

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 29, 2010



The 26th George Washington Parkway Classic 10 miler starts at the George Washington Estate at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 25. The race is presented by BAE Systems, Pacers Running Stores, New Balance, and Potomac Runners.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE



Spectators watch the 10k race from a bridge as runners make their way up the George Washington Parkway.

Classic Runners

Cathy Maimon, Dorie Canipelli, Spring Rouch and Sebele Mamo all trained with personal trainer Karen Shaw (middle) for the race and were happy to complete it successfully.



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Trailers or Trees?

Even as project moves forward, North Hill remains divisive.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Even as plans move forward to construct a long-awaited trailer park of affordable housing units at North Hill, Mount Vernon residents are divided about the utility of the project. Some say the units are long overdue, and that the county should have taken action decades ago. Others say that the trees should be preserved and that the money should go toward purchasing foreclosed properties. Still others are concerned about how the project — or lack of progress on the project — might influence redevelopment along Richmond Highway.

The debate is not a new one. Fairfax County has owned the land

since 1981, when the property was purchased by the Fairfax County Redevelopment as part of the redevelopment of the Woodley-Nightengale Mobile Home Park. But after the completion of phase one, now known as Woodley Hills Estate, the project stalled. It was rekindled by a renewed interest in affordable housing in 2007, when county officials began a site development process.

Not so fast, say neighborhood residents.

“What message does it send to a potential commercial-property developer that the county plans to construct a mobile-home park on Richmond Highway?” asked David Dale, chairman of the planning committee of the Mount Vernon

SEE NORTH HILL, PAGE 12

Supervisors Raise Tax Rate and Fees

Even with more money, schools, libraries and parks will still make program cuts.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a higher real estate property tax rate, new vehicle registration fee and increase in the quarterly sewer service charges to avoid deep cuts to services next year.

The supervisors voted 7-3 on a final version of the budget at an April 27 board meeting.

The county spending plan will restore several programs that were initially cut by Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin. The supervisors have added money back in to keep bathrooms open at several county parks and athletic fields for example.

The Board of Supervisors was able to avoid some of the more drastic budget reductions proposed by Griffin because Gov. Bob

SEE HIGHER, PAGE 4

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Friends of UCM gather for a photo.

Fun, Funds at UCM Gala

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

High Mileage took the stage, keeping the crowd dancing with its rock & roll music.

For more information on UCM programs, visit <http://www.ucmagency.com>.

The sub-title of this week's United Community Ministries' Gala was "Helping Our Community Flourish" — and so they did. Not only did the 200 guests who gathered at Mount Vernon Country Club raise money for UCM's basic needs, but they also had a great time.

All guests received a free ticket that they could deposit in one of the raffle baskets — and purchase additional tickets if they wanted to increase their chances of winning. Tables full of great Silent Auction items were available for bidding and four trips were snatched up by Live Auction bidders.

Art Monk's contribution to UCM lives on. When he attended the Business Forum a few weeks ago, he signed a couple of football, hats and photographs. A signed football and signed hat were included in a Tailgate package, complete with a gas grill from Lowe's, a signed Emeril cookbook and Emeril spices.

Guests dug even deeper into their pockets for a successful Reverse Auction after an impassioned plea from Board Chair Felicia Meyer-Deloatch. And then



Diane Hanak reviews the items on the Silent Auction table.



Gala Co-chairs Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Becky Todd and Cleatus Burk enjoy a job well done.



Kristy Long and Kristy Benton-Grover man the check-in counter.



Terri Bibbs and Cynthia Hull greet guests.

Scott Surovell visits with Bob Murphy and Cleatus and David Burk.



Danae Delman and Becky Todd compare notes.

PHOTOS BY
GALE CURCIO

Supervisors Restore Mount Vernon Services

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors decided to fully fund several services that directly affect the Mount Vernon community which county executive Anthony Griffin had proposed to eliminate in the next fiscal year.

But many specialized programs in local Mount Vernon schools still remain on the chopping block. Though the supervisors approved their budget April 27, the Fairfax County School Board has until the end of May to work out the

details of the school system's spending plan.

The following is a list of local services that were preserved in 2010:

- ❖ Fairfax County Police Department's marine unit, which patrols along the Potomac River.

- ❖ Fairfax County's fireboat patrols on the Potomac River.

- ❖ Martin Luther King Jr. pool at 8115 Fordson Road will continue full-time operations.

- ❖ Fairfax County Police Department's satellite intake center for the county jail will

continue to operate 24 hours per day. The holding area at the Mount Vernon district station allows police officers to retain suspects, without have to take them immediately to the main jail site in the City of Fairfax.

- ❖ Emergency services that are offered at the Mount Vernon Center for Community Health 24 hours per day.

The following is a list of programs that could be cut in 2010:

- ❖ Project Excel – which provides extended day learning and more instructional time at schools with large populations of

minority and low-income students. This program is found in the following Mount Vernon elementary schools: Bucknell, Fort Belvoir, Groveton, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Woodlawn and Woodley Hills.

- ❖ Focus – a specialized program that provides additional resources to schools with large numbers of minority and low-income students. The following elementary schools in Mount Vernon would lose Focus funding: Fort Hunt, Hollin Meadows, Woodley Hills and Riverside.

Higher Property Tax Rate, Car Fee To Fund Services

FROM PAGE 1

McDonnell (R) and the Virginia General Assembly restored \$61 million in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools, according to county Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

"The process was helped tremendously by that additional state funding," she said.

But the supervisors were not able to restore all funding to county programs. Fairfax residents will still have to cope with some reductions to services, such as public libraries operating on a limited schedule.

ALL THREE SUPERVISORS who voted against the county budget were members of the Republican Party. They primarily object to the vehicle registration fee, which they said would increase the overall county tax burden on the average Fairfax resident.

And though all seven Democratic supervisors ended up supporting the budget, at least two considered voting against it because of disagreement with the school system over spending priorities.

Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) were upset with FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale and the Fairfax County School Board's plan to eliminate Project Excel, Focus and the year-round school calendar from several elementary schools. The three programs provide extra funding, instructional time and staff to schools with large minority and low-income student populations that traditionally struggle with academic achievement.

Dale has said he intends to replace the current programs with another initiative aimed at improving academic achievement among at-risk students but he could not provide Hudgins or Hyland with many details about what the program might look like. Several supervisors were also unable to confirm whether the challenged schools that currently received extra funding would get assistance through the new program designed by Dale.

"In all my years on the board, this was the first time I was prepared not to vote for the budget," said Hyland, who wanted more details about how challenged schools were

to be assisted after the programs were eliminated.

At the request of Hyland and Hudgins, the supervisors passed a resolution April 27 indicating that the county might be willing to give the school system more money to help cushion the impact of losing Excel, focus and the year-round calendar. The supervisors and School Board members will discuss why the School Board chose to eliminate the programs at a joint meeting in May.

"These programs or an alternative should have been the school board's first priority, not its last priority. These are core programs," said Hudgins.

AS PART OF the overall budget package, the Fairfax supervisors voted in favor of an increase of the local real estate property tax rate from \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.09.5 per \$100 of assessed property value.

The rate increase will be offset in a decline in home values for many Fairfax residents. The average property tax bill in the county is expected to be \$26.93 less than it was last year.

A half cent of the proposed increase on property taxes will be dedicated to county stormwater services. Currently, 1 cent of the property tax rate is used for the stormwater program.

As part of the budget likely to pass, Fairfax would also charge a new vehicle registration fee, \$33 for most cars annually. County residents would also pay an increase on sewer service fees from \$4.50 to \$5.27 per 1,000 gallons used, raising the average sewer bill by \$60.

According to Bulova, the increase in the sewer service charge is largely to help the county come into compliance with federal government mandates regarding clean water.

