

# Mount Vernon Gazette

VOL. XXI, No. 5

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 4, 2010



Carolyn Gamble, assistant park manager, staff liaison to Historic Huntley Mansion.



Norma Hoffman, co-founder of Friends of Historic Huntley.

## Huntley: Ready For Restoration

**Park Authority seeks bids on \$1.9 million project.**

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Fairfax County Park Authority's announcement inviting construction contractors to bid on the restoration of Thomas Mason's home and outbuildings, now known as the Historic Huntley site, culminates a 20-year effort to preserve and restore this property.

The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County inventory of Historic Sites. Thomas Mason, grandson of George Mason, built a Federal Style Home in 1825. He and his descendants lived in the home and farmed the area until the early 1900s. The Park Authority acquired the site in 1989.

The restoration project is funded substantially by two previously approved Fairfax County bonds (1998 and 2008), and a \$100,000 federal grant under the auspices of the National Park Ser-

vice through its Save America's Treasures program. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran sponsored the grant through the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

"We look forward to the day the house will be open to citizens and fulfilling its role in educating the public about the early history of the area and the families who lived in the house as well as a Civil War encampment on the grounds," said Barbara Ballentine, president, Friends of Historic Huntley, a citizens advocacy group formed to support the Park Authority's preservation efforts.

Assistant Park Manager Carolyn Gamble of Huntley Meadows Park said, "After many years of preservation efforts, this Mason family home on a

SEE HUNTLEY, PAGE 18

### Details

Fairfax County Park Authority Invitation to Bid on Historic Huntley Mansion Restoration Project:

- ❖ Exterior and Interior Rehabilitation of the main building; restoration of the outbuildings
- ❖ Construction of an access road, parking lot and related site improvements

Schedule of Events in Support of the Restoration Project:

- Feb. 1:** Release of the Bid Project Description
- Feb. 9:** Pre bid conference; Huntley Meadows Park, 11 a.m.
- Feb. 25:** Bid Deadline.

## FBI Investigating Shooting Death

**Civil Rights Act cited.**

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**W**hile FBI spokeswoman Katherine Schweit said the FBI is prohibited from routinely confirming that it is conducting an investigation, she referred to Title 18 U.S.C. section 242 of the Civil Rights Act, Depri-

vation of Rights Under Color of Law which provides the authority for the FBI's involvement.

On Nov. 13, 2009 Dave Masters, a former Green Beret and Vietnam veteran, and alleged petty larceny suspect — he was alleged to have taken a plant from a Richmond Highway nursery — was pursued north by Mt. Vernon District Police for several miles in his car before finally stopping him on a service road near the intersection of

SEE FBI, PAGE 18

## County Settles with Family for \$1.5 Million

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

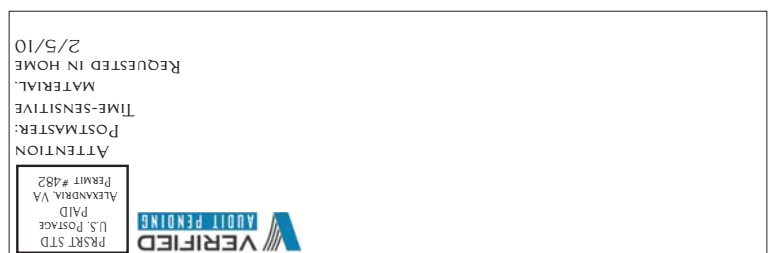
**A**shley McIntosh was killed Feb. 12, 2008 in an auto crash involving former Mt. Vernon District Police Officer Amanda Perry. After an initial ruling by a District Court Judge that Perry is innocent of any wrongdoing, the family of Ms. McIntosh files a \$6 million civil suit against the officer, charging negligence and gross negligence. Judge Ney Rules Perry was grossly negligent and not entitled to sovereign immunity. This sovereign immunity trial sets the tone and basis of the civil suit. The family would only have to prove simple negligence in a trial set for Feb. 8.

On the eve of the trial, Fairfax County and family of Ashley McIntosh agree to settle out of court for \$1.5 million.

This brings to an end a two-year odyssey of investigation by the

Police Department, the Commonwealth Attorney's office, and two District court trials. In the first trial, the judge absolved Perry of any responsibility. In the second trial, Fairfax District Judge Ney then ruled that Perry was grossly negligent and not entitled to sovereign immunity. The second ruling was based in part on the fact that Perry's actions, and by her own testimony during the trial, she admitted she did not follow standard operating procedures required by all police officers when traveling through a red light at a high speed. Perry testified that she used "hybrid regulations" instead of following "General Orders." These guidelines require police officers to use a siren and flashing lights at all times when entering an intersection while the light is red. Her lights were on but she did not have her siren on, and did not

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 7







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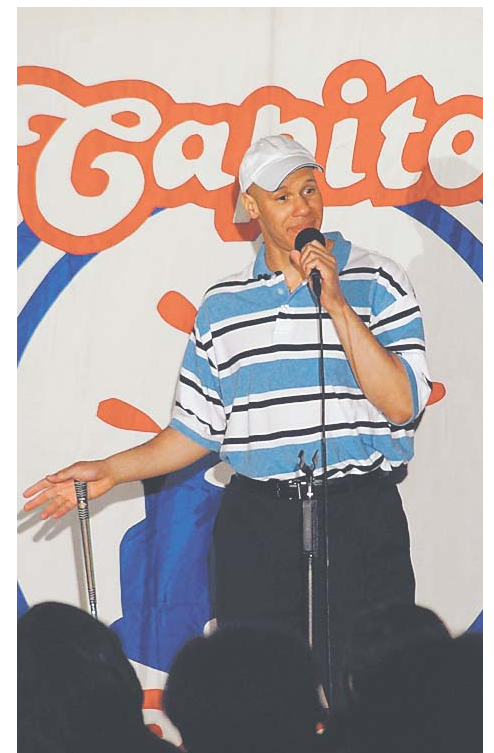
**Jenny Corbett is Sara Palin as she performs during the Capitol Steps musical political satire on Jan. 31.**



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

**Funds for UCM**

**Cynthia Hull, executive director of United Communities Ministries, holds a check for \$45,000 with Felicea Meyer DeLoatch, president of board of UCM, during the Capitol Steps benefit performance at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Jan. 31.**



**Jon Bell is Tiger Woods during a skit presented by the Capitol Steps.**

**MVCCA BRIEFS**

**Hyland Addresses Council**

Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland shared the following Board of Supervisor's announcements and actions during the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Association's Jan. 27 meeting:

- ❖ Resolution of Commendation for Mattie Palimore on 15 years service to Fairfax county as a Magistrate. In addition to her efforts as a Magistrate she has co-founded Women of Mt. Vernon, a non-profit organization that provides counseling and other assistance to abused women. Her magistrate colleagues will honor her on Saturday, Feb. 6, 4-8 p.m. in the community room of the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center. During the reception Hyland will present her with a Board of Supervisors Resolution commending her service.

- ❖ Requested the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the month of March as Women's History Month in all of Fairfax county. Hyland pointed out that the Occoquan Workhouse played a significant but often unrecognized role in women acquiring the right to vote by the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Women's History Month will be celebrated on March 20 by the Fairfax County Commission for Women through their Women Voices Forum.

- ❖ Requested support of the Board to obtain information from the Sheriff and the Chief Judge of the District Court on the number and length of stay of inmates incarcerated because they are unable to afford the bonds imposed on them, the success of the pretrial release program, and the number of people held in jail awaiting disposition of pending charges. Hyland pointed out that the cost of keeping those unable to meet the bond may exceed the fine for the offense. He also said that the National Association of Counties' public safety forum discussed this issue as a nation-wide problem that is costing local governments a lot of money and causing overcrowded local jails.

- ❖ Announced that he will conduct his 23rd Annual Town Meeting on Feb. 20 from 7:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Mt. Vernon High School's Little Theatre. In attendance will be the Chairwoman of the Board Sharon Bulova; Tony Griffin, Fairfax County Executive; Dan Storck, Mt. Vernon District School Board member, and Jack Dale, superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools.

**Vision for Business Center**

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) has

SEE MVCCA BRIEFS, PAGE 10

**Mount Vernon School Construction**

Fairfax County Public Schools plans construction on the following schools in the Mount Vernon area.

School	Type of Project	Cost	Completion Date
Woodley Hills Elementary School	Capacity Enhancement	\$5 million	2011-2012 school year
Hybla Valley Elementary School	Capacity Enhancement	\$7.5 million	2010-2011 school year
Sandburg Middle School	Renovation	\$66.3 million	2014-2015 school year
Whitman Middle School	Capacity Enhancement	\$4.3 million	2011-2012 school year

**Many Public Schools Outdated**

**Increasing enrollment puts pressure on limited school facilities funding.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Fairfax County School Board has set a goal of renovating school buildings every 25 to 30 years, but in reality, most schools are waiting approximately 40 years before their physical plants receive an upgrade.

School Board members unanimously approved a capital improvement plan Jan. 21 that included many school renovation projects several years overdue.

When Franklin-Sherman Elementary's renovation project gets underway this year, it will be the McLean school's first total facilities overhaul since it was built in 1952. Freedom Hill Elementary, which opened in Vienna in 1949, is scheduled to undergo its first "full renovation" in 2010 as well.

It is not clear yet when a building like West Springfield High School, originally built in the 1960s and approximately 100 students over capacity, would see an upgrade to its physical plant, though a renovation is unlikely to get underway any time during the next decade.

**WITH LITTLE HELP** from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the school system relies almost entirely on the Fairfax County government for money to com-

plete new school construction, building additions and renovations.

Both school staff and county government officials agree that the county has been generous when it comes to school building funding. But what the county can afford to do is simply not enough to keep up with the demand for renovations.

Currently, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors issues bonds annually for \$155 million worth of school capital projects. The system's staff said it would need approximately \$225 million per year to ensure an overhaul of each facility every three decades.

By contrast, School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) has said that Montgomery County, Md. spends approximately \$100 million more per year on school construction than Fairfax, even though the suburban Maryland school system has 30,000 fewer students.

**AN INCREASE** in student enrollment has also put extra pressure on Fairfax's limited school construction funding pool.

The school system has seen enrollment grow by 8,500 students since the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, gaining 3,300 students from September 2008 to September 2009 alone. The boom in the student population is expected to continue, with an estimated 11,500 more students in the school system in the fall of 2014 than were enrolled in this past fall.

