

Mount Vernon Gazette

VOL. XXI, No. 16

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 22, 2010

Protesters Bearing Arms

Restore the Constitution rally brings Second Amendment advocates here from across the country.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Participants of the Restore the Constitution rally came to Virginia this week with a long list of grievances. And they came bearing arms. Concerns ranged across the political spectrum, with protesters opposing everything from the federal requirement to purchase health insurance and the surveillance provisions of the Patriot Act to Social Security and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ultimately, their open-carry rally at Fort Hunt Park in Mount Vernon and Gravelly Point Park in Arlington called for less government intrusion and a reduced amount of spending.

"Most of us are libertarian, and we have libertarian concerns," said Andrew Graves, who traveled from Vermont to be part of the rally. "We want smaller federal government. We want the federal government to play by the rulebook, the rulebook being the

Constitution."

Speaker after speaker denounced the federal government to spending too much and encroaching into the lives of citizens. Some called for action at the ballot box, describing the upcoming primary season as crucial to shaping the Republican Party. Others called for direct action, such as Mike Vanderboegh, an Alabama militia leader who advocated throwing bricks through the windows of Democrats who voted for the health-care bill.

"Whatever I've written over the last few years, including my call to adopt the tactics of the Sons of Liberty of old and break windows, this is my motive: I want to avoid a civil war," said Vanderboegh at Fort Hunt Park. "This is what the king of England didn't understand on the 19th of April 1775. We are done backing up. Done!"

AT TIMES, THE RALLY seemed to be a cross between a political assembly and a religious revival. Loaded handguns were holstered



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Protesters carrying firearms gather Monday, April 19 in a rally to oppose growth in the size and scope of the federal government.

to waistbands, and unloaded rifles were slung across backs. Religious rhetoric mingled with political philosophy and heated calls to action. About 75 protesters took part in the rally, with an equal number of media types and a handful of counter-demonstrators.

"I find it very ironic that they are complaining about the federal government," said Laura Austin, a Mount Vernon resident. "But we are in a national park paid for with federal tax dollars."

The event was the first of its kind, taking advantage of a new

federal law forcing the National Park Service to dump its no-gun policy in favor of following state gun laws. Because Virginia allows registered gun users to openly

carry firearms, armed rallies like the one that happened this week may become a regular feature at

SEE PROTESTING, PAGE 6

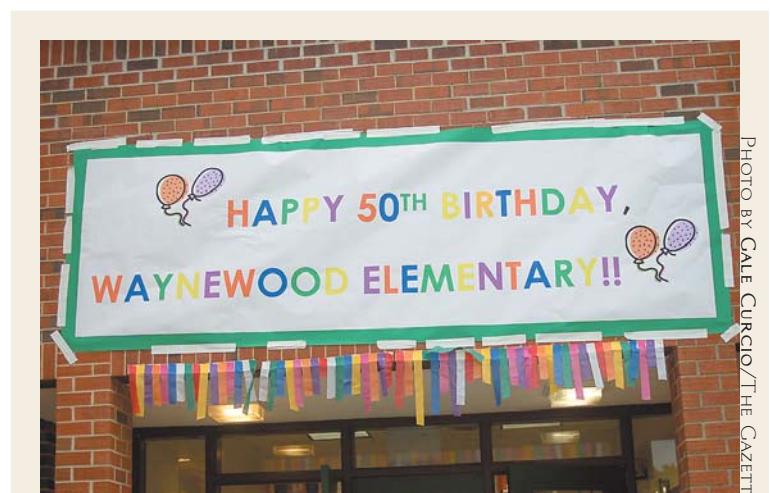


PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Birthday Celebration

The sign in front of Waynewood Elementary School welcomes participants to the school's 50th birthday party last week.

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

County Homelessness Down 11 Percent

A late January survey shows that Fairfax County homelessness has decreased almost 11 percent from last year, according to a statement from county chairman Sharon Bulova (D).

According to Bulova, the number of homeless families has decreased by 16 percent since 2009. The number of homeless individuals also dropped slightly by 1.7 percent, during the same time period.

Bulova said several new initiatives to combat homelessness in the county have gotten underway since 2009. The chairman said these new efforts could account for the improved homeless statistics.

According to Bulova, two nonprofit groups have added units to their affordable and transitional housing programs during the past year. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has also set up a communications work

group that has boosted the sharing of information between stakeholders.

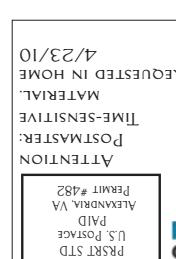
Additionally, the county has improved its homelessness date and reporting capabilities.

In all, the Fairfax homeless count found 1,544 housing in 2010. This group was comprised of 892 people who are part of homeless families and 652 single men and women.

The count – which took place Jan. 27 – found that 36 percent of all homeless people in the county are under the age of 18. More than 60 percent of the adults in homeless families were employed.

Approximately 60 percent of singles that are homeless suffered from serious mental illness or substance abuse. Many had chronic health problems or physical disabilities.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



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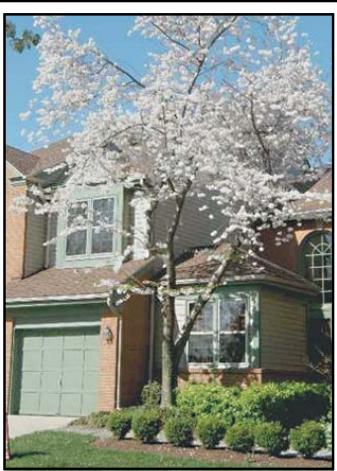
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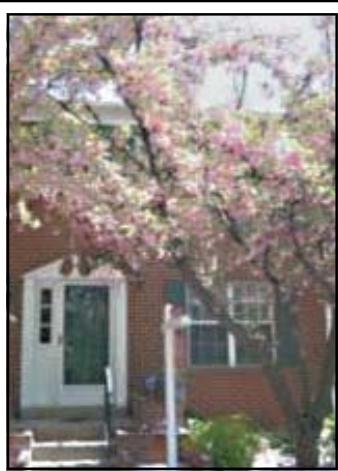


Alexandria \$569,900

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Rich Ragan 703-307-5891



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Val Klotz 703-303-9744



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Val Klotz 703-303-9744



**Arlington \$320,000
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All of the teachers were given birthday bash t-shirts.



Cupcakes were decorated by Julie Lowe, Jenifer Constanzo, Shelley Norton and Deasy Heimbach.

Waynewood Elementary Celebrates 50th Birthday

Cupcakes, playing symbolic role, are popular item during party.

Fifty years ago, Waynewood Elementary School opened its doors on Waynewood Boulevard. Last week, its anniversary was celebrated with a 50th Birthday Bash. On the menu were cupcakes — lots of cupcakes. Kristyn Terpinas, 50th Birthday Bash chair, said that Julie Lowe, owner of "For the Love of Cupcakes" spearheaded the creation of the 50th birthday cupcake tree. It was based on a cut-out of "50" done by Lowe's father and filled with cupcakes decorated by Lowe, Jenifer Constanzo, Shelley Norton and Deasy Heimbach. There were dozens and dozens of other cupcakes in every flavor and color. Children waited anxiously for the signal to pick one out to eat.

In addition to the cupcakes, students and parents enjoyed pizza and Chick-fil-A. Activities included dancing, face painting and tattoos. A raffle was held for themed baskets and bids were taken for silent auction items.

— GALE CURCIO



Principal James Meier, PTA president Melissa Sullivan, Kristyn Terpinas, and Assistant Principal Tom Fitzpatrick.



Kristyn Terpinas, 50th Birthday Bash chair, welcomes guests to the event.

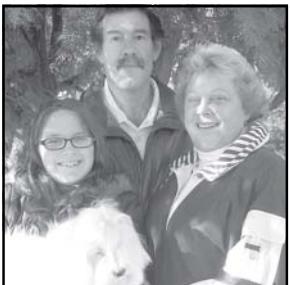


Audrey Stolarz, sister of Ella Stolarz, shows off her painted face.



Principal James Meier, along with Assistant Principal Tom Fitzpatrick, leads students in singing 'Happy Birthday.'

I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alex Neighbor



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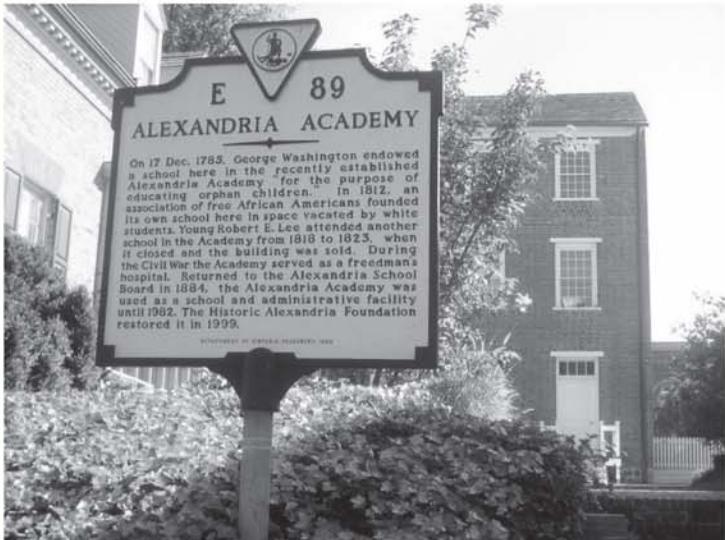
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NEWS

Going Green, Saving Green

Planned water pipeline from pollution control plant will protect the environment, save taxpayers money.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE GAZETTE

Environmentalism and fiscal conservatism more often than not are thought to be mutually exclusive, but in this instance, Fairfax County is proving that those ideologies can coexist.