In general, people and organizations have not objected to the increase in the property tax rate, especially since the average Fairfax taxpayer would owe less than they did last year. Even Republican supervisors supported a hike in the rate, though Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) has objected to the amount of money dedicated to stormwater

management in the past.

Where critics of the budget have focused their energy is the vehicle registration fee.

"At the bottom of a recession, you hold the line on taxes and you reduce what you need to reduce," said Cook.

Most Fairfax residents have at least one vehicle, the new \$33 fee will offset the \$26.93 savings the average homeowner will see on their property tax bill, according to Cook.

Democrats who supported the new fee said the county needs to diversify its tax base. Real estate taxes generate 62.1 percent of the funding for Fairfax's budget and several supervisors said renters and other residents should have to share the local tax burden with property owners.

"I don't think all of our revenue should be derived from property taxes. Cars are also an expense to the county. For example, police have to take time to deal with car accidents and car-related thefts," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence).

But at least one Democrat, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), also criticized his former colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for bringing back the vehicle registration fee. As county chairman, the congressman led the effort to abolish the fee a few years ago.

Fairfax County does not intend to bring back the decal that was attached to the vehicle registration fee, so there is no justification for the payment, said Connolly.

"There is no rationale for this fee. Without the decal, it is a fee on nothing. Why not tax us for the air that we breathe?" said Connolly, who is running for re-election this fall.

In public meetings and through e-mails, Bulova said Fairfax residents were overwhelmingly interested in expanding the county's sources of tax revenue.

"We heard from the public and they expressed support for bringing back the vehicle registration fee," said Bulova.

Public school parents may need to brace themselves for more out of pocket expenses.

The supervisors allocated approximately 53 percent of its \$3.3 billion general fund to Fairfax County Public Schools leaving the school system with about \$16 million less from the county that it received last year.

"It would have been my preference to at least get level funding, especially when we have seen an increase of 1,000 students this year," said Fairfax School Board President Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is likely to vote to keep the elementary band and strings programs and not to increase the average class size at a time when some elementary school teachers are coping with groups of 30 or more children.

But the School Board, which will finalize the schools' budget in May, is also likely to implement a \$100 athletic fee per student per sport in high schools and a \$75 fee for each Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes. An exception will be made for low-income families who cannot afford the extra charges, said Smith.

Parents who choose to enroll children in elementary school gifted and talented centers, when they have classes for gifted students — called "local level IV services" — offered at their base school may also lose transportation services, said Smith.

THOUGH FAIRFAX received an unexpected \$61 million in extra funding from Virginia, the money can largely not be used to cover school programs that are facing reductions this year.

Smith said \$45 million of the extra funding from the Commonwealth will have to put aside to address future payments into the Virginia Retirement System for teachers and staff. McDonnell and the Virginia General Assembly managed to balance the state budget — and allocated Fairfax schools the extra \$61 million — largely by foregoing payments to the public employees' retirement fund over the next two years.

The governor has said the Commonwealth, as well as Fairfax County Public Schools, should expect to "make up" for the two years of missed payments by paying the owed money back into the system over the next decade.

"We have to put that money in a reserve because we get the great opportunity to pay that money back over the next 10 years at 7.5 percent interest. We are going to need the revenue to pay for that," said Smith.



Hollin Meadows Math and Science Focus School students staff briefed U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Fairfax County School Superintendent Jack Dale, and Dominion Virginia Power's Tim Sargeant on the project while the officials observed the addition to the garden.

Harnessing Wind at Hollin Meadows

Hollin Meadows Math and Science Focus School students added another component to the elementary school's sustainable garden during the school's fifth annual Earth Day celebration — a new solar-wind turbine system to power the irrigation system that was installed last year.

The system was possible thanks to an educational grant from Dominion Virginia Power for the school's "Solar Vision" plan to use solar electricity as a hands-on teaching tool and help improve student achievement in science and math.

The solar-wind turbine system

was implemented in coordination with Cub Scout Pack 118 for the Leave No Trace Service Award and during the school's Alternative Energy Week.

Hundreds of students, family members, community members, and local business got their hands dirty, played and learned at the annual Earth Day celebration on the school grounds. As part of the schools' Go Green efforts, attendees brought their own water bottles and only paper products were used to serve hamburgers and hot dogs. The celebration also featured a plant sale, used book sale with the Girl Scouts, and a

rummage sale that raised funds for the Care and Share Committee to help families in need.

The Hollin Meadows garden began five years and is central to the school curriculum.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak visited the school late last year and harvested lettuce for the annual Thanksgiving feast. Last month, 20 students from Hollin Meadows were invited to the White House and planted a spring garden on the South Lawn with the First Lady, Vilsak and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

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Church Opens Doors to Undocumented Students

Local religious, community leaders support immigration reform.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope UMC and VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) co-sponsored what was billed as a solidarity call for action on Sunday, April 25, to help immigrant youth in particular and immigrants in general.

The focus of the gathering was to urge enactment of the pending federal legislation known as the DREAM Act that would provide a way for undocumented individuals to become legal residents.

Attended by more than 100 religious and community leaders and activists, the event featured appeals from religious leaders as well as undocumented students from Northern Virginia and Florida.

Students spoke about their plight; for example, after graduating from high school they are unable to obtain legal U.S. resident status and, therefore, are unable to obtain financial aid to pay for their tuition. In the case of Virginia, undocumented students are unable to obtain in-state tuition status because they do not have a U.S. residency certification from the U.S. immigration and naturalization service. If their parents were undocumented immigrants they are undocumented immigrants also, regardless of their length of stay in the U.S.

In addition, the students expressed fears that they and/or their parents may be deported. Four Florida students who walked approximately 1,500 miles from Miami, Fla. to Washington, D.C. just arrived this weekend and were featured as part of the solidarity event. They described KKK-type hateful and scary experiences during their journey through the deep south, and also stories of support and compassion elsewhere.

One of the students, Felipe Matos, illustrated the situation tens of thousands of recently graduated undocumented students face upon graduation from high school. Without a resident status he could not ac-



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope UMC hosted a gathering to hear from four undocumented students who walked from Florida on their way to Congress to discuss immigration reform.

cept admission to Duke University because he did not qualify for financial aid.

"It is not my enemies that hurt my cause, it is the silence of my friends," said Matos.

Another student pointed out that if you are an undocumented immigrant you cannot volunteer and pursue a career in the U.S. military. As they pointed out, except for a piece of paper, they are Americans, and want to remain so.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION Reform legislation, in this case called the DREAM Act, was introduced in Congress last year that would address the residency status of undocumented immigration students. This is not the comprehensive immigration reform legislation also pending before Congress, although it could be folded into the more overarching reform legislation.

The Florida students, joined by northern Virginia immigrant students and community and religious leaders, planned to visit members of Congress in the coming days urging that the existing or a revised DREAM act be enacted. They also planned to communicate to President Obama that he issue an Executive Order to stop deporting law-abiding immigrants.

Venus Miller, VOICE Team Member from Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Woodbridge, and administrator, Northern Virginia Community College, said, "These young people are our nation's future innovators and entrepreneurs."

Attendees gathered Sunday to worship, sing, and listen to calls for action to pass compassionate immigration reform legislation and bring an end to the fear and polarizing effect of the present status that has left hundreds of thousands of people in limbo. They heard the Rev Keary Kincannon, minister of Rising Hope UMC, Fr. Gerry Creedon currently head of St. Charles Borromeo RC and minister Herman Greenhill, Bethlehem Baptist Church of Alexandria, and Fr. Tuck Grinnell of St. Anthony at Padua call for action to end the impasse in Congress on reform legislation.

Kincannon, quoting Biblical themes, including Chapter 11, Book of Hebrews, said: "We are all aliens ... home lies in the Kingdom of God ... treat them all as our neighbor."

