Project's Fall Modern Dance concert. This informal performance features works in progress and improvisation that explore chance, risk, play and fun. CCP is a modern dance company based in Alexandria. Admission is \$10/adults, \$5/children 12-17, under 12 free. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-683-2070 or go to www.nvfaa.org.

Rummage Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Features high-quality used infant, children and maternity gear — including clothes, toys, games, books, furniture and much more. There will also be great household bargains on linens, kitchenware and decorative/seasonal items. At Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Soldier-Led Walking Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. The hour-long tours will introduce visitors to the history of the Defenses of Washington, the building and role of Fort Ward, 19th-century fortification engineering, and the troops who were stationed in this area during the Civil War. At Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call Fort Ward at 703-838-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

International Fall Festival. 2 to 6 p.m. Bring your family and enjoy food, authentic novelties, entertainment, games, and history from around the globe. At the Samuel Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive in the West End. Contact TuckerTigersRoar@gmail.com.

Scouting At Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historic Mount Vernon offers special activities for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Club members. Scouts will have an opportunity to learn more about Colonial life through hands-on projects and stations on surveying, woodworking, textile-making, farming and cooking.

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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

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Special Thanks to the Mount Vernon Gazette

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 18

ginia, because there isn't a law or regulation that governs their activities. Many of these companies take advantage of their status (whether deserved or not) as experts, to overcharge or to abuse the citizens of certain vulnerabilities such as the senior citizen base, or immigrant populations

We have heard the stories of companies that go door to door targeting people that have trees directly under utility wires. The tree cutters state that the county has sent them out to remove or trim these specific trees at the homeowners expense, these companies then convince the property owners that they must pay them for these services or there will be substantial fines for not doing so. These companies have been preying on the elderly. Further we have personally witnessed the "storm chasers" do poor work in the Mount Vernon area. On Sept. 19, 2003, Hurricane Isabel struck the Washington D.C. area, with sustained wind speeds of over 45 mph, and gusts to 70 mph, many trees that previously were thought to be strong, failed. Many of these failures were catastrophic failures. There were trees and parts of trees littering the entire Alexandria area. Tree companies and chainsaw wielding people in pick-up trucks, were cruising our streets in search of an easy buck. We witnessed some that created more damage to a property than the initial tree damage, the offenders simply jumped into their trucks and fled the scene. The aforementioned storm chasers also do immeasurable damage to trees when they attack them with their chainsaws, without regard to the biology of the tree.

The above mentioned are only a part of the problem in Virginia regarding tree care companies. There is actually a much bigger problem that has been created through the neglect by the state to issue certifications for tree care. This effect has been that there has been extensive damage created to the trees themselves. Trees are a resource, they must be protected as such. Trees produce oxygen, control storm water runoff, provide much needed shade and protection to our businesses and homes. There have been studies published by the International Society of Arboriculture that show evidence that crime rates are reduced by a healthy canopy from trees in public areas. Trees are a vital natural resource for Virginia.

We should protect these trees, not only as citizens, but as caretakers for the future generations that will adopt our legacy of correct tree care practices. Most urban trees can outlive most people, but they must be cared for properly.

Please research the Maryland tree expert law, and institute or (ask to institute) legislation that creates a Virginia tree expert law. The certification process should also have a requirement to be insured with at least general liability insurance, and some sort of workers compensation clause. The certification process should be modeled after the ISA certified arborist testing, a scientific-based testing criteria to prove the basic knowledge of tree care professionals. This process would allow clients of these tree care companies to check on and verify the status of companies doing business in Virginia, such as the Maryland tree expert law



Families march up Camden Street to the park.



Sam and Adam Watterson team up for the spider ring toss.

Stratford Landing Halloween Parade and Party

Despite being moved to the rain date at the last minute, Stratford Landing families came out in droves for the annual Halloween Parade and Party sponsored by the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association.

Superheroes, princesses, witches, and lots of little animals

lined up on Sunday afternoon for a march up Camden Street. The fun continued at Stratford Landing Park where neighborhood children ran through the inflatable obstacle course, did some crafts, and played lots of games with balls, hula hoops, and bean bags.

does at this point. Maryland Department of Natural Resources has an enforcement division dedicated to preservation of Maryland trees.

This regulation will create new jobs, there will need to be people that specialize in administering these laws in Virginia, there will need to be an enforcement division that is in the "public eye" that responds when companies aren't licensed, There furthermore should be a fine system in place that is substantial to not only the company but possibly the property owner for hiring a non-licensed tree care professional. This law should also regulate the advertisement of services, people/companies should be prevented from advertising if they don't meet the minimum requirements set forth in law.

Please work to protect our citizens and our trees, both of which are vital resources for Virginia.