The proposed Water Reuse Project, planned for the Lorton area, is quickly becoming a reality, as plans are currently being finalized and construction slated to begin this summer. The project calls for the construction of a pipeline that will carry water to areas throughout Lorton for irrigation and process purposes and is predicted to benefit both the environment and local taxpayers.

"This is a project that is good for the environment and can save taxpayers money," said Brian Worthy from the county's Office of Public Affairs. "It is something that the county has wanted to do for a long time."

ACCORDING TO the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the project's purpose is to conserve and recycle wastewater by making the treatment process more efficient and environmentally friendly. The proposal calls for the installation of a 4.6-mile water pipeline from the Noman M. Cole Jr., Pollution Control Plant on Route 1 to the Covanta Fairfax, Inc. Resource Recovery Plan and to other sites in the county.

The pipeline will originate at the



CONTRIBUTED

Covanta's Energy Resource Recovery

Noman Cole facility, where the area's wastewater is collected and treated. From there, 560 million gallons of treated, reused water will be directed to the Covanta Fairfax Inc. Energy Resource Recovery Facility each year. In addition, 24 million gallons of water will be distributed to both the Laurel Hill Golf Course and the Lower Potomac Ball Fields on Richmond Highway across the street from the Lorton Library for irrigation purposes.

"This will keep 1.5 million gallons [of waste water] from going into Chesapeake Bay every day."

— Brian Worthy,
Office of Public Affairs

According to Worthy, switching to the new system would benefit taxpayers because the system reduces the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated. He said that Covanta currently uses potable drinking water for the ma-

jority of its work at the plant, which includes burning solid waste to create electricity and then using water to cool the systems down. Covanta does not need the water to be purified to that level to use in its plant, and the direct source of water from the Cole facility would be treated, but not to drinkable quality.

"Taxpayers benefit because we will have to treat less waste water in general," Worthy said. "We are going to reuse water by using a different source of water. Instead of using purified drinking water at Covanta and to water our fields, we will use pretreated storm water."

The project will also not only be environmentally friendly, but it will also be beneficial. Worthy said that the reused water from the Cole plant would be discharged to Pohick Creek if the pipeline were not built. Since Pohick Creek eventually empties into the Chesapeake Bay, reusing the storm water would reduce the amount of harmful nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen discharged into the bay.

"The state has introduced new

SEE GOING GREEN, PAGE 27

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Mount Vernon Gazette



NEWS

PHOTO BY SUSAN CLUBB



Matt Clubb shows some of the many computers that he collected for his Eagle Project.

Eagle Scouts Serve Community

Projects target different needs.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

An Eagle Scout earns much more than a badge when he completes his Eagle Scout requirements. He earns the respect of friends, family — and community. Plus the impact he leaves on a community is often long-lasting.

Boy Scout Troop 1509 has been in existence for 41 years, and according to Bruce Clubb, former Eagle Advisor, they have had 121 Eagle Scouts in that time. "We

have had 39 in the last six years and 13 in 2009," said Clubb.

Other local Troops — 888 at Plymouth Haven, Troop 654 at St. Luke's Church and Troop 996 at Aldersgate Church — are just as prolific, but examples from just one troop (Troop 1509) show the breadth and scope of these projects.

For example, Erik Anderson developed a landscaping project for Wesley United Methodist Church. Matthew Jarrell then furthered Erik's landscaping project for the same church by removing a chain link fence and planting shrubs and flowers.

Matthew Clubb recycled non-functioning and outdated computers to keep them out of the landfill. He collected them from the neighbor-

hood and removed the hard drives. Clubb then delivered some of the hard drives to the engineering class at West Potomac High School to be destroyed. The rest were delivered to ServiceSource, a company that employs the handicapped in Alexandria, for disassembly and recycling.

Douglass Magill fenced off a section of forest at Mount Vernon Estates that had been damaged by deer. He then did a tree survey, cleared the injured trees and protected the saplings so they could grow beyond the reach of hungry deer.

Andrew Weatherly did a landscaping project for Saint Mark's Church on South King's Highway while Robert Garamone worked with the U.S. Army to obtain, organize and deliver school supplies to a primary school in Afghanistan that had been destroyed in the invasion.

The list goes on, with other Scouts like John Rice organizing an Oral History Project of the Library of Congress; Benjamin Singer repairing a playground at Beth El Temple; David Belt repairing the camping area at the Coast Guard Station; Samuel O'Neil installing shelving for the thrift store at Christ House in Alexandria; Curtis McCullohs clearing a large field of leaf debris next to the adjacent Darcey Field and built a regulation pair of horseshoe pitching pits at Plymouth Haven Church.

Eric Trouton's project was a massive one. He worked with a member of Stormwater Manage-



Zach Perconti was one of the Scouts who helped out with Michael Curcio's Eagle project at Collingwood Library & Museum.

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Alex./Mount Vernon \$829,900
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SEE EAGLE SCOUTS, PAGE 19



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A protester holds up a sign during Monday's rally.

Protesting

FROM PAGE 1

National Parks Service sites. In a written statement issued just as the rally was beginning Monday morning, U.S. Rep Jim Moran (D-8) said he opposed allowing firearms into national parks.

"These anti-government demonstrations are fueled by the belief that our constitutional rights under the Second Amendment are somehow under attack and urgent action is needed," said Moran. "While this may be a powerful rallying point for special interest groups, the claim could not be further from the truth."

ORGANIZERS SAID they chose April 19 as the date to commemorate the Shot Heard Round the World that began the Revolutionary War. And they vehemently denied that the timing was in any way related to the Oklahoma City bombing, which also happened on April 19. Most of the rhetoric compared modern politics to the Revolutionary War, describing modern-day Washington insiders on par with the tyranny of the British government under King George III.

"They know what they're doing. This isn't a mistake," said Californian Tim Hammond, wearing a black tri-corn hat. "It isn't mismanagement. They know what they're doing, which is bringing down the U.S. in order to create a one-world government."

Counter-demonstrators expressed dismay at the heated rhetoric on display Monday.

"These people who are rallying here today, they are very subversive," said Martina Leinz of Burke. "And it's not just virulent talk. It's action. They really truly believe that the federal government should be overthrown."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 28

Become a Foster Parent. 6-7:30 p.m. The UMFS Northern Virginia Regional Center will offer an orientation for prospective foster parents. At 6335 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Participants will learn about training and support provided by UMFS to foster families, and may schedule an initial assessment to continue

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Mount Vernon High School is hosting its Second Annual Arts Festival on Friday, April 23 from 6-8 p.m. in Room G100. A true celebration of all the arts, the festival includes performances from the high school's band, choral, orchestra, dance, and theater classes and features artwork from the entire Mount Vernon pyramid, kindergarten through high school.

Rehearsals are underway at Mt. Vernon High School for "Into the Woods," the Stephen Sondheim musical that won a Tony for Best Score and Best Book in 1988. The play, which was inspired by Bruno Bettleheim's book, The

process of becoming a foster parent. Contact UMFS at 703-941-9008.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations 22nd Annual Gala. 6-9 p.m. To honor Joan McLellan, 2010 Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year; the Friends of Dyke Marsh, 2010 Organization of the Year; and Jasmin Lawrence (MVHS) and Rachel Lau (WPHS), as the 2010 Students of the Year. Cost is \$40/person, includes buffet dinner. At the Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821

Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Contact Carol Coyle 703-780-7955 or Queenie Cox 703-360-2414.

THURSDAY/MAY 13

8th District Congressional Debate. 7 p.m. Incumbent U.S. Rep. James Moran (D) and candidates Matthew Berry (R), Chris Hubbard (R), Ron Mitchell (D), Patrick Murray (R) have confirmed that they will participate. Moderated by Alexandria Chamber of Commerce President Tina Leone. At the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 South Hayes Street, Arlington. Visit www.AlexChamber.com.

Uses of Enchantment, intertwines the plots of several fairy tales, including Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Rapunzel. The characters meet each other in the woods after pursuing what they wish only to find that what they wish for isn't really what they want. "Into the Woods" will be presented at the MVHS little theatre from May 6-8 at 7 p.m. and May 9 at 5 p.m.

The play is directed by Elizabeth Becker, MVHS Drama department. The musical direction is by Judi Belzer and the choreographer is Philip Clark. Tickets are available by calling 703-619-3100 x. 3259 or via email to Elizabeth.Becker@fcps.edu.

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.

First Lady Michelle Obama invited Mount Vernon High School to send five female students to White House

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 27

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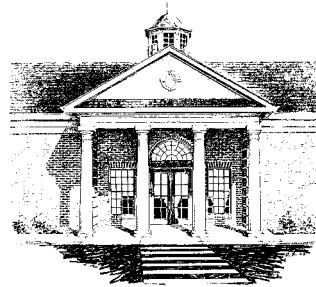
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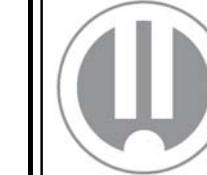
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OPINION

Call for Mother's Day Photos And Father's Day too ...

Every year at this time, the Gazette puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive a photo or two that includes four generations great-grandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, communities, schools and other institutions in

EDITORIAL

local neighborhoods.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including information about who is in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and the location (who, what, where, when, why).

We prefer digital photos in JPEG format; email them to Gazette@ConnectionNewspapers.com, and write Mother's Day Photos in the subject line. Or you can mail a CD with your photos on it in JPEG format.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sees Value in Health Reform

To the Editor:

I write to thank our U.S. senators for voting for health care reform. I am a remodeling contractor in the Mt. Vernon area. Over the years, I have tried hard to provide my family and my employees with health insurance. Providing this benefit is important for attracting and retaining high quality employees. Despite accepting benefit reductions to manage premium inflation, we pay more for less every single year.

