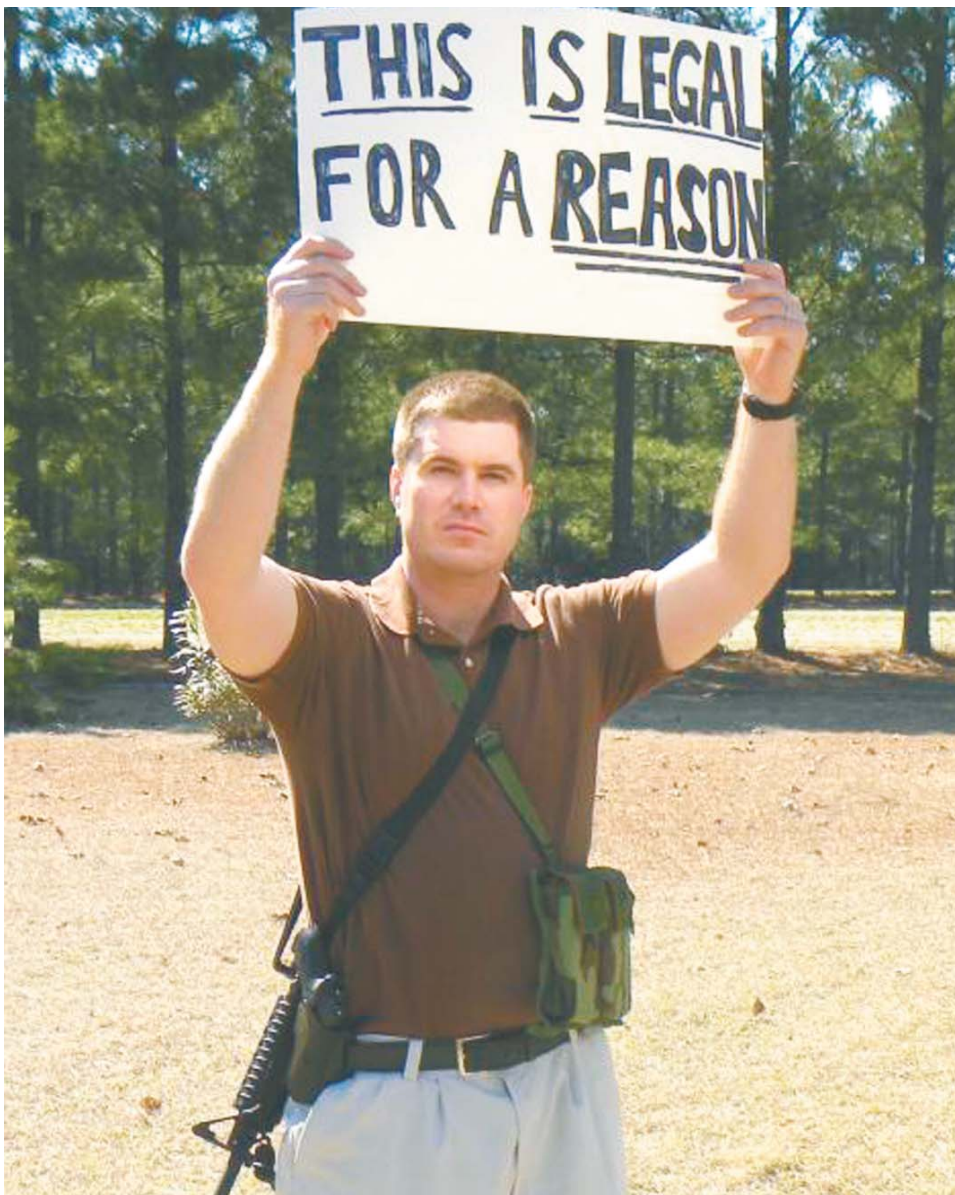


Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 1, 2010



COURTESY PHOTO

Daniel Almond is a Georgia real-estate agent who is planning a pro-gun rally in Northern Virginia on April 19 to commemorate the Shot Heard Round the World at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

Guns and Speeches

Firearms advocates plan rally to start at Fort Hunt Park and move to Gravelly Point.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Daniel Almond has never been to Fort Ward Park or Gravelly Park. And he's never staged a rally before. He doesn't even live in Virginia, but he's not letting that stop him from staging an April 19 rally he's calling "Restore the Constitution."

Almond, who lives near Atlanta, is an Iraq war veteran who separated from the Marine Corps in 2007. Since then, he's become increasingly concerned about a growing list of what he considers constitutional violations. It's a catalogue that includes the bank bail-

out, mandated health insurance, eminent domain and the federal minimum wage for starters. Inspired by a Florida-based online communication network known as Alarm and Muster, Almond decided stage a rally where supporters could bring their firearms in what he calls "civil obedience."

"We wanted to have it as close to D.C. as possible," said Almond, a real-estate agent. "This is intended for a national audience."

Enter the National Park Service.

Last month, the longstanding prohibition against bringing firearms into parks owned and operated by the National Park Service was overturned. When Congress was considering

SEE GUNS AND SPEECHES, PAGE 18

Admirers Say Parris Helped Shape Northern Virginia

Former congressman, 80, died March 27.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

When Stanford E. Parris took his first job on Capitol Hill in 1958, it wasn't glamorous work.

He ran a mimeograph machine in the basement beneath the House of Representatives. The wages helped pay his law school tuition at The George Washington University.