Adam Wingo

President, Out on a Limb Tree Service
ISA Certified Arborist #MA-4773A

Community Consensus Needed

To the Editor:

I attended the Annual Meeting of the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association (SLCA) on Tuesday evening, Oct. 20. A Candidates' Night preceded the SLCA meeting, and the candidates running for delegate were treated with respect and courtesy, as was Supervisor Hyland; as residents sat quietly and listened to their views and platform positions and asked polite questions.

When the SLCA meeting began, it was an entirely different story. The candidates running for the SLCA Board should have been given the same consideration and respect as the candidates for the delegate seat; however, they were not. More on that later.

The only openly declared candidate for SLCA president was Jay Spiegel, who was strongly disliked by members of the sitting SLCA Board. He had openly questioned the

motives, agendas and propriety of some of the members' actions in misrepresenting the clearly stated wishes of the community regarding possible public access to Little Hunting Creek through the Stratford Landing Pumping Station. The only openly declared candidate for vice president was Ashley McNeff-Behrens, who had stated her intention to run for the post with Mr. Spiegel. Both their names were published in the SLCA Newsletter, which is normally distributed to the community far in advance of the Annual Meeting. However, in this case the Newsletter was not made available until the weekend before the meeting. The delay provided the Board an opportunity to cobble together some opposing candidates for President and Vice President and to plan how they would orchestrate the meeting to the disadvantage of the candidates for President and Vice President who had declared in advance.

SLCA residents deserve the opportunity to participate and decide without being manipulated by those they have previously elected. The Newsletter is the communication that should inform residents about all the candidates running for positions of responsibility. Instead, the fiction was created at the meeting that allowed the Board to spring its candidates on the attendees without giving them the ability to weigh the relative merits of the candidates or consider their positions regarding the community in any detail. Ken Priblya, the Board's candidate for President stated his view of the position as, "It's a piece of cake, people." He knew his victory was assured due in part to the general rudeness of the attendees toward his opponent

Politeness and consideration have been replaced by verbal sniping, interruptions and general rude behavior toward anyone who presents an opposing view, without consideration of its validity. Unfortunately, the relative minority of Stratford Landing residents who now attend the Annual Meeting has lost the sense that no one should be heckled and insulted when they are address-

ing the community in good conscience regarding these volunteer positions. This is one of the reasons many people just stay home instead of coming to these Annual Meetings to deal with the "mob brutality."

For over 35 years this neighborhood never needed an insurance policy for the volunteers who serve on the SLCA Board. Now it has one that it originally acquired in 2006 for an annual expenditure of \$1,500. Now the premium costs \$4,000, about 40 percent of the SLCA's total annual budget. This occurred because a prior SLCA President was personally sued for insulting and false comments he made about another member of the community. Even though he was sued in a private capacity and the SLCA was not sued, the SLCA Board took it upon itself to make an insurance claim without obtaining formal approval from the SLCA membership. This is in direct violation of the community bylaws, which specifically requires a vote by all SLCA members before the Board can incur a non-budgeted expense in excess of 7 percent of the Association's annual budget. The \$1,000 deductible was not budgeted and exceeded 7 percent of the budget, yet the claim was made without community approval. The SLCA Board has also kept the details of the policy from the membership, even refusing members an opportunity to see the insurance policy, a practice that continues today. ... The mood seemed to be "attack first and leave the facts to sort themselves out later — or maybe they'll just go away."

... A final issue is a Referendum for the future of the Pumping Station. This has come about because another member of the SLCA Board, Betsy Martin, brought her personal agenda for the Pumping Station directly to the MVCCA, without the knowledge of the community or approval of the SLCA Board. This topic has been covered in prior editions of this newspaper. As a result of her actions, this matter is now being revisited unnecessarily, as her initiative was soundly rejected by a community-wide vote

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

Mathewson Surviving Family History of Breast Cancer

West Potomac English teacher gives speech at Dig Pink volleyball night.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mary Mathewson was about as well prepared as one could be for receiving a breast cancer diagnosis. Her sisters had it. Her mother had it — twice.

“We have the gene,” she said. “I was pretty sure I would get it.”

Mathewson, an English teacher at West Potomac High School, was diagnosed with breast cancer during a routine mammogram in April of 2007 at the age of 47. She was older than her mother and sisters were when they were diagnosed. But that didn't make it easy.

“On some level it was a relief because I knew I was going to get it anyway. It's like waiting for the other shoe to drop,” she said. “But to actually hear the words, ‘You have cancer,’ is just scary. ... I thought it would be [knowing it might happen] would [make it easier], but it didn't. It's still very, very, very, very scary. [There is] a 94 percent survival rate, which

means it is six percent not survivable.”