Health care costs also impact my costs for Worker's Compensation Insurance. Together, these insurance costs are our largest overhead expense. Since insurance is a business cost, ultimately, I must pass these costs along to my customers in order to stay in business. Thus, bloated health care costs not only affect my employees and me di-

rectly, they also affect every one of our customers. Since insurance costs are so crushing, I have been waiting anxiously for health care reform. Every year I wonder if reform will arrive in time to save us from having to put myself, my employees, and their families at risk of having no health insurance at all. The current system may be great for insurance company profits, but it is killing small businesses such as mine.

I believe the plan recently signed by the President will both help to reduce health care costs, and reduce premium inflation. I eagerly look forward to the time when we have the choice of participating in a state-wide insurance exchange. I see health care reform as both pro-business and pro-family. The sooner its provisions are enacted, the better.

Robert Fina
Fina Construction Inc.

Delusional?



Senior Choral Singers
The Harmony Heritage Singers, Barbershop Chorus, Mt. Vernon Chapter, rehearses twice a month on Wednesday or Friday at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To join, see the schedule at hhsingers.org or call James Coulter, membership vice president at 703-957-4597 or 703-615-4141 (cell) or by e-mail jnjcoulter@comcast.net.

To the Editor:

Monday's "Restore the Constitution" rally at Ft. Hunt Park was a gathering of the lunatic fringe, organized by and for paranoid individuals. The only reason a rally with guns could be held in the park is because President Obama signed a law which expanded gun rights, reversing a policy established under President Reagan which banned guns in parks.

Today's new law is referred to as the "Coburn Gun Amendment," sponsored by Senator Tom Coburn. The Republican senator from Oklahoma proposed another gun rights amendment last month to ensure, specifically, that mentally deranged individuals such as the Virginia Tech shooter are allowed to purchase firearms (unless and until they have been found by a judicial authority to be a danger to themselves or to others). This is true madness.

Congressman Jim Moran points

out, "Virtually every action the federal government has taken in the past decade has weakened commonsense gun laws already on the books." The National Parks gun law came into effect this year on George Washington's birthday. Monday's self-described "patriots" gathered on land once owned by our first President to protest their deluded belief that our 44th President is taking away the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms.

If these gun-toting patriots are capable of such a powerful self-delusion — believing that someone who has aided their cause is threatening it — how little would it take for them to shoot those who would aid them in a real crisis, such as police and first-responders? Perhaps the Commonwealth should track these individuals and post an on-line watch list of Neighborhood Sense Offenders.

Rick Gamble
Alexandria

Doctor's View Of Health Reform

To the Editor:

There follows an excerpt from a letter from my Seattle son-in-law, Christopher Smith, MD which you thought readers of the Gazette would be interested in reading. It represents a useful example of medical opinion on health insurance reform:

Some of you have asked me what I think about the new Health Reform bill. Many are surprised to hear that physicians are generally very supportive of this new legislation. As a doctor I hope to improve health, and so it follows that

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**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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A Connection Newspaper

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

I am pleased that more people will be able to receive routine preventive healthcare as well as early and appropriate treatment for conditions before they develop into bigger problems.

We do this for our homes and our cars, why wouldn't we want the same thing for ourselves, our neighbors and for all Americans? (I could add "for all of the people of the world" but that is beyond the scope of this reform effort.) Certainly everyone deserves access to quality healthcare and this legislation moves us substantially towards accomplishing that goal.

In order to make it work there is an individual mandate: everyone must participate. The costs need to be shared between those who are sick as well as those who think of themselves as well. Healthy people who can afford it must buy insurance that they may not use. Many of these "healthy" people who choose not to buy insurance develop problems like diabetes and hypertension (or worse) that are not yet causing any symptoms, but will later turn them into uninsured sick people who incur big medical costs and may drive up the costs for everyone else. This is not an uncommon scenario and it is why everyone should have access to affordable healthcare and see a primary care doctor for routine periodic visits.

I hope this is a helpful contribution to this important discussion.

Thomas J. Hirschfeld
Alexandria



Diplomatic Address

Retired U.S. diplomat Laurie Tracy spoke after dinner at the Mount Vernon Country Club on April 7 to the members of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. She discussed the history and politics of Iran. The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, a volunteer community service organization, meets every first and third Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m. at the country club. For more information, see www.mtvernonkiwanis.org or its FaceBook page. Above, Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club President Bruce Malkin awards the club's baseball cap to Tracy at the conclusion of her program.

Nothing To Hide, Nothing To Fear

To the Editor:

As the Connection Newspapers continues to press, rightfully, for more openness from our police departments, I wanted to share with your readers a recent example of how unfettered access to police reports can shed light on a

situation and inform the public more so than the controlled release of information by law enforcement.

Ben Roethlisberger, the quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers, recently was accused of sexual assault in Georgia. After investigat

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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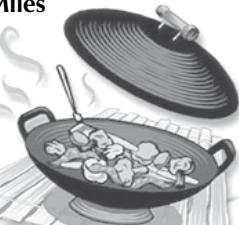
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PhotoAX@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Mount Vernon Gazette, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

ing, the prosecutor declined to bring charges, saying he couldn't prove his case "beyond a reasonable doubt." A demand for the police report by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review yielded four volumes of information totalling 500 pages under Georgia's Open Records act (see: <https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#drafts/12810d5b6775b35b>). The information contained in the report contained a detailed reconstruction of what allegedly happened between Mr. Roethlisberger and his alleged victim that paint a far more complicated picture of the situation and Mr. Roethlisberger's potential danger to society than a prosecutor's unwillingness to prosecute would imply. While Mr. Roethlisberger is clearly innocent of any crime, the Steelers found the details of his alleged conduct troubling enough that the team's owners are punishing its Super Bowl-winning quarterback.

I would note that the victim is conspicuously not identified by the newspaper. I would also note that in Virginia, these details never may have emerged.

Access to police records can inform the public in other ways. When compiled, arrest reports have yielded statistical information that may identify patterns of racial profiling, abuse of overtime, the use of force, among other things. In some cases, they may also identify crime patterns not previously detected by the departments themselves. A quick search of the Investigative Reporters and Editors website (www.ire.org), shows reporters in Vancouver, Wash., used police records in 2005

to detail how a police department was failing to track and discipline officers who used excessive force. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch used records in 2005 to reveal how the police department was deliberately suppressing the number of reported rapes in its jurisdiction for statistical reasons. The same year in Colorado Springs, Colo., a newspaper used records to detail how an officer was abusing his position to repeatedly photograph young men shirtless and occasionally in their underwear. These are just three of 153 examples of investigative reporting using police records on the IRE site.

I continued to be troubled by the position of our regional law enforcement that the public is not to be trusted with records other states have deemed disclosable information; if they have nothing to hide, they should have nothing to fear. I am equally troubled by the tacit approval of this policy by our elected officials. Providing citizens with imperfect information that is released only at the discretion of the authorities is not something we do in America. I encourage the Connection Newspapers to continue to demand accountability on all fronts.

Ryan Donmoyer
Alexandria

Representing Which State?

To the Editor:

On March 25, the Gazette published freshman Congressman Gerry Connolly's (11th District of Virginia) attempt to justify his support for the historic health care "re-



University of Phoenix – Northern Virginia employees planted 123 trees at the Mount Vernon RECenter in Alexandria on April 9 to commemorate Earth Day 2010. Employees worked with Executive Director Taylor Beach and the nonprofit Fairfax ReLeaf organization. The 12 employee participants are enrollment counselors from the university's Arlington location.

form" bill. I thank Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity for his rebuttal published in last week's Gazette. There is just no justifying a vote for the use of smoke and mirrors, arm twisting, horse trading, back room deals and manipulation of numbers to pass a federal government takeover of 1/6 the national economy. In cooking the books to make the numbers "work," the Democrats excluded the so-called "Doc Fix" that would have cost \$208 billion over the ensuing decade. They also included a provision facilitating gov-

ernment takeover of our federal student loan program to make it look like health care reform would reduce the deficit by another \$61 billion over the next 10 years. They also included 10 years of tax increases but only six years of benefits in the first decade of "reform." Those are but three examples of the deceit used to ram the bill through. Just how are student loans related to health care reform? A congressman concerned about the high cost of living in our area would have, at minimum, conditioned his affirmative vote on requiring the bill to include tort reform, the ability to shop across state lines for health care insurance and the ability of small businesses to pool together to gain economies of scale accessible to large businesses and governmental agencies. Not "our" congressman.

Congressman Connolly was rewarded for his support of this fiasco with thank you advertising broadcast in Northern Virginia that was sponsored by the Democratic National Committee and AFSCME union. After his vote, it was reported in several articles that since his first term began, Congressman Connolly has voted with Speaker Pelosi an astounding 97 percent of the time. Did we elect him to represent us or to facilitate Nancy Pelosi's extreme agenda? A comparison of the 11th District of Virginia and the 8th District of California (Speaker Pelosi's district) demonstrates that these choices are mutually exclusive:

Median Income \$80,397
Presidential Votes
2000 Bush 52%
2004 Bush 50%
2008 Obama 57%

8TH DISTRICT CA
Median Income \$52,322
Presidential Votes
2000 Gore 76.7%
2004 Kerry 84.2%
2008 Obama 85.2%

The comparison of median incomes and presidential votes shows marked differences between the districts. Clearly, people making \$80,000 per year have different economic concerns than those making 65 percent of that amount. Without doubt, people who supported George W. Bush twice have a different agenda from those who gave John Kerry 84.2 percent support and President Obama 85.2 percent support (the 11th District's support of President Obama was fully 28 points lower than that of Nancy Pelosi's district). With his 97 percent support of Nancy Pelosi's agenda, it is equally clear that since Gerry Connolly began his first term as our Congressman, the 8th district of California has had almost two congressmen and the 11th District of Virginia has had virtually none.

