

# Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 25, 2010



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

**New Citizens** Zara Admad joins in the singing of the National Anthem during the new citizens ceremony at the Mount Vernon Estate on Thursday, March 18.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5

## Shedding Light

Lack of transparency prompts support for police review board.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

It's been four months since a Fairfax County police officer shot and killed an unarmed man on Richmond Highway, yet little is known about the details of what happened that November day. Even the name of the officer has been kept a secret from the public, with the Fairfax County Police Department refusing to release the name in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. For some, this is the latest example of a pattern of behavior that illustrates a disturbing lack of public oversight.

Now a new effort is gaining traction in Mount Vernon to create a police review board in Fairfax County. The idea has been endorsed by the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union.

**"The lack of citizens calling for this doesn't mean that there are not problems. It means they don't know about the problems."**

— Kent Willis, executive director of ACLU of Virginia

Supporters say a new citizens review board would provide a needed check on the Fairfax County Police Departments, which regularly denies requests for public documents. Like many other police review boards across the county, a new potential citizen oversight body in Fairfax County could have subpoena power to compel documents and testimony now denied to the public.

"Citizens should have the opportunity to investigate these matters," said Nicholas Beltrante, a former detective with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department. "But the way things work now, the process is biased in favor of the police and citizens don't have any input."

Beltrante and other supporters of the effort to create a police re-

SEE NEW EFFORT, PAGE 5

## Police Identify Homicide Victim

Mount Vernon Police have identified the victim in the March 20 homicide as Christian Perez, 16, of Silverdale Road in the Lorton area. The cause of death has been determined to be blunt force trauma to the head. Police have reason to believe this case to be gang related.

The body was found at Manor

Drive and Osman Drive in the Alexandria section of the Mount Vernon police district.

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

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## Bank Robbery Suspect Charged

Police have charged Nabil Belallam, 35, of Mason Grove Court, with armed robbery in connection with last week's bank robbery.

On Friday, March 19 around 9:15 a.m., a 31-year-old bank teller was robbed at the Chevy Chase bank located at 6790 Richmond Highway. A man entered the bank, implied he had a weapon and demanded money. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured. An off-duty Fairfax County police captain witnessed the suspect enter the bank and called authorities. The suspect exited the bank and after a short foot pursuit, responding patrol officers were able to apprehend him.

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

## Attic Fan Blamed for House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Tuesday, March 16, at approximately 2:15 p.m. in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 2303 Creek Drive.

Firefighters encountered fire coming from the roof of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 15 minutes. The fire originated in the attic and was primarily contained to that area. No one was home at the time of the fire. Two adults and two children have been displaced. Red Cross support was not needed. There were no injuries. Damage is estimated at \$75,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An electrical event with an attic fan caused the fire.

## Driver Struggles with Robber

A taxi driver was robbed in the 2500 block of Schooley Drive on Friday, March 12. The victim, a 40-year-old man, was standing near his cab around 10 p.m. when a man approached on foot, brandished a handgun at him and demanded money. The victim resisted and a struggle took place. During the struggle, a round was discharged from the weapon but no one was injured. The suspect fled toward Memorial Drive; nothing was taken from the victim.

The suspect was described as black, between 20 and 30 years old. He was about 6 feet tall and between 180 to 200 pounds.

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

## Retired Diplomat To Speak

On Wednesday, April 7, the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, a community service organization, will host Laurie Tracy, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer, to speak on Iran and its influence in the Middle East and on U.S. policies. Tracy served at the U.S. embassy in Tehran and has worked on Iraqi affairs in Washington.

Cocktails (open bar) begin at 6 p.m. with dinner (at \$27 each) following at 6:30 at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Tracy will speak at 7:15. For reservations, with or without dinner, call Bruce Malkin at 703-360-7725 or e-mail [brucemalkin1@gmail.com](mailto:brucemalkin1@gmail.com).

## Accredited as Breast Care Center

The Inova Breast Care Institute at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital recently earned a three-year accreditation in breast care from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), part of the American College of Surgeons, which sets the standard for how breast cancer patients receive care.

The Institute was evaluated during an on-site review of its imaging, radiation oncology and medical oncology treatments, surgery, survivorship programs, leadership, research, genetic counseling and breast care navigator program, among other programs.

For more information about Inova Breast Care Institute visit [inova.org/ibci](http://inova.org/ibci).



Three generations of the Fauber family representing Calvary Presbyterian Church.



Walkers reach the halfway mark.

PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER / THE GAZETTE

## CROP: Walking for Others



Terry Riviere (left) and Eva Tsompanas from Good Shepherd Catholic Church and Nancy Rubel with daughter Mikayla, 8, from Heritage Presbyterian.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, and on Sunday, March 21, neighbors from different faiths, cultures and ages walked together for the 31st Mt. Vernon CROP walk hosted by Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church.

"We walk as a symbol," said Rosemary Kley who organized this year's event. "We walk because 90 percent of people in our world have to walk for basic needs like food and water."

This year there were 135 walkers who raised more than \$4,800. An additional \$1,500 was raised online and donations can still be made online at [www.cropwalkonline.org/alexandriava](http://www.cropwalkonline.org/alexandriava).

## Business Summit on BRAC's Effects

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) will host a Business Summit on Tuesday, March 30, 8:45 – 11:30 a.m., at the Best Western Mt. Vernon Hotel, 8751 Richmond Highway.

The subject will be "Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) & Beyond."

According to Debi Sandlin, SFDC's executive director, "The impact from the expansion at Fort Belvoir Army Base will be the addition of 3,500 new jobs on the main Post. This will have the ripple effect of creating a positive economic business climate in the Route 1 corridor, and as the choice location for businesses interested in locating close to the Army Post. As the primary economic development agency in the Route 1 corridor, SFDC is committed to keeping interested businesses informed on what the expansion means to them and what they can do to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

SFDC has lined up key leaders who will brief attendees about what is happening with the Fort Belvoir expansion, transportation improvements, and small business opportunities. They are:

- ❖ Austin Durrer: Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Jim Moran who sponsored \$150 million in funding for BRAC transportation improvements.

- ❖ Colonel Mark Moffat, Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC, Fort Belvoir

- ❖ Bridget Bean, Director, Washington Metropolitan Office, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), who will brief attendees about SBA certification programs geared to helping small businesses secure government contracts.

For more information, contact Sandlin at 703-360-5008 or visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

— GERALD A. FILL

## COMMUNITY

# Waynewood Easter Egg Hunt Draws Crowd

**C**hildren of all ages came out for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Waynewood Recreation Association last weekend.

While the egg hunts were the main attraction, there were plenty of other activities to keep children busy while waiting for the signal to start hunting for eggs.

Several moms were on hand to paint children's faces, while other volunteers helped with Easter crafts. There were lots of cupcakes to decorate with tons of frosting and other gooey selections.

— GALE CURCIO



**Ada Morrison looks very stylish.**



**Brian Downey is all set to go with his Easter outfit and basket.**



**Samantha and Walker McElwain enjoy their first Waynewood Easter Egg Hunt.**



**Daniel Terpinas gets his face painted.**



**Harry and Benjamin Morgan are still a little young to hunt for eggs but are enjoying the warm weather.**

## Spring Fling and Egg Hunt at Stratford Landing

**T**he Stratford Landing Citizens' Association hosted a Spring Fling and Egg Hunt for neighborhood children last weekend. A short parade up Camden Street kicked off the festivities followed by a hunt for eggs packed with candy treats. Once the bags, baskets and other containers were full, there were games, crafts and refreshments for all.

PHOTOS BY  
SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER /  
THE GAZETTE



**Having fun at the Spring Fling are (from left): Margaux Cronin, 4, Ella Cronin, 7, and Sidney Askin, 6.**



**Jack Dasher, 2, adds another egg to his basket.**



**From left: Charlotte Meyers, 1, gets to hang out with the big girls — Erin Deighton, 9, and Gabby Deighton, 5.**



**Logan Condon, 4, shows off her eggs.**



**Daniel Westphal, (left) and Grant Meyers, both 4-1/2, crack open their eggs.**



**Charlotte Meyers, 1, enjoys her treasures.**



Anisha Iqbal and Fatema Begum pose for photos with Denise Braxtonbrown-Smith as Sarah and Mary Wiseman as Martha Washington at the conclusion of the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ THE GAZETTE

## New Citizens Pledge Their Oath



Mateo Hamilton counts the stars on the flag as he waits for the program to begin.

More than 30 children who reside in Virginia received their citizenship papers in a special ceremony at the Mount Vernon Estate on Thursday, March 18. The children representing over 20 countries pledged an oath: "I promise to love this country, I promise to defend her against her enemies, I am proud to be an American, So help me God."

The Certificates of Citizenship were distributed by Sarah Taylor, district director for the Washington District of USCIS; Ted Kim, field officer of the Washington Field Office of USCIS, James C. Rees, president of the Mount Vernon Estate and Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland.



Jack Wei recites the children's oath of allegiance.

## New Effort for Police Review Board

FROM PAGE 1

view board in Fairfax County point to a growing trend in America. According to a 2001 study by the United States Department of Justice, citizen review board can help reassure the public that investigations of citizen complaints are thorough and fair. However, the study also points out that hiring professional investigators can be expensive. Critics say the idea could be a costly endeavor with a questionable mission.

"We've already got a lot of commissions, and most of them just end up making paper," said Dallas Shawkey, chairman of the Public Safety Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. "If someone feels they've been wronged, they can file a civil complaint."

**SUPPORTERS** of the effort to create a new citizen review board in Fairfax County say filing a lawsuit against the police is easier said than done. Court battles can be long and expensive, and many people who would otherwise want to file a complaint could be discouraged by the time and money involved in a formal legal proceeding. Furthermore, supporters say, the court system is inherently adversarial while police review boards tend to encourage mediation. According to the National Association for Civilian Over-

sight of Law Enforcement, the vast majority of jurisdictions that have a population of 500,000 or more already have a police review board.

"Fairfax County is really an outlier," said Phillip Eure, president of the association. "It's out of step with national trends."

Others who support the creation of a review board in Fairfax County say the recent shooting of an unarmed man on Richmond Highway has highlighted lingering concerns about the police. Yet because the county has a practice that shields public documents from public review, the activities of the police are shrouded in secrecy. And some minority groups say minorities are particularly at risk of being mistreated.

"It's like the police are out of control," said Olivia Jones-Smith, president of NAACP branch 7066. "There's always more than one side to a story, but the way things work now you have to take the word of the police."

Individuals and groups that support the creation of a new citizen review board for the Fairfax Police Department could face a tough sell. After the Public Safety Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association gave the effort a thumbs down, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland said he didn't think there was sufficient public support for the idea

SEE OVERSIGHT, PAGE 7



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PEOPLE

# Approaching 100

## Lena Sherwood grew up on Groveton Dairy Farms.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**L**ena B. Sherwood, or "Toots" as her friends and family called her, was nicknamed by her father who, when she was born, told people to toot their horn because his newborn daughter had five fingers on each hand, and five toes on each foot, and was born normal.

After her marriage, she left the Groveton area to live with her husband in Alexandria city on the corner of Henry and King street, then moved to Leslie Avene where she gave birth to her only child, a daughter, Mary Lena.

More than 30 years later she moved to Springfield, Va. She ran a roofing company with her husband for 30 years. She performed the office work and he did the actual installations and repairs. Sherwood admits to enjoying a drink in the evening (Old Fash-

ioned, Crème DeMenthe), and having a smoke from time to time. But she hastened to say she never inhaled: "I would make sure I would blow out the smoke before it would go too far."

Her granddaughter mentioned that her grandmother was a regular volunteer for years at the Second Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. During the war years, she volunteered for the Red Cross. Her hobbies were cooking and gardening. Her flowers would win prizes frequently. She would talk to her flowers, according to her granddaughter.

**Q. Where did you attend school while growing up?**

A. St. Mary's Academy

**Q. When I first came to see you I noticed you mention your father a lot. Was he an influential person in your life? Why?**

A. He never cussed, always



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

**Lena "Toots" Sherwood with her granddaughter Cyndy Hooper.**

made the family attend church. He worked hard all his life and (by his example) showed all of us how important the family was to our happiness. My mom was also a good person. I had a wonderful home and family growing up. Those memories are still very important to me.