Fourteen years later, Parris returned to the Capitol in a far more high profile position. He served as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District from 1973 to 1974 and 1981 to 1990.

The former Republican congressman died March 27 at the age of 80 in Mathews County, Va. He is survived by his wife Martie, three daughters and grandchildren.

AS A CONGRESSMAN, Parris represented a far larger geographic swath of Virginia than his successor, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), currently does. In the 1980s, the 8th Congressional District included the City of Alexandria, the entire southern half of Fairfax County, part of Prince William County and the tip of Stafford County.

Responsible for such a large territory, Parris had his hand in a range of regional transportation and economic development projects.

He is partly responsible for the Torpedo Factory Art Center along the Alexandria waterfront and the "high occupancy vehicle" [HOV] lanes on Interstate 95. Parris was also on the founding board of directors at George Mason University.

"Stan was involved in almost every major thing in Northern Virginia," said U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), who first got to know Parris when they both campaigned for congressional seats in 1980.

TOGETHER, Parris and Wolf worked to get Dulles International Airport transferred from the federal government to a regional authority, which allowed the airport to advertise and modernize. Dulles had been losing business to Baltimore-Washington International Air-



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Stan Parris' career as a local elected official spanned from the 1960s to the 1980s.

port prior to the authority change.

"It was a great deal for regional economic development," said Wolf.

Former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) said Parris also helped secure funding for and assisted with the upstart of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter train.

"In 1983, I went to talk to him and he was the only politician I know who really moved on it and told me it could be done," said McConnell, who spent 20 years representing southern Fairfax County.

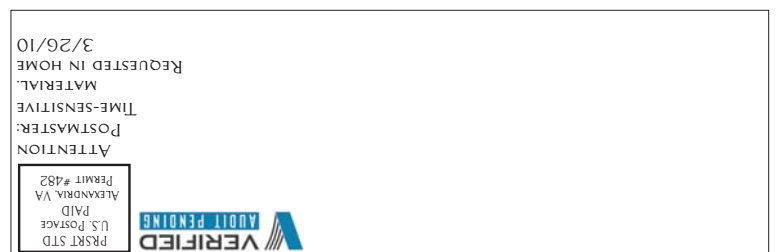
"I didn't have many supporters for VRE in 1983," she said.

PRIOR TO SERVING in Congress, Parris was also a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1964 to 1967. He almost won a race for Fairfax County chairman.

The former congressman also served one term in the House of Delegates and was appointed Virginia's Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1978, between his two stints in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Stan was Fairfax. He is the only person in Fairfax's history to serve in all three levels of government," said former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), who was a Fairfax supervisor when

SEE FORMER CONGRESSMAN, PAGE 4





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Gang-Related Homicide

Two teenagers, ages 15 and 16, and a 19-year-old man from the Alexandria-area have been arrested and charged in connection with the homicide that occurred in the area of Manor Drive and Osman Drive on Friday, March 19.

The victim in this homicide has been identified as Christian Perez, 16, of 8521 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 case remains under investigation.

With the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Service Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Prince William County Police, the three suspects were arrested last week. The 15-year-old was apprehended on Monday, March 22 in Woodbridge; the 16-year-old was apprehended Friday, March 26 in New York City. Both have been charged with murder.

Jorge Albarenga, of 8569 Southlawn Court, was arrested on Wednesday, March 24 in Harrisonburg, Va. He has been charged with malicious wounding by a mob and gang participation. The younger juvenile is currently in the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center and Albarenga is being held in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Woman Shot in Engleside Area

On Wednesday, March 24 around 7:26 a.m., Fairfax County police responded to the intersection of Francisco Way and Orinda Court for reports of a person who had been shot.

Police found Morgan Myatt, 23, of 1311 Holly Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., deceased inside a parked vehicle. Police also recovered a gun at the scene.

Later that day around 4 p.m., Arlington County police responded to a weapons call where Antoine Avery, 25, of 6112 Crown Grant Drive in Spotsylvania, Va., was found shot to death in an apparent suicide in the 1200 block of South Quincy Street. Fairfax County police have concluded that Avery is the suspect in this homicide.

Cause of Death Determined

The body of a man was found in a community pond in the 8300 block of Pondsides Terrace on Thursday, March 18. The cause of death was determined to be drowning. Around 4:14 p.m., a resident walking around the pond noticed something in the water that looked suspicious and called police. The police and fire departments responded and determined it was a deceased man. No foul play is suspected and police are working to identify the man.

He is described as black, between 20 and 30 years old, about 6 feet 2 inches tall and 165 pounds. He was wearing brown Nautica pants over three layers of thermal underwear, a multi-colored, button-up Tommy Hilfiger shirt over a thermal shirt and a T-shirt imprinted with "Cabo Verdo Show 2008." Over the button-up shirt, the man had on a brown Field & Stream coat and a green L.L. Bean fleece, sleeveless vest. He also had on black Tommy Hilfiger boots.

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

Schnoz To the Rescue

A Fairfax County bloodhound and his handler successfully tracked and located a woman who had been missing in the woods of Mason Neck State Park for around two days.

Park rangers were scouring the trails of the park after they found an abandoned vehicle on Monday, March 22. Park authorities contacted Fairfax County Police for assistance and a bloodhound named Schnoz went to work.