An increase in students means that Fairfax schools

SEE MANY SCHOOLS, PAGE 10



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# BUSINESS

## New Business

Opened this past October, 2009, Unwined is a wine, cheese, and gourmet food store that also sells beer and cigars. The store is located in the Bellevue Shopping Center off of Fort Hunt Road. At right is Renee Lorraine (left), wine consultant, and Brian Adams, partner. The proprietor, Vanessa Moore, was not available for the photo. This is the second of two Unwined stores to open. The other store is located in the Bradlee Shopping Center in the City of Alexandria.



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/ THE GAZETTE

## Gold Hospitality Award

Carmen Fierro is general manager of Quality Inn Mt. Vernon/Alexandria which won the 2010 Gold Hospitality Award from Choice Hotels International. As a top performing property among the company's more than 4,800 U.S. franchised hotels, the Quality Inn Mount Vernon hotel is among the top 10 percent of properties within the Quality brand.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

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## HISTORY

# Gum Springs: A Slave's Legacy, Part I

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

*This is the first in a four-part series on the history and future of Gum Springs, a historically African-American community in the Mount Vernon area. It will run throughout February in recognition of African-American History Month.*

### OVERVIEW

In 1966, Fairfax County authorities demanded that 42 families in Gum Springs “fix up or get out” of houses so ramshackle that they violated a county housing code.

The county Board of Supervisors eventually voted to issue a temporary reprieve of the eviction order, largely because the board chairman insisted that a leaky roof was better than no roof at all. The Washington Post headlined the story, “Fairfax Slum Dwellers Get Word. They Have Reprieve, Help on Way.”

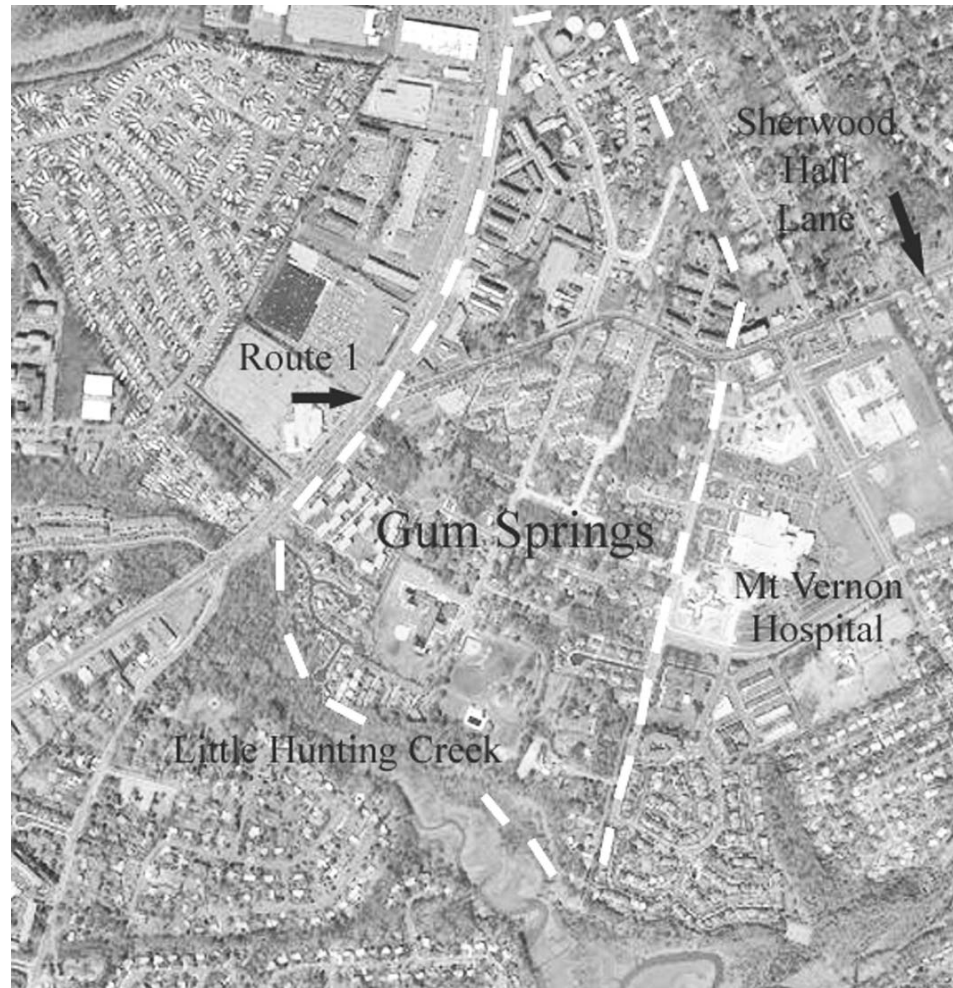
The 1960 census found that the majority of dwellings in Gum Springs were either dilapidated or deteriorating. Half of the adults were unemployed, children were sick from drinking water from contaminated wells, and some houses lacked plumbing facilities. Despite the presence of many solid, respectable homes, a reporter called the assemblage of tarpaper shacks “the largest concentration of slum housing in Northern Virginia.”

The neighborhood traces its history to the 1833 purchase of the land by West Ford, a slave freed by George Washington’s sister-in-law. After the Civil War, Bethlehem Baptist Church and its associated school attracted former slave families to the area. Most worked as tenant farmers or hired hands on nearby white-owned farms; others joined the staff at the Mount Vernon estate.

Gradually, more families settled in Gum Springs. In 1907, there were 27 African-American landowners there, and World War I activity at the new Camp Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir), attracted even more residents. The interwar years were the most prosperous in the community. There was even a nascent black middle class, but most folks who lived in Gum Springs worked on the many farms in the Mount Vernon area.

The relatively good times ended when developers bulldozed farmland into housing tracts after World War II. Jobs for African-Americans in Northern Virginia soon became as hard to find as equitable schools and decent housing in the white-dominated suburbs. Oppressive segregation kept Gum Springs residents from enjoying the amenities of life that people in adjacent neighborhoods took for granted — sewers, running water, streetlights, and paved roads.

Buoyed by the 1960s civil rights movement, civic activists in Gum Springs began



**The present limits of Gum Springs correspond with the 214-acre parcel bought by West Ford in 1833.**

pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps. They lobbied successfully for drainage systems, formed a community action association, resisted heavy-handed urban renewal by the county, and pooled their land for the construction of new homes to replace the shanties. Slowly, a better life returned to Gum Springs residents, seventy-five per cent of whom were African-American in 1990. Despite the many challenges, the community somehow kept its unique character and history.

The identity that Gum Springs residents have fought to keep is being eroded by the very prosperity they have achieved. Growing numbers of non-black homeowners are moving into town homes in the Village at Gum Springs and brick colonials built off Holland Road. At the time of the last census in 2000, the African-American population was down to 60 percent, and future demographics of Gum Springs might even approach those of surrounding neighborhoods.

### THE BEGINNING

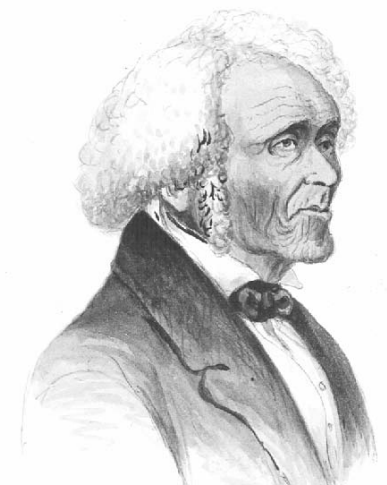
The founder of Gum Springs, a mixed race man named West Ford, began his life as a

slave. His path to freedom started when his owner, George Washington’s younger brother, John Augustine, died in 1787.

John’s will left a third of his slaves to his wife Hannah, including a couple named Billy and Jenny, their daughter Venus, and her son West. Upon Hannah’s death in 1801, her will stipulated that young West be freed when he reached the age of 21. She also asked her heirs to inoculate West for small pox and bind him to a “good tradesman.”

Hannah’s son Bushrod assumed ownership of West, then 16 or 17. Also, Bushrod inherited Mount Vernon when Martha Washington died in 1802, and he moved there and took West with him. Following Hannah’s will, Bushrod freed West in about 1805. According to oral family history, West adopted the surname Ford upon gaining his freedom.

Ford remained at Mount Vernon, working as a wheelwright and carpenter. He could read and write, and ultimately became foreman of the house servants and a guardian of Washington’s tomb. In 1812, he married Priscilla Bell, a free black woman from Alexandria. Because of her status, their four children — William, Daniel, Jane and



**West Ford, shown here in an 1858 drawing, founded the African-American community of Gum Springs in 1833. Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia Room.**

Julia — were also free.

Virginia required freed slaves to register, and the 1831 entry for West Ford described him as “a yellow man about forty-seven years of age, five feet eight and a half inches high, pleasant countenance, a wrinkle resembling a scar on the left cheek ...” Ford was a mulatto, a term of the time that was used to describe a person of one African and one European parent.

Bushrod Washington died in 1829. An associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for 30 years, Washington left West Ford 119 acres of land on the south side of Little Hunting Creek.

Ford sold his inherited land and used the proceeds in 1833 to purchase Samuel Collard’s Gum Spring Farm, a 214-acre tract on the north side of Little Hunting Creek. Collard sold the property to Ford for \$500 and five annual installments of \$84.80.

In 1857, Ford deeded his Gum Springs land to his four children, dividing the tract into equal parts of 52 3/4 acres. The property lines of those parcels coincide exactly with many of today’s lot lines, as well as the main north-south roads in Gum Springs — Holland, Andrus, and Fordson.

By 1860, Ford and his daughter Jane’s husband, Porter Smith, were growing cash crops of corn, oats, and potatoes. The total tract was assessed at \$1,800 in 1860, making West Ford the second-most wealthy freedman in Fairfax County.

Ford was near death in the summer of 1863 when staff members at Mount Vernon brought the weakened man back to the estate for his final days. He died on July 30 and The Alexandria Gazette marked his passing: “He was, we hear, in the 79th year of his age. He was well known to most of our older citizens.”

### BULLETIN BOARD

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#### SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**Identify Meadow Birds.** 2-4 p.m.

Take an invigorating hike through the Marvelous Meadows on the King’s Highway side of the wetlands park. Cost is \$6/person. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. While Hiking Wetlands. Call 703-768-2525.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 7

**Baha’i Faith Prayer Gathering.** 3 p.m. Members of the Baha’i Faith will gather with invited guests from interfaith organizations to pray for members of the Baha’i Faith being

persecuted in Iran. At the Alexandria Baha’i Center, 5400-B Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria.

**Wildlife Strategies.** 1:30-3 p.m. With Victoria Monroe, wildlife biologist, who will speak on strategies for our local wildlife issues. Cost is \$10. Call

703-642-5173. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Used Book Sale.** Friends Book Sale. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Call 703-339-4610.