**Q. You lived through WW I, WW II, Korean and Vietnam War to the present. Is there anything in particular that stands out in your mind looking back through history?**

A. I attended one of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Inaugurations.

I remember him driving by in the parade. I also remember when women finally got the right to vote. It was about time. After all if it weren't for us women you wouldn't be here today! I also remember in the second world war going on citizen safety patrols at night to make sure everyone shut off their lights during the black-out time.

**Q. Are there any thoughts you would like to pass on to those who are reading about you as you approach your 100th birthday?**

A. Just that if you can, stay home and make a home for you and your

## Profile

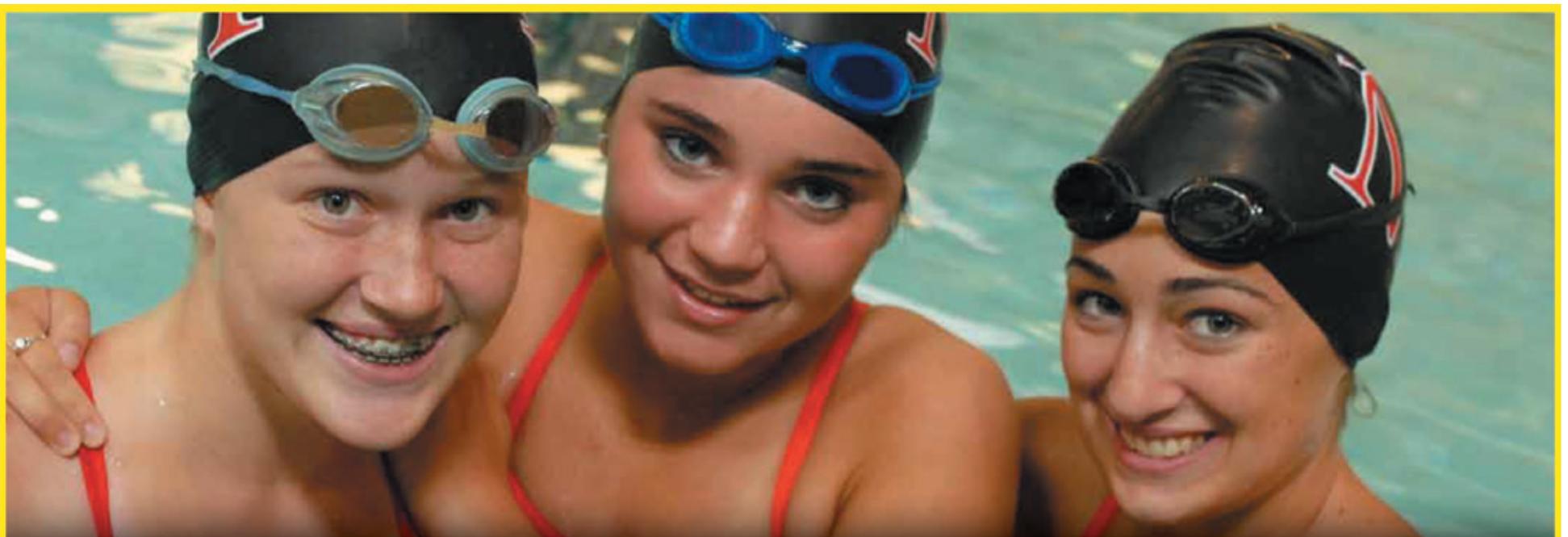
**LENA B. "TOOTS" SHERWOOD**

**Age:** 100  
**Born:** April 11, 1910, in a home on Popkins Lane (located in the Groveton area)  
**Family:** Parents: Mary Lena and Samuel Ayers. Parents owned and operated a dairy farm "Groveton Dairy Farms" near where the present St Louis Church is located, and sold milk to the Alexandria Dairy.  
**Siblings:** Melvin, Burt, Mary Virginia, and Mary Ellen.  
**Marital History:** Married at the age of 19 to Sherman "Shaggy" Sherwood, Aug. 14, 1929, in Rockville, Md. They eloped. By her own account she sent a telegram to her parents telling them what she did. In the telegram she apologized and said she would never do it again. She kept that promise; Shaggy and her were married for 55 years before he died. She never married again.  
**Children:** One daughter who died at the age of 36 of cancer. Her daughter had two daughters who survive today and care for their grandmother.  
**Descendants:** Two granddaughters; Cyndy Hooper and Jan McArtor; two great granddaughters, Stefanie Gramm and Sandy Lyerly; one great-great grandson, Tyler Gramm.

child. And believe in God and carry him wherever you go.

On April 11, "Toots" family will be celebrating her 100th birthday at the Annandale Methodist Church, from 2-5 p.m.

She now resides at the Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home in Annandale and is still in good health and spirits.



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# Oversight

FROM PAGE 5

among his constituents. Hyland said he would want to see some evidence that instituting a new panel would be an improvement on the existing model.

"I haven't gotten the impression that people feel uncomfortable with the current process," said Hyland. "Over the years, I haven't heard from people who say a citizens review board is necessary."

Those who are now pushing for a new oversight body say that the reasons for the creation of a review board may be obscured by the lack of transparency at the Fairfax County Police Department. Unlike most other jurisdictions in America, Fairfax County refuses to release standard public documents such as incident reports. As a result, supporters of a new review board say, the public might not be aware of the misconduct that's already taking place.

"The lack of citizens calling for this doesn't mean that there are not problems," said Kent Willis, executive director of ACLU of Virginia. "It means they don't know about the problems."

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# BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

**Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions** needs a driver coordinator for the Mount Vernon Meals on Wheels. This involves organizing drivers for daily meal delivery, recruiting volunteers, and occasionally delivering meals. Contact the Department of Family Services at 703-324-5406, TTY: 703-449-1186, email [DFSAAVolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSAAVolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov), or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

**Elderly and disabled tax relief applications** for 2010 are now available from Tax Services. If at least 65 years of age or permanently

and totally disabled by Nov. 15, 2010, one may qualify for a full or partial exemption and/or deferral for 2010 real estate taxes and/or an exemption from 2010 personal property taxes on one vehicle. Go to [www.alexandriava.gov/taxrelief](http://www.alexandriava.gov/taxrelief) or contact Tax Services at [taxrelief@alexandriava.gov](mailto:taxrelief@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-3901, Option 6.

**THURSDAY/MARCH 25**  
**Supporting Caregivers of Veterans.** 7-9 p.m. Find information on resources available to veterans and their caregivers. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road,

Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

**TUESDAY/MARCH 30**  
**BRAC and Beyond.** 8:45-11:30 a.m. \$15/person in advance. Business seminar on stimulating business growth. Speakers include Austin Durrer, Chief of Staff for Congressman Jim Moran; Col. Mark Moffatt, Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC at Fort Belvoir; and Bridget Bean, Director, Washington Metropolitan Office, Small Business Administration. At Best Western Mount Vernon, 8751 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. RSVP to 703-360-5008 or [info@sfdc.org](mailto:info@sfdc.org).

## Mt. Vernon At Home Elects Officers

Virginia Hodgkinson, former Georgetown University professor in public policy, was recently elected president of Mt. Vernon At Home (MVAH). Other newly elected board executive committee members include: William Pascoe, vice president; Kae Wells, secretary, and Alice Lauthers, treasurer.

MVAH is a new seniors volunteer-based organization dedicated to providing a broad range of com-

munity support services for those seniors in the Mt. Vernon community who wish to stay in their homes safely and maintain an independent lifestyle. For information about the organization contact Jeff Reed, executive director, at: [mountvernonathome.org](http://mountvernonathome.org). The current MVAH office is located on the second floor of the Sherwood Hall Regional Library.

— GERALD A. FILL

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# OPINION

## Gazette Wins Awards

The Connection Newspapers won more than 30 Virginia Press Association news awards — announced at the annual news conference held in Roanoke on Saturday, March 20.

Honors included multiple awards for business and financial writing, education writing, investigative reporting, election coverage, breaking news, public safety writing, editorial writing, photography, design, sports, special sections.

Political and education reporter Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her education writing, in particular three stories which appeared in the Connection's new special section,

A-plus. O'Donoghue also won multiple awards for business and financial writing and investigative reporting.

Reporter Michael Lee Pope won 11 awards in all, including first place for his breaking news coverage of the arrest of Alexandria's police chief for DUI. Pope also won awards for investigative reporting, election coverage, business and financial writing, education writing, government writing, feature writing and in-depth obituaries.

Photographer Louise Krafft won nine awards, including pictorial photo, picture story/essay, news photo and for her contributions to two special sections, HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus

Education, Learning, Fun.

Reporter Mike DiCicco won four awards, including first place for his coverage of a burglary spree that targeted local South Asians' gold jewelry. DiCicco also won for feature writing and education writing.

Mary Kimm won second place for editorial writing for a group of five editorials about education in Northern Virginia.

The Connection's design team including also won awards, two for special sections HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus Education, Learning, Fun.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet also won second place in general makeup, a measure of overall excellence.

### EDITORIAL

### Winners

Here is a partial listing of stories, photos, special sections and more that won awards in the Virginia Press Association news contests.

**Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue**, first place, Education writing, Springfield Connection  
**Michael Lee Pope**, first place, Breaking news writing Police Chief Busted for DUI. Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope**, first place, Feature series or continuing story, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope**, first place, Personal service writing. Three obituaries, an officer, a gentleman and a savior. Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope**, first place, Business and financial writing, Arlington Connection  
**Louise Krafft**, first place, Pictorial photo, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Louise Krafft first place** Pictorial photo, Arlington Connection  
**Robbie Hammer**, first place, General news photo, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection  
**Mike DiCicco**, first place, General news writing, Burglary Spree Targets South Asians' Gold Jewelry Oak Hill/Herndon Connection  
**Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Jean Card, Michael Lee Pope**, second place, General makeup. Alexandria Gazette Packet

**Michael Lee Pope**, second place, Education writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope second place** General news writing, Election 2009. Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope second place** Feature series or continuing story, Quackgate, Mount Vernon Gazette  
**Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue second place** In-depth or investigative reporting, Mount Vernon Gazette  
**Mary Kimm second place** Editorial writing, Five editorials about education.  
**Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, second place**, Specialty pages or sections, A-Plus, Education, Learning, Fun. McLean Connection  
**Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue**, second place, Business and financial writing, McLean Connection  
**Mike DiCicco**, second place, Feature writing portfolio, Great Falls Connection.  
**Ken Moore, Bonnie Hobbs second place** Public safety writing. Stories of embezzlement, murder, rampage, and more. Fairfax Connection.  
**Jason Mackey**, second place, Sports writing portfolio, Centre View.  
**Louise Krafft**, second place, Pictorial photo, Arlington Connection

**Michael Lee Pope**, second place, Government writing, Arlington Connection  
**Michael Lee Pope**, third place, Government writing, Perks Pitfalls and Plastic, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Michael Lee Pope**, third place, In-depth or investigative reporting, City Misses Potential Threat, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Louise Krafft**, third place, Picture story or essay, Halloween, Alexandria Gazette Packet  
**Louise Krafft**, third place, General news photo, Mount Vernon Estate celebrates 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
**Gerald Fill**, third place, Public safety writing, Mount Vernon Gazette  
**Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue** third place, Business and financial writing. Laurel Hill/Fairfax Station Connection  
**Louise Krafft**, third place, Picture story or essay, HomeLifeStyle, Garden tour of Domaine St Charles, Great Falls Connection.  
**Louise Krafft, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, Donna Manz, Mike DiCicco**, third place, Specialty pages or sections, HomeLifeStyle. Great Falls Connection  
**Mike DiCicco**, third place, Education writing. Great Falls Connection



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

### Excellence at Waynewood

For the second year in a row, the teachers and staff of Waynewood Elementary School received the Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award. Fairfax Superintendent Jack Dale visited the school to present the award. Waynewood's 5th grade teacher Nancy D'Orazio accepted the award on behalf of the school. D'Orazio is retiring this year after teaching 38 years in Fairfax County.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Compassionate Leadership?

To the Editor:

Thank you for your excellent editorial of Feb. 24, "Consider the Long-Term Costs."

Because of my concern for Virginians, I sent this letter to my state delegate and senator:

You won't be surprised to learn how upset anyone (who cares about other people) is about the new Governor's proposed budget amendments. People of good will surely will support a temporary progressive income tax increase to help balance our budget.