At around 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, Schnoz and Master Police Officer Pete Masood located the 53-year-old Lorton-area woman amidst thick brush, leaves and forest undergrowth. She was disoriented and suffering from hypothermia but was taken to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital where she was treated for non life-threatening injuries. Just three weeks ago, Schnoz successfully tracked down a suspect wanted in an armed carjacking in the Springfield area.



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO

Janice Olshesky, owner of Olshesky Design, asks a question during the Q&A session.

BRAC and Beyond Presentation Answers Some Questions

SFDC Puts Together an Informative Session

BY GALE CURCIO
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

A packed room of people at the Best Western Mount Vernon had a lot on their minds as they attended SFDC's BRAC and Beyond presentation this week. They wanted to know when Mulligan Road and the Fairfax County Parkway will be complete. Business owners wanted to know what business opportunities there are — both on and off the base. People looking for jobs wanted to know what employment opportunities will be created. And everybody wants to know what traffic will be like when BRAC is finally implemented.

Given that BRAC has been discussed for so long, it may seem like a pipe dream. Rest assured, however, that BRAC is closer than it appears.

"We have 18 months left to complete the mandate that was given [to us]," said Col. Mark Moffatt, Deputy Garrison Commander for Transportation and BRAC, Fort Belvoir. "It is not without challenge or consternation, but it will happen."

Evidence of the preparation for BRAC is all around. Moffatt said that



Col. Mark Moffatt answers questions from attendees.

they will have done \$4 billion in construction between 2007 and 2010. While Fort Belvoir is not adding acreage, they are adding buildings and roads. Work has just been completed on the 1,200th new house, and 450 more homes are coming.

A whole new complex is being built for National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which is BRAC's major organization bringing 8,500 new employees to the area.

"This is the crown jewel," said Moffatt. "It will bring four separate locations under one roof and occupy 2.4 million square feet."

Moffatt went on to detail some of the other salient points. All phases of the Fairfax County Parkway will be completed at the end of this year. Mulligan Road will open for traffic next summer and will be fully complete in spring, 2012. Mulligan Road will give people in Mount Vernon direct access to Telegraph and Beulah Roads, or as Moffatt

quipped, "It's the road that will take people to the new Wegmans."

In addition, several roads within the base are being widened, while new gates are being added and current gates will be updated.

"A lot of things are happening," said Moffatt.

Work on the new Medical Campus is moving along. This state-of-the-art facility tops off at seven stories, and will include a 24-hour Child Development Center, Dental Clinic and a Warrior Transition Complex. The hospital itself will have four clinic buildings, 10 operating rooms, full ICU, neo-natal ICU and 120 patient rooms. A total of 2,500 employees will be employed by the medical complex.

An excerpt from Belvoir's New Vision newsletter states: "Two major milestones were observed in December 2009, as the last pieces of steel were raised for the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital on the Main Post and the Base Realignment and Closure Recommendation 133 (BRAC 133) project, Department of Defense (DoD) office complex at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Va."

Austin Durrer, Chief of Staff, Con

SEE BRAC, PAGE 12

An Aging, More Diverse Community

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

This is the second of three articles about the 2010 census and what to expect in Fairfax County. To see other articles, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

Thirty years ago, 86 percent of Fairfax County residents were white and the average age of the Fairfax citizen was 30 years old. Only 11 percent of the population spoke a language other than English at home and nine percent was born in another country.

But 2010 presents a different picture for Fairfax. Only 67 percent of residents are white and citizens are, on average, nine years older than they were in 1980. More than a third of county residents now speak a language other than English in their homes and 28 percent, almost one in three, are foreign born.

"Washington has emerged as an immigrant gateway over the last 10 to 15 years. It is one of the country's newer destinations for immigrants," said Jill Wilson, a senior research analyst at The

Brookings Institution who has studied immigration patterns in metropolitan areas across the country, including the Washington D.C. area.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments predicts that there will be fewer white Fairfax residents than people from other racial or ethnic minority groups in the coming decade. Fairfax County Public Schools is already a "majority minority" district, meaning that a higher percentage of minority students than students who are white attend the local public schools.

"I am eager to see the numbers regarding our diverse population in Fairfax County. It is obvious how diverse our county has become," said Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

WHEN COMPARED to the rest of the United States, a larger share of Fairfax's population is already part of a racial minority group. In 2008, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 73.4 percent of the United States was white, as opposed to 67 percent of Fairfax residents.

Fairfax's dominant racial and ethnic minority groups are also different from those seen in other parts of Virginia and the country.

In the United States, people who are Hispanic make up the largest minority group, with 15.1 percent of the population. People who are black or African American make up the largest racial minority group nationwide, at 12.6 percent, according to 2008 census estimates.

In Virginia, people who are black or African American, at 20 percent of the state's population, are the largest minority group in the commonwealth.

But Fairfax bucks national and statewide trends. Asian residents, who make up 17 percent of the county's population, are the largest minority group in the Northern Virginia county.

By comparison, people who are Asian make up about 4.4 percent of the United States total population and 3.6 percent of Virginia's total population, according to the U.S. Census' 2008 estimates.

Within the Asian community, the Korean, Asian Indian and Vietnamese populations are the largest.

Former Congressman Stan Parris Dies

FROM PAGE 1

Parris was in Congress.

Parris acted as a booster for the business community and embraced development, which resulted in the current vibrant economy, said Davis and others.

"He came around at a time when the county was beginning to develop. He was very important in the formation and making of Fairfax County as we know it today," said Davis.