Congressman Connolly was elected "president" of the freshman class of congressmen newly elected in 2008. It's looking more and more like there will be no sophomore class for Gerry Connolly.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Golfing for Campagna Center

PHOTO BY LASHAUN AVERY/THE GAZETTE



The 15th Annual Spring Golf Outing at the Mount Vernon Country Club on Monday, April 19, raises funds for the Campagna Center.

NEWS

Burke Named Chairman of The Board

E. Hunt Burke, Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company's chief executive officer, has been elected Chairman of the Board effective April 1.



E. Hunt Burke

Burke previously served as president, and was named chief executive officer of the bank in July 2009. He succeeds Charles K. Collum who served as Chairman since 2002. As part of the executive leadership transition, W. Scott McSween joined the bBank in July 2009 as president and chief operating officer. The fifth generation of his family to lead the 158-year-old bank, Burke has worked at the bank in a variety of roles since the age of 13 and then as a full-time staff member for 30 years.

"I am honored to assume the role of Chairman of Burke & Herbert Bank," said Burke. "This is an exciting time for our Bank. We have produced record levels of growth and earnings for two consecutive years, amid challenging times for the banking industry and the economy in general. We now move forward with the next exciting chapter in our story. Our near-term future includes new and enhanced banking products and services, improved use of technology, and new branches in more Northern Virginia communities to offer even greater convenience for our customers."

Burke was born and raised in Alexandria, attended Episcopal High School and the University of Richmond. He received his B.A. from George Mason University while working full time at Burke & Herbert Bank. He graduated with honors from the Graduate School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia. He and his wife of 26 years, Molly, reside in Alexandria with their four daughters.

Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company, established in 1852, has served both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Washington, D.C., area longer than any other bank in the region. Burke & Herbert Bank provides a range of personal and business banking products and services including mortgages, business loans, trust services, 24-hour online banking and mobile banking. The bank operates more than 20 branches in Northern Virginia.

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OPINION

County Mixes Up Stone Soup

BY SHARON BULLOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

As we worked through our budget process for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, I was reminded of an old story called "Stone Soup." According to one variation of the story:

Tired, hungry soldiers came upon a little village. When they inquired about food, the villagers were reluctant to share their food stores, worried that their limited supply would become depleted.

And so, the soldiers set down their gear in the village square and produced a large pot. They filled the pot with water and a large stone, then set it over a fire. A few curious villagers walked over and asked what the soldiers were making. The captain explained that they were making something called stone soup, which tasted wonderful, but probably needed just a few more ingredients. He offered to share the soup with the villagers once it was finished.

One of the villagers returned and offered to supplement the soup with a few potatoes, which he diced and put into the simmering water. Another villager produced a bunch of carrots and another offered to share a few onions from her garden. These small but tasty contributions continued throughout the day.

Eventually the soup pot was full of a hearty, delicious soup. That evening, the entire village joined the soldiers in a satisfying feast of Stone Soup.

Last year at this time, during the most severe economic breakdown in most of our lifetimes, our Board adopted a budget which closed a projected shortfall of \$650 million. The \$3.3 billion General Fund budget we adopted included \$90.8 million of reductions and represented a decrease of \$91.9 million from the previous year.

We started our budget process for Fiscal Year 2011 well before any dust could settle on the adoption of Fiscal Year 2010. While the number is coming down, we are still challenged with foreclosures, more than 700 in March 2010. Residential property values

COMMENTARY

have continued to decline, this year by approximately 6 percent. Commercial property values dropped more than 18 percent.

In addition, as we began the process, we anticipated reductions from the state as they attempted to close their \$4.2 billion budget shortfall. We continue to be challenged with increasing demands on county services from families and individuals turning to us for help with food stamps, utility assistance, rent, housing assistance and finding employment. These dynamics all combine to challenge us once again to close a projected shortfall — this time of \$257.2 million.

AS IN THE STORY of Stone Soup, the process of closing that shortfall has been one of impressive community engagement, creativity and collaboration among County staff and our non-profit partners. What began as a seemingly empty pot is a balanced budget that, despite \$91.3 million in reductions over last year, maintains critical services, is sensitive to the taxpayer and protects the quality of life we value in Fairfax County.

Coupled with a positive formula change (of \$61 million) in the Local Composite Index (LCI) — State Funding to localities, our \$1.6 billion transfer to the schools fully funds the Schools Board's requested budget and establishes a \$45 million balance for future Virginia Retirement System (VRS) requirements.

The newly adopted \$3.3 billion budget contains many reorganizational changes and efficiencies that help reduce the cost for providing services, and in many, perhaps most cases, improves the delivery of those services and programs.

Highlights of Amendments to the Advertised FY 2011 Budget include:

- ❖ A Real Estate Tax Rate of \$1.09, an increase of 5 cents. At this rate, the average homeowner's tax bill is a reduction of \$48.55;
- ❖ A 0.5 cent increase on the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Stormwater Service District Levy. These two rates combined result in a net reduction for the average homeowner's bill of \$26.93;
- ❖ A Vehicle Registration Fee of \$33 per

vehicle. Most other localities in Virginia utilize this fee to provide local services;

- ❖ The Sewer Service Charge increases, from \$4.50 to \$5.27. This fee increase addresses aging sewer infrastructure and compliance with state and Federal Clean Water and environmental mandates. Our rates continue to be among the lowest in the region;

- ❖ A \$1.6 billion Transfer to the Schools. The Fairfax County Public Schools continue to be more than 53 percent of the county's General Fund Budget;

- ❖ The Fiscal Year 2011 General Fund (Schools & General County Combined) Budget is a 2.7 percent reduction from the previous year.

Using a \$21.6 million Reserve established through agency/department savings throughout Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 the following adjustments/restorations were made to the County Executive's Advertised Budget:

- ❖ Reduced by known state reductions of approximately \$3 million

- ❖ Holds \$7 million aside for additional State Reductions and Critical Funding issues for both the county and schools

- ❖ Reduce Board of Supervisors' Office Budgets by 2 percent, resulting in \$81,350, which is used to add one position to the auditor to the Board's office. The auditor to the Board acts as an Inspector General's Office, and works through the Board's Audit Committee.

Human Services and CSB (Community Services Board) Most Critical List is fully restored - \$1.4 million, includes: Mental Health Adult Day Treatment Sites, Home Respite for individuals with Intellectual Disability Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs, Partial restoration for Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and support for Commission for Women.

Police Restorations - \$2.8 million: School Resource Officers in Middle Schools (\$2.1 million); 50 percent of Police Citizen Aide Positions at District Stations; Marine Unit and Traffic Safety Officers.

Fire & Rescue Officers - \$2.5 million: Basic Life Support units; Seventh Fire & Rescue Battalion; Hazardous Material Support Unit; Second set of gear for firefighters; and

Fairfax County adopts
Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

Fireboat Patrols on the Potomac River and Pohick Bay.

Parks and Library Restorations - \$1.9 million: Approximate 3 percent restoration for Libraries – maintains Tuesday evening hours at all 8 regional libraries; Library Access Services; Athletic Field Maintenance Program; Grounds maintenance staff – and restores closing of restrooms; Nighttime court lighting and lighting for practice fields; Truck Driver and Heavy Equipment (mobile Crew) positions; Operation and management at Martin Luther King Jr. Pool.

Other Restorations and Adjustments - \$2.7 million: All Connector routes; five Law Clerks supporting Circuit Court Judges; Support for Families4Kids and Mount Vernon District Satellite Intake Center.

THE BUDGET fully funds the Priority 1 requirements of the Board Adopted Affordable Housing Blueprint through the use of \$4 million in operation revenues from the Wedgewood affordable housing complex. This funds the Bridging Affordability portion of the Blueprint. This program, a partnership with non-profits and Faith community organizations addresses homelessness, provides affordable housing options to those with special needs and reduces the waiting lists for housing programs.

Budget adoption was the culmination of an unprecedented level of community engagement. Community Dialogues were held throughout the County during the fall and early winter. Throughout late February, March and early April more than 20 Town Meetings and Forums were hosted to receive feedback on the Advertised Budget. Employee Budget Briefings and Dialogues were organized by County Executive Tony Griffin and by our Unions and Employee organizations. And lastly, hundreds of speakers attended three days — over 20 hours — of public hearings.

Like the villagers' contributions in the story of Stone Soup, this generous level of public engagement enriched our process and has resulted in a better product. When we adopt a budget, we are investing in the priorities of our community. I am glad to have had the community at the table with us during these months.

BUSINESS NOTES

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

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Sing-along at Paul Spring

On April 16, Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club member Bob Valone led the senior residents of Paul Spring Retirement Community in a sing-along of old and familiar songs. The program was developed in conjunction with Darnall Graham, the program director of Paul Spring Retirement Community on Fort Hunt Road. Valone leads karaoke singing at a number of area locations for his club, including Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Mondloch House, and Creekside and Sacramento Neighborhood Centers. For more information about volunteer community service activities through Mount Vernon Kiwanis, see www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org or its FaceBook page.