Mathewson's sisters survived breast cancer. Her mother survived 25 years after her first diagnosis, 15 years after her second before succumbing to leukemia in 2004. And now Mathewson is surviving her own battle. On Tuesday, her fight brought her to West Potomac's Dig Pink volleyball match against W.T. Woodson, where she gave a pre-match speech aimed toward raising breast cancer awareness.

She spoke of pain and keeping a positive attitude, among other things.

“Chemo is worse than the disease. Chemo sucks, it hurts, it's horrible,” she said before the speech. “But never, ever, ever, one time did I not know I would survive.”

One aspect of her life which helped keep Mathewson going is her children. Her oldest son, Adam, and her daughter, were already out of the house when she was diagnosed, but her youngest son, Colin, had to experience her



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac English teacher Mary Mathewson, a breast-cancer survivor, gives a speech Tuesday before the school's Dig Pink volleyball match. More than \$3,500 was raised toward the fight against breast cancer. Mathewson is the mother of senior quarterback Colin Mathewson.

suffering close up. Colin, then a sophomore, supported his mother while his football teammates helped support him.

“At first I was scared, just like any normal kid,” Colin said. “I trusted her when she told me they caught it early so there was no risk of her passing away. ... It was hard. There were times I'd lay in bed at night, she'd be sick and I felt so helpless. I just had to ... give her support, that's all I could do.”

Mathewson, now a senior, is the Wolverines varsity quarterback. He set the school record for passing yards in a game with 438 and tied the single-game passing touchdown record with five during Saturday's game against T.C. Williams.

“Everything I watch [my children] do amazes me,” Mathewson said. “I love to watch my son play football, my daughter play field hockey, I like to watch my kids succeed, because I think I raised them to be determined.”

Colin Mathewson described his mother as “strong.”

“She's a warrior,” he said. “That's why I love her.”

More than \$3,500 was raised during the event for Dig Pink and the Side-Out Foundation's fight against breast cancer. Unfortunately for the West Potomac volleyball team, the Wolverines didn't fare as well, falling 3-0 (25-18, 25-15, 25-13) to Woodson. Senior

Linnea Markson led West Potomac with five kills.

“It meant a lot to me,” Markson said of Dig Pink night. “My grandmother passed away (from breast cancer) when I was 2, so I never really got to know her, and my great aunt died of breast cancer, also. This whole night was just for all the people who have survived [and] all the people who have passed away.”

Tuesday was also senior night for West Potomac, honoring Markson, Mallorie Calvert, Maddie Tindle and Molly Bowdring.

“[Tindle is] very, very quiet. In fact, I'm not sure I've heard her speak much all season,” West Potomac coach Rebecca Waters said. “But somehow [she] is a really, really solid leader without speaking. She's a leader on the court.”

“Mallorie's the little firecracker. ... She's probably the most determined one. She's the one that will keep people more motivated. She'll run after balls and make plays that make other people want to do the same.”

Waters praised Markson's and Bowdring's versatility.

They are “all-around, wherever-I-need-them, do-what-it-takes kind of players.”

MV Goalie Duncan Blanks W-L for District Title

Senior survives constant pressure from Generals in 1-0 victory.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Sara Duncan collapsed to her knees, tears streaming from her eyes, and released 60 minutes worth of pressure.

Mount Vernon's senior goalkeeper had stymied a seemingly constant attack from Washington-Lee during the National District Field Hockey Tournament championship on Oct. 22. Mount Vernon jumped out to an early lead on a first-half goal by sophomore Allie Schray, but the Generals spent the remainder of the contest testing the stability of the Majors' one-goal advantage.

Numerous corners provided Washington-Lee with ample scoring opportunities, but time after time the Generals came up empty — thanks in part to Duncan. Washington-Lee's final chance came on an untimed corner at the end of the second half. When the ball was cleared and the official's whistle blew for the final time, Duncan finally let her guard down.

Schray's goal held up as Mount Vernon defeated Washington-Lee 1-0 at WLHS, avenging last year's district title game loss to the Generals. Duncan was part of a bend-but-don't-break defensive performance by Mount Vernon.

“I'm so happy. I've waited three years for this,” an emotional Duncan said. “[It was] intense [on the field]. I'm the last line of defense, so I always feel like I'm the one who lets the team down when we lose.”

The last line of defense held firm for the Majors.

“[Duncan] played awesome tonight,” Mount Vernon coach Jess Hebel said. “[The Generals] had a lot of shots on goal — they played a hell of a game. ... [Duncan] was on top of everything. Even when it was a foul, she didn't hold back at all. She was on top of everything, she was on her angles ... she knew where the ball was coming from.”

Duncan was a second-team all-district selection this season.

Schray's goal was her team-leading 11th of the year.