PARRIS WAS also one of the forebears of the modern Republican Party in Virginia. Virginia, including Fairfax County, was dominated by southern Democrats until the late 1970s.

He was the only Republican on the Fairfax County Board and one of nine Republicans in the 100-member House of Delegates.

"He and Jack Herrity, they were part of a small group that really started the Republican

Party in Fairfax in the 1960s and 1970s. There weren't really that many Republicans in Fairfax back then," said Wolf.

THE FORMER congressman also had a series of spirited political campaigns.

Mount Vernon resident and former U.S. Rep. Herbert Harris (D-8) ousted Parris in 1974 after Parris had served just one term. It was the election directly after the Watergate scandal broke, which several people said gave Democrats an inherent advantage.

"I think he worked hard on what he believed but many of the things he believed I was opposed to," said Harris.

But Parris faced Harris in two more elections, beating the Democrat in 1980.

"The Parris-Harris debates, they were like the Lincoln-Douglas debates," said Wolf of the 1980 campaign.

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To register, call 703-750-8800.



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

Mount Vernon Tennis Holds Car Wash



The Majors girls tennis team participates in a car wash outside Mount Vernon High School on Saturday, March 27. Donations collected from the car wash will be contributed to the girls tennis team.



Elizabeth O'Hara, a member of the Majors tennis team, lends a hand in the car wash.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY

Stephanie De Lossantos, Tanisha Timberlake, Kara Lyons, Edam Seibu and Lena Daresery help out at the girls tennis team car wash outside Mount Vernon High School.



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OPINION

Poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and we invite our local poets to send submissions for us to print.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and “seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.”

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, claudiaemerson.org.

Emerson won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection “Late Wife.” She is a professor of English and Poetry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

But some residents are lucky enough to have local poetry as well.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city’s poet laureate for a three-year term. Her replacement for the next three years is set to be announced shortly.

Arlington sponsors poetry competitions, one open to all, one for Arlington public school students, culminating in the display of winning poems (all limited in length) on Northern Virginia Metro busses.

This is one service local government could expand even in these economic times; Fairfax

Poem a Day for April

Go to www.poets.org to sign up to receive a poem e-mailed daily.

Moving Words

Launched in 1999 during National Poetry Month, Moving Words makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters in Northern Virginia and promotes the work of local writers. The poems of six local poets selected through an annual competition are displayed on Northern Virginia Metro buses and viewed by approximately 1.3 million Metro bus riders every month. The poems are exhibited in Metro buses that traverse Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Read the poems of the six winners and seven finalists at <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/moving-words-2010.aspx>.

Poetry Reading

Winners of the 2010 Poetry Competition are featured at IOTA Club & Cafe’s Second Sundays Poetry and Art Hang, on Sunday, April 11, at 8:15 p.m., at IOTA Club & Cafe 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. www.iotaclubandcafe.com.

For Arlington Students

Students in Arlington can enter the Moving Words Student Poetry Competition at www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/student-moving-words-poetry-competition.aspx. The deadline to submit poems for this school year is Friday, April 30.

Arlington Public Schools students in grades kindergarten through 12th are eligible to submit poems and 12 student poems will be selected for display in Northern Virginia buses from October 2010 through March 2011. See the Web site or contact Allison Gilbert at 703-228-6299 or agilbert@arlington.k12.va.us

and Arlington counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Gazette will print po-

etry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year. We welcome student poetry as well, please list the student’s age, grade and school on the submission.

Send poems to Gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MVCCA Is a “Lobbying Organization”

To the Editor:

There are 228 community associations in the Mount Vernon District. The MVCCA represents 64 of them. Another two dozen or so are members of the South County Federation (SCF). Many communities have no community association.

Since the MVCCA represents barely 1/4 of the community associations in the Mount Vernon District and only a small percentage of the 125,000 or so residents of the Mount Vernon District, it remains a mystery to this writer why Supervisor Hyland sometimes uses decisions of the MVCCA as political cover for decisions he makes in the name of the entire District, and why voters have not, to my knowledge, raised this issue with him.

At the MVCCA Council meeting on March 24, 2010, a small minority of their 64 member organizations voted to enact three resolutions pertaining to the upcoming decision on the Fairfax County

Budget. The resolutions could not possibly speak for the Mount Vernon district.

Their Education Committee resolution arose out of a meeting on March 3, 2010, attended by nine community associations. The resolution as enacted through 16 affirmative votes asks the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to establish a real estate tax rate adequate to accomplish the desires of the MVCCA and in so doing to “seek out and employ other revenue enhancement opportunities.” (Why can’t proponents of “tax increases” just use those words?)

The Health and Human Services (HHS) resolution arose out of a meeting on March 9, 2010, attended by 15 community association representatives. As originally drafted, the resolution proposed restoration of \$12.75 million in proposed budget cuts. At the Council meeting last week, the resolution was amended to strike \$10.1 million in proposed restored budget cuts intended for blueprint housing. With that amendment, the resolution was approved by a vote of 13-0 with five abstentions. This resolution also includes the MVCCA request that the BOS “adopt new tax rates and seek more diversified revenue enhance-

ments that will provide County revenue sufficient to avert unacceptable damage to essential public services ...”. What about unacceptable damage to the cash flow of citizens during a severe recession? One taxpayer’s “essential” can be another’s “extravagant.”