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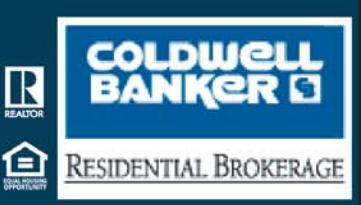


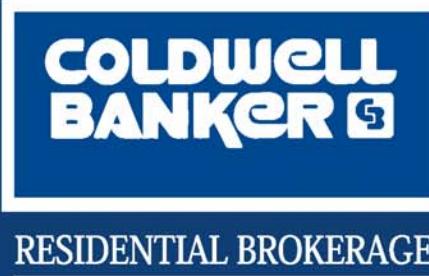
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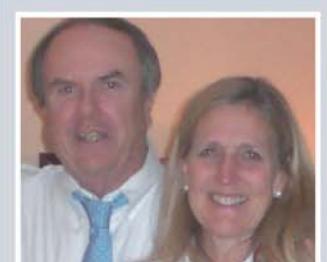
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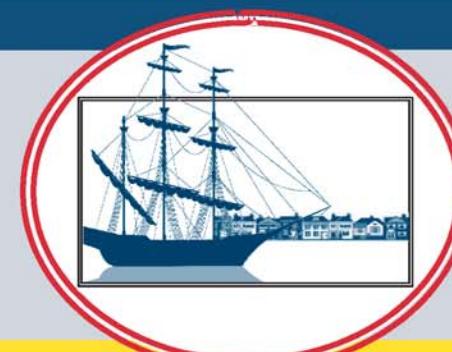
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OPEN SUN

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\$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 acquire Wakefield's most popular model in prime location at thousands less than building today! SUN 4/25, 1-4. GW Pky S, Past Estate, R-Old Mt Vernon Rd, L-Old Vernon Ct.

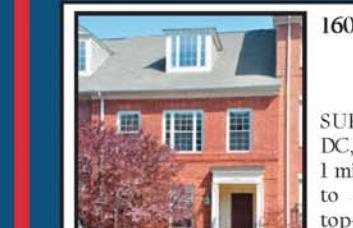


OPEN SUN

Old Vernon Ct
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Martine Irmer, LNFRE.com
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Adele dePolo 703.298.5987



OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

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2102 BASSETT ST
Ft Hunt / Mt Vernon
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CONTRACT!

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CONTRACT!

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410 South Lee Street
Diann Hicks
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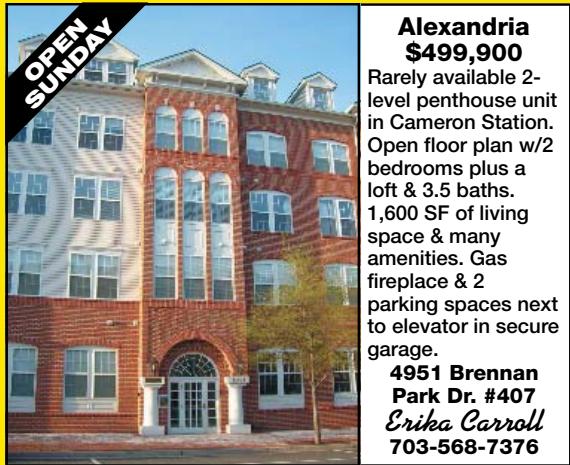
Alex./Del Ray \$869,000
Three finished levels w/4 BR & 2 BA. Renovated from top to bottom! Situated on a huge lot w/a tiered deck & detached garage! Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants on "The Avenue."
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Super master suite & private guest suite. 4 finished levels. 2 fireplaces & parking.
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823 South Lee Street
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Alex./Old Town
\$745,000
Gorgeous expanded & updated top to bottom with 2 bedrms, 2 baths, family room addition & fabulous English garden! Blocks to the River, shops & restaurants in Old Town.
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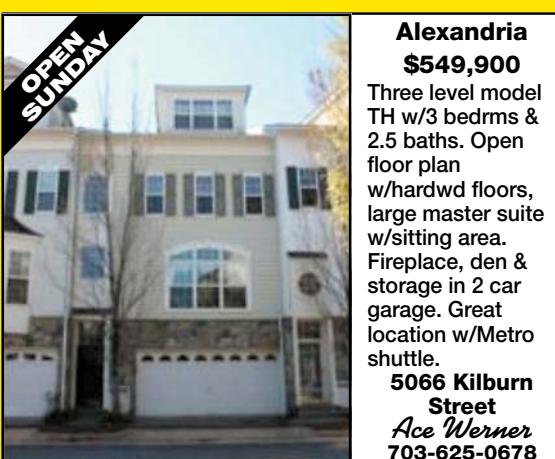
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Is there a better commute than the George Washington Parkway along the Potomac River? After work, take kids & pets for a stroll on the G.W. bike path. A totally renovated home makes entertaining a breeze—whether in the dining rm or cooking out on the deck.
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Alexandria \$1,298,000
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1808 Hunting Cove Place
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$369,000
Beautiful two-level TH w/gleaming hardwoods, delightful patio & charm galore. Updated kitchen w/new stove & flooring. Upstairs are 3 BR w/hdwds. Baths have been meticulously updated w/added storage & fixtures.
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Alexandria \$549,900
Three level model TH w/3 bedrms & 2.5 baths. Open floor plan w/hardwd floors, large master suite w/sitting area. Fireplace, den & storage in 2 car garage. Great location w/Metro shuttle.
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Ace Werner
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NEWS

Eagle Scouts

FROM PAGE 5

ment of DPWES of Fairfax County to develop a storm water detention dry pond to capture flood water. Trouton enlisted dozens of Scouts to plant hundreds of trees, bushes and grasses that were water loving and wildlife-friendly.

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK also benefits from Eagle Scout projects and often has more Scouts offering to do projects than projects themselves. Andrew Freitas spent several days removing invasive species that were underneath a heavily wooded area while Benjamin Kirby used the fallen logs cut down by the Park Service to build several habitats for small mammals. John Warfle removed small trees that were encroaching and built small mammal habitats from the debris.

Another place that has benefited from Eagle projects is Collingwood Library and Museum. Colin Amerau designed and built an outdoor classroom and sample tables, while Kevin Mandell from Troop 996 brought in truckloads of wood chips to create an accessible path down to the water.

Last year, Michael Curcio cleared invasive plants from a section of the grounds at Collingwood Library and Museum and then planted native trees and shrubs, donated by local nurseries, to prevent soil erosion.

This project was made all the more difficult because of the torrential rain that persisted during the day. However, several dedicated Scouts, Assistant Scoutmaster Bruce Clubb and Tom Curcio persevered to complete the project in the time allotted.

"Conducting an Eagle project gave me the opportunity to design, plan and implement a project that will benefit the community," said Curcio. "Through the process, I feel that I gained a greater understanding of dealing with obstacles and logistical challenges, while being able to lead others to accomplish a task."

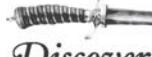
TROOP SPONSORS benefit greatly from the Eagle projects. Many local churches and schools sponsor troops, among them Aldersgate Church (Troop 996), St. Luke's Church, (Troop 654) and Plymouth Haven Church (Troop 888).

Troop 1509 is hosted at St. Aidan's Church, and John Pike, committee chair, said, "We have a very good relation with the church

SEE EAGLE SCOUTS, PAGE 28

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that on Thursday, April 29, 2010, between 9:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a brief fireworks display will take place as part of a private event at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption.

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

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Annual Princess For a Night Project

Fairfax County Public Schools is sponsoring its eighth annual Princess for a Night project, which enables high school-age girls to attend prom without spending a lot of money.

During April, formal dresses and other prom essentials are collected at several drop-off points in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. In May, events are held at local high schools so that students can select dresses, shoes, handbags, and jewelry free of charge. Donations can be brought to the following locations:

♦ Gold's Gym, 7770 Richmond Highway in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County, from 4:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

♦ T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in the main office.

Shopping and dress selection will take place at the following locations:

♦ Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County.

♦ Friday, May 7, 5 to 8 p.m.

♦ Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

♦ Monday, May 10, 2:15 to 6 p.m.

♦ T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Enter through the Chinquapin Drive entrance and follow the signs.

♦ Friday, May 14, 4 to 6 p.m.

Paul Scott Goodman Performs at MetroStage

Songwriter's solo-
show surveys
his own story.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The self-described Scottish Jewish Rock Musical, Paul Scott Goodman's "Son of a Stand Up Comedian," has a venue problem — as in "where should you perform?"

A pub might be right, if you could find a Scottish pub. An Irish pub would probably do. It would be too much of a stretch to try to find a Scottish-Jewish pub, where songs like "Oy Vey I'm Having a Baby!" wouldn't sound quite as strange as in a traditional Irish pub.

A club like the Birchmere in Alexandria might be a good fit, especially if the show was presented as an opening act. It is, after all, a solo performance piece where its author/songwriter stands center stage chatting with the audience and singing his songs while playing his guitar. That would probably require trimming the piece down a bit to less than the 70 minutes it currently runs, but the show would benefit from such trimming.

Put it in a theater and call it a musical, however, and the audience arrives with expectations that don't quite match the material. This is especially true since the theater where the piece plays through May 9 — Alexandria's MetroStage — pleased its audiences immensely two years ago when it presented an earlier musical by the same Paul Scott Goodman and his wife Miriam Gordon, "Rooms: A Rock Romance." That show told a very theatrical story in a very theatrical way, with two actors assuming roles, playing scenes set in multiple locations and singing songs that, while distinctly rock flavored, were at heart musical theater songs.

"Rooms" premiered here at MetroStage and earned a Helen Hayes Award for its co-



Paul Scott Goodman in "Son of a Stand Up Comedian."

star, Natasia Diaz, before transferring to New York where it played in an Off-Broadway theater to great acclaim, drew three nominations for awards from the Outer Critics Circle and stimulated additional productions.

This new show, however, despite the venue and the contributions of theatrical director Michael Baron, it is a simple club act that seems just a bit skimpy when a theater offers it with tickets priced at \$45 or \$50. Placing Goodman center-stage under a spotlight with a microphone on a stand and a guitar in his hands merely emphasizes the non-theatrical nature of the material. Changing the lights on the rear screen to reflect different emotional moments

doesn't help much.

The material is arranged in a chronological, autobiographical order as Gordon explains his Scottish and Jewish heritage, his immigration to America and his involvement with his first wife. It is centered on the events of the summer of 1988 which, he informs us, was the hottest summer on record in New York although little of the feeling of a hot and humid world comes through.