# County Settles McIntosh Case

FROM PAGE 1

slow down as required by the emergency response regulations of Fairfax County. Her actions were recorded on the police cruiser recorder.

Lead attorney for the McIntosh family, Thomas J. Curcio, in commenting on the lawsuit, said, "The settlement shows that the civil justice system works and that ordinary citizens can resort to the courts to seek redress in tragic wrongs and can recover a fair settlement for their claims."

Mother of the late Ashley McIntosh, Cynthia McIntosh-Colasanto, said, "I am glad this has come to an end after two long years. There is comfort that Fairfax County did take some responsibility ... Looking ahead I will be back before the State Crime Commission in 2010 to push for passage of what I would call Ashley's law. ... If enacted Ashley's legislation will amend existing state law to require all law enforcement and other emergency response drivers in the Commonwealth to use their flashing lights and siren when proceeding through a red light, or come to a complete stop before proceeding through a red light if making a silent approach to the assigned emergency response location. If Officer Perry had done just that my daughter would probably be alive today. More than half the other states in the U.S.A. already require this procedure in their State laws, including New York and California."

John McIntosh, father of Ashley McIntosh, said, "I think the settlement is fair and it amounts to closure and the family can move on ... The two trials and facing still a third trial kept opening up the sordid details of the accident and terrible avoidable wrong that took my daughter's life; so I am relieved that we don't have to go through a third trial."

"Also," he said, "the settlement means the county finally admitted responsibility for the action's of one of its own."

**"I AM RELIEVED** for the McIntosh family that there is closure to the lawsuit. I can only imagine how difficult these last two years have been for them," said state Sen. Linda Puller. "Next year I will be working with the State Crime Commission and Delegate David Albo, chairman of the House Courts of Justice Committee, to reintroduce my previously introduced bill to amend the State law regarding emergency response procedures requiring sirens and flashing lights to be used by police and other emergency response drivers at all times when entering an intersection where the light is

## Chronology of Events

**FEB. 12, 2008:** Ashley McIntosh is killed in auto crash by Mt. Vernon Police Officer Amanda Perry while leaving Hybla Valley Shopping Center in her automobile at the intersection of Route 1 and Boswell Avenue.

**2008:** Officer Perry is placed on restricted administrative duty pending an internal investigation by the Police Department

**SEPT. 18, 2008:** District Court Judge Sarah L. Deneke, who was assigned because the Fairfax District Court Judges recused themselves from presiding, rules that Amanda Perry is not guilty of reckless driving; no criminal or civil judgment is rendered against Perry.

Officer Perry is dismissed from the police department after it is discovered that she falsified time and attendance reports while on restricted duty.

**JAN. 9, 2009:** Parents and family of slain Ashley McIntosh file a \$ 6 million civil suit charging former officer Perry with negligence and gross negligence in the performance of her duties.

**AUG. 12, 2009:** In a bench trial to determine if Officer Perry is entitled to sovereign immunity, Fairfax District Court Judge Terrence Ney rules that Perry was grossly negligent in the auto accident that took the life of Ashley McIntosh and is not entitled to sovereign immunity.

**[FEB. 8, 2010:** Date for McIntosh civil suit trial against Officer Perry.]

**JAN. 27, 2010:** Board of Supervisors and McIntosh family agree to \$1.5 million out of court settlement.

red, or come to a complete stop if a silent approach is required."

Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland, who is chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee, said, "I regret the litigation that transpired. I believe this case should have been settled a long time ago. Judge Ney ruled that the officer was grossly negligent and not entitled to sovereign immunity. Based on the facts as I know them I agree with the ruling and for the county's agreement to bring this tragic case to an end. Looking ahead I fully support state Sen. Puller's legislation to require the use of sirens and emergency lights when entering a red light intersection, or to come to a stop if the emergency response procedure requires a silent approach."

Collingwood Springs resident Chris Parente said that there remained many questions to be answered regarding the McIntosh case. "The county should be asking itself how in the first trial the police officer was ruled innocent of wrongdoing but in the second sovereign immunity trial the judge ruled that the officer was grossly negligent and not entitled to immunity. So, which is it — guilty or not? The family deserves every penny for their loss, but this case needed more transparency every step of the way. Now that the case is closed I hope steps are being taken to prevent another tragedy like this in the future."

## Crash Kills Woman in Mason Neck

A 25-year-old woman died in a traffic crash on Friday, Jan. 29 around 11:30 p.m. at Richmond Highway just south of Mims Street. According to police, the woman was driving her 2007 Toyota Corolla in the right lane and failed to stop before striking the rear of a 1994 Mack dump truck that had already established itself in that lane.

Lauren Elizabeth Whitestone of Woodbridge was pronounced dead at the

scene. The 44-year-old driver of the dump truck was transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The crash is still under investigation by the Fairfax County Crash Reconstruction Unit. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrime-solvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrime-solvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637.

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## Adding More Painful Cuts

**With talk of cutting programs that make it bearable to go to school for students, pay cuts should also be on the table.**

**S**ome of the cuts proposed by Fairfax County Public Schools might sound like they will not affect learning very much.

Freshman sports, for instance, involves 2,200 students across the county who are engaged in the delicate transition from middle school to high school. Why would it matter?

How about the 5,000 students who participate in indoor track?

Or the thousands of students who find their love of learning through music.

Or the students getting a second chance on success at Pimmit Hills Alternative School.

Succeeding in school is all about finding a niche, a reason to go, particularly in high school. For some students, this is band. For others it is the chance to run track. For some,

it's an art class. For others it might be a connection to friends made through freshman sports.

Education succeeds for many different reasons. It is a huge mistake to cut off the very things that help students engage.

Nevertheless, schools across the area will have less money per student this year, and they will have to make cuts. Before they cut the life out of the school day for some many children, parents

and the rest of local taxpayers deserve to see administration and staff over a certain level willing to share the pain.

No doubt many administrative cuts are not receiving as much publicity as cuts that impact students. But what administrative departments will face cuts similar to those proposed

for music or some sports programs?

Pay cuts for staff with salaries more than \$75,000 should also be on the table, holding classroom teachers harmless. Here are some suggested guidelines, more moderate than many of the cuts in many private companies with revenue shortfall in the past two years:

- ❖ 5 percent for employees who make \$75,000-\$90,000

- ❖ 10 percent for employees who make \$90,000-\$115,000

- ❖ 15 percent for employees who make \$115,000-\$140,000

- ❖ 20 percent for employees who make \$140,000-\$200,000

- ❖ 30 percent for employees who make more than \$200,000

This budget crisis is different than in the past. Right now for the first time, taxpayers are looking at drastically lower home values, and many are underwater. Tens of thousands of taxpayers in Northern Virginia are unemployed. For the public to press for more money for schools, schools will have to demonstrate that they "get it."

EDITORIAL

## Working To Save Taxpayer Dollars

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE DELEGATE



RICHMOND  
REPORT

**W**e are lucky to live in a forward-looking county that is an international technology leader. Technology — the computer revolution — can help all of us be more efficient and Virginia's government needs to catch up. Technological approaches can streamline service to the public, and be part of the answer to balancing the budget. As I promised in my campaign, I have introduced several "fixes" that would bring new technologies to state operations and cut state expenditures.

Fairfax County generates over 270,000 traffic and criminal citations each year. Today, officers in police cruisers write out citations by hand in triplicate on carbon paper. One copy goes to the accused person, one to the Police Department and one to the Court. Each of the 270,000 summonses then is entered into a computer.

I introduced legislation with bipartisan support to authorize a \$3 fee for an "E-Summons" system enabling officers to laser scan a driver's license bar code and generate a ticket using a computer and printer in their cruiser. The information would be automatically uploaded to the court's system, avoid the need for 10 data entry personnel, minimize mistakes,

avoid hand-carrying papers to court, speed up payments, and police officers on the street instead of pushing paper.

I also introduced legislation to foster electronic filing of pleadings in Virginia Courts. These systems, used in federal courts and the District of Columbia, eliminate the need for paper pleadings, couriers and filing and data entry clerks. The Courts of Justice Committee in the House of Delegates will consider this legislation this week along with three other bills. Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in the Commonwealth with some of

the most complex litigation and heavy court dockets. This system would also save tax payers millions.

I also introduced legislation to authorize our courts to install electronic recording systems in every courtroom in the Commonwealth. Currently, courts have either no one keeping a record during the proceeding or in most cases, courts must hire court reporters costing \$350 per day. Electronic recording would bring savings to the state and to litigants, and create a record in all proceedings. U.S. District Court in Alexandria has used these systems for over 10 years. My legislation was tabled for this year, but I am working with Fairfax County's Circuit Court Clerk and Attorney General Cuccinelli to implement these systems in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax County Electoral Board asked me to introduce leg-

islation requiring the same envelope for absentee voters who vote in the United States and those who vote abroad. Federal law requires a simplified envelope for absentee voters abroad. The existing system results in confusion when counting votes, lost time, unnecessarily printed envelopes and many disqualified votes. A subcommittee rejected my bill last week because they did not want to conform Virginia law to federal requirements. I will try again next year.

Good government depends on your involvement and you can contact me, comment on legislation or request a meeting on my Web site — <http://www.scottsurovell.org/> or read more of my views on my blog "The Dixie Pig" at [ScottSurovell.Blogspot.com](http://ScottSurovell.Blogspot.com). Also, don't hesitate to call me at 571-249-4484.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Who's Minding The Park?

To the Editor:

Are beer cans, empty cigarette boxes, and urine-soaked paper towels becoming the new "green" method of building for foxes, birds, and deer in Fort Hunt Park? Having just picked up a little more than a 12-pack of empty beer cans and several bags of trash, and that's just this

week's take, it begs the question of who is responsible for our treasured park? Are there squatters settling in at sunset? Is there a nightly party to which none of us has been invited?

Fort Hunt Park is a place of serenity used by more than just neighbors who are walkers and runners, children visiting the horses, or those of us who walk our dogs daily. But it's more than unsettling to see that no one is taking responsibility for keeping

the park clean. County budget cuts have made us keenly aware of the need to do our part and pitch in as needed. We all have a responsibility to keep the park clean, now more than ever. And let's not forget that the same goes for picking up trash along Fort Hunt Road.

**Julia Greenway**  
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 19

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To discuss ideas and concerns,  
Call: 703-778-9410  
e-mail:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Michael Lee Pope**  
Reporter, 703-778-9437  
[alexandriagazette@yahoo.com](mailto:alexandriagazette@yahoo.com)

**Steve Hibbard**  
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412  
[shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Julia O'Donoghue**  
Education & Politics, 703-778-9436  
[jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Courts & Projects, 703-917-6417  
[kmoores@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoores@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015  
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Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
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[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Many Schools Outdated and Overcrowded

FROM PAGE 3

must use more of its construction funding to build new schools and to add extra wings onto older school buildings.