The attendees also listened to northern Virginia and Florida students of undocumented immigrant parents about what it is like to live without full resident status in

The DREAM Act

Under the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, certain undocumented individuals could become legal residents. The individual would have to enroll in a higher education institution or the U.S. military; after certain conditions are met, the individual could petition and be granted conditional residency. Under conditional residency status, the individual could be granted a private loan to finance their education. After that the individual could be granted permanent residency status. Eligibility for this program includes: entered the U.S. before 16 years of age; five years in the U.S. without interruption; ability to speak English. Participants under this program would not have to fear the deportation of their families.

the U.S. "The stories of Sayda and Liana [northern Virginia students] break the heart and challenge the soul," said Creedon. "A wall has been erected that is impossible for many of our best and brightest young people to scale. We know that education is the gate to opportunity but the wall facing many of our immigrant youth provides no opening, no gate. ... It is a defeat that drives some young people into the back alleys of despair ... We join with the walkers from Florida, those young people who have blazed a trail of dreams. For this country is built not on nightmares but on dreams; dreams of equality and freedom and opportunity for all of God's children."

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), has supported the DREAM Act legislation when it was first introduced. When contacted about the Sunday event and call for action to enact legislation that would enable undocumented students to obtain residency status and receive financial aid to attend college, he said: "Our immigration system is broken and young people who can make a significant contribution to our society by earning a college degree are falling through the cracks. We need comprehensive reform, and we need it soon." U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11) was not available for comment by deadline.

According to VOICE, approximately 65,000 undocumented immigrant students nationally graduate from high school each year; many wait on their petition for resident status for long periods of time, up to 10 years, before they can realize the fulfillment of their dream of pursuing a college education and other pursuits available to others with U.S. resident status.

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OPINION

Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year

Kenneth B. Lourie, award-winning columnist and sales representative with the Connection Newspapers and Potomac Almanac, was named Virginia Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year, receiving his award on Saturday, April 24, at the annual advertising conference of the Virginia Press Association in Portsmouth.

It's a bit unusual to use editorial space to tout sales awards, but this is an unusual case.

Many of our readers are familiar with Lourie's longstanding weekly humor column, The Daze of my Life, which runs in many of our papers and on our web site.

In the past year, Lourie has tackled the more serious topic of his diagnosis and treatment for stage IV lung cancer in his columns, but with the same pointed humor of his previous columns. Meanwhile, despite these challenges, he remains one of our top sales performers.

Lourie's award was presented by Carol Taylor, chairman of VPA's Advertising Committee and a sales executive with Richmond Times Dispatch. "This year's Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year award honors the kind of sales professional who is a role model, someone whose qualities have led to great success in the newspaper advertising profession," Taylor said in giving the award.

Taylor continued: "Among other important attributes, this award recognizes leadership and tenacity. ... It celebrates extraordinary customer service and an attitude that embraces the unprecedented change we're seeing inside and outside of our industry. ... Our recipient is well known for his cold calling prowess and his reliance on old-school technology, like note cards. His customers rave about his flexibility, his patience, his attention to detail and his

ability to find a Boston Red Sox fan anywhere he goes. And he's an award-winning columnist who isn't afraid to write about his need for new underwear."

For more than 12 years, Lourie has been our most organized and creative sales professional. Disciplined, committed and tenacious, he has always been among the top performers in our sales staff. His medical condition is relevant only as to the timing of this award and the recognition it provides and as proof of his unbelievable tenacity, commitment and good humor.

Lourie's column, The Daze of my Life, has developed a loyal following and addresses some of the quirks and milestones of every day life, but also tackling more serious topics. An excerpt from a recent letter he received from a

reader exemplifies the effect his writing has had:

"While we have not met, I want to let you know how much your newspaper columns related to your cancer mean to me; I have saved them all. I can relate to many of the feelings you write about from experience. ... It is impressive to see how you approach your situation with grace and honesty; that is the best one can ask of oneself. You are doing a lot by your writing to help other people learn and go through this experience with you. None of us really knows what is ahead of one in life, and you provide a good example of the value of approaching each day with love and hope.

You can read Lourie's columns by going to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and typing "Lourie" into the search field.

EDITORIAL

Call for Mother's Day Photos (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 Gazette 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 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 .jpg 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 .jpg format.

We will also accept prints, and we will do our best to return photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

Send photos to Gazette@ConnectionNewspapers.com, or mail to Gazette, Mother's Day Photo Gallery, 1610 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

And remember, a few weeks from now it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren. Or feel free to send your Mother's and Father's Day photos at the same time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excessive Coverage

To the Editor:

For three weeks in April, the Gazette front page has prominently featured news and photographs about the April 19 gun owners' rally in Fort Hunt Park: the

first two articles serving more to publicize the upcoming event and last week's to report on the actual gathering of disgruntled gun enthusiasts. Was this small rally of 75 people — many not even from this area — really important enough to merit such extensive promotion ... I mean reporting? This was an event that had less to

do with the local area than with the fact Fort Hunt Park was a convenient piece of federal park land near the nation's capital on which the gun nuts could gather and brandish their weapons.

And what were they protesting? That which has been generated by ill-informed fear stemming from an ongoing mischaracterization of

even modest attempts at gun control measures such as regulating gun sales at gun shows as a plot to take guns from all citizens; a lack of appreciation for how close this country came to financial ruin almost two years ago; and by dubious connections being drawn between what our colonial ancestors were fighting against and what our fellow citizens are doing in Washington as our democratically elected representatives. And what was being incited from the stage during this event held on the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing? Acts of violence directed at the offices and property of fellow citizens with a high likelihood of also doing physical harm to people.

I just wonder if the Gazette really viewed its repeated high-profile coverage of this event as anything more than the provocative promotion of a small group of very vocal Americans who, now being on the losing end of an election, believe their violence-laden,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



Running Advice

The West Potomac track team volunteers at area elementary school running clubs. Pictured are Khoki Bernier, Ally McNulla, Alexa Sears, Max Muir, Peter Stebbins, Lauren Price, Sami Miller and Colleen Boyle after a workout with Ft. Hunt Elementary's Fleet Foxes.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

weapon-waving rhetoric in protest against their government is both justified and patriotic. It is neither and the Gazette's coverage was excessive.

Ken Pilkenton
Alexandria

Dedicated Principal

To the Editor:

Congratulations to a retiring middle school principal Mr. Otha Davis, the beloved and capable principal of Whitman Middle School (Alexandria) for the past 16 years, will retire in June following a 30 year career in the Fairfax County Public School System.

At an honor roll assembly at WMS today, Mr. Davis clearly expressed great pride in the huge number of students who made the honor roll during the third academic quarter; in his faculty who facilitate this successful student learning; and in his stated deep gratitude to the parents for providing the necessary atmosphere and support at home for academic achievement.

Though too modest to mention that the honor roll assembly today would be his last to preside over at WMS, so as not to detract from the real story of the morning — his students' academic success, let me speak

for the thousands of students, teachers, and parents who benefited over the years by Mr. Otha Davis's steadfast dedication to his academic mission at Whitman and to his fostering of a very family-like and safe atmosphere at a large, multi-cultural school of approximately one thousand students.

Congratulations, Mr. Davis, on a job well done and best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Christopher E. Ryan
Mt. Vernon resident and WMS parent

End Winter Road Sanding

To the Editor:

Fairfax County has some of the more stringent environmental laws in our region. That's a good thing. When one wishes to start land development, before any land disturbing activities are commenced, one must properly install siltation fencing to preclude the earth from entering our storm drains and flowing into the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. This one measure, if complied with, can be instrumental in protecting our streams, creeks and rivers from being silted in to the point of non-navigability.

Recently I spoke to my neighbor Steve Chaconas, the premier professional bass guide plying the Potomac River and its tributaries. He remarked that during a recent

fishing trip in Little Hunting Creek, he sensed that the Creek has become noticeably shallower since just last year. This reminded me of a recent conversation I had with Christa Cook of Riverside Estates. I consider Christa the dean of environmentalists living on Little Hunting Creek. She mentioned that just this spring, she had collected all the sand she could shovel up from the gutters on her street in front of her house and those of her two neighbors, and actually retrieved about 20 gallons of sand.