The Budget Committee resolution arose from their March 3, 2010 meeting attended by six representatives. At the Council meeting, David Dale proposed an amendment seeking to redirect all funding in the current County budget proposal for the proposed development of North Hill “into public safety, human services, and education, resulting in the delay of the North Hill project by one year.” That proposal was approved by a vote of 8-5-5. Mr. Dale was an opponent of the North Hill resolution passed by the MVCCA in 2007, which recommended use of over 20 acres for a park and the remainder, about 11 acres, for construction of 65 affordable homes for the less fortunate. The County intends to proceed along those lines and is moving forward. Last year, Mr. Dale made the self-serving proposal on behalf of his community that the County use the money appropriated for the North Hill project to instead buy fore-

closed homes in his neighborhood to house the less fortunate. He continues his opposition to North Hill with the Budget & Finance resolution amendment. According to Cynthia Ianni, the County’s Director of Design, Development and Construction for the Department of Housing and Community Development, the current County budget proposal includes no budget item pertaining to North Hill. As such, Mr. Dale’s amendment not only has absolutely no effect, it calls into question his credibility. With that amendment, the Budget resolution passed by a vote of 8-3 with five abstentions. For those keeping score, the Budget resolution was supported by fewer than 14 people, eight at the Council and fewer than six at the Committee (I’m told the vote there wasn’t unanimous).

Resolutions that fly under the radar and are enacted by the affirmative votes of eight out of 64 MVCCA member communities (12.5 percent) can’t possibly even represent the views of MVCCA member communities much less those of the entire Mount Vernon district.

The MVCCA must be seen for

SEE OPINION, PAGE 7

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

what it really is: a lobbying organization for its 64-member associations that often takes positions based upon votes of a small fraction of the representatives of those associations. Supervisor Hyland should not credit the lobbying efforts of the MVCCA by using them as political cover for decisions he takes in the name of our entire District. I have no objection to our Supervisor taking into

consideration the views of the MVCCA as represented by their enacted resolutions. However, any claim by Supervisor Hyland that those resolutions are representative of the views of the entire Mount Vernon District is a serious error and a practice that must not occur.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Undermining Peace Efforts

To the Editor:

Those of us who truly care about Israel know that President Barack Obama is right to confront Israel over its approval of a new settlement construction plan in East Jerusalem. Settlement expansion undermines the prospects of peace. And Israel's future is dependent on reaching a two-state solution.

Americans are smart. We know that peace for Israel is more important than the expansion of settlements. We also know that our interests are directly tied to Middle East peace and to Israel.

Peace talks will not succeed without genuine, sustained Ameri-

can leadership. All sides must know that there will be a price to pay for frustrating peace efforts. President Obama enjoys my support when he demonstrates such leadership.

Gail Weigl
Alexandria

Write

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7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

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6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)

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(Mass or Communion Service)

9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

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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Project Patriot

Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), recognized the contributions of family caregivers in a Feb. 16, Project Patriot presentation at Fort Belvoir. Through a partnership with the Warriors in Transition Unit, Soldiers and Family Assistance Center, the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, which meets in the Mount Vernon area, brought Valentine's Day theme gift bags to Director Sherrell Murray for presentation to wives, daughters and husbands who have been devoted caregivers to wounded or gravely ill servicemembers. The gifts were a way of thanking the caregivers for their sacrifices and giving them a little TLC back. The Kate Waller Barrett Chapter project is part of a national

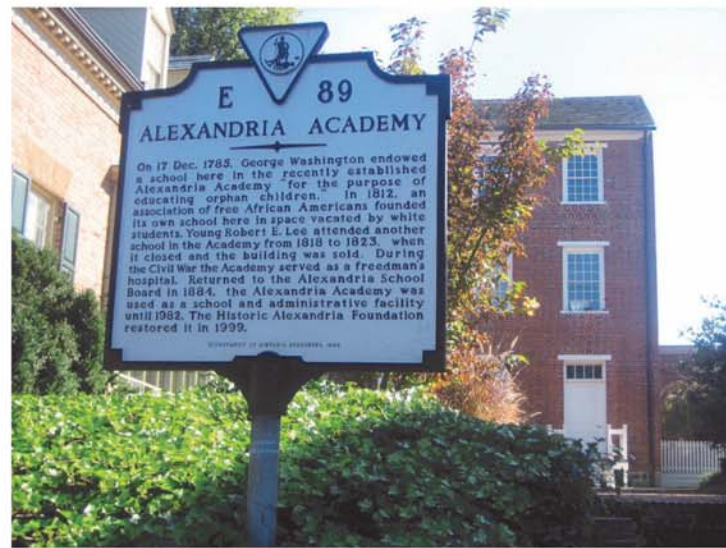


CDR Anne McKinney, USN (Ret), Project Patriot Committee, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

DAR Project Patriot, which includes the adoption of Landstuhl Medical Center and support from across the nation for the wounded warriors treated there.

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BRAC and Beyond

FROM PAGE 3

gressman Jim Moran (D-8), discussed some of the funding issues for transportation projects. Some of the money has been allocated, but they are adding language to upcoming bills to get more money allocated.

For the small business owners, Bridget Bean, director, Washington Metropolitan, Small Business Administration, had great news. She said that 1,600 firms have secured \$6.1 billion in prime government contracts — and these numbers

don't even include sub-prime contractors.