If the Governor's proposals are accepted, the least wealthy, frailest among us will have vital services so reduced as to leave us sicker, more desperate, or unnecessarily placed in nursing homes and perhaps homeless. It does not make sense to cut cost-effective Home and Community-Based Services for older adults in Virginia and have them end up in hospitals and nursing homes.

Among the items I saw:

\* Funding reductions for local departments of social services and a number of social service programs, such as general relief for low-income adults, companion services for adults

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

## Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

## OPINION

# Connolly: 'Historic Achievement'

## Health Insurance Reform Law will help Northern Virginians immediately.

BY GERRY CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

Earlier this week, the President signed his historic health insurance reform legislation that will rival the passages of the Social Security Act, the Civil Rights Act and the Medicare Act in how it will better the lives of tens of millions of American families and hundreds of thousands of families in Northern Virginia.

This new law will stop insurance company abuses, rein in health care costs for families and small businesses, strengthen and guarantee the solvency of Medicare for our seniors, reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion, preserve access to doctors and health plans, protect TriCare for our military retirees and families, and expand quality health care to more than 30 million Americans.

Over the last year, as I met with constituents throughout the 11th Congressional District, they told me they wanted health insurance reform, but only if it met certain tests:

- ❖ Will it bring down premium costs for families and small businesses?
- ❖ Will it reduce the deficit?
- ❖ Will it protect their choice of plan and doctor?
- ❖ Will it improve access to care?
- ❖ Will it protect and improve Medicare?

After a careful and thorough review of the legislation, I was satisfied that the final reform package met each of those tests. I cast my vote for this land-

mark law and also for the companion legislation that strips away the odious special deals for certain states that were put in the legislation by the Senate.

Within weeks, this new law will provide tax credits and other assistance to some 87,000 families and 16,800 small businesses in the 11th District to help them afford health insurance coverage. Only 40 percent of small businesses, the economic engine of our economy, currently provide health insurance to their employees and more and more of them are dropping coverage each year.

More than 10,700 residents of Fairfax and Prince William in the 11th District with pre-existing conditions will now be able to purchase health insurance and more than 73,000 seniors receiving Medicare will benefit from lower prescription drug prices and the peace of mind of knowing that the solvency of Medicare is guaranteed for another decade.

No longer will residents of the 11th District have to worry that their insurance can be canceled as they are being wheeled into the operating room. Uninsured and under-insured families in our communities — who on average file 1,400 bankruptcies each year because they can't pay their health care bills — will no longer fear losing their homes when a child or spouse gets sick.

These are only a few of the provisions in the new health insurance reform law that will take effect immediately and improve the lives of all Americans, including our families, friends and neighbors right here in Northern Virginia.

And when historians look back at the landmark achievement we accomplished last week, they will list this new law alongside laws like the Social Security Act of 1935, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Medicare Act of 1965 that have made the United States the greatest nation in the world.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

who need assistance in living, and other services to abused, neglected, or exploited adults and children.

\* Elimination of funding for local dental services in local health districts.

Living in the Commonwealth of Virginia, living in a civilized society, means those who can pay a fair share of the cost of taking care of those who need help. We need commonsense and compassionate leadership from the Virginia legislature to get through this troubled time. The Governor and many legislators seem to have forgotten what "Commonwealth" means. Let's remind them!

**Cedar Dvorin, MSW**  
Alexandria

## Citizens of The World

To the Editor:

The Mt. Vernon CROP Hunger Walk was again a success on Sunday, March 21, as people of many different faith traditions gathered

under the VIC umbrella to walk in support of the needy both locally and in the world. Following a winter of crises and appeals from many for much, approximately \$8,000 was contributed by our neighbors and friends to support the hunger-fighting efforts of Church World Service, both here at home and around the world. Our local UCM and New Hope Housing will receive approximately \$2,000 to aid fellow neighbors in the Route 1 corridor in need, and some \$6,000 will make possible the global work of CWS.

Crop Walks are truly Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty!

Volunteering, walking, donating—we all have shown that citizens of the Mt. Vernon area are truly citizens of the world.

**Rosemary Kley, Chair**

## Schools Have Too Much Money

To the Editor:

The question before the Board

of Supervisors no longer is whether the FY 2011 county transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) should be increased, but rather how much should it be reduced. The County's FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan of February 23, 2010 includes a \$1.610 billion transfer to fund FCPS, \$98.5 million less than the \$1.708.5 billion included in the FCPS Advertised Budget of Feb. 26. However, on March 16 FCPS presented a budget update to the Board indicating they will receive an additional \$48 million in state aid than originally projected, and can count on a reduction in required contributions to the state retirement system to the tune of \$109 million (\$61 million of which they plan to hold in reserve for future contributions to the retirement system), which effectively eliminates the difference in the transfer amounts. What FCPS apparently did not disclose to the Board was that they are on track to carry over \$150M in funding from this year that can be used in FY 2011. The FCPS budget assumes \$2.273 billion in expendi-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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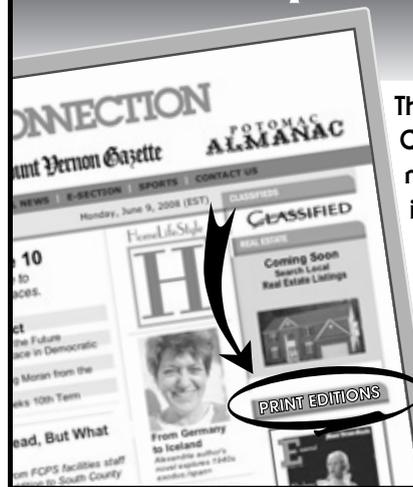
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## Easter Sunrise Worship Service

*The Lawn at Aldersgate Church at 7 a.m.*

Music provided by

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

tures this year (FY 2010). Actual expenditures through half of the year are \$987 million, which prorates to \$2.123 billion for the full year based on historical trends. This \$150 million difference would then be available to be carried over into FY 2011. Setting aside \$50 million to fund employee step increases and cost of living adjustments for teachers and other FCPS employees (which is not included in the FCPS budget), would still leave \$100 million available for tax relief to County taxpayers. In short, the Board could reduce the FY 2011 transfer to FCPS by \$100 million which (when including the projected carryover) would still fully fund the FCPS Advertised Budget, provide funding for salary increases to our dedicated teachers, allow the real estate tax rate to remain at \$1.05 per \$100, and still leave approximately \$28 million in funding available for other programs eliminated in the County budget (e.g., middle school resource police officers, library operations, affordable housing).

**Mark T. Welch**  
Alexandria

## Spreading Hatred

To the Editor:

The actions of the "Tea Party" demonstra-

tors speak for themselves. Not since the civil rights demonstrations have such vicious, negative people come together to spread hate and discontent.

Shouting racial epithets, spouting sexually based hate, showing ignorance of the facts, and giving faces to the term "Ugly American," these people should be ashamed of themselves. Even if they oppose a particular bill or action, their behavior is unacceptable to a huge majority of citizens, Democrats and Republicans, alike — "Thinking Americans."

The health care debate has certainly prompted vitriol on all sides. But the scare mongering, the promotion of hate, and the demonization of the "other" side serves no useful purpose for "Thinking Americans." To let a small number of vicious people frame the rhetoric is not in anyone's interest and it is time for "Thinking Americans" to stand up.

We don't need another polarizing movement. We need "Thinking Americans" to speak up and say "Enough"! No one disputes that our health care system is broken. How to fix it can, and has been, debated. The pundits and the politicians keep touting what the American people want; what the American people do and do not think; what the American people can and cannot take; what the American people will and will not do. "Thinking Americans," it is time for us to tell them.

We want truth. We want fairness. We want responsible legislation. We want to help

those who cannot help themselves. We want representation in Washington and our State Houses that we can proudly support. We want honest debate. We do not want to be characterized by the fringes. We do not want corporations or double-talking pundits to run our lives.

We think these mean-spirited demonstrations hurt everyone. We think Congress has lost sight of its responsibilities. We think everyone is too focused on the politics of issues rather than the merits. We think the sound bites and framing of issues assume that we are not "Thinking Americans." We do not think everything we hear is the truth.

We can take honest debate. We can take hard times and hard rules. We can take philosophical divides. We cannot take rancor for rancor's sake. We cannot take hate and fear mongering. We cannot take the status quo as the best we can do.

We will live with compromises. We will fight for causes that are important for not only ourselves, but the country as a whole. We will help our neighbors every day. We will strive to understand. We will vote our consciences.

As we hear every minute from the media, the fall elections are looming. But there is a long hot summer ahead with opportunities for the various voices of America to frame arguments. "Thinking Americans," stand up and be heard.

**Karen Stallings**

Thinking American in Mount Vernon

## Potential Injustice

To the Editor:

At the March 16 meeting of Mount Vernon's APR Task Force one nomination considered was that of Task Force member Cynthia Smith, No. 09-IV-1S, concerning the Leatherland property located near the intersection of Telegraph Road and Newington Road. The 7.46 acre property has been owned by the Leatherland family for about 80 years.

In 2007, the Leatherland family had sought to rezone their property from by-right one house per acre, to a cluster zoning designation PDH-2 allowing two houses per acre. The adjacent community has the same Comprehensive Plan designation and had earlier been rezoned to PDH-2 with no objection from the Leatherland family. The Leatherland rezoning application included 15 pages of proffers covering every imaginable issue including transportation, landscaping, open space, tree save, parks and recreation contribution, schools contribution, stormwater management, affordable housing contribution, noise attenuation, and even the commitment to install three purple martin birdhouses. The county staff recommended approval of the rezoning. The adjacent neighborhood led by Ms. Smith opposed the rezoning and urged the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23



## PHYLLIS PATTERSON

Selling the Best of Alexandria



### Featured Listing— OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



8210 Mack Street Alexandria, VA 22308



Owners have spared no expense in renovating and maintaining this charming three level colonial. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Over \$65,000 in recent improvements. New Roof-2009 ◊ Wonderful screened-in porch overlooking professionally landscaped backyard ◊ Totally remodeled kitchen with new granite, sinks, and faucets ◊ Appliances: Samsung side by side refrigerator with ice and water on door, GE Profile Gas 5 burner with 2 ovens ◊ Large master bedroom with new master bath

### The Market is Moving...Are You?

#### 2010 Sales by Phyllis



2734 Carter Farm Ct



2106 Foresthill Road



1250 Dartmouth Court



411 Pitt Mews



8296 Glen Cove Court

**Phyllis Brought in the Buyer!**

1401 Namassin Road  
7831 Kent Road  
1900 Hackamore Ln

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

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Alexandria, VA 22314  
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[www.PhyllisPatterson.com](http://www.PhyllisPatterson.com)

[PPatterson@cbmove.com](mailto:PPatterson@cbmove.com)

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**Alexandria/Old Town**

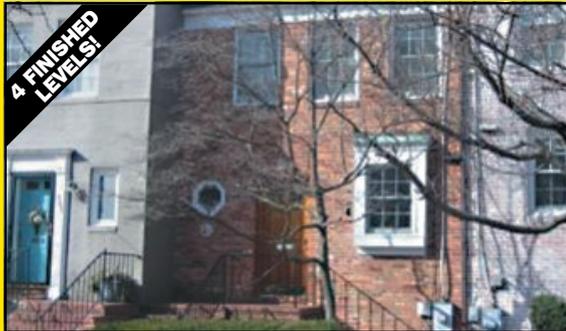
121 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**703-549-8700**

[www.weichert.com](http://www.weichert.com)



**THINKING OF A REAL ESTATE CAREER? Call Kim Farina at the Alexandria/Old Town Office.**



**Alex/Old Town \$704,000**  
Sensational master suite & private guest suite! Totally updated on 4 finished levels.  
823 South Lee Street  
*Diann Hicks* 703-628-2440



**Alexandria \$475,000**  
Beautifully maintained home w/hardwoods, updated kitchen & baths, huge deck for entertaining, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths & play house for the kids. A must-see!  
3411 Beechcraft Drive  
*Mary Katherine Tyler* 571-233-9855