In the construction plan passed last month, the school system included a new South County Middle School for the Lorton area and 11 “capacity enhancement” projects for older elementary and middle schools around the county.

**SOME ELECTED** officials are looking at ways to address the school system’s capital needs.

The school system’s capital funding is supposed to fall from \$155 million to \$130 million annually in 2012, but Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) has proposed keeping the school construction and renovation dollars at their current level.

“Right now, there is a big school construction and renovation need,” said Herrity, who said other supervisors would also likely support the additional funding.

But keeping the school facilities’ funding elevated means that other county facilities would have to go without renovations and some other government buildings are also in dire need of repairs, according to County Executive Tony Griffin.

Herrity has also suggested the school system try to “fast track” some of its construction and renovation projects during the current down swing in the economy, when the price of building material is lower and construction companies are hungry for work.

“We can use techniques like design-build to get these schools renovated quickly.

I think we have to take advantage of this 25-to-30 percent reduction in operating costs. We have a limited opportunity to get a bunch of renovations done,” said Herrity.

The schools’ chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said it could be difficult for Fairfax schools to take advantage of a strategy like design-build contracts. Few companies exist that would be able to do a “phased renovation,” in which construction takes place while students remain in a building, along

## A Long Time Between Renovations

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would have to increase the school system’s annual bond funding from approximately \$155 million to \$225 million for each school to be renovated every three decades as the school board desires.

Currently, most schools are waiting approximately 40 years before their building receives an upgrade.

Below is a list of schools that are currently being renovated or scheduled to begin renovation soon and the year they were originally built. This information was provided in the school system’s documents on capital improvement projects.

School	Year Constructed	Partial Renovation	Years To Partial Renovation	Full Renovation	Scheduled Years To Full Renovation
Franklin-Sherman Elementary (McLean)	1952	1974	22	2010	36
Freedom Hill Elementary (Vienna)	1949	1974	25	2010	36
Great Falls Elementary (Great Falls)	1952	1985	33	2010	25
Mount Eagle Elementary (Mount Vernon)	1949	1973	24	2010	37
Vienna Elementary School (Vienna)	1921	1984	63	2010	26
Longfellow Middle School (Falls Church)	1960	1978	18	2012	34
Marshall High School (Falls Church)		1962	1984	22	2014 30
Woodson Secondary School (Fairfax)	1962	1981	19	2009	29

## Overcrowded

Fairfax County Public Schools enrollment has grown by 8,500 students over the past four years and the school system is facing serious overcrowding issues in some schools. To combat this problem, the School Board plans more funding for additions and other capacity enhancements, thereby diverting funding that could be used for more renovation projects.

The following is a list of the most crowded school buildings in Fairfax County.

School Name	Building Capacity*	Current Enrollment	Amount of Building Capacity Used
Longfellow Middle School (McLean)	815	1,201	147%
Haycock Elementary (Falls Church)	601	780	130%
South County Secondary – Middle School Grades (Lorton)	711	888	125%
Annandale Terrace Elementary (Annandale)	660	827	125%
Annandale High School (Annandale)	2134	2649	124%
Powell Elementary (Fairfax)	858	1,031	120%
Woodley Hills Elementary (Mount Vernon)	535	662	124%

\* Fairfax County Public Schools includes outdoor “modular” classrooms as part of a facility’s overall capacity. Trailers, which are smaller and often contain only one classroom, are not considered part of the campus’ capacity.

with a design-build contract and the project bidding process would ultimately be less competitive, he said.

But the school system may be able to get through more renovations in this competitive construction market if the county sped up its permitting process, said Tistadt.

According to Tistadt, acquiring permits from Fairfax County that allows the school system to open a construction project up for bidding can take between 12 and 18 months.

“I am much more comfortable with a project going to bid three to four months from now than I am seeing the project bid 12 months from now,” said Tistadt.

**PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS** to school programs could also end up saving the school system money on some facility projects, particularly capacity enhancements.

If elementary schools lose their music programs and full-day kindergarten, many

school facilities would suddenly have more open classrooms than the school system originally thought it would.

An increase in class size of one student per teacher would make space for 146 more students at Oakton High School and 139 more students at Robinson Secondary School for example.

This means that the school system may possibly be able to spend fewer dollars on projects like building additions and more money on existing school renovations.

## MVCCA BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

entered into a partnership with Virginia Tech’s Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP) Program to develop a vision for the Woodlawn Commercial Business Center (CBC) and the area south of Old Mill Road to the Fairfax County Parkway. Fairfax County’s office of community revitalization and the SFDC collaborated to design the scope of work.

The project is expected to utilize urban planning students to develop a comprehensive plan for over a 20-year period. The project is expected to conclude in April.

## Smitty’s Site Purchased

A family-owned business — Mt. Vernon Center LLC — has purchased 8.176 acres of land commonly known as the Smitty’s site on Route 1 in the Mt. Vernon District.

The purchasers plan to construct a 30-40,000 sq. foot building to house an international grocery store. The purchase was completed on Dec. 31, 2009 for \$7.15 million.

## Haitian Relief Efforts in Mt. Vernon

Local Jazzercise program will conduct a “Relief for Haiti” super session Jazzercise class on Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. at the Hollin Hall Community Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Local Oakbrooke resident Peggy Frydenlund will conduct this class. Minimum donations for the class are \$20. All the proceeds will go to Partners in Health for Haiti Disaster Relief.

The United Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon has assembled 50 health kits that will be sent to the church’s central receiving office to be shipped to Haiti. The health kits contain: Wash cloths, hand towels, comb, bandages, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. Plans are to assemble 100 more kits for the next shipment. To help, contact Martha Flanagan at 703-820-7200.

Any organization in the Mt. Vernon region that is providing Haitian relief donations and is interested in soliciting for donations should email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

— GERALD A. FILL



# OPINION

## Doing More with Less

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT  
MEMBER, FAIRFAX COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD



Fairfax County Public Schools is world renowned for the quality of our schools and the achievement of our students. All our schools are fully accredited, student pass rates exceed 90 percent in math and English, while almost 50 percent pass at advanced levels, achievement gaps between groups have been narrowing, independent raters, like the Post's Challenge Index, highly rank all our high schools and our average SAT scores are among the highest in the USA. The largest companies in the world have moved their headquarters to Fairfax because of our schools. Our successes are many, but the challenges our students, teachers and administrators experience daily, particularly in Mount Vernon with our high percentages of needy students, remain very high.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, the School Board will be voting on a \$2.3 billion "advertised budget." This budget contains real cuts in funding including the elimination of many highly effective programs and activities, large reductions in support to our neediest students and schools, wage freezes for all staff, wage reductions for thousands, staff lay-offs for many, substantial new student (parent) fees, summer school elimination and many more. And these are the cuts if our "advertised budget" request is fully funded! Our final budget, which is voted on in May, will depend directly on the Board of Supervisors and state funding. If our advertised budget is not funded, then increased class sizes and decreased or eliminated language,

music and full day kindergarten classes are likely. Our school system and its high quality, world-class performance are at a tipping point. Why?

The economy has caused lower revenues at the state and local levels which provide 95 percent of our funding. Additional funding has been required to address the recession-driven declines in employee retirement funds, increased numbers of students and utility and related cost increases. Our funding for the past several years on a per student basis has been declining; from \$13,407 in FY2008 to \$12,898 for FY2010. These costs are more than \$2,500 per student below that of Montgomery County, Md. and more than \$5,000 per student below that of Alexandria or Arlington. The state funds about 19 percent of our budget, while neighboring Prince William County receives 46 percent of their funding from the state. The state's lack of support to Fairfax is further aggravated by the Governor's refusal to fund an additional \$61 million due our county as a result of the state's 40-year-old funding formula. This is wrong and directly harms our students and schools. That leaves the Board of Supervisors and mostly the County's property tax base as the funder of last resort for our schools.

Our schools, particularly Mount Vernon area schools, are in a very tough spot. We need the funding potentially being cut to continue the academic gains that we have been making. As I have had to do in my own businesses during these tough times, I have looked hard

SEE DOING MORE, PAGE 19

### Agora Agape

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8315 Mount Vernon Hwy  
\$745,900  
**3/4 Acre Estate Site!**  
**\$12,000 in Free Options!**

Just listed—special pre-construction opportunity! Fabulous new Wakefield Home on 3/4 acre site. Spacious custom residence with bright, open floor plan loaded with special features. Prime location combining large lot privacy with the convenience of being in the center of everything! Pre-construction pricing! Model Open Sunday 1-4pm. South GW Pkwy, Right Rte 235 N/Mt. Vernon Hwy to 8311.



3614  
Old Vernon Ct  
\$865,000  
**Stunning Value!**  
Wakefield Custom Home. Special home on gorgeous level lot in Pettit's Landing in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Custom built as "Dream Home" for owners this home features exceptionally bright, open floor plan and is loaded with costly options and upgrades. Unique opportunity to acquire Wakefield's most popular model in prime location at thousands less than the cost of building it today! **Open Sun 2/7, 1-4. Pkwy S past Estate; R Mt. Vernon Rd; L Old Vernon to 3614.**



3906  
Rive Drive  
\$998,500  
**Stunning Property!**  
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvs including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR 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. **Open Sun 2/7, 1-4. Pkwy S past Estate; L Old Mt Vernon Rd; L Rive Dr to 3906.**



2497  
FREETOWN DR  
Reston - \$574,900  
GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own in lovely neighborhood close to parks/greenspace. Wonderful floor plan w/ generous room sizes & excellent flow is perfect for entertaining. HW on main level, new berber in rec room. Kit w/ breakfast area opens to deck & large peaceful treed lot. Master suite offers lg WIC, tile & dual sinks.

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



4712 NEPTUNE DR  
Alexandria  
\$1,425,000  
STUNNING WATER FRONT property with dock on Douge Creek Lagoon. Elevator and two-car garage, in-ground pool on half acre lot. 5,501 sq ft of living space with great views. 6BR, 4.5 BA

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447  
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



6028 SHAFFER DR  
Alex / \$564,900  
MOVE-IN CONDITION  
Wonderful home, immaculately maintained & beautifully decorated. 4BR, 3BA, sunroom, full fin basement w/rec rm, frpl, full bath, BR, laundry & loads of storage. Hdws thruout & berber carpet. Custom kit w/bkfst bar, tile, Jenn Air convection oven/range. Hdwired fire/smoke.