"I see a strong commitment by federal, state and local governments, and private and public companies all coming together to build a strong community," said Bean.

One of the questions during the question-and-answer session focused on the possibility of extended mass transit. Moffatt answered by saying, "Mass transit as a general rule is difficult in this area, but we are working with Fairfax County. There has been a

lot of discussion about extending Metro from Huntington down Route One but the problem comes down to the land accessibility. There is no real location to put in a rail in without hurting businesses. I think that it will happen at some point, but I'm not sure when or how far down it will go."

Durrer added that Moran and Congressman Gerry Connolly have requested money for a study on this issue, but it is currently on hold. Visit <http://www.belvoirnewvision.com>.

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SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2010

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

The Jefferson Street Strutters. 7-9 p.m. Free. Enjoy hand-clapping, toe-tapping music from the Jefferson Street Strutters who will treat visitors to traditional jazz and American popular songs from the early years of the 20th century. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Easter Egg Hunt at Woodlawn. Free. For ages 1-7. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. is entertainment and food; 1:30-2 p.m. is egg hunt in the formal garden; 2-3 p.m. more entertainment and food. Woodlawn is located at 9000 Richmond Highway, three miles west of Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26327.

Easter Tea. 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. 18th-century style tea held in the ballroom. Includes tea, pound cake, dried fruit and cookies. Cost is \$25/person. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Community Egg Hunt. 11 a.m. Kids up to sixth grade bring their Easter baskets for an egg hunt. At Harvest Church, 7401 Beulah Street, Kingstown area, Alexandria. Call 703-971-7070 or visit www.harvestchurch.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Spring Gardening Workshop. 9:30-2:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/master gardeners, \$45 for non-master gardeners. At Potomac Overlook Regional Park Nature Center, 2845 N. Marcey Road, Arlington. Call 703-528-5406. Or contact Kirsten Buhls at kbuhls@vt.edu.

Free Memory Workshop. 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The workshop, led by Jane Priest, a Licensed Practical Nurse and Chief Program Officer for the Alzheimer's Association, is designed to help participants understand how memory works and learn techniques to promote brain fitness. At the Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. To reserve a seat, call 1-703-291-0190 by April 5th.

Photographer Judy Heffner. 7:30 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Judy Heffner will talk about Faces on the Avenue, her book of photographs of Del Ray entrepreneurs. Call 703-838-4566.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Laura Baron. 7 p.m. Laura brings a poet's sensitivity to her writing and is known for the beauty of her voice and style of jazz. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit www.laurabaronmusic.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 9

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; \$15/person. Private club; reservations required www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com

APRIL 9-10

"Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs." Presented by Rose Hill Elementary School. Friday, April 9 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5/adults, \$3/children. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

Concert. 8 p.m. Repertory Opera Theater of Washington presents George Frideric Handel's "Alcina." Tickets are \$20 (\$15 student/senior). Call 571-403-0814 or e-mail: rotw@live.com. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

An Evening of Magic. 7:30 p.m. Magician Duane Laflin performs along with Darwin Ortiz, Jim Sisti, Samuel Patrick Smith, Eric Henning and Dick Christian. Admission is \$15/person, \$10/children and seniors. At Bishop Ireton High school, at Duke street and Cambridge Road in Alexandria. Contact Laurie Curry at 703-698-6952.

FSGW Special Event: Mike Agranoff. 8 p.m. Musician and storyteller. Donation: \$15. At the home of Linda Goodman, 123 E. Glendale Ave., Alexandria. Call Linda Goodman at 202-386-8252 or email SwallowtailJig@yahoo.com to reserve your space.

Homeownership Fair. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Features lenders, Realtors and nonprofits, as well as seminars on the home buying process and foreclosure prevention. At George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Alexandria. Visit alexandriava.gov/Housing or call 703-746-4990.

Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show at Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Road for benefit of UCM and Rising Hope. Sponsored by Aldersgate United Methodist Women. 10 a.m.- Vendors and Silent Auction, 11:15 a.m.- Luncheon and Fashion Show. Tickets \$20. Call 703-765-6555 or go to www.aldersgate.net for reservations.

Used Book Sale. At Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m. to noon. The stream cleanup will be taking place at Four Mile Run Park at 3700 Commonwealth Avenue, Mount Vernon Avenue and Four Mile Run Park, and Eaton Square at 801 Four Mile Road. Visit alexandriava.gov/environment or e-mail Jesse.Maines@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4071.

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Will give a lecture on how she traced descendants of people buried at Freedmen's Cemetery. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

"The Grandest Congress." Noon to 4 p.m. Free. French and Indian War Re-enactment at Carlyle House Historic Park. Visitors will enjoy costumed re-enactors representing Gen. Braddock and the five colonial governors as well as John and Sarah Carlyle. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria.

SUNDAY/APRIL 11

Vesper Organ Recital. 6 p.m. Free. With Timothy Edward Smith, of the Di Gennaro-Hart Organ Company, and Thom Robertson, Music Director of Grace Church, featuring music for two organs and two organists at one organ.



Don White



Nick Annis

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

Don White with Nick Annis. 7 p.m. Heartfelt original songs and humor (especially for parents of teens). Tickets are \$18/general, \$15/advance at www.FocusMusic.org. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Contact Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980 or e-mail music.director@gracealex.org.

American Youth Philharmonic Concert.