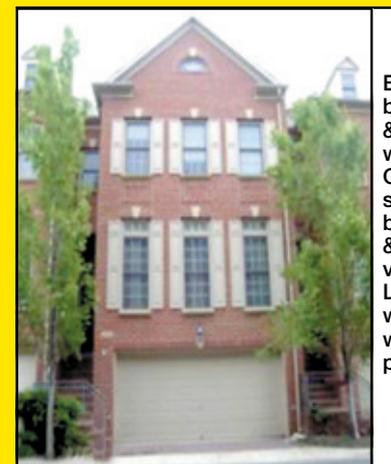
**Alexandria \$1,298,000**  
Large landscaped lot with view. Updated kitchen & baths, 4 bedrooms, 2-car garage & 2 fireplaces.  
1808 Hunting Cove Place  
*Diann Hicks*  
703-628-2440



**Alexandria \$310,000**  
You will love the convenience and pleasures of this super condo. 7th floor w/balcony, cosy fireplace & walk-in close. Low utilities and beautiful pool w/spa. Summers coming back!  
1200 Braddock Place #706  
*Sue Feintheil* 703-819-1964



**Alex./Rosemont \$699,000**  
Update Craftsman-style home w/3 bedrooms, 1 bath, garage & huge yard. Unfinished LL, walk-up attic & 7,250 SF lot offering expansion opportunities. Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants in Old Town & Del Ray.  
22 West Braddock Road  
*Christine Garner* 703-587-4855



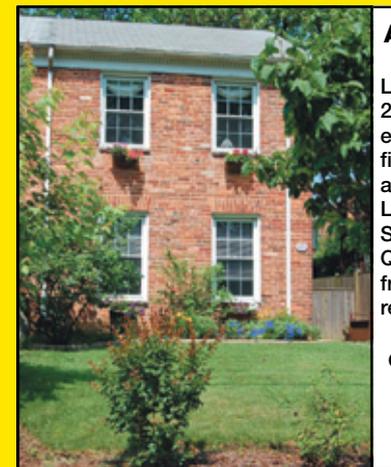
**Alexandria \$725,000**  
Elegant home w/3 bedrms, 3.5 baths & gourmet kitchen w/center island. Gorgeous master suite w/private bath, soaking tub & 2 separate vanities. LL family rm w/fireplace & walk-out to brick patio.  
264 Medlock Lane  
*Gary Chute*  
703-571-9926



**Springfield \$449,900**  
Lovely renovated 4 bedrm, 2 bath colonial w/ garage. Beautiful family rm, cherry kitchen, library, workshop & great landscaping. Fantastic location.  
6211 Bardu Avenue  
*Joyce Talley* 703-451-8823



**Arlington \$339,000**  
Rarely available Ashlawn model unit w/ lovely cherry hardwoods thru-out. This sunny unit has 2 bedrms, renovated bath, & 2nd level loft that can be converted to living space.  
4855 28th Street #81  
*Melanie Trainer* 703-4475860



**Alex./Old Town \$549,000**  
Light-filled updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit with 3 finished levels and a deep backyard! Located in the Southeast Quadrant, steps from shops & restaurants.  
909 S. Columbus Street  
*Christine Garner*  
703-587-4855



**Alexandria \$849,000**  
Pristine 4 level TH w/3 bedrm, 3.5 bath & roof terrace. Entry level den w/patio & garden. Cherry cabinets & granite in kitchen. Private & quiet. Only 2 blocks to metr.  
440 Chauncey Court  
*Julie Hall*  
703-786-3634



**Alexandria \$774,900**  
Single family home in the heart of Del Ray nestled on tree lined street provides the convenience of city living in a small town atmosphere. Gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrms, 2 baths, & finished LL recreation rm.  
100 Mt. Ida Avenue  
*Bobi Bomar* 703-927-2213



**Alexandria \$359,900**  
Fantastic location and easy living. Bright open floor plan. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths w/easy parking. New TRANE heat & AC unit. New front-loading washer/dryer. Clean & fresh.  
2312 Dearing Street  
*Julie Hall* 703-786-3634

**Visit Us at [Weichert.com](http://Weichert.com) for a full Listing of New Properties**



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Planning to sell in 2010? Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!



# LONG & FOSTER

ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN HISTORIC  
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Managing Brokers  
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan



**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 finished levels including full walkout LL, 4/5 BR, 3.5 BA, 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. Open Sun 3/28, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate, L-Old Mt Vernon Rd, L-Rive Dr.



**4706 Tarpon Ln \$630,000**  
**Expanded Rambler - Near River!**  
One story luxury! Rare updated ranch. Prime location on gorgeous half acre lot. Home was expanded by leading local builder to create master suite with private bath and spacious foyer. Other features include: finished lower level, sunroom, 2 car garage and large deck. Just steps from Mt Vernon Yacht Club. Open Sun 3/28, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate, L-Forest Haven, R-Tarpon.



**1139 Cedar Dale Ln \$845,000**  
**Character Abounds!**  
Exceptionally attractive Classic Cape in prime location on gorgeous .60 acre lot mins from Old Town, just off scenic GW Parkway. Tastefully expanded & updated to preserve integrity of original home. Fab features include stunning family room, spacious first floor master suite, upgraded kitchen and more custom in ground pool.



**1203 BELLE VIEW BLVD #A-2 Alex / Belle View \$185,000**  
RARELY AVAILABLE 1 bedroom, 1st floor condo in the convenient and walkable community of Belle View, just minutes south of Old Town. Great price for a condo you can update and make your own. Call for more information.

**1001 CROTON DRIVE Alex / WayneWOOD \$749,900**

- Totally renovated "Haddon" model
- 5BR / 2.5 BA
- Family room addition with porch
- Large lot
- Pool



**8422 CROWLEY Alex / WayneWOOD \$799,900**

- Rare custom home in WayneWOOD
- 3 fin levels
- 5BR / 3.5BA
- Complete renovation & expansion
- Open floorplan, family room, workout room plus porch

**1320 PRINCESS ST Old Town / Alexandria \$673,990**  
JUST LISTED! Newly sided end unit 3BR/2.5BA TH. Bright & airy, w/custom paint, & updated kit w/ custom cabs, granite, travertine tile, & TOTL SS appl. HW floors, skylights, sep DR, spacious Master suite, & bkyl w/brick patio + more! Blocks from 2 METRO sta.



**8313 Mount Vernon Hwy \$789,900**  
**First Floor Master Suite!**  
Exciting new opportunity by Wakefield Homes. Luxurious new home with all the modern amenities including: high ceilings, lavish kitchen and baths, full basement, two car garage and stunning first floor master suite. Pre-construction sale provides maximum opportunity to customize. Prime location on large lot in heart of Mt. Vernon. (Picture is artist's rendition).



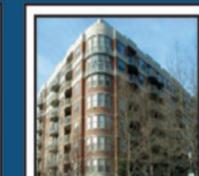
**9316 Heather Glen \$699,000**  
**Magnificent Addition!**  
Classic center hall colonial meticulously maintained offers many significant upgrades. Spectacular curved glass walled family room and fabulous screened porch both overlook amazing custom pool. Three levels, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen, direct access to outside from lower level, 2 car garage and more!



**9110 Chickawane Ct \$635,000**  
**Wow!! - Spectacular Renovation!**  
One of the most fabulous properties you will ever find. Home has been remodeled and updated throughout. Features include: skylights, stunning custom kit, hdwd floors, updated baths, 2 car garage, located on cul-de-sac.



**110 S COLUMBUS ST Alexandria \$1,229,000**  
COMMERCIAL + TOWNHOME located in heart of historic OT business district. All brick, 3 lvl + basement TH circa 1890's w/high ceilings, mouldings, HW, large sun filled rooms w/new windows, wood-burning FP. 8 blks to METRO, min to airport and more!



**1200 BRADDOCK PL #611 Alexandria \$384,900**

- INCREDIBLY PRICED
- Check comps
- Shows like a model
- 2BR/1.5 BA w/balcony
- 1,000 sqft of living spaces
- Renovated kitchen
- 2 assigned pkg space
- 1 min to metro



**1320 PRINCESS ST Old Town / Alexandria \$673,990**  
JUST LISTED! Newly sided end unit 3BR/2.5BA TH. Bright & airy, w/custom paint, & updated kit w/ custom cabs, granite, travertine tile, & TOTL SS appl. HW floors, skylights, sep DR, spacious Master suite, & bkyl w/brick patio + more! Blocks from 2 METRO sta.



**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!



**8824 Stratford Lane \$895,950**  
**Stratford Landing!**  
Huge price reduction! Brand new Wakefield home to be built on gorgeous 3/4 acre tract just off the GW Parkway in prestigious Stratford Landing! Three finished levels, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen with 42" cabinets and granite counters, full walk-out lower level and two car garage. Pre-Construction offering provides maximum opportunity to customize!



**4413 Ferry Landing Road \$559,900**  
**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!



**105 MARTIN LANE Alex / Cameron Sta \$595,000**  
NOT YOUR STANDARD builder grade home! Very special custom 3BR/2BA Gatsby model now available in popular Cameron Station community. Numerous custom appointments and upgrades thru-out. METRO shuttle or 1 block to bus.



**619 S PITT ST Old Town \$1,150,000**  
JUST LISTED! Expansive & beautiful renovation in Historic Old Town. Highlights include: 3BR, 3.5BA, HW floors, granite, luxurious master suite, 3 gas fireplaces, garage w/carriage house & more!



**3716 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE Alexandria City \$275,000**  
PARK F A I R F A X CONDO. Sunny tree house views from this 1BR/1BA condo. Completely updated w/ new washer/dryer, new air/heat unit, newer windows, new closet organizers, refin floors & fresh paint. Community pools, tennis & fitness. Nearby METRO bus & shops/restaurants of Shirlington.



**7705 ELBA ROAD Alex / Hollin Hills \$569,000**  
SPRINGTIME IN HOLLIN HILLS! Expanded 1 level home w/3BR, 2BA plus den/study, carport & storage/garden shed. 2 frpls, skylights, wood flrs, floor to ceiling windows, updated kit, roof replace and most appl under 5yrs old. Community pool & tennis nearby plus schools, libraries, shopping & bike path.



**600 SECOND STREET #205 Alex / Liberty Row - \$785,000**  
BACK ON THE MARKET WITH A NEW PRICE! Don't miss this fabulous, high end, luxury condo in OT. 2BR, 2.5BA + Den. This 1,769sqft home offers gourmet kit w/SS, granite & wine cooler. Also, bamboo floors, gas FP, W/D, plantation shutters, balcony, crown + 2 indoor garage spaces.



**910 SLATERS LANE Old Town Alexandria \$875,000**  
Sun-splashed END TH offering 3,000+ custom decorated sqft! Featuring 4BR/4.5 BA, beautifully appointed w/HW floors, chef's kit, upgraded tile, and designer paint and window treatments. Main level patio PLUS rooftop terrace with monument views.



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chris.white@longandfoster.com

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www.OldTownAlexandria.com





ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



**Porcelain 'Dancing Lizards' (6" tall) by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.**

**MARCH 30 TO APRIL 25**

**Kiln Club Annual Juried Show.** Reception with awards presentation on April 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.; Scope Gallery hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm)

**NOW THROUGH MARCH 31**

**Sidney Lowery's "Waves."** Reception on March 28 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. At Blueberry Art Gallery, 116 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-894-8854 or [info@blueberryartgallery.com](mailto:info@blueberryartgallery.com).

**MARCH 26 TO MAY 9**

**Cedric Williams' Nostalgia and Dereliction.** Artist's reception is Sunday, April 18 from 4-6 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and during performances. At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Visit [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).



**NOW THROUGH MARCH 28**

**PastForward. Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts.**

PastForward will feature work of four former resident Torpedo Factory artists - Kathleen Dustin, Barbara Rachko, Anne Laddon and Joyce Zipperer. This exhibition kicks off the gallery's participation in Minds Wide Open. The artists will exhibit their latest works, from Rachko's pastel paintings, Zipperer's sculptures, Dustin's polymer clay works to Laddon's oil paintings. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The gallery is open daily from 10-6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org)

# Art Explosion in Old Town



**APRIL 7 THROUGH MAY 2**

**Artist Gail C. Weyant Solo Show, "Storytelling Artwork."** Straight Photography, Computer Enhanced Images, and Ceramics. At Gallery West, 1213 Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria. Artist's reception is Saturday, April 10 from 4-6 p.m. Hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 11-6 p.m.