Adding one and one, we can surely recall experiencing the most snow in our region's history last winter. Before, during and after each snowstorm, the Commonwealth of Virginia plowed, salted and sanded our streets. Where does the sand go after the snow melts? The Commonwealth doesn't collect it — neither does the County. Besides Christa Cook, who else does so? I don't know anyone else who does, myself included.

Without doubt, subsequent rains wash the sand, tons upon tons of it, into our storm drains and thence into our bodies of water, settling to the bottom and reducing water depth. At the same time, the chemical residue of melted salt enters our water bodies — Steve tells me those chemicals are toxic to fish.

Obviously something must be done about this twin assault on our environment. Which is more important, the health of our streams and the fish that live in them or our ability

to drive a car after a snowstorm? We must surely take into account the ability of our emergency vehicles to navigate snowy streets.

Wouldn't it be more environmentally sensitive to refrain from salting and sanding our streets and equipping the tires of our emergency vehicles with chains? People incapable of driving in snow could just stay home until the streets are safely navigable. Since salting and sanding operations are conducted under the supervision of our Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), it appears the solution, if any, must be led by our state delegates and senators. It would surely be helpful if our local civic organizations and local politicians would encourage action on the part of our state politicians.

Salting and sanding our streets after snow storms diminish the positive results from the use of siltation fencing and seem to almost defeat their purpose. Let's solve this problem before the next snowstorm.

I note that I referred to Christa as the dean of environmentalists for good reason. Since the early 1980s, she has been conducting a cleanup of Little Hunting Creek every March with the help of the Boy Scouts. By conducting her cleanup that early in the year, participants avoid the negative effects of poison ivy and poison oak that have not yet sprouted. Bravo Christa!

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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North Hill

FROM PAGE 1

Council of Citizens Associations. "It's like telling developers that Richmond Highway is at the bottom of the food chain."

Meanwhile, suspended animation of the North Hill project has created its own problems. Affordable housing has become even more sparse in the two decades since the county purchased the land. And many feel that the re-

talization effort along Richmond Highway has been stymied by a lack of action. Whatever comes next for the property, say advocates of revitalization, it better happen soon.

"This project has been delayed for too long," said Kahan Dhillon, chairman of the council's strategic planning committee. "Whatever the end result ends up being, it needs to come sooner rather than later."

But the end result is still a matter of dispute, even as the site

planning approval process is already underway. But county officials say there's still insufficient funding to complete the project. Money could be allocated by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Housing Blueprint. But some say the timing would be wrong, considering the cutbacks proposed for public safety, schools and libraries. Also, supporters of trees say clearcutting 11 acres of hardwood trees would be a mistake.

"We need to keep these trees," said Eleanor Quigley, who lives in nearby Wellington Heights. "We can keep these trees and use the money to purchase existing houses that are vacant."

Quigley and others say North Hill's tree canopy provides an important role in stormwater runoff and a significant counterbalance to air pollution. They say that preserving this area as a showcase urban park would attract commercial developers to the area, and that money that would have been used to fund construction at North Hill could be used to purchase foreclosed properties in Mount Vernon. But the argument that developers might be wary of moving in next to a trailer park doesn't sit well with advocates of affordable housing.

"I'd rather see this area developed into a low-income apartment complex," said Keary Kincannon, pastor at Rising Hope United Methodist Church. "But we decided to move forward with mobile homes because they could be developed by-right and we wouldn't need to go through all the planning and zoning."

Kincannon and other supporters of the North Hill project say now is not the time to abandon plans that have been in the works for many years. He dismissed concerns about the tree canopy by pointing to an agreement that preserves two-thirds of the property for preservation as a park, and he said that he was more concerned about making sure low-income people has a place to live rather than attracting commercial property developers as part of a revitalization effort.

But opponents maintain that moving forward with a mobile-home development at the site would be a mistake, especially when the money could go toward purchasing existing homes that are now vacant rather than clearcutting acres of trees. For his part, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland said that he has asked the county staff to examine the feasibility of moving forward with developing North Hill versus purchasing vacant properties.

"Once I have the staff report, I'll respond accordingly," said Hyland.

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OPEN SUNDAY
1PM-4PM



4712 NEPTUNE DRIVE
\$ 1,425,000

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BETTY QUIRK 703.851.3447
SUZANNEBACKUS.COM & BETTYQUIRK.COM

This 6BR, 4BA home in Yacht Haven has panoramic views of Dogue Creek from almost every room. Beautifully manicured half acre lot with mature plantings and in-ground pool offers space for outdoor enjoyment. The property is move in ready with neutral paint colors. The elevator is an added bonus.



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\$ 1,089,000

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4401
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\$475,000
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NEW PRICE

1139
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\$799,000

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Fairfax
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OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

2205 BASSET ST
Stratford Landing
\$729,900

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905 NEAL DRIVE
Collingwood on Potomac
\$715,000

Beautiful renovated garage home. 5BR, 3FBA, gourmet kitchen. Large fenced lot, double deck. Spacious.

3614
Old Vernon Ct
\$865,000
Stunning Value!

Special home on gorgeous level lot in Pettit's Landing in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Custom built as 'Dream Home' for owners. Features include exceptionally bright, open floor plan and is loaded with costly options and upgrades. Unique opportunity to acquire Wakefield's most popular model in prime location at thousands less than building today!

JUST LISTED **CONTRACT**

9124
Volunteer Dr
\$590,000
Stunning Value!

Large Home - Great Price! Impeccably maintained on half acre corner lot in the heart of Mt. Vernon's finest neighborhood. Numerous special features include: sunroom, 2 fireplaces, large room sizes, 3 baths, table space kitchen, fabulous custom built three car garage and gorgeous grounds. Columned Front Veranda with Brick Floor. Could use a little updating as price reflects, however home is in immaculate "move-in" condition. What a buy!

8313
Mount Vernon Hwy
\$789,900
First Floor Master Suite!

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

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

6810 BULKLEY RD
Hunter Estates
\$799,000

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Ginger Webre 703.927.8399

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

400 MADISON ST
Alexandria House #1505
\$349,000

PIED-A-TERRE. A one bedroom, one bath condo on the 15th fl with great views is available & ready for move in. The sparkling kitchen has NEW cabinets, stainless appl & granite countertops. Wood flrs grace the living area w/carpeting in the bedroom. 1 garage parking space conveys. Balcony each room.

Ann Kavallian 703.626.9171

8832 WOODLAWN WAY
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\$589,000

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Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

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CONTRACT **JUST LISTED** **CONTRACT** **JUST LISTED**

4706 Tarpon Ln 9110 Chickawane

9316
Allwood Drive
\$540,000
Stunning!

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

9316
Heather Glen
\$699,000

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

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

501 SLATERS LANE #1103
Alex / Old Town
\$539,000

One of a kind renovation sited on the Potomac River with stunning views from every window. Some features of this 2BR, 2BA condo are maple floors, large living/dining area, fully renovated baths & master w/bath & walk-in closet.

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3614
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Alex / Mt Vernon
\$865,000

AMAZING SPACE! True center hall Colonial customized by original owners. Wakefield's most popular model on quiet cul-de-sac still looks like new. Soaring ceilings, hardwood, granite, crown molding, Palladian window. Walking distance to Aquinas Messotteri, Riverside ES & Mt Vernon HS.