3 p.m. Led by music director emeritus Luis Haza and featuring works by Bizet and Tchaikovsky. Tickets are \$14/adults, \$10/seniors and students. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC, Alexandria Campus. Visit www.aypo.org.

Jazz Jam. 6 p.m. Featuring the Rick Whitehead Trio. \$10 admission; musicians \$5. At Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-768-5821.

Ancient Airs and Dances. 2 p.m. Presented by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. At Bishop Ireton High School Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-751-7606 or www.bishopireton.org.

APRIL 10, 11, 12

Book Sale. Free. Hours are Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 11 from 1-4:30 p.m.; and Monday, April 12 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. At the Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-519-5900.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 14

Guest Night Dinner. 6-8 p.m. Hosted by The Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection. Special guests include Sarah and Chris Layman, guitarists who will entertain with a variety of Broadway and Classical Music. Cost is \$20/person. Reservations must be made by Friday, April 9, to 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562 or email to: SpringWmConn@yahoo.com. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

Connecting With Others. 7-9 p.m. Panel presentation on how leisure positively impacts our health, various resources available, and how to find them. At the Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. Registration by email to Dorothy.Keenan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call Candy Spitz, life coach, at 703-534-1128.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Djesben. 7-9 p.m. Free. Djesben includes a trio of multi-instrumentalists whose backgrounds guarantee to delight with a variety of styles: jazz standards, bebop and bossa nova. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

APRIL 15, 16, 17

Spring Garden Market. Alexandria Horticultural Society (AHS) Members' Night is Thursday, April 15 from 4-8 p.m. The public sale is Friday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria.

APRIL 16-17

Flower Show. District II Garden Clubs "Carpe Diem — Seize the Day" Standard Flower Show. Sponsored by the American Horticulture Society. Friday, April 16 from 1:30-5 p.m. And Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/APRIL 16

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

Bag Swap. 7-9 p.m. Free. Bring "gently used" or an "un-favorite" bag and swap it out for something "new-to-you." At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Theresa Kulstad, 703-283-0399 or tkulstad@verizon.net or Karen Schmitz, 703-232-4526 or schmityk@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Soldier-Led Walking Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Tavern Dog Contest. 1 to 4 p.m. Hosted by Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society. Registration is \$35. At Market Square, 301 King street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-823-1395 or visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us.

Grand Ball. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$45/person, \$50/door. Live music, dance instruction, a special Queen's cake and dessert collation, "gaming," and a cash bar. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Good Shepherd Housing — Dreams Do Come True Gala. 6-11 p.m. Features cocktails, dinner, auctions and dancing to live music. Black Tie optional. Tickets are \$150 (\$175 if purchased after 3/26/10); \$100 Next Generation ticket price (Age 40 and under). Visit <http://www.goodhousing.org>. At the Crowne Plaza, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

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Pitching Improvement Key for West Potomac

Wolverines feature strong lineup, pitching questions

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac baseball coach Jim Sullivan isn't concerned about his lineup. In fact, offense will likely carry the Wolverines in 2010.

"Top to bottom," Sullivan said, "this is the best hitting lineup we've ever had."

Pitching, however, is a question mark for West Potomac. The Wolverines have four starting pitchers, but no one has emerged as the staff ace.

Right-handers Will Andrews (junior), Jacob Glaser (junior) and Sean Trenchard (sophomore), along with left-hander Jayme Murray (freshman) comprise the Wolverines' rotation. Who throws in what spot has yet to be determined.

"Stick a name in a hat and pull one out at the moment," Sullivan said. "Pitching is going to be our biggest issue this year in terms of



JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Senior catcher David Burns is one of four returning starters for the West Potomac baseball team.

how [we] stack up against the Patriot District."

Glaser pitched four innings of no-hit baseball during the team's opener on March 19, a 14-0, five-inning win over Stonewall Jackson. Murray followed with a scoreless fifth. But against South County on March 25, pitchers struggled to keep the ball down and the Wolverines were on the losing end of a 13-3, five-inning contest.

"We just need to throw strikes

and rely on our defense," Trenchard said. "We don't have any pitchers that are going to blow it by people."

Senior catcher David Burns, one of four returning starters, said pitchers need to keep the ball down. He's confident in the team's ability.

"I think we're actually going to surprise a lot of people," Burns said. "We're young and we're actually a lot more focused than we have been in the past. We've got a



JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Sophomore Sean Trenchard plays shortstop and pitches for the Wolverines

lot more desire to win."

Sophomore second baseman Casey Hagan, sophomore right fielder Jack King and Trenchard are the other returning starters.

Offensively, Trenchard, Murray and King will hit 3-4-5 for the Wolverines.

"All three are big kids, at least by our standards," Sullivan said. "They're very strong. They've all been playing baseball since they could walk. They live for it. They don't want to do anything else."

Burns and King are team captains.

West Potomac hosts the Alexandria City Championship tournament, which runs through April 3. The Wolverines return from spring break to host Annandale at 6:30 p.m. April 7.

"We plan on surprising good teams," Trenchard said. "We plan on beating West Springfield and Lake Braddock. We're going to beat South County the next time we play them."

SPORTS BRIEFS

MV Baseball Wins Three

After losing a nine-inning battle against Stonewall Jackson in its opener, the Mount Vernon baseball team responded with three straight victories.

The Majors managed one run against Stonewall Jackson while facing Radford University signee Michael Costello. Mount Vernon quickly bounced back, pushing across 43 runs in its next three games. The Majors defeated Stuart (15-7) on March 25, and I.C. Norcom (11-1) and Woodrow Wilson (17-2) on March 27.