**APRIL 8 THROUGH MAY 3**

**Fierce Sonia's Solo Exhibit, "Paper Dolls."** Opening reception on April 8 from 6:30-8 p.m. Joe Chiocca, Old Town's favorite band, will play and reunite with special guest singer Kim Kenny. Part of the statewide event, Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Go to [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**NOW THROUGH MARCH 28**

**Garden of earthy delights: Pottery with flora and fauna.** Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays until 9 p.m. The Ceramic Guild at Studio 19, Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 101 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope).

**NOW THROUGH MARCH 31**

**Works from the Heart, Topics of Passion.**

Free. Artworks reflect that which comes from the heart. Subjects that touch, motivate, and move us to create, that which inspires. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260 or visit [www.convergenceccf.net](http://www.convergenceccf.net)

**NOW THROUGH APRIL 4**

**Gallery West Presents: Creo, Maus, Estrada: New Members Show.** Gallery West's March show highlights the work of new members Francesca Creo, Brian Maus, and Rachel Estrada. Located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District. Call 703-549-6006.



**TUESDAY/APRIL 6**

**Art and the Arctic: Change, Challenge, and Inspiration.** 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Alison Sigethy, Torpedo Factory Artist, presented by the Morrison House. Celebrate the 40th Earth Day with environmental artist Alison Sigethy who will discuss her earth-friendly sculptures inspired by her travels to the Arctic. Part of a Salon-Style Series celebrating culture through arts, literature, and history discussions. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or call 703-838-4565.

**NOW THROUGH APRIL 5**

**Peep and Strip Show.** In Rosemary Feit Covey's "Peep Show" series, she combines the secret, sexual world associated with the modern definition of "Peep Show" with the innocent world of Victorian-era peep show boxes. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Go to [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**APRIL 2-25**

**What's Your Bag?** This show explores the "Bag as Art" in all mediums and interpretations — handbags, backpacks, tea bags, suitcases, sacks, paper or plastic. Opening reception Friday on April 2 from 7-10 p.m., closing reception Sunday, April 25 from 3-6 p.m. Numerous workshops and events scheduled. At the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

**APRIL 6 THROUGH JUNE 7**

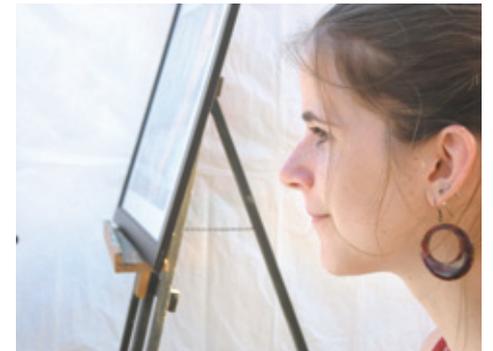
**Crown Me!** Capital Pool Checkers Club. Photos by Peggy Fleming and Musings; new work by Suzanne Quinlan. Opening reception is Saturday, April 10 from 2-4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 10**

**Colors of Emotions.** 7 p.m. Art Exhibit to Benefit the CANCER to 5K Program of the Ulman Cancer Fund. Month-long exhibit of fine art featuring The Cruz Collection by Puerto Rican artist and cancer survivor, Denny Cruz. At The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit <http://www.cancerto5k/colorsofemotions.com> or call the Colors of Emotions event coordinator, Liz Yap at 202-577-9507 or Leona Spencer at 571-212-2587.

**APRIL 11 THROUGH JUNE 30**

**Art in Hand.** 10 a.m. Free. Exhibit opening reception is Sunday, April 11. The art show will feature original artwork by Art in Hand students aged 18 months – 5 years. At the Durant Community Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria.



**Artist Megan Coyle**

**MAY 14 THROUGH JUNE 13**

**"Piece by Piece Figurative Collage."** Collage artist Megan Coyle makes art from recycled magazines. At the age of 23, Coyle has developed a technique where she takes ordinary magazine pages and turns them into works of art. Her first major solo exhibition will be shown at the Fisher Gallery in the Schlesinger Arts Center in Alexandria. The show, titled "Piece by Piece Figurative Collage," opens May 14th, and runs through June 13th. The opening reception is on Saturday, May 22 from 3 to 5 p.m., with an artist talk at 4 p.m. The exhibition includes several 18x24-inch collage works on paper. Each piece is made entirely from recycled magazines and depicts different figures interacting with the environment around them.

By using a technique she calls "painting with paper," Megan creates colorful collages that reflect an influence from her formal training in painting. She recreates the look and feel of a painting through the manipulation of paper and magazine strips, where she cuts and pieces together shapes of paper to mimic brushstrokes. The work challenges traditional ideas of what makes a work of art a painting or a collage.

Megan Coyle grew up in Del Ray in Alexandria, and attended T.C. Williams High School. She received a degree in Painting and Creative Writing from Elon University in 2008, and returned to Northern Virginia to begin her career as a professional artist. Another series of her figurative collages will be on display in July at the Art League in Old Town, Alexandria.



**"Waiting for the X-10" by Susan LaMont.**

**MAY 5 TO JUNE 6**

**You Are Here by Susan LaMont,** contemporary realism artist. The show features four large works that examine the relationship between people and their increasingly complex environments. Reception is Saturday, May 8 from 5-7 p.m. Second Thursday reception is May 13 from 6-9 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.gallery-west.com](http://www.gallery-west.com) or call 703-549-6006.

**NOW THROUGH APRIL 11**

**New Works.** Jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. Presented by Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. At Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY/APRIL 11**

**Creativity Workshop: Thinking In and Out of the Bag.** 1-3 p.m. Workshop activities are designed to give you a new perspective on your creativity and get your creative expression flowing again. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Lynn Wyvill at [lwyvill@comcast.net](mailto:lwyvill@comcast.net) or 703-299-0848.

# THEATER

## MARCH 27 THROUGH MAY 16

**"The Fool at the Circus."** Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. For ages 4 and up. Run time: 1 hour. Tickets are \$12/advance, \$15/door, \$10 for parties of 10 or more. Call 800-494-8497 or [www.classika.org](http://www.classika.org). At the Synetic Family Theater, 4041 Campbell Avenue, Arlington.

## APRIL 9 THROUGH MAY 30

**"Sophisticated Ladies."** Starring Maurice Hines. At Arena Stage at the Lincoln Theatre. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. (6 p.m. curtain on 4/25); Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (1 p.m. curtain on 4/25); Weekday matinees at noon on 4/21, 4/27 & 5/5. Tickets range from \$25 to \$74. For tickets, call 202-488-3300. At Arena Stage, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington.

## APRIL 6 TO JUNE 27

**[title of show].** Presented by Signature's ARK Theater. Tickets are \$52 to \$76 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT or visiting [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. There are no performances of [title of show] on Saturday, April 3 at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. At 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit.

## NOW THROUGH APRIL 4

**"Sweeney Todd."** At Signature Theatre. Tickets are \$52 to \$76. Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT or go to [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).



PHOTO BY DENNIS DELORIA.

**(From left): Tony Bullock (Sefton), Hans Dettmar (Schultz), and Jon Townson (Price).**

## MARCH 26 THROUGH APRIL 17

**"Stalag 17."** Show times are Thursday-Saturday evenings 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday matinees 2:30 p.m. No matinee performances March 27 or April 4. Tickets are from \$26 to \$32. Presented by the American Century Theater. At Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. Tickets can be ordered online at [www.americancentury.org](http://www.americancentury.org) or by calling 703-998-4555.

## NOW THROUGH APRIL 11

**"The Light in the Piazza."** Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$74. Tickets may be purchased online at [ArenaStage.org](http://ArenaStage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300. At Arena Stage in Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington.

# Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon

Endurance Enterprises LLC announced the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon, set for Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

The destination half marathon will begin at the historic Mount Vernon home of George Washington in Alexandria, and will end at the new luxurious National Harbor resort in Maryland. The 13.1-mile course will be USATF certified.

Registration can be found at [www.wilsonbridgehalf.com](http://www.wilsonbridgehalf.com). Entries will be limited to 4,000 starters for the inaugural running. The race is being presented by Burke & Herbert Bank.

The half marathon is the first organized race ever across the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Completed in 2008, the wider new bridge removed an infamous I-95 bottleneck that had been the bane of frustration for Beltway motorists for decades.

As runners approach Alexandria, they will catch several glimpses of the graceful new Wilson Bridge, inviting them across the Potomac River and to the finish line at National Harbor.

"Runners love bridges, and until you actually run up and over the Wilson Bridge, you cannot believe what a cool feeling that is," said Steve Nearman, founder of Endurance Enterprises and event director of Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon. "You are right there with the vehicles and

the view of Washington's monuments is spectacular."

Runners will be transported from National Harbor by bus to the start line at Mount Vernon. From there, the scenic course rolls along the George Washington Memorial Parkway and over the Potomac River via the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The Awakening statue will greet the runners at the finish line at National Harbor.

Pacers Events, the race director for the highly successful GW Parkway Classic 10-Miler and other quality Washington area running events, will serve as race director for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon. See [runpacers.com](http://runpacers.com).

The race will benefit six charity partners: the American Heart Association, Autism Speaks, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Child & Family Network Centers of Alexandria, Washington Area Women's Foundation and Back on My Feet - DC.

Training programs associated with the half marathon will be announced soon. Age group awards and prize money will be announced as well.

Hotel packages are being arranged for those athletes and their families interested in a weekend sight-seeing visit to Washington's plethora of attractions.

Visit [wilsonbridgehalf.com](http://wilsonbridgehalf.com) or call Steve Nearman at 703-587-4321.

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### Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham

### Thursday - Italian Night

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### Friday - Fish Night

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### Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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## THEATER

# Arena's Charming 'Piazza'

**Musical charm  
In Crystal City.**

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

Every once in a while, a truly lovely new musical finds its way onto local stages. When that happens, it is cause for rejoicing. It's happening now with "The Light in the Piazza," which Molly Smith has directed as something of a chamber musical at Arena Stage's temporary facility in Crystal City.

It gives us lush melodies, expressive lyrics in two languages as befits a story of lovers united in spite of cultural difference (she's American, he's Italian) and the lilt of five musicians on a perch hovering above a simple but effective set. It is delivered by a cast with both the musical chops and the acting skills to deliver the show's multiple pleasures. All together this is a delightful package that runs at least until April 11.

The show has a history of charming audiences. It began as a limited engagement at the Lincoln Center in New York but demand for tickets caused extension after extension until, after over a year, the Center really had to close it so they could put on other shows in their theater. Before they did, however, it garnered six Tony Awards including best score for a musical.

And what a score it is! In an age that seems dominated by juke box musicals using the catalogues of pop and rock stars and musicals attempting (sometimes successfully) to use rock, salsa, rap or hip hop in theatrical settings, it is refreshing indeed to find a score that harkens back to a time when melody and melodic lines were the bread and butter of musical shows.

The melodies of "The Light in the Piazza" range from soaring to scintillating. Its composer is Adam Guettel who, in "Floyd Collins" a few years back, demonstrated both a melodic inventiveness and a flare for capturing the sound of a time and place. With "The Light in the Piazza" the time is the early 1950s and the place is Florence, Italy, just beginning to burst back to life after the devastation of World War II. Guettel found the blend of sounds that linked the place to its historical roots as a cultural capital over the centuries and the excitement of the post war boom in pop developments.

That Guettel would be gifted melodically may not be much of a



PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

**Margaret Anne Florence as Clara Johnson and Nicholas Rodriguez as Fabrizio Naccarelli in the Arena Stage production of "The Light in the Piazza."**

surprise. After all, his grandfather was Richard Rodgers of Rodgers and Hammerstein and also of Rodgers and Hart. His mother is that other Broadway veteran Rodgers, Mary — who composed the score for "Once Upon a Mattress"). Surprise or not, his felicity with melody is matched by an intelligent approach to structuring a score. His way with a tune may be inherited, but there is also ample evidence of the kind of craft in creating a full score that comes only from diligent study and practice.

Here, Guettel has the benefit of a well crafted script for a compelling story, which gives him plenty of opportunity for standout musical moments. That script, by Craig Lucas, is an adaptation of the novel by Elizabeth Spencer about a somewhat developmentally delayed American girl touring Italy with her mother and a young Italian boy who falls for her at first sight.