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

619 S PITT ST
Old Town Alexandria
\$1,150,000

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CONTRACT **SOLD!**

8621 Woodward 9105 Patton Blvd

SOLD! **SOLD!**

7501 Park Terrace 4816 Stillwell Ave

SOLD! **SOLD!**

9314 Brambly Ln 8311 Mt Vernon Hwy

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

2003 MARTHAS RD
Alex / HollinHills \$650,000

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Jery Beamer Brian Hong 703.929.5764 www.brianandjery.com

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

1320 PRINCESS ST / Alex \$655,000

DECEPTIVELY large. Newly sided end unit TH is situated near OT & 2 METROS 3BR, 2.5BA has updated kit, sep DR, woodburning FP in LR. Large brick patio & storage shed. ULs offer wonderful sleep layouts w/ Mstr suite + bath w/skylights.

413 PRINCESS ST / Alex \$899,990

EXCEPTIONAL GARAGE TH Hardwoods thru-out main level. Updated chef's kit. 2BR/2BA on owner's level, with loft/guest area & 3rd full bath on top level. Rooftop terrace for outdoor space. LL has den w/gas fp & 2 car garage.

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

414 GIBBON ST
Alexandria / \$799,900

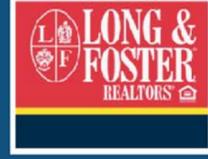
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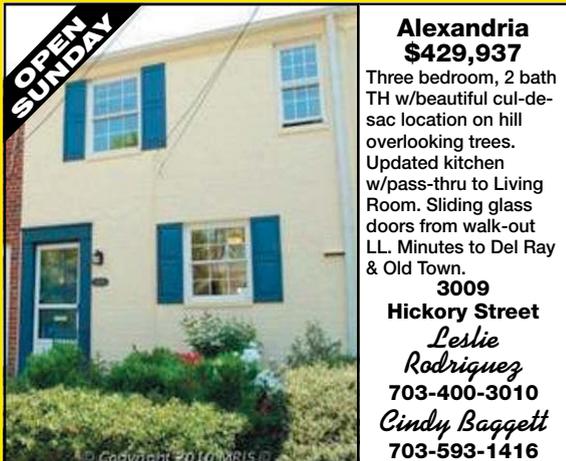
BRADDOCK HEIGHTS **NEW PRICE**
Alexandria \$849,000
 Expanded 3 bedroom, 3 bath home on quiet dead-end lane less than a mile to METRO! Family rm/breakfast rm addition plus 2 upper level bedroom suites! Detached garage, screened porch & fireplace.
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Alex./Old Town \$582,500
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Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



Alexandria \$399,999
 Beautiful garage 3-level w/3 bedrooms, wood floors, kitchen w/island & eating space. Large deck backs to tree line. Family room w/fireplace. Low condo fees. Guest parking. Easy access to all major highways.
387 Picket Street #54
Mary Smith 703-626-9207



OPEN SUNDAY
Alexandria \$429,937
 Three bedroom, 2 bath TH w/beautiful cul-de-sac location on hill overlooking trees. Updated kitchen w/pass-thru to Living Room. Sliding glass doors from walk-out LL. Minutes to Del Ray & Old Town.
3009 Hickory Street
Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1416



GREAT BUY
Alexandria \$450,000
 Tucked away in a cul-de-sac, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath single family home has a partially finished LL & 2-car garage. Easy access to major highways in Valley View Estates.
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Alexandria \$1,090,000
 Totally renovated & expanded! Three levels, 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 3 wood-burning fireplaces, landscaped yard w/slate patio & full outside kitchen. LL w/ huge in-law suite or private office, family rm & exercise rm.
6212 Tally Ho Lane
Gary Chute 703-371-9926



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Alexandria \$1,695,000
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Harmony Heritage Singers. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are a senior choral singer, the Barbershop Chorus, Mt. Vernon Chapter is looking for a few good singers. The group rehearses twice a month on Wednesdays or Fridays at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. The schedule can be found at hhsingers.org or by calling: James Coulter, membership V.P. at 703-957-4597 or 703-615-4141 (cell) or by e-mail jnjcoulter@comcast.net.

703-746-5493 or email: laura.durham@alexandriava.gov.

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.

Supervisors Worry About Telegraph Widening Project

The second half of a road project that would provide a crucial east-west connection in southeastern Fairfax County is still awaiting authorization, causing supervisors to worry about whether it will be completed by 2012.

Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) are urging the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation to come up "creative solutions" to move the construction of Mulligan Road and the widening of Telegraph Road forward.

The federal government shuttered two east-west corridors, Woodlawn Road and Beulah Street, in southeastern Fairfax close to a decade ago. These street closures left few options for citizens and commuters looking to get from Telegraph Road to Richmond Highway around the Fort Belvoir Army Base. Mulligan Road is sup-

posed to be a replacement for the two lost arteries. Telegraph will also be widened as part of the project, in anticipation of a spike in traffic once Mulligan opens.

The supervisors said it is important that Mulligan Road open as soon as possible because 13,000 additional are scheduled to move to Fort Belvoir and the surrounding area next fall as part of the federal government's worldwide Base Realignment and Closure plan.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

THURSDAY/APRIL 29

Park Meeting on Open Space Properties. 7 p.m. Attend meeting to discuss the upcoming park planning and design process for the open space at 4109-4125 Mount Vernon Ave. Meets at 4131 Mount Vernon Ave. Call Laura Durham at

Church To Host Yard Sale

A giant yard sale will be held at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, on Saturday, May 1, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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and community activities year round, and even a weekly farmer's market are all a part of your new community. See it for yourself. See Saint Charles. Twelve apartment communities to rent and three national home builders—Lennar, Ryan Homes and Richmond American—with townhomes and single-family homes to call your own, beautifully designed and beautifully close to D.C.



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Synetic's Latest Show Could Bug You

Company stages "Kafka's Metamorphosis."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

If you have a thing for the avant-garde in art, and the farther out the better, the new show "Kafka's Metamorphosis" by the movement-based theater company, Synetic, should be on your must see list. If, on the other hand, you can't quite see yourself accepting a hero who is turned into a cockroach before your very eyes, this might not be the best introduction to Synetic's usually impressive work.

Franz Kafka's short story of Gregor Samsa who, as the first sentence in one translation tells us, woke one morning to discover that "in his bed he had been changed to into a monstrous verminous bug," is an overwhelming metaphor for the purposelessness of life. Kafka, an early 20th century fiction writer living in Prague, wrote of a young man who was the sole support of his family trapped in a life in which he felt constricted only to have constriction become real.

Synetic, well known for highly visual adaptations of classic works in movement that seems a union of dance and athleticism, but frequently with few or no lines of dialogue, steps out of their wordless

world with this adaptation in which words become as important as images. In doing so, they abandon their area of strength to concentrate on an area where they haven't had as much success. Theater companies need to stretch in order to grow, but Synetic may have pushed just a bit too far and taken a larger step than they are ready to.

This is the second collaboration between Synetic and director/adaptor Derek Goldman of Georgetown University's Davis Performing Arts Center. Last year they mounted his adaptation of Aristophanes' "Lysistrata" at the Davis and now they perform his "Kafka's Metamorphosis" in the Rosslyn Spectrum.

The single act plays out on Natsu Onoda Power's dream of a set — literally a dream brought into physical form. The majority of the set is poor Gregor's bedroom as seen from above. What would be the back wall of the set is the floor of the bedroom, what would be the floor of the set is a sloping wall with a window through which the unfortunate hero is swept along with all the rest of the trash after his death. Next to the bed is a floor lamp jutting toward the audience which is but the most noticeable handhold for Synetic regular John Milosich to grasp as Gregor as he crawls about in what has become his cage.

Nearly as impressive as the set is the lighting by Colin K. Bills and the music by Konstantine Lortkipanidze.



PHOTO BY GRAEME B. SHAW

John Milosich as Gregor Samsa and Clark Young as Franz Kafka in Synetic Theater's "Metamorphosis."

As is often the case at Synetic, Lortkipanidze has composed music that becomes both a soundscape, in this case augmented by the work of sound designer James Bigbee Garver, and the throbbing heartbeat of the story to which the performers synchronize their actions. The impact is greatest when the blend of sight and sound isn't interrupted by actual speech.