Gordon is an extremely likable person and the audience finds it easy to care about his effort to escape the fate of many would-be performers in Manhattan — waiting tables and serving at catered affairs. He also tells about his father's career as a stand-up comedian. He even throws in three rather funny jokes from his dad's routine although the impact of that is to reinforce the feeling that the audience is watching a club act and not a theatrical show.

Greg Holloway accompanies Goodman on drums and throws in an occasional rim shot on a punch line. That, too, gives the club act feeling a boost.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Where and When

"Son of a Stand Up Comedian" plays through May 9 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$45 - \$50. Call 800-494-8497 or log on to www.metrostage.org.

Musical Improved at Arena Wins Pulitzer

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

"Next to Normal," the musical that was given a chance to improve at Arena Stage in their Crystal City facility after a promising beginning off-Broadway, has received this year's Pulitzer Prize for Drama, becoming only the eighth musical in history to receive that honor. The prize goes to composer Tom Kitt and lyricist Brian Yorkey who also shared the Tony Award for Best Original Score for a Musical.

The show, a searing portrait of a family dealing with the pressures caused by the mother's mental illness, a not-uncommon mixture of bi-polar disorder and delusions,

had impressed audiences and critics when it first opened in a full production at New York's Second Stage Theatre in 2008, but it was generally conceded that it still had room for improvement. Arena provided Kitt and Yorkey with the opportunity to do that additional work by bringing it to Crystal City where they added, deleted or changed material to make the show work better. In the end, they had written an additional five songs for the musical.

The cast of six had remained relatively stable with just two substitutions between the Off-Broadway run and Arena. Alice Ripley, who had played the role of the mother Off-Broadway was joined by J. Robert Spencer as her husband. Aaron Tveit and Jennifer

Damiano remained as their children. The full cast that appeared at Arena remained with the show when it opened in April of 2009 at the Booth Theatre on Broadway where it is still playing. It received three Tony Awards including one for Ripley as Best Actress in a Musical.

The Pulitzer Prize was established by newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer to recognize excellence in journalism, literature and musical composition. The first Pulitzer Prize for Drama was awarded in 1918. Since that time, the prize in Drama has been given "for a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life" each year with the exception of 14 years when the Pulitzer Committee

chose not to give any award. "Next to Normal" is the second Pulitzer Prize winner that went to Broadway from Arena Stage. In 1969 Howard Sackler's drama "The Great White Hope" became the first regional theatre production to transfer complete with its original cast to Broadway, and it went on to win not only the Pulitzer but the Tony Award for the Best Play.

The Pulitzer wasn't awarded to a musical until 1932 when it went to the musical satire "Of Thee I Sing," but even then, the award went only to the writers of the lyrics and the book and not to the composer, George Gershwin. That policy was changed in 1950 when the recipients for the second musical

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THEATER

Musical Improved at Arena Wins Pulitzer

FROM PAGE 20

ever to win the award, "South Pacific," included composer Richard Rodgers. This year's citation reads "Awarded to 'Next to Normal,' music by Tom Kitt, book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey, a powerful rock musical that grapples with mental illness in a suburban family and expands the scope of subject matter for musicals."

Some controversy surrounds the selection of "Next to Normal" for this year's prize. The 17-member Pulitzer board chose not to give the award to any of the three plays recommended by its five-member drama jury, and instead, award it to this musical which had been "mentioned favorably" in the jury's report. It is not unusual for the board to make up its own mind rather than ratify the jury's views — only three years ago David Lindsay-Abaire's "Rabbit Hole" received the nod over the jury's recommendation, and the year before that, the board chose not to award a prize at all even though the jury had submitted three plays for consideration. The New York Times has reported that this year, after the board met and none of the three plays recommended by the jury received the requisite majority vote, some members of the board went to see "Next to Normal" for themselves after it had been praised in the juror's report. The next day, a three-fourths vote of the board moved it into contention for the award and it was then selected for this year's award, which is a citation and \$10,000.

Open Life Drawing Sessions

Open life drawing continues at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. These sessions operate on a drop-in basis so there is no need to register in advance.

The fee for each three-hour session is \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. Two-hour sessions are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Check the Del Ray Artisans calendar www.thedelrayartisans.org. Contact Katherine Rand at 703-836-1468 or DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com.

May 12: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
May 26: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
June 9: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
June 23: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
At the Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria.

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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.

ONGOING

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

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 22

Gardening for All Ages. 6-8 p.m. Clever and practical ways to continue (or start) this great hobby, even when your body is losing its bend-ability. Includes creative ways to inspire younger members of the family. At Marina Towers, 501 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. With Master Gardener Jane King, resident of Del Ray and Vice Chairman, Alexandria Commission on Aging. Sponsored by AHA! At Home in Alexandria.

Duncan Book Sale. 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566.

U.S. Navy Concert Band Performs. 7:30 p.m. Free. Featuring the winner of the 2010 Navy Band High School Concerto Competition. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria. Call 202-433-2525, or visit www.navyband.navy.mil.

U.S. Army Band. 7-9 p.m. Free. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 23

Hip Hop Artist Freeze Solo. 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. At the Weyone Lounge, Landmark Mall, Alexandria. For ages 21 and up. The show is hosted by Jo'lyce of AroundDaBlock.

Mount Vernon High School's Golf Scramble. Hosted by the Parent Council for the Class of 2010, will be at Fort Belvoir Golf Club to support the All Night Grad Party. Flyer can be downloaded at www.MVHSClass2010.com or e-mail mvhs2010golf@live.com.

Lady Windermere's Fan. 8 p.m. Join the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society for an evening at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Enjoy an exclusive performance of "Lady Windermere's Fan," Oscar Wilde's play about infidelity, misunderstandings, deception and honor. Tickets are \$35/regular admission and \$30/GTMS; includes an opening cocktail reception at 7 p.m. and admission to the play at 8 p.m. At 600 Wolfe Street. 703-746-4242. www.gadsbytavern.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Festival of the Arts. 6-9 p.m. At Bishop O'Connell High School. Student artwork, dance, music, poetry and much more will be on stage and on display for the community. There will be an open-mic coffeehouse and a prom fashion show, too. Tickets are



MAY 1-2

Washington International Fine Arts Festival. Free. Some 135 of the nation's top artisans will be exhibiting 14,000 pieces of original artwork covering a broad gamut of media and prices. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the National Harbor, PG County. Visit www.paragonartevents.com.

available at the door: \$3 for students, \$5 for adults, or \$10 per family. At 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit www.bishopconnell.org.

Benefit Concert. 8 p.m. Happy Birthday Barber, Schumann and Chopin — an evening of chamber music. Free-will donations to benefit the American Youth Chorus' Scott Upright Scholarship Memorial Fund. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Contact music@trinityalexandria.org or 703-549-5500, x103.

Mother's Day Shopping. 1-5 p.m. With Creative Memories, Avon, Independent Premiere Designs Jewelry, Mary Kay Cosmetics and more. At Roogas Hollin Hall, 7942 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria.

Contact www.alexearthday.org. **Native Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 14 vendors from five states selling perennials, shrubs, and trees. Parkfairfax parking lot, 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen/.

Big Sale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by Habitat for Humanity's ReStore and the Washington Metro Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers. Designer donated items for sale include wall hangings, fabrics, trim, cabinets, blinds, shades, architectural details, countertops, tile, curtain rods, furniture and much more. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. At ReStore, 7770 Richmond Highway (behind Gold's Gym), Alexandria. Contact Joann Manzek, ASID at 703-731-4968.

Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme is "Teach

(Green), Learn (Green), Live (Green)." Activities include the Annual Earth Day Tree Sale; the Plastic Bag Recycling Collection Award Presentation with Sen. Patsy Ticer; live acoustic music by Ted Hovis and classic rock music by the band, The Road; the Arbor Day tree planting; and a performance by Blue Sky Puppets. There will also be a Green Home Workshop; a guided bike tour along Holmes Run; live animal exhibits; and a used book and media items collection. Food and beverages will be sold. At Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria.

Visit www.alexearthday.org. **Rummage Sale.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hollin Meadows Elementary School's Care and Share Committee will be hosting their second annual rummage sale at the Earth Day Celebration. Books, toys, housewares, clothes and more. At Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria.

Alexandria's Largest Flea Market. 150-plus families have donated furniture, kid/baby gear, toys, electronics, sporting goods, household items and more. Early admission is 8 a.m. (\$10); general admission is 9 a.m. (free). Everything 50 percent off after noon; free after 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Visit www.mybigflea.com.

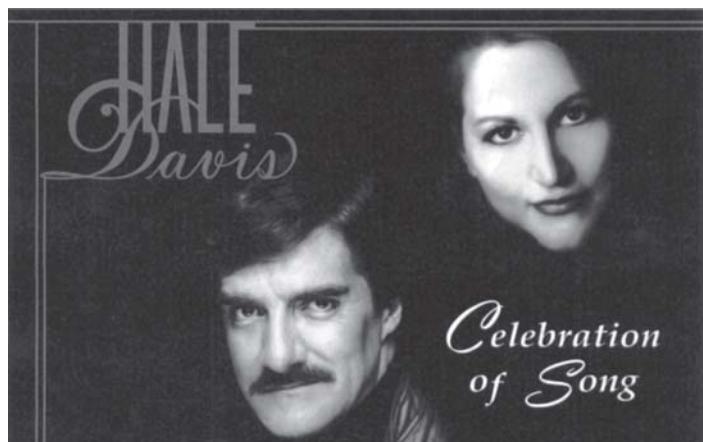
Jewelry Spa. Complimentary jewelry cleaning. Browse Evelyn Brooks Designs' EcoChic Spring Collection 2010. At A Show of Hands, 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Spring Modern Dance Performance. 7 p.m. All new works by local

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

Benefit Concert

For United Community Ministries (UCM)
Thursday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m.
Aldersgate United Methodist Church



European based, bass-baritone singer, Robert Hale, returns to area to join forces with the exceptional vocal talents of soprano, Julie Davis. Chicago-area pianist, Ovid Young, will appear as accompanist for Mr. Hale and Ms. Davis.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 23

choreographers. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$5/ages 12-17. At George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.ccpdance.org, ccpdance@gmail.com. Call 703-683-2070

Grace on the Road: Silent and Live Auction

7-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and include tasty tidbits and beverage. Items up for bid will include Tinga Tinga art from Tanzania, Washington Nationals baseball tickets, a week at a beach house, and tea for 20. To purchase tickets in advance, contact Eleanor Reed eleanor.reed@gracealex.org, Cindy Diehl cindy.diehl@gracealex.org, or Theresa Lewallen theresa.lewallen@gracealex.org. Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

2010 Spring UCM Gala

6 to 11 p.m. Benefits the United Community Ministries. This year's theme is 'UCM in Bloom: Helping Our Community Flourish' and includes cocktails and a formal dinner. At the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased by calling 703-768-7106 or online at www.ucmagency.org.