Margaret Anne Florence (yes, that is her last name!) is "Clara," the young lady in question, and her performance is marked by the flashes of immaturity that reveal her character with both subtlety and charm. Her young man is Nicholas Rodriguez, who is remarkable for his ability to sing melodic lines that are operatic in their intensity without making it sound pretentious. Instead it sounds like the flood of emotion filling his heart simply can't be contained. As he sings — mostly in Italian, occasionally in a broken English that is enchanting and even at times wordless in an entrancing flight of fancy — he carries the entire production to lovely heights.

Hollis Resnik is quite good as the girl's mother who has devoted her

life to protecting her innocent daughter only to find that she's got to let her make her own transition from child to adult at some point — and that he she might grow a bit herself in the process. It is a very meaty part that requires not only a wide range of acting skills but also a wide vocal range for revealing solos ("Dividing Day" and "The Beauty Is" are both highly demanding.)

Molly Smith's staging facilitates the clean, clear storytelling techniques that marked Lucas' score. Anne Patterson's set design seems a bit simplistic and plain when you enter the theater when there's no curtain drawn over the stage. It is transformed, however, with Adam Larsen's projections, which turn its surfaces into specific locales in Florence and Rome and contribute to the sense of disorientation for a key scene when Clara's mental capacities are first brought into question.

What might seem a light romantic tale becomes something richer at that point and the entire production — which might look like just a light romantic musical at first glance — is revealed as something both sumptuous and sensuous.

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).

## Where and When

"The Light in the Piazza" runs through April 11 at Arena Stage in Crystal City, 1800 South Bell Street. Performances are Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. and special weekday matinees at noon on March 30 and April 7. Tickets range from \$25 to \$74. Call 202-488-3300 or log on to [www.arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org).

# 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.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 25

### **Eighteenth-Century Dance**

**Classes.** 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost for lessons is \$30 for the series or \$12 per class. Reservations at 703-746-4242.

### **Free Blood Pressure Screening.**

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Also medication reviews. At The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred. Call 703-836-1700.

### **The Mango Project.** 7-9 p.m.

Features the sounds of contemporary and Latin-Jazz, as well as a variety of jazz standards and musical treatment of well known pop, R&B, and smooth jazz selections. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## MARCH 25-27

**Book Sale.** Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. The book sale has been a fixture in the Mount Vernon/ Alexandria/Fairfax community for many years with many thousands of books available for purchase. The books will be available in the "mansion" and in the "chapel" on the church grounds.

- \* On Thursday, March 25 the sale will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.
- \* On Friday, March 26 the sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special on this day will be 1/2 price books all day in the Mansion.
- \* On Saturday, March 27 the sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extra Special on this day will be \$5 for a bag of books in the mansion and 1/2 price books in the chapel all day.

The church is south of Alexandria off Fort Hunt Road. Follow signs at the intersection of Mason Hill and Fort Hunt Road. At 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 26

**Vocal Chamber Music.** 8 p.m. Free. With members of the Singing Sergeants of the U.S. Air Force Band. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Spring Vegetable Gardening Tips.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. The master gardeners at Green Spring Gardens share gardening tips, dazzle you with time-saving techniques, clarify simple steps and debunk horticulture myths. Reservations are required. The cost is \$12. Call 703-642-5173 to register. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

## MARCH 26, 27, 28

**"Into the Woods."** Staged by Bishop O'Connell Theatre. Performances are Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$10; students and seniors \$5. At 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit [www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre](http://www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre) or call the box office at 703-237-1448.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 27

**Easter Eggstravaganza and Egg Hunt.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. With 5,000 eggs for the Egg Hunt, games, Moon Bounce, kiddie train, balloon



**Last year, Bittersweet won the Fifth Annual Great Rum Punch Challenge.**

## SATURDAY/MARCH 27

**Great Rum Punch Challenge.** 7 to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local distilleries, restaurants and caterers and vote for your favorite. Tickets, which include admission (food and drink all evening), are \$50 per person, or \$100, which include admission and a special VIP pre-event tasting of Bacardi's special rums. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

artistry and more. Sponsored by National Community Church. At Top Golf, 6225 S. Van Dorn Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.eggstravaganzadc.com](http://www.eggstravaganzadc.com).

### **Generation to Generation Gala.**

6:30-11 p.m. Sponsored by the Senior Services of Alexandria. Honoring Mollie Abraham and her granddaughter Mary Abraham; Dr. Frank Carroll and his son Drew Carroll; Charlie Collum and his son Joseph Collum; and Ferdinand Day and his daughter Gwen Fuller Day. Entertainment by Johnnie Steele. At the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org/gala](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org/gala) or call 703-836-4414, ext.10

**Car Wash.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon High School Girls' Tennis Team. At Mt. Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road (Entrance 1), at the front of the school near the football field.

**Author Signing.** 2-4 p.m. Tod Steward, author of Juliet's Opera. At Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria.

**Yoga for Rookies.** 10 a.m. Free Class. At The Body in Balance Center, 1423 Powhatan Street, Suite 7, Alexandria. Call 703-578-4434.

### **Fort Hunt Preschool Rummage Sale.**

8 a.m. to noon. Features high-quality used infants', children's and maternity gear, including clothing, toys, games, books and furniture. At Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

### **Celebrations Around the Globe.**

4 p.m. Presented by the ACCT (Alexandria's City Community Theatre). At the Kauffman Auditorium at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Old Town Alexandria. Contact Ms. Dilworth-Abdalla at 703-746-5533

### **"JUMPPIN 4 JESUS."**

First Annual Double Dutch Tournament fundraiser. To benefit the return, updated, and revised educational stage production of "Nefertiti 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty." Visit [www.biblestoriestheatre.org](http://www.biblestoriestheatre.org).

**Sari to Skin.** 7-9 p.m. A one-woman performance featuring Neelam Patel in celebration of Women's History

Month. Presented by Empowered Women International. Tickets are \$15/person in advance or \$20/door. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Email [events@ewint.org](mailto:events@ewint.org) to RSVP.

**Night Hike.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park. Walk through the woods to the wetland with a naturalist. Hike some of the park's 1,428 acres which include wetlands, forests, meadows, streams and ponds and see resident deer, heron and other animals. Reservations are required. The cost is \$6 per person. Call 703-768-2525. At 3701 Lockheed Boulevard in Alexandria.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 28

### **Great Del Ray Easter Egg Hunt.**

11 a.m. Over 2,000 eggs will be hidden. The Easter Bunny will be available to have its picture taken with children. Free. Meet in the parking lot behind ACKC Del Ray, 2003A Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

### **2010 Spring Goodwill Concert Tour.**

4 p.m. Free. The Wiley College A. Cappella Choir of Marshall, Texas, will perform. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria.

**Team F.W.I.K Fund-Raiser.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pamper yourself for the cure. 50% of sales will be donated to Team F.W.I.K. (Fabulous Women I Know) At Salon deZEN, 1008 King Street Alexandria. Call Salon deZEN, 703-549-1400. Visit [www.fwik.org](http://www.fwik.org).

### **An Evening of Italian Opera Chorus.**

3 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus (Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director) and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will present "An Evening of Italian Opera Chorus," including music from Macbeth, Il trovatore, Lucia di Lammermoor and Aida. At Bishop Ireton High School (201 Cambridge Rd, Alexandria). Call 703-845-6097 or e-mail: [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu).

### **Snow Crab Legs and Shrimp Feast.**

1-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Merrifield Lions Club. There will be a DeeJay. Advanced tickets are \$38/adults, \$40/door, \$15/children, and groups of 8 or more are \$36/person. At the Dunn Loring Fire Department, 2128 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Call 703-255-2468 or email [kdalton@landon-ip.com](mailto:kdalton@landon-ip.com).

**The Dream Hour.** 2 p.m. The U.S. Marine Band with Col. Michael J. Colburn conducting and Mark Shields, moderator. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria Campus.

**Wiley College A. Cappella Choir.** 4 p.m. Free. Performs at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 30

**Life Line Screening.** 9 a.m. Get screened for risks of having strokes or bone fractures. Hosted by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes. At 8009 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

### **Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited.**

12:30 p.m. Community Service Workshop - Quilters will be working on quilts to donate to various organizations. At Hollin Hall Sr. Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.quiltersunlimited.org/mtv.htm](http://www.quiltersunlimited.org/mtv.htm).

**Sounds of the Saxophone.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Presented by the Washington Saxophone Quartet. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135 or visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org).

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# Solving Wet Basement Problems – Part 2

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

*This is the second of a two-part series offering consumer protection advice to homeowners with wet or flooded basements. The first installment was published in the March 18 edition and is available online by accessing the Mount Vernon Gazette at Connection Newspapers.com.*

**H**ave a wet or flooded basement? You are not alone. Record breaking snow followed by weeks of soaking rains has created the “perfect storm” for wet or flooded basements to occur.

Here are some Dos and Dons for you to consider as you plan for what to do to solve your wet basement problem.

**DON'T:** Panic and select the first contractor who responds to your invitation for a bid and then proceeds to drop his price by as much as 50 percent if you will just sign on the spot, and tell you that his crew is in the neighborhood and his company can do the job the next day.

This is a common scam to force the homeowner into signing and likely making an expensive and/or bad decision since there is no opportunity to compare solutions and prices, and check out the contractor with the Better Business Bureau or local consumer protection organization. Any contractor who employs the pressure technique to

sign quickly you should be suspicious of automatically, no matter how anxious you are to get the job done. Better to get the job done correctly and with a warranty rather than take the large discount to do the job beginning the next day only to find out later that the problem is not solved and you can't get the contractor to stand behind the work.

Also, beware of contractors who spend time criticizing the competition, rather than devoting your valuable time to analyzing the problem, making a case for their solution, and putting their proposal in writing as part of a contract.

**DO: Check out the contractors bidding for your work with one or more of the following organizations:**

- a. The Washington Consumer Checkbook; available online or in magazine format
- b. The Better Business Bureau
- c. Consumer Protection Commission; or Consumer Agencies of Alexandria Arlington or Fairfax county.
- d. Any other existing contractor referral service which evaluates contractor performance.

**DO: Check the contractors out with their own customers. Ask the contractor for a list of references. Your reference questions should include:**

1. Have you had any problems with their work and, if so, did they come out to fix

the problem in a timely way? Did they stand behind their work?

2. Do you believe that the price you paid was fair?

3. Did they work neatly, and did they clean up adequately?

4. Did their work solve your problem; if not, why not?

5. Would you use them again to do the same job?

**DON'T:** Select a contractor because of their availability immediately. Usually if they can do the job right away it is likely because they use subcontractors and not their own employees. Or, it also may mean they are not that busy, or the hastily formed crew workers are not that experienced in the special work they are supposed to perform. Waiting one, two, or even three weeks may make a difference in terms of the quality of the work performed, the cost of the job, whether it solves your problem permanently, and is performed by a licensed ethical contractor.

**Sump Pumps:**

A sump pump is an electrical device that is installed below the floor level about two and half feet deep inside a plastic, terra cotta, or concrete well. Its purpose is simply to pump out water collected under the basement floor and prevent water from overflowing on top of the floor. The pump commonly operates by a water table float

designed to trigger the electric motor to go on when the water table in the sump well is high enough to push the float upwards to the point that it starts the motor. A column of water is pumped out through a plastic pipe (discharge line) which runs outside and away from the house. The sump pump system is a passive system. Electricity is flowing through the sump pump only when the float triggers the pump into action. Tapping into the existing household electrical system is sufficient for a sump pump operation. Check the Warranty for the sump pump. How long is it good for? Do you have to send something to the manufacturer?

If there is a history of power outages during rainstorms at your house or neighborhood then battery back-up or generator backup systems should be considered.

**Battery Backup Systems or Generator Backup Systems:**

A battery-backup system means you have a second pump atop the primary pump in the sump well. This second pump is hooked up to a 12 volt battery. If the power goes out the primary pump stops working and the water table rises to the level of the second pump which is triggered by the float switch to pump water out of your basement. The battery typically operates for up to eight hours, which could mean several days of operation because the battery is hooked up

SEE WET BASEMENTS, PAGE 23

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

MVCCA, of which they are a member, to support their opposition even though denial of the rezoning would deprive the county, including those neighbors, of the benefits of the proffers. The MVCCA voted to oppose the rezoning on Feb. 27, 2008.