For this production, however, speech becomes a key element. Goldman not only has Milosich voicing the words of the newly insectized young man, he adds Clark Young playing the writer Franz Kafka as a character, sitting to the side describing what is going through Gregor's mind. Synetic,

when it is doing its best work, doesn't need a narrator to give descriptions — the movement tells it all.

The supporting cast includes a number of locally prominent actors who are known for their work at more traditional companies, but are new to Synetic's unique style. Charlotte Akin is a chipper delight as the family's maid who has to deal with the increasing detritus in Gregor's room. Steve Beall and Annie Houston are convincing as Gregor's parents, more concerned over the loss of his support to their life style than his own torment. Frank Britton is suitably cavalier as Gregor's employer, whose only concern is when he can expect his clerk to return to

his duties. Caitlin Cassidy, who appeared in Goldman's adaptation of "Lysistrata," lends her pure voice as the music in Gregor's mind.

This is not the first time an adventurous local theater company has tried its hand at Kafka's story. The Catalyst Theater Company staged another adaptation on Capitol Hill five years ago with Scott Fortier delivering a tremendously moving performance as Gregor without the use of prosthetics — no makeup, no shell, nothing but pure acting talent. Synetic chose to go a more "realistic" route and equipped Milosich with not only a shell but a gaggle of dangling legs and, for a while, a bug eyed helmet. The effect is to put the emphasis on what is happening to Gregor's body and not to his mind. When he sheds that shell for a body suit with exposed organs, the impact is to once again draw attention away from the inner turmoil. It makes just too much of the metaphor.

Where and When

Synetic Theater's "Kafka's Metamorphosis" plays through May 22 at the Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 North Kent Street. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$40 - \$50. Call 800-494-8497 or log on to www.synetictheater.org

Stylish Gowns on Display in Oscar Wilde's 'Fan'

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Director Stephen Scott Mazzola paid as much attention to selecting costume designers as to casting leading roles for the new production of Oscar Wilde's drawing room comedy of manners, "Lady Windermere's Fan," which opened this week for a four-week run at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Kathy Dodson and Chris Macey provide an evening-long parade of delightful couture. While the men's costumes look like they came from a rental tux shop (but what can you do with the oh-so-proper but blah Victorian era formal wear?), the women appear in one glorious gown after another with the best reserved for the principal characters. Each gown not only lets the audience know something of the time and place of the scenes, they reveal the characters of the ladies who wear them.

The evening begins with Karen V.



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMSTED

From left: Karen V. Lawrence (Lady Windermere), Adam Downs (Lord Darlington), Lars Klores (Lord Windermere), and Rebecca Lenehan (Mrs. Erylne).

Lawrence in the title role in a nondescript house gown, which gives no warning of the ensembles to come. But suddenly, there's a puffed-up contraption for a fabulously

haughty Gayle Nichols-Grimes that matches the stuck-up nature of her "Duchess of Berwick," and a delightful near duplicate for the mugging of Meg Greene as her daughter, the

distracted, barely dutiful "Lady Agatha."

One needn't worry that Lawrence, as Mrs. Windermere, wouldn't get a sartorial spectacle of her own, however. By the end of the evening she's not only created a complex and intriguing character as a lady who suspects she's been wronged, she's resplendent first in a white silk gown in which she presides over the last high-society ball of London's 1892 season, and then a high necked day gown of subtle pastels in which she receives visitors the next morning.

The really splendid costumes are reserved, however, for the mystery woman who shakes up the lives of the Windermere's and their circle, played with superb presence by Rebecca Lenehan, first in a shockingly red outfit that would make every eye at the ball focus on her even if she weren't the topic of the town's hottest gossip of the moment and, later, after we've learned her secret and come to appreciate her virtues, in a creme and coffee con-

fection.

The performances of the men are in some contrast to the colorful women but one stands out as the strength of the evening, that of Adam Downs as a lord in love with Mrs. Windermere who is emboldened to hope for a chance for her affection by the rumors of scandal that might be expected to break up her happy home.

Other male roles get suitable performances from the likes of Lars Klores who lays on the stiff upper class veneer just a bit too thick, Peter Laager whose befuddlement over the ways of society's women is a delight and Seth Vaughan whose booming voice almost overwhelms a few scenes although the lines Wilde gave his character are certainly worth savoring.

"Lady Windermere's Fan" plays through May 15 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 60 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$18. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

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

Operation Prom Dress is a program that collects prom gowns, shoes, purses, tuxedo shirts and jewelry to donate to people who could not afford to attend their proms. This year, the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center will be organizing the prom gown drive and serving as a collection site. If you are interested in volunteering and/or donating gently used or new goods to the cause, call McKenya Dilworth-Abdalla at 703-746-5533. While the bigger youth are going to their Proms, a Kiddie Prom is underway at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center. For more information on the Kiddie Prom, contact Center Director, Elsie Akinbobola at 703-746-5475.

THURSDAY/APRIL 29

Broadway Performance. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Laura Benanti, who won a Tony Award for her performance in the 2008 revival of "Gypsy," will perform at Mt. Vernon High School. Sponsored by ArtSpeak!, a program that brings artists to school and helps increase awareness of theater and the arts.

Port Tobacco Pickers. 7-9 p.m. Free. Seven-piece bluegrass band from Southern Maryland will perform a musical medley of bluegrass, Southern rock, train songs and an Irish whiskey tune. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

Generations of Giving Gala. 6:30-10 p.m. Hosted by Alexandria's Community Foundation (ACT). Tickets are \$175. At the new headquarters of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria. For tickets, call 703-739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org

APRIL 29-30

Poetry Expo. "Dare to be Different: Paint the Blue Sky Red." Guest poets will perform their poems and share their inspiration and passion for poetry with the students. Hosted by the Mount Vernon High School English Department. In the Little theater at MVHS.

APRIL 29 TO MAY 1

Trunk Show. 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday. The art sale will continue on Friday, April 30, noon to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Made by Women for Women in partnership with Gold Works and David Martin Designs. Featured artists: Meseret Desta, Mekbib Gebertsadik, Naomie Belayneh, Rabia Naeem Pervez, and Sharmila Karamchandani. At Gold Works, 1400 King St., in Old Town Alexandria.

Alexandria Gives: A Community Contributions Day. A celebration of giving and service throughout the city. Includes the Generations of Giving Gala on April 29, the Business Philanthropy Summit, Community Service Day and Celebration on Market Square on April 30, and Alexandria Gives: A Community Contributions Day and Kids Helping Kids' Lemonade Day on May 1. Coordinated by the Alexandria Jaycees. On May 1 from 9 a.m. to noon, organizations will be at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street collecting food, clothing and supplies. Visit <http://www.springforalexandria.org>. Or call 703-866-7171 or go to www.alexjaycees.org.

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 20

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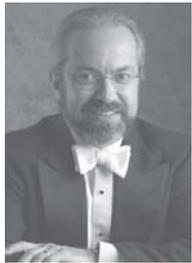


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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

FRIDAY/APRIL 30

Business Philanthropy Summit. 7:30 a.m. Keynote speaker is Earl W. Stafford, entrepreneur and philanthropist. At First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria.

Spring for Alexandria. 8-9:30 a.m. Followed by Spring for Alexandria Community Service Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event brings together business, government, nonprofits, and neighbors to honor Alexandria's proud philanthropic tradition and ensure it continues to thrive. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria.

Abrakadoodle's Kids' Imagination Project. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Art Whino Gallery, 173 Waterfront St., National Harbor. RSVP to Karin Machusic at 866-419-4278.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Giant Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Rain or shine. Call 703-780-4696.