Helping Hands Fund-Raiser 4-6:30 p.m. for Kids; organized tennis 7-10 p.m. for adults. Round Robin Tennis, tennis drills, fastest serves, and games. Proceeds benefit the Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children Pediatric Oncology Program. At Mount Vernon Athletic Club, 7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-360-7300.

7th Grade Sneak Preview 5-6 p.m. For seventh-graders and their families. At Bishop O'Connell High School, Upper Gym, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit www.bishopoconnell.org or call 703-237-1433.

Book Blast & Kid Fun Fest 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs and more — all priced to move. Plus

five performances and activities for kids. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria.

Model UN Event 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Annual BI Model UN Conference At Bishop Ireton High School.

APRIL 24 AND 25

Wine and Pottery Auction Collection of Bon Vivant Food Writer R.W. "Johnny" Apple Jr. Wine will be sold along with 100 items from Apple's collection of Arts and Crafts pottery by artisans such as Rookwood, Roseville and Fulper. At the Potomack Company, 526 North Fayette Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 25

West Point Glee Club Concert 4:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. This concert is intended to honor veterans, members of the "greatest generation," wounded warriors and their families. Reserve at <https://secure.west-point.org/wpacg/> or 703-263-2364.

Family Tour Days at Gadsby's Tavern Museum 1-4 p.m. Families are invited to tour the historic tavern as Junior Docents, volunteers from grades 3 through 6, share their enthusiasm for history with your family. At 134 North Royal Street. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbytavern.org.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic 2-4 p.m. Rabies vaccinations cost \$10, payable by cash or check only. Appointments are not necessary. At the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria shelter. Call 703-838-4774 ext. 225.

Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off Noon to 3 p.m. Fund-raiser for homeless adults and families. Features food

samples from 23 restaurants, music by the Melonheads, face painting and other children's activities, hourly raffles for dinners at local restaurants including drawing for special chef's table evening for four. Tickets are \$40/adults, \$5/children. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-548-7500, ext. 204. Or, buy tickets online at www.carpentersshelter.org and click on the link to buy tickets and raffle tickets.

TUESDAY/APRIL 27

The Lark Farm 7:30 p.m. Film screening by the Alexandria-Gyumri Sister Cities Comm. The Alexandria-Gyumri Committee is chartered by the City of Alexandria and its mission is help Gyumri, its sister City in Armenia. At the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 28

Food Discussion 7 to 9 p.m. Anne Palmer, program director, Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future, and Ann Carroll, senior policy analyst, Brownfields Program Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will present "Food Security in the Metropolitan Environment: Increasing Food Access in America." At the Virginia Tech Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince Street, Third Floor Conference Room. Contact Kris Wernstedt, 703-706-8132 or krisw@vt.edu.

Author David O. Stewart 7:30 p.m. Author of Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy. Hosted by the Friends of Duncan Library. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566.

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2:00 pm (en Español)

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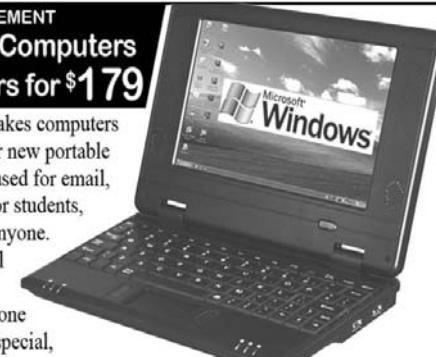
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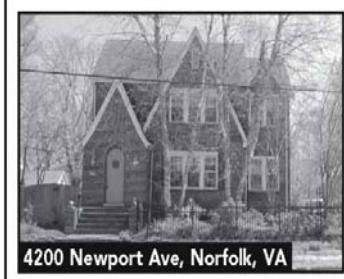
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NEWS

Going Green, Saving Green

FROM PAGE 4

regulations to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged [into the Chesapeake Bay] so the county is doing a number of things and this project is one that will help," Worthy said. "This will keep 1.5 million gallons [of waste water] from going into Chesapeake Bay every day."

According to Worthy, the project was something that the county had conceived years ago, but never got past the planning stage as money to fund construction never materialized. However, when the federal government announced that it would be distributing stimulus money for public works projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last year, Worthy said that the county quickly applied.

The application was accepted soon thereafter and the county was awarded \$6.5 million for the project.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 7

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, 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 Commerce by Friday, April 23.

Water Reuse Project

Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/water_reuse/ for more information about the Water Reuse Project.

The county put out a request for proposals, and after a competitive bidding process, M.A. Bongiovanni, Inc. was chosen as the contractor after submitting the lowest bid. A wastewater consulting firm, the company also entered into a team design build agreement with Fairfax-based planning and design firm Dewberry to work on the project.

"We have worked on many projects of various sizes with Fairfax County," said Dewberry Spokeswoman Molly Wagner. "We are always thrilled to support its projects and we are very happy to work on this critical issue with [the county]."

Worthy said that construction will begin in June and will be finished in August 2011.



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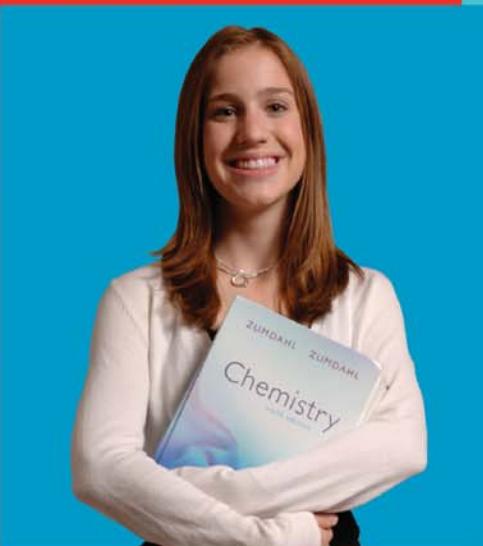
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NEWS

Eagle Scout Projects Serve Community

FROM PAGE 19

— they don't charge us and we use the space. They get a direct benefit [from us] as a result of their support. Free service is the most efficient way to get things done."

Robert Reynolds researched composting and designed a multi-stage composting bin for the garden behind St. Aidan's Church, while Patrick Dunford removed the invasive plants and several overhanging dead tree limbs that were a hazard.

Michael Fijalk pulled invasive plants from the end of the church that was facing Riverside road and moved several plants according to the overall landscaping plan.

James Johnson took care of the area behind the shed next to the parking lot that was overgrown and home to several species of rodents that were a hazard to the neighbors as well as the gear in the shed. Johnson removed all the invasive plants and planted several young trees.

Bruce Clubb, who supervises Eagle projects for Troop 1509, likens the process to the educational system, and said, "They have an oral exam, and then they do a project [like a thesis]."

THESE PROJECTS are not to be taken

lightly. Before they even start preparing for Eagle, the Scouts have to achieve several levels, earn a few dozen badges and spend 3-5 years to get to the point that they can begin the journey to Eagle.

That journey requires a Scout to research and prepare detailed plans for his project; meet regularly with his Scoutmaster and coordinate his volunteers. Each project contributes 90-150 volunteer hours.

The following list from the BSA Web site outlines the requirements:

- ❖ Be active in your troop, team, crew, or ship for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout.

- ❖ Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. List the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, including parents/guardians, religious, educational, and employer references.

- ❖ Earn a total of 21 merit badges.

- ❖ While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of six months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility [assistant senior patrol leader, chaplain aide, den chief, historian, instructor, junior assistant scoutmaster, librarian, Order of the Arrow troop representative, patrol leader, quarter-



PHOTO BY TOM CURCIO

Tired and dirty, Scouts from Troop 1509 congratulate themselves on completing Michael Curcio's Eagle project at Collingwood Library & Museum.

master, scribe, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Venture patrol leader, troop webmaster, or Leave No Trace instructor.

- ❖ While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. (The project should benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) The project plan must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your Scoutmaster and troop committee, and the council or district before you start.

- ❖ Take part in a Scoutmaster Conference.
- ❖ Successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

Tom Roberts' son, Sam, collected over 2,000 toothbrushes and delivered them to Africa. Roberts, who is a local dentist and former committee chair, said, "It comes back to service and giving back. It teaches service on a basic level. It opens a door to young people, showing them that they can get more out of giving than taking — and hopefully this will follow them as they become adults."

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SPORTS

Mount Vernon's Belanger Proves Dual Threat

Junior is committed to American as goalie, team's leading goal-scorer as forward.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Girls soccer teams in the Northern Region know beating Mount Vernon involves dealing with Charlene Belanger. What isn't so certain for opponents is on which end of the field Belanger will be causing problems.