On March 27, 2008, the Planning Commission rendered its decision on the rezoning. Mount Vernon's Planning Commissioner, Earl Flanagan, in keeping with his earlier pledge to abide by MVCCA resolutions, made a motion to deny the rezoning. In one of the most unusual occurrences ever seen at a Planning Commission Hearing, Mr. Flanagan was unable to convince a single planning commissioner to vote in favor of his motion. Each and every planning commissioner besides Mr. Flanagan either voted to oppose his motion or abstained. Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy described in detail all the reasons why he would oppose the motion including the loss of all the proffers and the fact that the adjacent opposing neighborhood has the same zoning designation as in the Leatherland proposal. Other planning commissioners followed suit — the transcript runs 18 pages. After the motion was defeated, the reverse motion to recommend approval of the rezoning was made and the only one to oppose was Commissioner Flanagan. All of the other commissioners either abstained or voted in favor. With that, the proposal went to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors took up the rezoning at their meeting on June 30, 2008. Supervisor Hyland made a motion to deny the rezoning as Chairman Connolly and Supervisors McKay and Frey left the room (quite intriguing). The motion carried by a vote of 4-2 with Supervisor Hudgins abstaining. It is quite unusual for a supervisor to only be able to convince three others to vote with him or her concerning a development proposal in his or her district. Typically, such votes are unanimous or nearly so. I daresay a motion to approve the rezoning would have easily passed.

With the defeat of the rezoning, the County lost 15 pages of proffers and the Leatherland family could still develop the property with seven houses without having to abide by any of the proffers they had offered to give in exchange for the rezoning. Although a PDH-2 designation could have permitted construction of 14 houses, they had reduced that number to 11 during the process. Eleven homes on the Leatherland property would have matched the actual density of the adjacent neighborhood.

With this backdrop, it is apparent that Ms. Smith's nomination was made for the purpose of seeking to add to the Comprehensive Plan a number of the items her community lost when they defeated the rezoning and thus lost the proffers. The nomination seeks to amend the Comprehensive Plan so that it would recommend utilization of low impact design, storm water management, minimal disturbance tech-

niques, and a treed buffer, none of which would be required in by-right development and all of which would have been included in the proffers had the rezoning been approved. The nomination should be seen for what it is, a thinly veiled attempt by Ms. Smith and her community to have their cake and eat it too. They succeeded in opposing the rezoning and now want to have the benefit of the proffers they lost in the process.

I predict that the Planning Commission will see through this scheme, will remember what happened in 2008, and will kill this nomination regardless of the final recommendation of the Task Force. For the record, I am not acquainted with the Leatherland family, have only spoken with them at public hearings and have never represented them. This letter is written solely with the intent to shine a light on a potential injustice with the hope it will not occur.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Write

Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.  
By e-mail:  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

# Wet Basements

FROM PAGE 22

to a charger, and when it is not being used by the pump the battery will charge itself.

A backup generator should be used if the history of power outages is such that the only peace of mind one can realize is by purchasing a generator which operates the pump when the normal electric power fails. Multifamily housing units and commercial buildings will be more likely to select a generator system to back up the sump pump.

**DON'T:** Buy a battery backup system or generator merely because the contractor offers "a discount for the deal." Ask yourself: Do you have a history of power outages every time a hard rain arrives; do you want to have the additional responsibility of making sure that the battery is charged or the generator is working? If the answer is yes, then by all means purchase a backup system. Otherwise contract for a one-third horse power sump pump and keep it properly maintained and you will likely be okay. Even frequently used sump pumps will last many years if you merely keep the debris and crud from clogging up the pump.

In closing, the most important advice one can offer for those with a wet or flooded basement is don't panic, make certain you decide whether you need major contractor work or merely better maintenance effort on your part. Also, check contractor references and compare estimates before making a decision. It's buyer beware time out there.

*The author of this two part series was the owner of a waterproofing contracting firm from 1984-2005.*

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## COMMUNITY

Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club charter member Lee W. Palmer shared his memories about the time he spent on Anzio Beach in 1944 and the subsequent "second invasion" of France in August 1944, when he won his Purple Heart. (See photo presentation below.) Palmer spoke to the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club members at their March 3 meeting at the Mount Vernon Country Club. He will make his third presentation in September, including the Battle of the Bulge. Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club is a community service organization serving the children and needy families of the Mount Vernon community. See [www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org](http://www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org).



Mount Vernon Kiwanis members Jim Todd and Betty Puscheck distribute free books to the Head Start pre-kinder classes at the Head Start Center on Fordson Road on March 5. Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club purchases and distributes 500 new children's books each year to give to the children in this Center's programs.

# Kiwanis Club Serves Community



Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club President Bruce Malkin (right) with visiting Lt. Gov. Larry Demarest at the club's March 17 board meeting.

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club contingent attends the mid-winter conference at the Hyatt in Crystal City on Feb. 26-28. From left to right, seated, are Barbara Callahan, Paul Mehler, Vivien Peterson, Richard Peterson. Behind them are, standing, Joanne and Bruce Malkin (president). Not shown is Mary Ellen Mehler. Mehler received the Tablet of Honor at this event for many years of service dedicated to improving the life of Mount Vernon residents. Malkin presented the award to Mehler on Saturday and emceed the Sunday morning Inspirational Breakfast.



Betty and Herb Puscheck celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club's board meeting on March 17 at the Mount Vernon Country Club.



Kenny Blunt (on left), Jim Todd (as a pirate), and Dr. Jim Zalatel at the club's March 17 board meeting.

# Wolverines Enter 2010 with Confidence

Wolverines look to build on last season's winning record.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac girls lacrosse program started noticing on-field results in 2009, posting a winning record during head coach Lori Botha's first year with the team. But before the Ws started piling up, the Wolverines had to change their attitude and approach.

"I think it was just a commitment from the girls — just taking it seriously," Botha said of what helped the Wolverines improve from three wins in each of the 2007 and 2008 seasons to seven in 2009. "They're here six days a week, two hours [a day], they're putting in a huge time commitment. We're pretty strict with them. We've got goofy rules: no cussing, they have to act like ladies on and off the field, and I

think we've just taken it up to the next caliber. It's really become quite classy in two years and that's because [of the players]."

How has this approach affected the Wolverines?

"We're not holding our heads low any longer," senior captain Meredith Ryan said. "We're proud of ourselves and the program that we're developing."

West Potomac enters the 2010 season with a positive outlook and high expectations. The Wolverines lost only two seniors from a team that finished 7-5 last season.

Defensively, their low trio of Ryan, Lizzie Persekian and Adrienne Hampton leads the Wolverines.

Ryan is "the mother hen of the team. She really is," Botha said. "She kind of rounds [her teammates] up on and off the field. She was a great choice for captain."

Senior Paxton Aardema is the



Senior low defender Meredith Ryan is a captain of the West Potomac girls lacrosse team.



Senior goaltender Paxton Aardema is cool under pressure, head coach Lori Botha said.

PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

team's goaltender. "Paxton is so calm and cool and collected," Botha said. "Under pressure she just holds it together."

Botha, who played at St. Stephen's/St. Agnes and collegiately at Randolph-Macon, referred to her defenders as the "Rock of Gibraltar."

Offensively, West Potomac's top

scoring threats are Margaret Kerr, Alexa Botha, Margaret Corum and Laina Schneider.

Kelsey Donovan is the team's other captain.

West Potomac coaches and players spoke of the team's improved communication on the field. Assistant coach Kate Williams, who played collegiately at the Univer-

sity of Connecticut, credits time spent in the Fort Hunt youth league for the Wolverines' familiarity and continuity.

"They're just a really coachable group," she said. "... They all have great attitudes."

Ryan notices a difference in the team's performance.

"Just being familiar with all the girls, knowing where to put the ball ... and having a lot of confidence in your teammates makes a huge difference," Ryan said. "If you feel like you can pass it to them and they're going to [score] then I think that makes a huge difference."

"The program in general kind of did a 180 when I became an upperclassman."

How important is communicating on the field?

"If you don't talk," Aardema said, "it's just confusion and chaos on the field."

The Wolverines opened their season on March 17 with a 10-6 loss to Yorktown. The Wolverines travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:15 p.m. today.

## West Potomac's Cunningham Signs with JMU

All-Patriot District lineman to continue football career.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Matt Cunningham is uncertain what he'll look like 40 pounds heavier, but the relief of knowing where he's going to college is definite.

Cunningham, an all-district offensive lineman for West Potomac, signed a letter of intent to play football at Division I-AA James Madison University and will receive a full scholarship. The senior signed in February.

"It's pretty relaxing knowing I've got my future figured out," he said Monday. "I'm excited to go down [to Harrisonburg] and play."

The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Cunningham lined up at left tackle for the Wolverines, where he did not allow a sack as a senior and earned second-team All-Patriot District honors. He said he would prefer to play tackle in college but is open to moving inside. He is likely to redshirt next season and has already started a 12-week

workout program given to him by the JMU staff, who told Cunningham he could build himself up to 290 pounds.

"I'm going to trust whatever they tell me to do," he said. "... It's weird thinking about how I'm going to look at that weight."

Cunningham said he became focused on playing college football after his junior year.

"After my sophomore season, coaches told me I had the talent and the footwork to go play college football," Cunningham said. "I didn't take it too seriously my junior year. ... I think I could have been a lot better. After my junior season I started taking it seriously."

JMU, a member of the Colonial Athletic Association, went 6-5 during the 2009 season, closing the campaign with four consecutive victories. The Dukes won a national championship in 2004.

Cunningham also played basketball for West Potomac and competes in the shot put and discus. He carries a 3.3 GPA.



Pictured from left: (first row) Mrs. Cunningham, Matt Cunningham, Mr. Cunningham, (second row) West Potomac high school principal Cliff Hardison, head football coach Eric Henderson, DSA Aaron Helmick.

COURTESY PHOTO

# SPORTS

## 5Qs

### Five questions with Mount Vernon senior pitcher Mike Murdock

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

A: Macaroni and cheese.

**Q: What do you like to do away from baseball?**

A: We fish a lot, too. It's sort of a spring thing, really. As soon as baseball starts, before or after practice, depending on what time it is, we just fish.

**Q: What's your favorite part about playing on this team?**

A: It's got to be my teammates. A lot of these kids I've known since I was 10 years old. ... Some sports I hear people complaining about coming out to practice. I like coming out to practice. I love baseball.



**Q: Do you have a favorite baseball team or player?**

A: I like the [Tampa Bay] Rays and I like [outfielder] Carl Crawford. I'm from Tampa. I'm not a bandwagon-raised guy.

I liked them when they were the Devil Rays.

**Q: You're going to the University of South Carolina on a journalism scholarship. How did you get involved in journalism?**

A: I took it my freshman year and I ... was pretty good at it. I started reading more and more on the Internet every day when I was in there and I sort of fell in love with it. It's exciting writing an article. I like it a lot. ... I like opinions, mainly. I like to make jokes in my articles.

— JON ROETMAN

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### West Potomac Baseball Wins Big

The West Potomac baseball team defeated Stonewall Jackson 14-0 in five innings during its season opener on Friday.

Jacob Glaser picked up the win for the Wolverines, tossing four no-hit innings while striking out five. Jayme Murray struck out three in a scoreless fifth.

Jack King had two hits and four RBIs for West Potomac. David Burns, Sean Trenchard and Josh Belanger each had two hits.

West Potomac travels to face South County at 6:30 p.m. today.

### MV Drops Opener

The Mount Vernon baseball team lost its season opener to Stonewall Jackson, 5-1 on March 18. The Majors travel to face Stuart at 6 p.m. today.

## SCHOOL NOTES

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.

**Mount Vernon High School's Marine Course Junior ROTC (MCJROTC)** unit traveled to Gloucester, Mass., to participate in the MCJROTC Region One Championships on March 19-21. The 25 cadets from Mount Vernon claimed first place as the overall champions for this event which included 26 high schools from seven states. Areas of competition were marksmanship, physical fitness, academics, uniform inspection, and precision drill and color guard competitions. The cadets from Mount Vernon were awarded first place in the Color Guard and Inspection events and came in third in Academics. The team finished high enough in the other events to claim first place overall. This was the first such championship held by the Marine Corps.