White Cane Day. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Mount Vernon Lions Club will be asking for donations for its vision projects at the Safeway in the Belleview Shopping Center. Also collecting old eyeglasses and hearing aids. Contact Andrea Corsillo for information 703-960-4973.

Taco-Tastic 2010. 2 p.m. Be the master of the taco and win one free meal a week for a year. Sign up by emailing vickeyp@austingrill.com. Cost is \$10 to enter. At Old Town Austin Grill, 801 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-684-8969.

Collecting Bicycles. 9 a.m. to noon. For Bikes for the World, which provides bikes to many third world countries. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. For tax purposes, bikes may be claimed at the fair market value plus the \$10/bike cash donation (to defray some of the actual cost to ship them).

Invasive Species Plant garlic Mustard Pull. 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to take part in the statewide Garlic Mustard pull. Meet at the intersection of Holmes Run Parkway and Pegram Street (near the kiosk and pedestrian bridge). Event focuses on hand-pulling and bagging the plants along the paths of Holmes Run from the western end of the City at Dora Kelly Park east to the Duke Street Bridge. Call Claudia Hamblin-Katnik at 703-746-4068.

Civil War Day. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Civil War camp life and weapon firing demos. The day features re-enactors and period-era activities, including blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge. Special guests portray Colonel John S. Mosby and a "Yankee schoolmarm." At the Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Admission is \$5 per person and \$3 per child 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Blenheim Estate. Free parking and shuttle service is provided at the nearby Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. Call 703-591-0560.

Tours of the Apothecary Museum. 1 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person. Hands-on 18th-century science demos using fossils, specimens, flora and fauna typically collected in the 1700s. Advance reservations can be made by calling 703-746-3852. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

Teen-Up Concert. Noon to 2 p.m. Performers include: Thao Pham, Natayla Dyhouse, Jordan Hellmuth, Stephanie Felice, and Ramon Concepcion, along with other high school students. To benefit children's cancer research. At Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. To reserve seats beforehand, email: tinapha@live.com.



SUNDAY/MAY 16

Minds Wide Open. 7 p.m. Folk/pop singer Lindsay Mac with special guest Margot MacDonald. Tickets are \$18/general, \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Church Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Tons of furniture, household, clothing, etc. Funds raised will support Rebuilding Together Project. At Nativity Lutheran, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Call 703-678-9324.

Community Family Fun Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. Featuring carnival-style games and rides, local vendors, spring flower sale, music and dancing. At Browne Academy School, 5917 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-960-3000.

Spring Plant Swap Brunch. Noon to 1 p.m. Hosted by the Huntington Community Association. Gardeners bring in their extra seeds, seedlings, bulbs, roots, and extra plants from their gardens to exchange or give away, along with an item to share for a potluck brunch. At Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Drive, Huntington. Visit www.HuntingtonOnline.org.

Outdoor Art Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 20-plus artists will display original 2D/3D works. Free and open to public. Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Rob Rudick at 301-270-2323 or DRA.SpringArtSale@gmail.com. Directions at www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Church Barbecue. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pork and chicken North Carolina style barbecue with hot dogs, beans, cole slaw and soft drinks. Cost is \$8. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, in the Hollin Hall/Wellington area, off the George Washington Parkway south of Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Family Fun Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. Games and rides, crafts, exhibits, magic, music and more. Spring flower sale. At Browne Academy, 5917 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-960-3000. Sponsored by the Browne Academy Parent Association.

MAY 1-2

Mosaic Harmony Community Choir. 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 1; 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 2. Tickets are \$20/adults; free for kids under 12. At Bishop Ireton High School. Visit www.mosaicharmony.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 2

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m. Solo performance by Edward Newman performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major, K.271. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. Visit www.eclipseco.com.

Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach. 4 p.m. A musical and dramatic portrayal using words of the man who earned world respect for his life of humanitarian ministry to Africa,

and as a scholar of organ music of J.S. Bach. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Art Show. 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Art for Humanity. At Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Visit www.artforhumanity.org or contact Bill Heinzman at Lincolnia Church at 703-354-5176.

Fashion Show for the Earth. 6 p.m. \$25 admission. Proceeds go to the Potomac Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Potomac River. At the Lorien Hotel in Old Town Alexandria. Call 800-283-3244

Opening of the West End Farmers Market. 9 a.m. At Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr. This year, the West End Farmers Market is open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., from May 2 through Nov. 21. Call 703-746-4343.

Step Alive! Walkathon. 1:30 p.m. A five-mile walk through Old Town Alexandria to support the Alive! Child Development Center. Meet at the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street. Registration: \$10/adults, \$5/seniors. Walkers are encouraged to raise additional funds through pledges from friends and family. All proceeds go to support early childhood education for low income families in Alexandria. Visit www.alive-inc.org or call 703-837-9321.

Alexandria Running Festival. 7 a.m. Open to the first 1,500 runners of all ability levels. Aims to raise funds and awareness of the partner charities that work to improve the plight of children and families, locally and globally, including Haiti. Race course starts at near the Eisenhower Metro and covers the Eisenhower Avenue Corridor. Runners can register at www.mc-coop.org/arf or call 703-683-7500.

Man vs. Machine. 2 p.m. The President's Own U.S. Marine Band. With Col. Michael J. Colburn, conducting. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria Campus.

Healing Power of Gratitude. 2 p.m. Talk by national speaker and Christian science practitioner Betty Jean O'Neal. At the Charles Houston Rec Center, 905 Wythe Street, Alexandria (Route 1 North). Call the Alexandria Christian Science Reading room at 703-683-0129.

TUESDAY/MAY 4

Schubert's String Quartet. 7:30 p.m. With the National Chamber Players. To benefit Autism Speaks. Guest artists Benny and Eric Kim join the National Chamber players in a performance of Franz Schubert's String Quintet in C

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FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH MAY 16

Virginia Celebrates Women. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com

NOW THROUGH MAY 16

Gallery Exhibit. Inspired by Teresa Pollak's "Grace Street in the Spring." At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com

NOW THROUGH MAY 20

Works by Artist Maria Hock. At the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Outdoor Art Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 20-plus artists will display original 2D/3D works. Free and open to public. Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Rob Rudick at 301-270-2323 or DRA.SpringArtSale@gmail.com. Directions at www.thedelrayartisans.org.

MAY 1-30

WomanMade. Part of the Minds Wide Open celebration of women in the arts. Lillian Fitzgerald, curator and art consultant, chose 28 artists' work from more than 400 artists who had applied submitting over 1200 images for her review. She chose work that provided a small window into the art being made by women today. Reception to meet the artists and hear the juror speak on Thursday, May 13, 6-8 p.m. Also a special dance performance by Karen Reedy Dance will follow the juror talk at 7:30 p.m. At the Target Gallery.

MAY 9-31

CALENDAR

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major, op. 163. Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. 703-933-4135 or www.episcopalhighschool.org. Reception following the concert. No tickets necessary.

"Lady Windermere's Fan." 7-10 p.m. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. Wine, cheese, and snacks are complimentary before and during the intermission. Special raffle baskets and silent auction trips are also available. Tickets are \$25, first come first served. At the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street (corner with S. St. Asaph). Write to Bruce Malkin at brucemalkin1@gmail.com or call 703-360-7725 for reservations.

"Carmina Burana." 7:30 p.m. Free. Chorus Band Concert with Carl Orff. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

Benefit Concert for Autism Speaks. Schubert Cello Quintet in C. At Episcopal High School, in Pendleton Hall in the Ainslie Arts Center, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 5

Spirits Tasting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. John Vickers-Smith will lead attendees through a tasting of four Maker's Mark products designed to show the progression in the barrel: White Dog, 2-year-old Kentucky Straight, mature makers, and over mature makers. Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. Call 703-548-1789. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

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MAY 6 THROUGH JUNE 7

Teresa Oaxaca, "Classical Realism: New Works."