Randy Bender 703.906.1749



9324  
Old Mansion Rd  
\$2,249,990  
**Breathtaking River Views!**  
Unique opportunity, brand new luxury home in exclusive enclave featuring the most spectacular views in area! Stunning new estate by Keswick Homes features spectacular floor plan and virtually every upgrade and modern amenity. Pre-construction sale allows maximum customization. Model Home and design center available.



4401  
Jackson Place  
\$475,000  
**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!



8706  
EAGLEBROOK CT  
Alex / Wayneswood  
\$849,000  
POTOMAC RIVER! Professionally landscaped, renovated home sited on .38acre in one of Wayneswood's most prestigious cul-de-sacs. French country kitchen features 20" Brick wall w/FP, granite, island & large deck. Minutes from OT and DC. 6BR, 3BA.

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Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809



2805 CAMERON MILLS ROAD  
Alexandria  
\$619,000  
Solidly built 4BR/2BA brick Colonial in desirable Braddock Heights. Home has been well maintained with main level addition and large level lot. Prime location for expansion.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams  
703.597.2252



1691 HUNTING CREEK DR  
Alexandria / OT  
\$824,900  
NEW LISTING! Spectacular price on this elegant townhome. Move-in ready with granite, hardwoods, premium berber carpet, beautiful slate patio and garden, deck off kitchen, attached garage. Simply stunning 4 bedroom /3.5 bath home w/open floor plan and 4th level guest room.

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



1208  
Tatum Drive  
\$850,000  
**Villamay!**  
Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool.



4816  
Stillwell Avenue  
\$525,000  
**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!



4413  
Ferry Landing Road  
\$529,900  
**Yacht Haven!**  
Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets & granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck & covered parking. Bright, open floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds in one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Less than 5 minutes from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty!



1906 BELLE HAVEN ROAD  
Alex / \$2,250,000  
Brick center hall colonial has 7BR, 5.5BA with 5,500 sqft of living space. Top to bottom renovation incl: new Anderson thermalpane windows, HVAC, kit & baths. Attention to detail is evident thruout this beautiful home. Large lot backs to lovely oasis full of mature plantings & trees. Garage parking.

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



2701 BELLFOREST CT #204  
Vienna - \$349,900  
PRICE REDUCTION!  
WALK TO THE METRO! 2BR & 2BA. Plenty of built-ins, closets, 4x10 storage space and 2 indoor garage spaces. Open & spacious LR & chef's kitchen, separate DR, full-size W/D, gas fireplace, & balcony all complemented by large windows for a bright airy feel.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



6129 REDWOOD LA  
Alexandria  
\$649,000  
Classic center hall colonial in desirable Wilton Woods with great space for entertaining. The four season porch has lovely views of the private and heavily landscaped backyard. It boasts 4 spacious bedrooms and a finished lower level with wet bar. Close to Huntington Metro!

Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



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.)



9316  
Allwood Drive  
\$540,000  
**Stunning!**  
Home features bright, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings in the main living area. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more. Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mount Vernon.



3102 Waterside Ln  
4821 Stillwell Ave  
1810 Hollindale Dr  
8311 Mt Vernon Hwy



THE GENERAL WASHINGTON CLUB  
555 South Washington St  
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Michael Manuel  
703.615.6317

Unit 101: 3,812 sq ft; 3BR, 2.5BA; \$1,775,000  
Unit 102: 4,123 sq ft; 3BR, 3.5BA; \$1,975,000



9324  
OLD MANSION RD  
Alex/Riverwood  
\$2,249,990  
STUNNING NEW HOME to be built by Keswick Homes on the banks of the Potomac. 4,400 sqft w/gourmet kit, morning room, 2-story great room, elegant master suite, lux baths, exquisite finishes, 2-car garage, landscaping package & more!

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www.OldTownAlexandria.com





## SCHOOLS

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

**West Potomac Academy Fashion Design students** will be participating in the second annual Crystal Couture fashion event on Thursday, Feb. 4, sponsored by the Crystal City Business Improvement District.

Students will showcase a runway collection based on the Crystal Couture event theme — Jungle, Jeans, Tats, and Tees — from 6 to 10 p.m. on Feb. 4. They will also staff a boutique display area to sell prom gowns and original garments; all proceeds will benefit the West Potomac Academy Fashion Design program.

Events are free and open to the public. Available retail space at 23rd Street and South Crystal Drive in Arlington will be turned into a runway, boutique, and night club featuring fashion trunk shows, live theater, disc jockeys, comedians, and dancing.

**The Bucknell Elementary School and West Potomac High School Mentoring Partnership** has been named winner of the 2009 Virginia Mentoring Partnership Mentor Program Award. Bucknell Elementary and West Potomac High are Fairfax County public schools. The program, in its fourth year, pairs 61 elementary students with 65 high school student mentors. Sessions are held every Wednesday after school from November through May. Students focus on homework for the first 30 minutes,



**Student Art** Ethan Ruby, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Fort Belvoir Elementary School.

then participate in enrichment activities, which have included sending holiday cards to U.S. troops serving overseas, creating a thankful tree, and building relationships. Mentors and mentees also spend time together outside mentoring sessions and, in the past, have attended a West Potomac basketball game together.

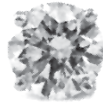
**Mount Vernon High School's Class of 1980** is gearing up for its 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion on July 31, 2010 at the Mount Vernon Inn at the Mt. Vernon Estate. To be added to the list, contact Leisa Gates Less: [lscouter@aol.com](mailto:lscouter@aol.com), 281-536-3121

or Jennifer Julian Radcliffe: [hood1984@aol.com](mailto:hood1984@aol.com), 703-968-3072.

**Mount Vernon High School** is hosting a mulch sale as a fund-raiser for its All-Night Grad Party. The delivery date is Saturday, March 13. Pick-up in the Mount Vernon High School parking lot. Orders of 10 bags or more will be delivered to your home. Cost is \$5/bag of 3 cubic feet of shredded hard bark mulch. Contact Edna Primrose at 703-360-3002 or [eprimrose@hotmail.com](mailto:eprimrose@hotmail.com). Orders and payment must be received no later than March 1. Mail your order with Robin Gordon at 703-799-1330.



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# E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

## 'Amadeus' Explores Genius



Cal Whitehurst, Dell Pendergrast, Michael Kharfen, Xandra Weaver, Katherine Biscula, Jessica Sperlongano, Marji Jepperson and Gail Seavey in "Amadeus."



Michael Kharfen in "Amadeus."

### Peter Shaffer's play plods on Jefferson Stage.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

The Arlington Players tackle a serious drama, Peter Shaffer's intellectually challenging play of genius and jealousy, "Amadeus," at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre through Feb. 13. The play provides a host of interesting questions about the nature of creativity. It can be an engrossing evening of ideas explored in lively language, and the production is successful with some of them but fails to reach the heights that the play deserves.

One of the more talented directors working in community theater in Northern Virginia today, Zina Bleck, is at the helm, and in the two leading roles, she has two actors with proven track records with challenging material like this. Michael Kharfen, who richly deserved his WATCH Award for a superbly moderated and ultimately searing performance as the accused killer of Charles Lindbergh's baby in "Kaufman," hits just one level of emotion all night long as the merely competent composer Antonio Salieri. It is an exhausting high that leaves him little

room to react as Salieri recognizes that his competence pales to insignificance when compared to the genius of a Mozart.

Tom Witherspoon has also earned respect for his on-stage skill, but he too seems to have but one note to play as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He plays him as the immature genius whose greatness drives Salieri to at least contemplate geniuscide. In his hands, however, it becomes questionable whether Salieri would poison Mozart because he can't stand the comparison with his talent or simply because he can't stand the little twerp. While it is true that Shaffer's script leaves less room for the actor portraying Mozart to moderate his moods than the actor playing Salieri, the contrast between Mozart's genius and his boorishness needs to become clear at some point in the proceedings.

Mari Davis is Mozart's wife who is willing to put up with his infantile sexual and

social behavior in her search for the social and financial security she assumes genius will accrue, and later, to yield to the demands of Salieri in order to advance her husband's prospects.

Bleck spreads the action out over the wide stage of the Jefferson. She has Katherine Biscuca, Marji Jepperson, Gail Seavey and Jessica Sperlongano as a late baroque version of a Greek Chorus commenting on the action in full court regalia while Cal Whitehurst prances satisfyingly as the royal Joseph II whose court supports the artistic life of Vienna. The court includes Dell Pendergrast, Michael Gerwin and Steven Feder who each create a believable count or baron with distinct personalities.

As with his other plays, "Equus" and "The Royal Hunt of the Sun," Shaffer takes liberties with historical fact in the search for artistic truth. If you want a lesson on

### Where and When

The Arlington Players' production of "Amadeus" continues through Feb. 13 at Arlington's Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 South Old Glebe Road. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 - \$15. Call 703-549-1063 or log onto [www.thearlingtonplayers.org](http://www.thearlingtonplayers.org).

Mozart's life and death, there are better sources than this play. If, on the other hand, you are interested in an exploration of such questions as "how a kind and benevolent God can distribute his blessings so unevenly" or "why great talent can reside in less than great individuals" this is an evening well spent.

♦♦♦

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He can be reached at [Brad@PotomacStages.com](mailto:Brad@PotomacStages.com).

### New Parade Route and Pre-Parade Fun Run for 2010

BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS  
THE GAZETTE

New and exciting things are in store for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade on Monday, Feb. 15. As of Jan. 26, Alexandria City Council has approved the Inaugural "Washington Win Sprint" One-Mile Dash, a pre-parade race to be held on the new parade route. Proposed by GW parade committee member Kathy Kelly, the fun run may get 200-300 runners. This USATF-certified course, "tag timed" by Pacers Events Inc., will begin at 12:30 p.m., a half hour before the parade. Expect this miler to be an exciting all-out sprint to the finish, ending at the Parade Reviewing Stand on Royal Street at its intersection with King Street. The top three male and female finishers will receive \$200 (1st place), \$150 (2nd place), and \$75 (3rd place), to be awarded at the Parade Reception afterwards. Online entries will be accepted up to midnight on Saturday, Feb. 13.

Joseph Shumard, Chair of the GW Birthday Celebration Parade, and parade committee members work tirelessly 10 months out of the year to bring Alexandria residents and



Daniel Storck as Abe Lincoln in last year's parade.

visitors a memory-making event.

"I love it! It's a lot of fun, and a good contributor to the city. I get to meet wonderful people and it's a pleasure to do," said Shumard. One of the issues ironed out by Shumard and the parade committee has been a new parade route. Moving the route to its end point on S. Royal Street, the committee members were able to reduce the parade footprint, and save at least \$14,000 in security fees, while preserving the size, scope, and viewing enjoyment of the celebration. Go to [www.washingtonbirthday.net](http://www.washingtonbirthday.net).