Belanger plays goalkeeper and forward for the Majors and has been recruited by colleges at both positions. She is orally committed to American University as a goalie, yet performed well enough as a forward to garner all-region honors her sophomore season.

Mount Vernon head coach Tony Garza tells Belanger where she'll play prior to each game, though she usually starts at goalie during National District contests. When Belanger plays forward, freshman Alexis LyBarger takes over in goal.

As a keeper, Belanger has 27 saves. As a forward, she's tallied six assists and a team-high four goals. Belanger has an impact wherever she plays and brings with her a passion for the game.

"It's just really exciting to play two different positions," she said. "I'll play anywhere. I just like to play."

Once Belanger knows her assignment, she



Mount Vernon junior Charlene Belanger plays goalkeeper and forward for the Majors. She's orally committed to American University as a goalkeeper and earned all-region honors as a forward.

selects her game attire and starts focusing on the task at hand.

"You have to get in the mindset of what you're doing," she said. "When you play forward you have to score, but when you're

playing defense you have to deny it. It's really just getting in the mindset of what's being asked of you that day."

In the season opener against Wakefield on March 25, Belanger scored three second-



Senior defender Gabby Gadson, left, is a standout on the Mount Vernon girls soccer team.

"As an overall player, I don't want to use the [term] 'heart and soul' of our team, but every single player on our team looks to her for guidance, looks to her for leadership on the field."

— Mount Vernon head girls soccer coach Tony Garza on Charlene Belanger

half goals to lead the Majors to a 3-2 victory. Against Yorktown on April 16, Mount Vernon was on defense for much of the con

SEE BELANGER, PAGE 30

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon's Jones Competes in Capital Classic

Mount Vernon senior basketball player Skylar Jones participated in the 37th Capital Classic All-Star Game on April 15 at American University. Jones' Suburban All-Stars lost to the District All-Stars, 109-100.

Jones, a starter, finished with seven points on 3-for-11 shooting. He also grabbed six rebounds in 18 minutes.

The 6-foot-4 Jones will play collegiately at Niagara.

Majors, Wolverines to Compete in All-Star Games

Mount Vernon basketball players Robert Smith and Tre' Ferguson and West Potomac's Martez Redfearn and Keevyn Hankins will participate in the 2010 Northern Region All-Star boys basketball game festivities on April 24 at Wakefield High School. Players

from the Patriot and Liberty districts will face athletes from the National and Concorde districts. There will also be a dunk contest and 3-point shootout.

Hankins and Redfearn will compete in the dunk contest, which begins at 6:30 p.m. The game starts at 7:30 p.m.

Mount Vernon Boys Suffer First Loss

The Mount Vernon boys soccer team lost to Yorktown 3-1 on April 16, stopping the Majors' season-opening win streak at eight.

Mount Vernon will travel to face Stuart at 7 p.m. April 22.

Mount Vernon Baseball Wins Ninth out of 10

The Mount Vernon baseball team de

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 30

5Qs

Five questions with West Potomac senior catcher David Burns

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

A: I've been to Australia twice.

Q: Who are your favorite pro baseball team and player?

A: My pro team is the Phillies. My favorite player is Roberto Clemente. He played the game the right way. He always hustled. The guys from the old days, people don't play the game the same way anymore.

Q: What's the best feeling you can have during a baseball game?

A: Come-from-behind win in the bot-



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN

West Potomac senior David Burns.

tom of the seventh.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Something from Chick-fil-A.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: Either [go to] the University of Wyoming or Sewanee: The University of the South (in Tennessee). I want to go out and experience new places, new people. I'm not a city guy. I like being outdoors.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS

Belanger Proves To Be Dual Threat

FROM PAGE 29

test. Belanger played keeper and, after allowing a first half goal, made several athletic saves during a 1-0 loss to the Patriots.

Belanger is "fantastic," Yorktown coach Vicky Brunt said. "I thought we were getting in and then serving soft crosses in, which she was of course eating up. I don't think that we tested her — and I'm sure she would have done well even if we had — we didn't test her too many times."

Garza praised Belanger's leadership qualities, as well as her athletic ability.

"She is a player any coach would want," he said. "I wish Charlene had a twin sister, I wish we could clone her. As an overall player, I don't want to use the [term] 'heart and soul' of our team, but every single player on our team looks to her for guidance, looks to her for leadership on the field. They ask her how to improve their games all the time. She's just an all-

around great player, somebody who's committed to playing goalie — who in my opinion is one of the best goalies around — and [has the ability to] come on the field [as a forward]."

MOUNT VERNON is 3-4, including 2-1 in district play. After beating Wakefield, Mount Vernon lost to West Potomac, 3-0, on March 26. The Majors responded by beating Marshall, 2-1, and Falls Church, 2-0. But since then, Mount Vernon is 0-3 with shutout losses against Centreville, Yorktown and Lee. Against Yorktown, the Majors were without four starters — junior Michelle Naleid and freshmen Jaelin White, Alexis LyBarger and Serena Schantz — due to injury.

Along with Belanger, Garza praised the play of senior defenders Gabby Gadson and Katie Sargent, and freshman sweeper Megan O'Dell.

The Majors return to district play with a home game against Stuart at 7 p.m. April 22.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 29

feated Wakefield 17-3 on the road April 16 for its ninth win in 10 games.

Mike Murdock went 2-for-4 with a double, home run and three RBIs for the Majors. Collin Bowyer had three hits for Mount Vernon and Tre Cooke, Andrew Sable, Taggart Salcedo and Kyle Quigley each had two hits.

Bowyer started on the mound and picked up the win, allowing three hits and two earned runs while striking out three in four innings.

Mount Vernon travels to face Washington-Lee at 6 p.m. April 22.

West Potomac Softball Wins Fifth of 6

The West Potomac softball team defeated Woodson 3-1 on April 16 for its fifth win in six games.

The Wolverines travel to face West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. April 23.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former and current Alexandria Potomac Little League presidents (from left) Mike Aitken (2008-09), Warren Payne (current) and Pat Malone (2004-05) are seen during opening day on April 17 at Bucknell Elementary School.

Awards Banquet

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will hold its 55th annual awards banquet May 18 at the Westin Hotel at 400 Courthouse Square. The silent auction and cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The awards program will begin at

8 p.m. Sal Sunseri, assistant head coach of the national champion University of Alabama football team, will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$60 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information call Richard Downs at 703-647-1205 or 703-677-1266 or e-mail him at RDowns@lindsaycollison.com.

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The peaceful natural setting of this Fairfax County location (within the Potomac River & Mason Neck Wild Life Refuge) is known in Virginia for its welcoming shelter for the Blue Heron & the Bald Eagle. Now the opportunity exists to own a home within this special place, where spectacular views of the Potomac River & Mason Neck add to the splendor & tranquility that is inherent to the location.



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Beautiful French Country Chateau

Tucked away in the Wellington area of Alexandria, this exceptional home is sited on more than an acre of beautiful landscaping, has magnificent Potomac River views and estate size rooms. Six bedrooms, four full and three half baths, along with cherry paneled library, gourmet kitchen, formal living and dining rooms. Gorgeous master bedroom suite with luxurious master bath.

Christine Ricketts

703.626.3841

www.christinericketts.com

MLS ID# FX7306651



ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN

\$1,449,500



Right Out of a Magazine

Classic, Belle Haven, 1940s Colonial in cul-de-sac location! Ivy covered charm with four finished levels of updates! Classic Viking kitchen, gracious formal rooms, five-plus bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths, screened porch, gleaming hardwoods, and terraced stone patio.

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ALEXANDRIA/CLOVER



\$899,900

Tons of Space Inside & Out!

This beautiful home sparkles with freshly painted walls, gleaming hardwood floors, crown moldings, renovated baths, and a large eat-in kitchen. The stunning lower level boasts a fireplace, full bath, recreation room, wet bar, and plenty of storage. Walk out from the lower level to a large, flat backyard with double level decking.

Sue Goodhart

703.362.3221

www.suegoodhart.com

MLS ID# AX7316622



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$685,900



Always Wanted to Grow Your Own Garden?

Fantastic bungalow on huge double lot has been tastefully renovated offering enclosed front porch, kitchen with granite counters, maple cabinetry and stainless appliances opening to comfy family room addition, three bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood flooring, decorator touches and a garage. Stroll down the block for fun on "The Avenue."

Jennifer Walker

703.675.1566

www.jenwalker.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$1,545,000



West End Alexandria

This lovely home offers high ceilings, wide dentil moldings on the main level, updated eat-in kitchen with granite and bay window overlooking wide, level rear yard with large patio and custom shed. En-suite master bath with shower, jacuzzi tub, and double sink. Two-car garage. Located on one half acre near hospitals, schools, parks and Old Town Alexandria.

Noel Kaupinen

703.200.1165

www.noelk.com

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ALEXANDRIA



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Outstanding Location!

The azaleas are in bloom and waiting for you in this three-bedroom, two-bath rambler with an updated kitchen in Seminary Valley. Large backyard and abundant storage! Outstanding location promising an easy commute to almost everywhere!

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www.masonbavin.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$375,000



Luxury Living on the Potomac

Watch the sailboats from this spacious one-bedroom waterfront condo with sweeping views of the Potomac River. It has been beautifully renovated throughout to include an office/study area. Close to shops and restaurants, it is mere minutes to Reagan National Airport and DC. Visit www.callnada.com for more photos.

Nada Seide

703.350.3803

www.callnada.com

MLS ID # AX7306199



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$899,000



Making Its Own History

is this handsome, light-filled, three-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath, brick townhouse standing within full view of historic Christ Church. Spacious rooms with tall ceilings, polished wood floors and exceptional finish detail add to the majesty of this special residence where two fireplaces lend comfort, a delightful patio permits outdoor enjoyment, and off-street parking alleviates all concerns.

Carol Cleary

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