These cadets from Ft. Belvoir participated: Dylan Anderson, Sara Duncan, Derrick Fleming, Robert Gill, LaTarryl Hall, Denise McGarity, Victoria Miller, Michael Parker and Christian Snow.

**Dental Careers students** from West Potomac Academy volunteered as dental assistants in the MOMS (Mission of Mercy) project alongside local dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to offer free dental care to the community on March 12 and 13 at the Northern Virginia Community College Medical Campus in Springfield.

**First Lady Michelle Obama** invited Mount Vernon High School to send five female students to White House celebration of Women's History Month. Seniors **Katie Lucas, Brittany Pruitt, Thao Pham, Tracy King and Betsy Diaz** got a chance to meet Mrs. Obama and take a group photo. They also heard the President speak and mingled with many other prominent women who also attended the event.

The following local students have graduated from Excelsior College.

♦ **Ariana Sarita Ramirez**, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

♦ **Nancy Vo**, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

**The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce** announces that scholarships for 2010 graduating high school seniors, pursuing further education in a business related field, are now available.

Six scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each and are open to all students living in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. Applications are available at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org), at school career centers, or by calling 703-360-6925. Students may apply online or download an application and return it. All applications must be received by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 27

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# SCHOOLS



**Second in State Finals** Browne Academy students earned second place at the 2010 We the People Middle School State Finals competition in Richmond on March 13. The We the People competition is a national forensic contest sponsored by the Montpelier Foundation to encourage the study of the United States Constitution by middle and high school students. This was Browne Academy's first year entering the competition. The students were coached by middle school history teacher, William Stribling.

## SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 26

Commerce by Friday, April 23.

Sixty-seven Fairfax County Public Schools students have been named to the Virginia All-State Chorus for 2010 and will perform as a group April 29-May 1 at the Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner. Additionally, 45 FCPS students were named alternates to the All-State Chorus.

Local students selected for the 2010 Virginia All-State Chorus and as alternates are:

❖ **Mount Vernon High School:** Brianna Miller and alternate Deborah Kamara.

❖ **West Potomac High School:** Sally Henrehan, Max Jones, Emily Sedlak, and Chris Tyson and alternates Joseph Benitez, Emily Dell, James Guss, and Ariel Villa.

**West Potomac Academy Fashion Design students** participated in Pink Fashion Rocks, to benefit breast cancer charities, on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at Long View Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Three West Potomac Academy student garments were selected for the runway show and were featured alongside garments from designers such as Betsey Johnson. Students worked backstage with models, assembling swag bags, and assisting with show production.

**Carl Sandburg Middle School** is challenging the Guinness Book of World Records for the World's Largest Pie Fight. The fund-raising event for the CSMS PTA takes place on April 24 at 8 a.m. at the school and will have about 250 people, with each person throwing two pies. To pre-order tickets, contact Kim Zuber at [recordpiefight@yahoo.com](mailto:recordpiefight@yahoo.com) or 703-799-

9524.

**The National Honor Society at MVHS** is accepting applications from March 15 through April 9. Students must have completed their freshman year, have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and must have demonstrated a commitment to service and scholarship. Additionally, each applicant must write a reflective essay and obtain recommendations from two current or former teachers.

The application packet is provided on the MVHS homepage. Alternatively, you can request an application packet by e-mail from [Daniel.Coast@fcps.edu](mailto:Daniel.Coast@fcps.edu) or [Karen.Hertel@fcps.edu](mailto:Karen.Hertel@fcps.edu) to obtain a fillable PDF form. This form can be filled in, printed and hand delivered to the IB offices at MVHS before the deadline of April 9.

Applicants will have their packets reviewed by a council of MVHS faculty and a notification about acceptance will be sent out to each applicant on May 7, 2010.

Visit the web site, <http://www.nhs.us>

**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: [llscouter@aol.com](mailto:llscouter@aol.com), 281-536-3121 or Jennifer Julian Radcliffe: [hood1984@aol.com](mailto:hood1984@aol.com), 703-968-3072.

**Fort Hunt High School**, Alexandria, class of 1980 announces its 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. Plans are under way for a fun-filled weekend in July 2010. Visit the web site to register and stay connected on all of the happenings. Go to [fhhs80.com](http://fhhs80.com) or email: [fhhsclassof80@yahoo.com](mailto:fhhsclassof80@yahoo.com).

Seven Alexandria residents have recently been named to the dean's list at

Boston University for the Fall semester: **Erin T. Coffey, Patrick R. Fitzsimmons, Thao T. Nguyen-Le, Dale S. Placek, Benjamin B. Rhodside, William J. Tortolano IV.** and **Alison M. Yates.**

**Caroline "Callie" Denne** of Alexandria, class of 2010, is studying with the Freiburg (language & area studies) program in Germany. Denne is majoring in history at Denison University.

Two local students from the Class of 2013 at Hampden-Sydney College are Patrick Henry Scholars.

❖ **Frank Butner Clay IV** — Frank is a graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School and is the son of Ann and Frank Clay of Alexandria.

❖ **Taylor A. O'Sullivan** — Taylor is a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Sullivan of Alexandria.

**West Potomac High School students Margaret Berrigan and Andrew Staples** were named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for 2010. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$36 million, to be awarded in spring 2010.

**Tammy Angelia Markham**, a resident of Alexandria has earned a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College.

**Paul Doucette of Alexandria** was recently elected to the Drake University's National Alumni Association Board of Directors. Doucette graduated from Drake in 1997 with a degree in business.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 30

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## SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 27

**Helen Medmim of Alexandria**, a freshman majoring in finance in the Pamplin College of Business, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Dahyeon Sow of Alexandria**, a freshman majoring in art in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Adina Bhatti of Alexandria**, a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Alan Gomez of Alexandria**, a freshman majoring in general engineering at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Corey Latta**, daughter of Pat and Ken Latta of Alexandria, was involved in the Sweet Briar College Theatre's fall production, "The Bacchae". Corey is a Junior Music Performance in French Horn and Voice at Sweet Briar. The show ran Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

**Catherine D. Kahl of Alexandria** enrolled at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, this fall. Before classes began she took part in an orientation that included an introduction to Colby's rigorous academics, rich cultural life, and community involvement opportunities as well as a three-day outdoor excursion. A graduate of Potomac School, Kahl is the daughter of James and Caroline Kahl of Alexandria.

**Shao Cui of Alexandria**, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in business administration in the Pamplin College of Business, was chosen to be a graduate hall director at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Jerilyn Brooks of Alexandria**, a senior majoring in animal and poultry sciences, biological sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was chosen to be a resident advisor at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Hunter Simmons of Alexandria**, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a graduate hall director at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Brandon Lamma of Alexandria**, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a graduate advisor for the Oak Lane Community at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Peter Kraines of Alexandria**, a senior majoring in apparel, housing and resource management, marketing management in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a house supervisor at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Kathryn Steele of Alexandria**, a senior majoring in international studies and French in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, was presented the Jocelyne Couture-Nowak Memorial Scholarship.

## Schaefermeier: State Geo Bee Semifinalist

**W**illiam Schaefermeier, a sixth-grader at St. Mary's Catholic School in Alexandria, is a semifinalist in the National Geographic Society's 2010 Virginia Geographic Bee. He is the son of Martin and Grace Schaefermeier of Mount Vernon.

William competed in his school Geography Bee against one fourth-grader, one fifth-grader, and seven, seventh- and eighth-graders. He was chosen to represent the sixth-grade in the school Geo Bee during qualifying rounds in the sixth-grade classrooms. He then went on to win his school Geography Bee. As the winner of his school Geo Bee, he took a National Geographic written test, which all school Geo Bee winners take. His score qualified him as one of the 100 kids from Virginia to compete in the Virginia State Geo Bee on April 9 in Winchester.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "National Geographic Collegiate Atlas of the World," and a trip to Washington, D.C., where he will represent Virginia



**William Schaefermeier at the Billy Goat Trail at the C&O Canal National Park.**

in the national finals at the National Geographic Society headquarters, May 25-26. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, lifetime membership in the Society. The national winner will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, to the Galapagos Islands.

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<b>Sunday</b> 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)	<b>Children's Liturgy of the Word</b> Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English) <b>Sign Language Interpreter</b> Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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The Gift of the Eucharist

**Good Friday, April 2**  
11a.m., Family Worship, Jesus' walk to Calvary  
7:30 p.m., TENEBRAE, The Darkness before the Light

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 4**  
7:00 a.m., Sunrise Worship at Mt. Comfort  
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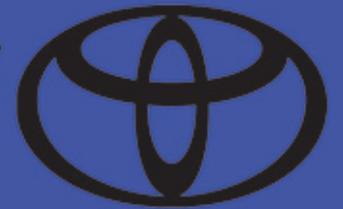
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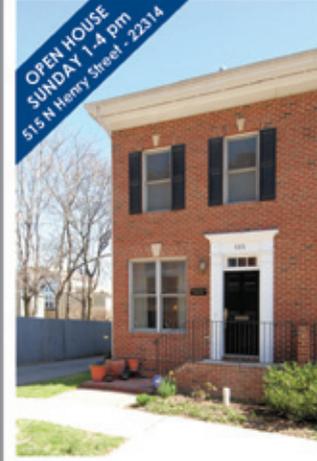
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**It's All Here!**

Fantastic, huge Colonial in pristine condition on a large wooded lot. Three fully finished levels feature space to live, play and work. Office, sunroom and library complete the upper levels. Lower level boasts an au pair/in-law suite/huge rec room, workshop, and tons of storage. Located in a small community of homes built in 2001. Minutes from Metro and Fort Belvoir.

**Vicki Binkley**  
 703.994.0778  
 www.vickibinkley.com  
 MLS ID# FX7279280



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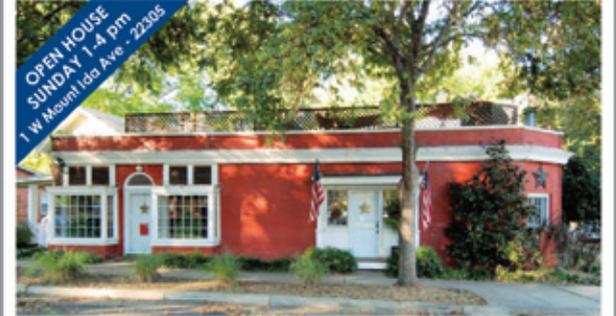
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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY \$689,000



**Uniquely Historic Del Ray Home**

Corner lot with ROOF DECK. Entertain in the large & updated kitchen adjacent to the spacious dining room. A wood-burning fireplace invites you to relax in the living room. A large window seat in the family room provides a cozy reading nook & natural light. Two bedrooms & two modern baths are well placed for privacy. Walk to shops & restaurants.

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
 703.286.1239  
 www.lizluke.com  
 MLS ID# AX7280203



ALEXANDRIA \$799,000



**A Home for All Reasons**

At Alexandria's Governor's Hill. Perfect location, incredible space (5,200+ square feet), imaginative floor plan and great price. Gourmet kitchen, five bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths, two-story lower-level with in-law suite and craft room, two fireplaces, close to Metro and Old Town.

**Deborah Manarin**  
 703.517.5005  
 www.mceneaney.com



ALEXANDRIA/JEFFERSON MANOR \$376,900



**A Perfect 10!**

Enjoy a lazy afternoon on the open front porch! With wood floors and soothing colors that accent the high profile trim, included in this restoration is a two-story rear porch addition and window egress from finished lower level. Upscale kitchen features maple cabinets, stainless appliances and granite counters. Privacy fence, off-street parking, close to park & Metro.

**Honor Vandever Jane Manstof**  
 703.615.0363 571.276.8116  
 www.honorjane.com  
 MLS ID# FX7285860



ALEXANDRIA/PARKFAIRFAX \$299,900



**Mount Eagle End Unit!!**

Private, light-filled Madison model with new tile/wood entry, new kitchen floors, countertops, sink and faucet, new air conditioning units, new light fixtures. Two-level townhouse with two bedrooms, one bath, park-like setting in favorite Parkfairfax location. Easy commute to DC, Pentagon, and National Airport.

**Donna Cramer**  
 703.627.9578  
 www.donnacramer.com  
 MLS ID# AX7284949



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