### George Washington Birthday Parade

**DATE:** Monday, Feb. 15, 2010

**TIME:** 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Old Town, Alexandria.

**ROUTE:** Start Point is on So. Fairfax St. at its intersection with Gibbon St., North on Fairfax St. to Queen St., East on Queen St. to N. St. Asaph St., South on N. St. Asaph St. to Cameron St., East on Cameron St. to N. Royal St., and South on Royal St. (past reviewing stand on King St.) to End Point at Wilkes St. 1.3 miles. Route maps are available on the Web site.

**REVIEWING STAND:** on Royal Street just West of its intersection with King Street.

**HANDICAPPED:** Handicapped viewing area and Handicapped parking on Cameron Street between Royal Street and Fairfax Street (in front of City Hall).


**COST:** Free for the public and for those marching in the parade.

**PARTICIPATING:** Those wishing information on joining the parade as a marching unit should contact the parade director, Joseph Shumard at 703-549-7662 and/or visit the Web site via <http://www.washingtonbirthdayparade.net>.

**PARKING:** On Parade Day, parking is free at some parking lots adjacent to the Eisenhower Avenue Metro.

**INFORMATION:** Available on line at the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee Web site via <http://www.washingtonbirthday.net> or 703-991-4474. Parade Director, Joseph Shumard, 703-549-7662.





**Shop for Haiti**  
**February 6**

**15% of the day's sales donated to relief efforts, 20% for items made in Haiti.**

Ten Thousand Villages  
915 King Street  
Old Town Alexandria  
703-684-1435

Children of the World metal wall hanging, Haiti. \$78

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*Valentine Dinner*

Friday, February 12  
Saturday, February 13  
5 PM - 10 PM

**Royal Restaurant**  
SINCE 1904

*Special Valentine Menu*

Prime Rib of Beef - Broiled Breast of Lemon Pepper Chicken  
Broiled Salmon Steak w/ Dill Sauce  
Shrimp Scampi - Surf & Turf (Shrimp & Steak)  
Served With Baked Potato - Or Rice Pilaf  
Fresh Vegetable, Fresh Garden Salad

*Romantic Dessert*  
Coffee, Tea and Soft Drink Included

**\$45.00 Per Couple**  
(Tax & Gratuity Not Included)

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Free Parking On Premise



## CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### ONGOING

**The Alexandria Commission for Women** seeks nominations for its 2010 Salute to Women Awards recognizing women leaders who have made outstanding contributions to women and girls living in Alexandria. The deadline to submit nominations is Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. To make nominations, visit [www.alexwomen.com](http://www.alexwomen.com).

**The Del Ray Farmers Market** is now open year round — located at the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue in Del Ray. During the winter months the market will be open 9 am to noon each Saturday. The Del Ray Market farmers that will be there are Smith Meadows meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces; Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods, eggs and jams and jellies; winter vegetables; fancy nuts; pralines; and bakery goods. Any questions, contact Pat Miller at [pmiller1806@comcast.net](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast.net).

**Ms. Senior Virginia America** is searching for candidates statewide for this year's May Pageant, which will be held Thursday, May 6 at the Lee Center Kauffman Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. Showtime is 2-4 p.m. Admission is free with a donation of \$10. A deadline for entries will be Feb. 8. Call 703-978-3663 and directions at 703-838-4343. The current Ms. Senior Virginia America, Maureen Ribble, will end her reign in May. The Pageant showcases women age 60-plus who live in Virginia and are U.S. citizens.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

**Tea Dances.** 1-3:15 p.m. Group class from 1-1:30 p.m. Ballroom, Latin and Swing music. \$11/person. At the Dance Studio Lioudmila, 18 Roth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 4

**18<sup>th</sup> Century Dance Classes.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Call 703-838-4242.

### FEB. 5 TO FEB. 21

**Artioms.** Artists are being challenged to express their favorite (or not so favorite) idioms, clichés, word phrases or play on words in their artwork. Reception Feb. 5 from 7-10 p.m. A prose reading by the Tuesdays at Two Writers Group is on Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) or 703-838-4827.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 5

**Wine and Chocolate Tasting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Artfully Paper and ACKC have teamed up with First Vine for the sake of love — love of wine and chocolate — that is! At ACKC Del Ray, 2003-A Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.



### SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Birthnight Banquet and Ball.** 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. (Ball starts at 9 p.m.) Celebrate George Washington's Birthday with a banquet and ball. The evening includes a four-course 18th-century banquet by Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, English country dancing, toasts, a special 18th-century style dessert collation, and character re-enactors — including General and Mrs. Washington. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person, or \$50 for the ball only. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Call 703-838-4242. At 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Call 703-635-7770 or visit [www.TheCocoaGallery.com](http://www.TheCocoaGallery.com).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**Historic Alexandria Museum Gala.** 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dining and dancing to Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. Tickets are \$150/person or \$300/sponsor. At the Holiday Inn Old town, 625 First Street in Alexandria. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) or call the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703-746-4554.

**National Brass Collective Inaugural Concert.** 4 p.m. Fund-raiser for Haiti Relief. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.wsumc.com](http://www.wsumc.com).

**Benefit for Haitian Relief.** Ten Thousand Villages Alexandria is donating 15 percent of the day's sales to the Mennonite Central Committee, earmarked for Haiti. At 915 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-684-1435 or visit [www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com)

**Evening with the Chefs.** Featuring prominent chefs from local restaurants showcasing their finest cuisine. Hosted by the Dunbar Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club. Proceeds will benefit the club's youth programs. At the Belle Haven Country Club, Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Dave Woodbury at 703-867-5570 or e-mail [chefsinner@cox.net](mailto:chefsinner@cox.net).

**Winter Boutique District Warehouse Sale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A one-day clearance spectacular featuring high-end boutique merchandise from Old Town Alexandria's boutiques. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

**John Carlyle's Birthday Celebration.** Noon to 4 p.m. \$5 admission. Costumed interpreters will be dancing and performing 18th-century music throughout the house. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Go to [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org) or call 703-549-2997 or e-mail [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org).

**Family Fun Flower Power: Blooming Branches for a Winter Bouquet.** 2-3 p.m. Get a jump on the seasons by forcing flowers. Learn to cut branches of flowering trees and shrubs and coax them to bloom indoors for an early spring! \$18/project includes

branches and containers. At Green Springs Gardens.  
**Alexandria Coin Show.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be 50 tables with U.S. coins and currency, world coins, banknotes, ancient coins, hobby books, gold, silver, medals, tokens and collectibles. Prizes and coins are given away. At the Hampton Inn & Suites on the corner of the I-495 beltway and Route 1, Alexandria. Visit the Alexandria Coin Club Web site at: [www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub](http://www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 7

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.** 3 p.m. Free. Pre-concert lecture at 2:15 p.m. Ulysses S. James, Music Director. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

**Super Bowl Party.** Mayor Euille's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Super Bowl Party. At Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800 Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$35/free agent; \$60/Top Draft Pick; \$100 Hogette's Rate (family of four). Call 703-751-7970 or contact [www.euilleformayor.com](http://www.euilleformayor.com).

**Jazz Leanings.** 2 p.m. United States Marine Band performs. With Michael Mower and Michael Colgrass. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria

Campus, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com)

**Managing Wildlife Conflict.** 1:30-3 p.m. Are you having troubles with deer and rabbits feasting on your garden? This is the lecture for you. Victoria Monroe, Wildlife Biologist for Fairfax County will discuss strategies for managing wildlife conflicts in your garden. \$10. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

### MONDAY/FEB. 8

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. and noon. A special program for toddlers and their caregivers. \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or purchase a 5-week pass for \$30. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Call 703-746-4242. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 9

**Ars Choralis.** Recruiting singers in all sections for a concert featuring Ars Choralis. The concert is entitled "Spirituals and All That Jazz." Rehearsals from Tuesday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, April 18. The concert will be performed twice: Saturday, April 17, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 18, 7 p.m. Rehearsals are 7:45-9:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312 or email [douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com](mailto:douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com).  
**Books to Film Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Readers and movie buffs are invited to talk about the film, "The Accidental Tourist" (1988), based on the novel by Anne Tyler. All should read the work and view the movie before attending. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call Mark at 703-519-3498.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

**Valentine Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. sponsored by the Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection. Cost of \$17 includes lunch and free childcare. Reservations must be made by Friday, Feb. 5, to 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562 or email to [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com). At the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

## THURSDAY/FEB. 11

**Heart Art.** 6-9 p.m. Free. Flowers and Candy, Printmaking Demonstration, Target Gallery Reception from 6-8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); 703-838-4565.

**18<sup>th</sup> Century Dance Classes.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Call 703-838-4242.

### Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers.

7 p.m. Gracious and gritty songs brimming with seamless harmonies. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit [dreamersloversandoutlaws.com](http://dreamersloversandoutlaws.com).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 12

**Music for Tuba and Euphonium.** 8 p.m. Free. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Prose and Poetry Reading.** 7 p.m. With Tuesdays at Two Writers Group. Free and open to all to enjoy this fun, spoken "art" event. Email: [twideas@comcast.net](mailto:twideas@comcast.net); or visit [www.theDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.theDelRayArtisans.org). At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Tracy Wilkerson at 703-501-1736 or [twideas@comcast.net](mailto:twideas@comcast.net).

**Singer/Songwriter Janna Audley.** 7-9 p.m. At Spill the Beans, 1900 Elkin Street, Suite 4, Alexandria, [spillthebeansva.com](http://spillthebeansva.com).

**Ballroom Dancing for Couples.** 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. 2nd Friday of

each month. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; Cost is \$15/person. Private club; reservations required [www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com](http://www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Water Wise Landscaping.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Well designed, installed and maintained landscapes offer years of environmental benefits and beauty. Green Spring horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol discusses these concepts and provides practical information for you to implement in your garden. Instruction takes place inside and outdoors. Dress accordingly. \$16. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

**Birthright Banquet and Ball.** 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. (Ball starts at 9 p.m.) Celebrate George Washington's Birthday with a banquet and ball. The evening includes a four-course 18th-century banquet by Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, English country dancing, toasts, a special 18th-century style dessert collation, and character reenactors — including General and Mrs. Washington. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person, or \$50 for the ball only. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Call 703-838-4242. At 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria.

**George Washington Birthday Classic 10-K Race and 2-K Fun Run.** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. rain or shine. Certified racecourse through Eisenhower Valley and Alexandria's parklands. Prizes, T-shirts and refreshments will be provided for runners, with the proceeds benefiting the Alexandria Police Youth Camp. Cost is \$25; after Feb. 10: \$30. Call 703-991-4474 or visit [www.washingtonbirthday.org](http://www.washingtonbirthday.org).