“I think that when they scored in the first two minutes, they came out with a lot of



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon field hockey team defeated Washington-Lee, 1-0, Oct. 22 in the National District Tournament championship game. Goalkeeper Sara Duncan, holding trophy, held the Generals scoreless despite facing pressure for much of the game.

intensity and I think that we didn't come out with as much intensity, and then we just couldn't capitalize on our opportunities,” said Washington-Lee defender Kelsey Clark, the district Player of the Year. “We had so many corners in a row and we couldn't score on a single one.”

The main reason Hebel gave for Mount Vernon falling short in last year's title game was a lack of communication. This time,

Hebel said the Majors played as a team.

“[Washington-Lee] just had corner, after corner, after corner and I said to [the Majors] when they came off, ‘There's one thing for sure: you guys do not want to let a goal go in tonight.’ ... I know that they pulled together to do that because you can't just individually have that many corners against you and still come out with your heads up and fight.”

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 18

just a few years ago. The Pumping Station is still operating as a Pumping Station on county land. Supervisor Hyland addressed the issue at the meeting, supporting whatever position the Stratford Landing Community agrees to — should the property become surplus to the county.

I'm ashamed and embarrassed that this community is blindsided by such issues being elevated to outside agencies by our supposed representatives before Stratford Landing residents know anything about them. We look like a community that doesn't care about our neighborhood when we are not represented by community consensus.

Stratford Landing has always been a wonderful community, issues concerning Stratford Landing as a whole should not be decided by a few individuals who are diligently pursuing their own personal agendas because they really think they don't need the community to tell them what is in its own best interests. This is not the kind of representation honest, dues-paying community members deserve.

Annie McNeff

Different Impression

To the Editor:

I was amazed to read the description of the debate between Mr. Surovell and Mr. McConville provided by Ken White ["Consider Qualifications," letter to the editor] in your last week's edition of the Gazette. I also was at that debate the entire two hours plus and my impression was quite different than that drawn by Mr White.

Although I must agree that Mrs. Parker's solution to every problem that was addressed was to build a levitated train from the Huntington Station to Fort Belvoir, I had a quite different conclusion to the debate by the two other political candidates.

What Mr. White described as partisan and confrontational on the part of Mr. Surovell, I would have to say was a fact-filled encapsulation of the situation regarding the disposition of our tax money as it now flows in Virginia. Mr. Surovell seemed to have the facts at hand when he elaborated on the reasons why a huge portion of taxes generated here in Northern Virginia are siphoned off to enrich downstate rural districts at the expense of the more wealthy Northern Virginia municipalities.

Mr. Surovell pointed out that it is based upon an elaborate formula that exists from the days of Harry Byrd in the 1930s. The amount of tax money that goes to the different counties in Virginia is inversely proportional to the average personal incomes of ordinary citizens of those counties. Thus as he pointed out those counties that have low average incomes get the largest share of the wealth that is generated in the state. That means that most of the tax revenue that is generated here in Northern Virginia where incomes are much higher goes to those rural counties where incomes are lower.

Mr. Surovell merely pointed out that this formula is not likely to change as long as the House of Delegates is dominated by Republicans from the rural areas of the state. Electing one more Republican from this area to a body that has been dominated by Republicans from rural counties for decades isn't going to alter the dynamics of the equation.

Mr. Surovell is probably correct. Rural Republicans are not going to give up this power to bleed urban areas dry at the expense of the rural poorer counties that keep them in power. Mr. Surovell was simply stating a fact of which everyone should be aware.

David L Bayliss

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E-mail: to PhotoAX@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

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Hairstylists Needed!

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21 Announcements

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4 RE for Sale

21 Announcements

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In Loving Memory of Vincent M. "Mike" Santullo

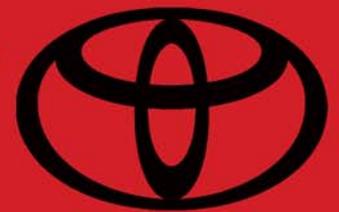
Vincent M. Santullo passed away at age 49 on October 10, 2009. He was a loving husband, brother, and friend. He worked in the grocery store industry his entire life which he greatly enjoyed. He always smiled and had kind words to share with everyone. He loved animals and especially his dog "Lucy". He liked spending time outdoors, camping and hiking in the mountains. He enjoyed sports and loved the Washington Redskins. He was loved dearly by his family and friends whom will miss him very much.

He was preceded in death by his father Vincent Santullo Jr.; mother Betty Jean Santullo; and wife Julie Santullo. He is survived by a brother Joseph V. Santullo; sisters Toni C. Santullo, Judy T. Santullo, Jacquelyn M. Santullo, Monica Santullo; nieces; and nephews.

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