"It was a wake-up call in that first game only scoring that one run," Mount Vernon head coach Luke Sable said. "They responded well."

Mike Murdock had three of the Majors' six hits against Stonewall Jackson. Since then, nearly everyone got involved. Alec Fox, Jimmy Woehrle and Logan Beougher each had two hits against Stuart. Andrew Sable had three RBIs.

Sable and Pat Reamy each had three RBIs against Norcom. Sable had three hits and Reamy two. Against Wilson, Mount Vernon scored nine first-inning runs. Sable, Murdock, Justin Boutin and Reamy each had two hits. Taggart Salcedo had three RBIs and Sable and Palacido each had two.

"The loss was kind of an eye-opener for some of the younger kids," infielder Sable said. "They realized what varsity baseball [was all about]."

Mount Vernon is participating in the Alexandria City Championship tournament, which runs through April 3. The Majors return to National District play with a home game against Yorktown at 6 p.m. April 6. The meeting is a rematch from last season's districts.

MV Boys Soccer Beats WP

The Mount Vernon boys soccer team defeated West Potomac 3-1 on March 26.

Mount Vernon improved to 3-0 and will travel to face Marshall at 7 p.m. April 6. West Potomac is 1-2 and travels to take on South County at 7 p.m. April 6.

WP Girls Soccer Beats MV

The West Potomac girls soccer team beat Mount Vernon 3-0 on March 26.

Mount Vernon dropped to 2-2 and will host Marshall at 7 p.m. April 6. West Potomac hosts South County at 7 p.m. April 6.

WP Girls LAX Loses Standout Donovan

West Potomac junior defender Kelsey Donovan suffered a broken clavicle during a March 23 game against Dominion and is out for the remainder of the season, girls lacrosse head coach Lori Botha said.

Donovan is a team captain.

"That's very bad news for us," Botha said. It is "quite upsetting."

West Potomac won the game 18-6. Botha said team parents were impressed by the Wolverines' effort.

"They just clicked," Botha said. "It was really one of our best games."

West Potomac also lost to Lake Braddock, 9-5, on March 23, bringing its record to 1-2.

5Qs

Five questions with Mount Vernon senior infielder Andrew Sable

Q: You played quarterback for a winless football team during the fall. What did the experience teach you?

A: From a football standpoint, it taught me who wanted to be out there. A lot of kids started quitting after we lost [a few games]. It taught me to have fun with the sport.

Q: What location is the farthest from the Washington, D.C., metro area you have traveled?

A: Seattle. My mom's from the Seattle area. We go out there every now and then.

Q: You're going to play baseball at George Mason University next year. What are you most looking forward to about the transition?



Sable

A: The better competition. You get to see every high school's No. 1 [pitcher].

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: Lupe Fiasco. I like a lot of different types of music. The lyrics he has in his songs are thought provoking.

Q: Who is your favorite pro baseball team?

A: The Washington Nationals. Got to support the hometown team.

— JON ROETMAN

Guns and Speeches

FROM PAGE 1

a bill regulating credit cards last year, a provision was attached as a rider that would force the National Park Service to apply state laws rather than having its own rules. That bill passed. And, as of Feb. 22, gun-owners could legally bring their weapons into parks across the commonwealth.

“Certainly having firearms mixed in with visiting crowds would cause us some pause,” said Dottie Marshall, superintendent of the George Washington National Parkway. “At this point, we are faced with following the law.”

ALMOND CHOSE April 19 to commemorate the anniversary of the “Shot Heard Round the World” in Massachusetts that started the Revolutionary War. His original plan was to conduct the event at Gravelly Point, where he could benefit from Virginia’s gun laws while still in sight of the Capitol. But as more and more people began expressing interest, Almond realized that parking would be a problem for the size of the expected crowd.

So he added a second location — Fort Hunt Park, the popular picnicking location in Fairfax County on the parkway. Almond figured holding the event at Fort Hunt could accommodate more people, and small convoys could travel up and down the parkway to take the demonstration to the edge of Washington. Last month, he applied for a permit to conduct the rally. Since then, a debate has emerged online among support-

ers about the wisdom of mixing angry protesters with armed individuals.

“I pray that the cowboys don’t show up,” said Tom Fernandez, the founder of Alarm and Muster, who will be one of the featured speakers at the rally. “The reality is that there are irresponsible gun owners in this world but this rally is not for them.”

Like many of the participants, Almond plans to come bearing arms. For starters, he’ll be packing an unloaded rifle. He’ll also be wearing a bandoleer with rifle ammunition. Then there’s the loaded pistol that he’ll keep holstered during the rally. The show of force is an effort to make a statement, Almond said, about the growing threats to the United States Constitution.

“This is serious business,” he said. “Why even bother having a Constitution if we are not going to follow it?”

George Mason University professor Solon Simmons says groups such as the ones staging the April 19 protest feel that they have been marginalized, and that organizing tea party events and open-carry rallies are an attempt to regain a sense of lost power. Part of that phenomenon is racial, he said, with certain elements of the movement concerned with the emergence of an ethnically diverse society. It’s a mix he said could prove to be dangerous.

“These are people who feel deeply marginalized,” said Solon. “Any movement that emerges in that kind of self-perception can be dangerous.”



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