**Valentine Workshop.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Use traditional Victorian materials to make a modern and lovely Valentine. Suitable for children over age 4. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Cost is \$1 per Valentine. Visit the Web site at [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

**Tamburitzans Perform.** 7 p.m. Duquesne University Tamburitzans perform. Tickets are \$22, \$25 and \$30. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 1-877-826-6437.

**Stroll Through Park.** 1-3 p.m. Stroll with a naturalist through forest and meadow then warm up with a hot beverage and pastry. Cost is \$10 and refreshments are included. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard in Alexandria. Meet at the Harrison Lane entrance. Call 703-768-2525.

## FEB. 13-14

**All-Beethoven Concert.** Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Kim Allen Kluge and pianist Yuliya Gorenman. Symphony No. 6, Piano Concerto No. 4. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$20-\$80, youth is \$5. Call 703-548-0885 or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 14

**Valentine's Day Concert.** 7 p.m. With blues singer/guitarist and historian Scott Ainslie and David LaFleur. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org). Part of the Focus Music Series. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., in Alexandria. Contact: Kay Coyte at [kay@focusmusic.org](mailto:kay@focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.

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107293

# FBI Investigating Police Shooting

FROM PAGE 1

Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway. One of the three police officers in the police cruiser who pursued him, thinking that Masters was going for a gun, shot twice and killed Masters through the rear driver's side window of his car. Later reports indicated that Masters was not armed and in fact did not own a gun. At the time he was shot, he was sitting in the car behind the steering wheel.

Since then the Fairfax County Police Department conducted an internal criminal investigation of the shooting incident and forwarded the results several weeks ago to Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh. No public disclosure was provided of the police department findings. Last week Morrogh announced that based on his review of the evidence presented to him by the police department and his own review, there was insufficient basis to criminally prosecute the officer who shot Masters. Within three days following Morrogh's announcement, it was revealed that the FBI was investigating the

Masters shooting incident.

Mt. Vernon Supervisor, and chair of the Board of Supervisor's Public Safety Committee, Gerald Hyland said, "I welcome the FBI's civil rights investigation. If there is a violation of the civil rights laws concerning this shooting incident I want to know about it, and I am certain the entire board will want to know also. Today I have asked Police Chief [David] Rohrer to brief the entire board in executive session as soon as he has completed his internal administrative investigation."

Schweit, the public information officer for the FBI's Washington Field Office, said, "It is not unusual for the FBI to examine shootings from a civil rights perspective since the FBI is charged with that responsibility ... It does not infer wrongdoing, but gives a second look at the incident."

Schweit provided statistical data on past investigations under Title 18, U.S.C. Section 242. In 2008 there were 403 criminal investigations initiated nationally by the FBI under this section of U.S.C Title 18.

An excerpt from Title 18 U.S.C.

section 242 reads as follows:

"This statute makes it a crime for any person acting under the color of law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom to willfully deprive or cause to be deprived from any person those rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S." Additional explanation of section 242 is available by accessing the following Web site: <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/civilrights/statutes.htm>

Within the Mt. Vernon community, one resident was concerned about the shooting incident, the circumstances, with no public disclosure detailing the results of the investigation. In a letter dated Dec. 6, 2009 to Hyland, Nicholas R. Beltrante proposed establishing a Citizens Review Board. The Public Safety Committee of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) considered his proposal and, after some discussion, decided not to support the proposal. The committee felt there was already sufficient review of police actions in the county and a Citizens Review Board was not necessary.



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# Huntley

FROM PAGE 1

hill overlooking Hybla Valley will finally be restored. School children, college students, families, scholars, and the curious of all ages will soon walk the terraced grounds, peer into the impressively designed brick underground ice well, explore federal period design, and experience a rich slice of life from 185 years ago. It is fantastic."

Norma Hoffman, co-founder, Friends of Historic Huntley, said, "It is said: buildings speak! We hope that when Historic Huntley is restored to its original grandeur it will tell visitors about the fascinating history of the powerful George Mason family and the times in which they lived."

Those interested in additional information about Historic Huntley Mansion can visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/>

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**Tax Assistance Day.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by Deloitte Tax LLP, Fairfax County Department of Family Services and Volunteer Fairfax. For households with a income of \$49,000 or less. At Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).



## LETTERS

### Where Did The Money Go?

To the Editor:

I am writing as a follow up to Jay McConville's Jan 21 letter to the editor and Ron Brandt's Jan 28 letter. Unfortunately, Mr. Brandt failed to respond to Mr. McConville's statement that the Fairfax County budget has experienced "10 years of growth above the rate of inflation." Herein lies the problem.

I believe it is imperative that citizens and parents truly understand these facts:

A review of 10 budget cycles, from FY 1999 to FY 2008 shows that Fairfax County revenues (and expenditures) increased from \$1.86 billion to \$3.296 billion. During this 10-year period, our county budget increased over 77 percent. During the same 10-year period, the population of our county increased just under 8 percent. Clearly, the growth in the county budget increased far more than population.

When viewed another way, and factoring in inflation during this period, spending per capita increased from \$2055 per citizen in 1999 to \$3152 in 2008. Had our representatives been fiscally disciplined and held spending to a combination of population growth and inflation, spending per capita in 2008 would have been \$2,558 per capita. The real growth of spending over and above inflation during this 10-year period is nearly \$600 per citizen.

Where did the money go? What programs exist in 2008 that did not exist in 1999? What county agencies and services received funding increases over and above inflation and population growth during this time frame? Why were these decisions made? Many citizens and representatives now seek to increase taxes to fund services when they should be reviewing the baseline funding of previous budgets and questioning the necessity of the increased expenditures.

Mr. McConville's main point was that none of this happened overnight, and now we are faced with the need for draconian cuts in order to balance the budget. Clearly, as Mr. McConville stated, "poor planning and lack of fiscal responsibility" share in the current budget mess that we face. The wind-fall of revenues that have streamed into the county coffers over the last ten years permitted our representatives to engage in profligate spending rather than exercising fiscal discipline.

As citizens, we need to demand better. We need to demand accountability. We need to demand transparency. These all seem to be the buzz words of the moment in our charged political environment, but really, where did the money go?

**Steve Parker**  
Alexandria

### Bylaws Violated

To the Editor:

At the Mount Vernon Council (MVCCA) meeting on Jan. 27, the MVCCA demonstrated that it is unconcerned about abiding by its Bylaws when conducting its business that it claims it carries out in the name

of the Mount Vernon community as a whole. Its Bylaws require notice of ratification of Committee Chairs to be placed in its publication, the MVCCA Record, prior to the meeting at which the Council will be voting on ratification. No such publication notice was made, yet the ratification vote was taken anyway, approving the nominated chairmen. I estimate that at least 60 percent of the member communities were not represented at the Council meeting and, as such, were unaware of the impending vote, given the lack of prior publication.

Among the newly ratified chairmen are two who, in my opinion and that of others I respect, are ineligible to serve as MVCCA Committee Chairmen as a result of their current membership on "policy-making" committees of Fairfax County. David Dale, the ratified P&Z Chairman, is a member of the APR Task Force and Elizabeth Martin, the ratified E&R Chairman is a member of the Fairfax County Wetlands Board (Co-chair Al Bornmann is also on the APR Task Force).

Supervisor Hyland opined at the Jan. 27 MVCCA Council meeting that he doesn't consider the APR Task Force to be a "policy-making" body and as such he sees no problem with MVCCA Board members serving on the APR Task Force. With all due respect, Supervisor Hyland has no standing to decide this issue. Supervisor Hyland claims to have a "fire wall" between his office and the MVCCA — he should leave interpretation of the MVCCA Bylaws to the MVCCA. While I am not in a position to decide this issue for the MVCCA, my opinion is shared universally with those pillars of our community I consulted including at least one involved in inclusion of that Bylaw provision in the MVCCA Bylaws.

The MVCCA Bylaw provision states as its purpose to "maintain the nonpartisan status and reputation of the Mount Vernon Council." How is that possible when a citizen expects an MVCCA official to represent that citizen's interests before the County, only to be confronted by the same MVCCA official sitting on a County Board as an appointee participating on a decision concerning that citizen's project. Imagine your property has been made the subject of an MVCCA nomination to the Comprehensive Plan and a particular MVCCA official was involved in the MVCCA process for making that nomination. You go to the APR Task Force to testify against the MVCCA nomination in an effort to protect your property rights only to find that very same MVCCA official sitting on the Task Force judging the nomination on your property he had a role in creating. This could very well occur. David Dale, as an MVCCA Co-Chair and acting Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Chairman, was involved in creation of the MVCCA Nominations to the Comprehensive Plan that are currently being considered by the APR Task Force. Now he is both P&Z Chair and a member of the APR Task Force.

Parsing the definition of "policy-making" to serve a political purpose while ignoring the clearly stated purpose of that provision, maintenance of the non-partisan status and reputation of the MVCCA, does a disservice to the MVCCA and our community. Members of the MVCCA Board should not concurrently serve on the APR Task Force or

County Wetlands Board — any other result damages the MVCCA's reputation. People who can distinguish right from wrong don't need to read bylaws or parse their meaning to know what is the right thing to do. And our supervisor should be more careful in his appointments to avoid placing citizen volunteers in the position of having to worry about whether civic involvement raises conflict issues.

If the MVCCA does not wish to abide by certain of its Bylaw provisions, it should delete them. If it believes certain Bylaw provisions are unclear or ambiguous, it should straighten them out. It should strictly abide by those Bylaw provisions that currently exist.

Supervisor Hyland has a record of making appointments from the same list of

about two dozen out of the 125,000 Mount Vernon residents. Surely he realizes that this practice precludes others who are interested in serving, many of whom are more qualified than the usual people chosen from his short list, from serving in these positions. It is also a cause of the conflict concerns expressed above — too few people wearing too many hats. This operates to the detriment of our community. I've been appointed by Supervisor Hyland to a few Task Forces but never under circumstances in which there was a concern about a conflict. Come on, Gerry, expand your list of appointees and give a few fresh faces an opportunity to serve.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Doing More with Less

FROM PAGE 11

for cuts and savings in administrative and overhead areas first, then, if no other options are available, to minimizing the long-term impact on children and families needing it the most. That focus will continue. If

you would like to learn more about how these budget cuts will affect you and your family, please join us Saturday morning, Feb. 6, at 9 a.m. at Marshall High School for an FCPS Budget Forum. Details are available at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).



The host of the "It's Academic" TV show, Mac McGarry, is shown with MVHS students, Josephine Lintot, Cameron Pelkey and Scott Klein.

### MVHS Competes on 'It's Academic'

Three Mount Vernon High School students represented their school by competing on the NBC-TV (Channel 4) "It's Academic" quiz show on Saturday, Jan. 23. The team included senior Cameron Pelkey (captain) and juniors Josephine Lintot and Scott Klein. Mount Vernon's varsity cheerleading squad turned out to support the team, and even got to lead a cheer during the broadcast. A crowd of 40 family members, friends, and fellow students also attended the event and cheered on the Majors.

Mount Vernon faced competition from

Thomas Wootton High School (Rockville, Md.) and the Landon School (Bethesda, Md.). The team correctly answering the most questions during the half-hour contest proceeds to a next round match against two other winning teams. The team from Mount Vernon did an outstanding job responding to the questions asked of them, but, in a close and exciting match, ultimately fell short to a Wootton team that was quick on the buzzer.

This particular "It's Academic" program will be broadcast on Saturday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m. on Channel 4.



# Jones Carries Majors with 34-Point Effort

**Majors coach Smith wants other players to step up.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**M**ount Vernon boys basketball coach Alfonso Smith stood outside the Majors' locker room Friday night and said he was less than enthused about his team's effort against Wakefield.

"I'd give our performance a C," he said. "I'd definitely give Wakefield an A. They played well, they played hard."

While Smith issued Wakefield a superior mark, Mount Vernon did enough to stay in the game. The coach wanted a team effort with multiple Majors embracing their roles. Instead, he had to "settle" for a Skylar Jones scoring solo and a 76-70 victory at Mount Vernon High School.

Jones, who signed with Division I Niagara prior to the season, finished with 34 points on 14-of-23 shooting. Jones said his career high is 36. He scored 13 of his team's final 14 points of the first half. He drove to the basket. He knocked down free throws. He buried 3-pointers.

Jones accounted for the Majors' final 10 points of the third quarter, twice beating the Warriors with a baseline move. He kept Mount Vernon close while a feisty Wakefield team built a lead as big as seven in the second half.

Smith complimented the performance of his 6-foot-4 star, but the coach wanted more players to get involved. Jesse Konadu finished with 18 points for the Majors and Robert Smith, who played through an injury, finished with 11 points. Dylan Bischoff grabbed 10 rebounds.

"I was disappointed with our effort tonight," Smith said. "I thought we leaned a little bit too much on Skylar. With some of the goals that we have as a team, it's going to make it very difficult for us to reach those goals if we're one and two dimensional. We



**Mount Vernon forward Skylar Jones attacks the basket during Friday's 76-70 win over Wakefield at Mount Vernon High School. The senior finished with 34 points.**

have to have different guys buy into their roles a little bit more and then get out there and execute and perform those roles. One through 13, it wasn't at the level where we need for it to be, but we have confidence that it will get there."

The win improved Mount Vernon to 14-3, 9-1 in the National District. The Majors are one game behind district newcomer Hayfield for first place.

"We need to do the things that we do well better," Smith said. "Do we totally stink it up from quarter one through four? No, we don't. We do some positive things, but we're looking for consistency. Consistency on the boards, consistency with moving our feet on defense, consistency with communication — all of which are not the kind of things that our guys are going to see on any SportsCenter highlights. Those are the things that we have to become much better at."

While Smith awaits team consistency, Jones routinely bailed the Majors out of trouble. After a five point first quarter, No. 22 dropped 15 in the second period. Wakefield built a 35-28 lead before Jones closed the first half by outscoring the Warriors 9-2 during the final 1 minute, 28 seconds, tying the game at 37. Jones buried a pair of corner 3-pointers during the final 38 seconds.

The senior scored 10 points in the third quarter. After a Konadu bucket cut Wakefield's lead to 46-41 midway through the quarter, Jones outscored the Warriors 10-7 during the final 4:03. Each of Jones' five consecutive buckets to close the period came in the paint, highlighted by a two-handed dunk after Jones went baseline.

Jones scored four points in the fourth quarter, his final field goal putting Mount Vernon ahead 59-57 with 5:22 to play.

"I was trying to get to 40 but [Robert Smith] wasn't trying to pass me the ball in the fourth — but that's all right," Jones said jokingly with Smith 10 feet away. "... I just felt like they were playing off me and I just went to work and did what I do best."

Mount Vernon took the lead for good

SEE TEAM EFFORT, PAGE 21

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### WP Boys Beat Lake Braddock

The West Potomac boys basketball team defeated Lake Braddock 48-43 on Thursday, improving its record to 10-7, 7-4 in the Patriot District. Daryl Copeland scored 15 points for West Potomac and Terrell Ward added 11.

The Wolverines travel to take on West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

### MV Girls Beat Wakefield

The Mount Vernon girls basketball team defeated Wakefield 56-34 on Friday at Wakefield High School. The Majors improved their record to 11-5, 8-2 in the National District.

Tracy King scored 11 points for Mount Vernon and Jasmine McDonald added 10. The Majors host Stuart at 7:45 p.m. today.

### Mount Vernon Wrestling Beats West Potomac

The Mount Vernon wrestling team defeated West Potomac 44-36 on Friday.

### Fort Hunt Softball Registration

Registration for Spring Softball is available. Prior to registering a child for a Fort Hunt Spring sport, review the

Spring 2010 Season information for the sport. See the "Softball" link at the top of the fhyaa.org Web site for information on the softball program. Register online at fhyaa.org. For questions about the spring softball season, contact Commissioner Ilene Dranoff (fthuntsoftball@yahoo.com).

### Fort Hunt Baseball Registration

Registration for Spring Baseball is available. Prior to registering a child for a Fort Hunt Spring sport, review the Spring 2010 Season information for the sport. See the "Baseball" link at the top of the fhyaa.org Web site

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 21



# 5Qs

## Five questions with Mount Vernon guard Jesse Konadu

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

A: My favorite food is lasagna.

**Q: What is the farthest location you've traveled?**

A: Las Vegas. I went there for an AAU tournament.

**Q: Your teammate, Skylar Jones, gets a lot of attention. What is it like playing on a team with a Division I signee?**

A: It's good. It's good to work with him. He shows you stuff that you don't know.

**Q: Who is your favorite**



**basketball player?**

A: My favorite college player is [Kentucky guard] John Wall and my favorite NBA player is [Miami guard] Dwyane Wade.

**Q: What are you doing when you're not playing basketball?**

A: Hanging out with friends.

# Team Effort Lacking

FROM PAGE 20

when Smith scored in transition to give the Majors a 65-64 lead with 3:18 remaining. Kondau scored six of the Majors' final 11 points.

"We have a lot of things we need to work on," Konadu said. "We don't feel like a lot of effort is coming from the kids who aren't playing [often. They] need to step up because they don't know when they're going to be called on."

Mount Vernon's Sean Stewart scored six points against Wakefield and Bischoff added five. Smith dished nine assists and recorded four steals.

The Majors travel to face Stuart

at 7:45 p.m. Friday and hosts first-place Hayfield at 7:45 p.m. Monday.

"It's great having a Skylar Jones on the team that you can lean on when you need to," coach Smith said. "That's part of the investment that you made in him over the course of a high school career — he's been playing varsity since his freshman year. You expect him to do that as needed — but I emphasize the as needed. We shouldn't need that on a regular basis. We've got some other guys that can get it done and really make us ... almost impossible to defend. But if we don't have everybody on one page that makes it a lot more difficult than it should be."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 20

for information on our baseball program. Register online at [fhyaa.org](http://fhyaa.org).

For questions, contact the appropriate baseball representative: President Paul Murphy (FortHunt Baseball@msn.com) or Registrar Jeff Lerner (fhll.registrar@verizon.net).

Washington D.C. Metro area. Support local community's sports leagues by signing up. Call Ken Williams (703-400-3232) for more information or go to umpires.org to fill out a "New Ump" form.

## Umpires Needed For Slowpitch

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), the largest softball organization in the area, is seeking umpires for our adult slowpitch softball leagues in Fairfax County. Umpires net pay starts at \$25 per one-hour game and are paid monthly. Experience is desired but ASA training is provided beginning early February. Flexible scheduling is based on availability. Contact FAS at 703-815-9007 or email to: [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## Umpires Needed

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association (NVBUA) is in need of officials for baseball and volleyball. Umpires are needed for colleges, men's leagues, high schools and youth recreational leagues. Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Classes will begin in mid-February. Umpires are needed for all communities in the greater

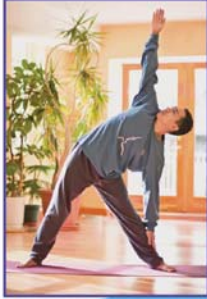
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# Price of Justice

## Gerry Hyland calls for policy review.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

Every night, the magistrate's office in Fairfax County jail is buzzing with action. Wife-beaters mingle with pickpockets and drunk drivers — all waiting for some kind of disposition to the charges against them. Will they sleep in jail or go home for the night? The answer depends on how much cash they can provide — a phenomenon that Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland has asked county staff to investigate.

"Across the county, we have hundreds of people who are spending a lot of time in jail who don't pose any risk to the community but they are kept in jail because they can't afford bond," said Hyland. "This is not equal justice."

For those who are arrested in Fairfax County, the cost of freedom is initially set by a magistrate. Detainees can choose to post the bail set by the magistrate or pay a premium to a bail bondsman for their release. Sometimes the judge set a lower bond. Most of the time, Fairfax County General District Court judges set the same bond as the magistrate. Other times, judges will ask for more money.

"I got a call in the middle of the night from one man who had been arrested, and I advised him to sleep it off in jail and hope the judge set a lower bond," said Harry Covert, a former bail-bondsman in Fairfax County. "Well it turned out to be bad advice because the judge doubled the bond."

**THE VAST MAJORITY** of those who are unable to post bond for release from Fairfax County's criminal justice system are homeless or suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. While keeping these people incarcerated because they cannot afford to pay a bail-bondsman may seem like unequal justice, some say keeping them incarcerated is best for everybody.

"It's a vicious circle in many ways," said Dale Race, a longtime defense attorney in Fairfax County. "If these people are released, they might get frostbite or be hit by a car."

For this reason, Race said, bail tends to be set at higher rates in the winter. Those involved in the court system say that people with good jobs can find a bail-bondsman to release them from jail with little more than a promissory note. Yet it's the population that can't afford the bond that Hyland's request is aimed at. These are people with no job, no support network and no chance of paying the price of freedom.

"In the vast majority of cases, somebody is going to get you out of jail," said Dave Gambale, owner of Freedom Bail Bonds. "Those who are indigent should be let out under pretrial release in my opinion."

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