Teresa Oaxaca, a 2005 graduate of HB Woodlawn and resident of Arlington, will have her recent paintings featured at The Art League Gallery, inside the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria, in her solo exhibit. Opening Reception: Thursday, May 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. Gallery Hours: Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 12 noon-6 p.m. Open Thursdays until 9 p.m. Exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.

In the Genes? Free. Torpedo Factory artists explore the possibility of a "creative gene" with this building-wide exhibition that celebrates the family bond. Mother's Day reception is May 9 from 1-4 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Open Daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Open Thursdays until 9 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

NOW THROUGH MAY 23

Above the Curves: A ceramic celebration of women through earthy

Gerry Hyland to Speak.

Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland will join the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club for dinner and then speak about the current and future situation in Fairfax County with a Q&A. At the Mount Vernon Country Club on Old Mill Road.

Opening of the Upper King St. Fresh Farmers' Market.

Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. At King St. Gardens Park, 1806 King St., Alexandria. The Upper King St. Farmers' Market is open to the public on Wednesdays through Oct. 27. This outdoor market is the only mid-week market, located across from the King Street Metro Station. Visit www.upperkingstreet.org/farmersmarketfrontpage.htm.

forms. Curves are presented in clay art as Washington Ceramic Guild potters embrace womanly organic forms with delicate and intricate clay detailing. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery. The gallery is located on the ground floor Studio 19, 101 North Union Street Alexandria. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope and www.vamindswideopen.org

MAY 4 TO JUNE 10

To Point B: New Work by Frank Phillips. Gallery opening Tuesday May 4 at 6:30 p.m. Opening reception will be followed by the National Chamber Players concert. Call 703-933-4135 or www.episcopalhighschool.org. At Angie Newman Johnson Gallery, Episcopal High School, 3900 W Braddock Road, Alexandria. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

NOW THROUGH MAY 2

Artist Gail C. Weyant Solo Show, "Storytelling Artwork." Straight Photography, Computer Enhanced Images, and Ceramics. At Gallery West, 1213 Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria. Hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 11-6 p.m.

NOW THROUGH MAY 3

Fierce Sonia's Solo Exhibit, "Paper Dolls." Joe Chiocca, Old Town's favorite band, will play and reunite with special guest singer Kim Kenny. Part of the statewide event, Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Go to www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

THURSDAY/MAY 6

Yoga for Tone. Free first class for beginners at The Body in Balance Center, 1423 Powhattan Street, Suite 7, Alexandria. Call 703-578-4434.

Celebration of Song. 7 p.m. Hale/Davis UCM Benefit Concert — From Mozart to Broadway. Tickets are \$25/general, \$20/seniors, \$10/students. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood at Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-9546.

Toast to Fashion. 6:30-10 p.m. Proceeds benefit the programs of the Campagna Center. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. At the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. To purchase tickets visit www.campagnacenter.org and click on Events.

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Whitman Middle School
2500 Parkers Lane
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Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Laurel Hill Elementary School
8390 Laurel Crest Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

Meeting regarding the NGA Campus East project:

Monday, May 17, 2010
Saratoga Elementary School
8111 Northumberland Road
Springfield, VA 22153

The meetings will be held in the cafeteria from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The presentations will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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► Ask Questions

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Mount Vernon, West Potomac Well Represented

Majors and Wolverines take part in the Northern Region all-star basketball festivities.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon's Robert Smith and West Potomac's Martez Redfearn were standing on the bleachers at Wakefield High School when a reporter approached the duo with an interview request.

As they stepped forward, Redfearn jokingly pushed Smith aside and said, "Not you!" Smith walked away and was interviewed after Redfearn. But while the West Potomac guard pulled a fast one on his Mount Vernon fiend, Smith likely laughed it off while experiencing the joy of victory.

Smith and the Concorde & National All Stars came out on the winning end of the Northern Region all-star game, beating the Liberty & Patriot All Stars 102-99 on April 24. Standout seniors from the Liberty and Patriot districts faced athletes with similar credentials from the Concorde and National districts. Mount Vernon's Alfonso Smith coached the C-N team and Langley's Travis Hess led the L-P squad.

Robert Smith scored six points, including a transition bucket with 5:50 to play in the fourth quarter that gave C-N an 83-73 advantage. The 5-foot-11 point guard said he wants to play basketball in college next season, possibly at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College. He said the better team won the all-star game and he enjoyed the environment and playing against some of the top talent in the region.

"Everybody knows our names, everybody knows who we are everywhere we go," Smith said. "Little kids look up to us. We're having fun. ... We got the better side of our districts. They were real competitive. At first



Mount Vernon boys basketball coach Alfonso Smith, center, coached the Concorde & National All Stars during the Northern Region all-star game on April 24 at Wakefield High School.

they jumped out on us early but we pulled it out in the end."

Alfonso Smith, who led the Majors to a second consecutive National District title this season, said it was fun getting to coach such a talented team. He also enjoyed getting the chance to coach his point guard one more time, after the Majors ended the 2009-10 season with a loss to Chantilly in the regional semifinals.

"Robert, it seems like he's been an extension of the program forever," Alfonso Smith said. "I was happy to have another opportunity to coach him. The last time we were on the court together we went out with a loss. To have an opportunity to come out here and get a win is special. He's been a special part of our program over the last several years and I'm definitely going to

miss him."

Redfearn scored 11 points for the L-P All Stars. The 6-foot-3 guard wants to play basketball in college and major in business.

"We all shared the ball," Redfearn said of the L-P All Stars. "First time doing this, it was nice. I really had fun."

After shoving Smith out of the way prior to the interview, Redfearn continued to joke during.

"They should have [passed the ball] to me" late in the fourth quarter, he said. "I was wearing No. 24 — Kobe Bryant — they should have just given me the ball."

Redfearn didn't get the ball on his team's final possession, but he played a role in giving the L-P All Stars a chance. The C-N All Stars led by two with 5.7 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and Mike Veith



West Potomac senior Kevyn Hankins advanced to the finals of the dunk contest

(Yorktown) was headed to the free-throw line looking to extend the advantage. That's when Redfearn and teammate Ryan Yates (T.C. Williams), who scored a game-high 24 points, approached Veith to give him some words of "encouragement."

We told him "if he missed it, we would let him party with us in Alexandria," Yates said of the duo's attempt to disrupt Veith's concentration.

Veith made 1 of 2, giving the L-P All Stars a chance to tie with a 3-pointer, but they came up empty.

Redfearn and West Potomac teammate Kevyn Hankins competed in the dunk contest prior to the game. Hankins advanced to the final against Oakton's David Larsen, but Larsen stole the show by throwing the

SEE ALL-STAR, PAGE 24

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon Boys LAX Beats Yorktown

Brandan Doyle scored the game-winning goal in overtime as the Mount Vernon boys lacrosse team beat Yorktown 8-7 on April 27, improving its record to 7-5.

The win was the Majors' fifth in a row, including an 11-6 victory over Falls Church on April 23. Mount Vernon travels to face Centreville at 7:15 p.m. May 4.

West Potomac Softball Wins Fifth Straight

The West Potomac softball team defeated West Springfield 16-1 on April 23 for its fifth consecutive victory. The Wolverines carried a 10-3 record into an April 28 contest against Annandale. Results were not available prior to deadline.

West Potomac travels to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. April 30.

Mount Vernon Baseball Loses

The Mount Vernon Baseball team was shut out by Yorktown, 7-0, on April 27, dropping its record 11-4. The Majors beat Stuart 8-2 on April 23 and lost to Washington-Lee 17-11 on April 22.

Against Stuart, Andrew Sable went 4-for-4 with two RBIs and Tre Cooke was 3-for-3 with one RBI. Collin Bowyer picked up the win, allowing two earned runs on four hits while striking out eight over 5 2/3 innings.

Mount Vernon hosts Hayfield at 6 p.m. April 30.

West Potomac Baseball Struggling

The West Potomac baseball team lost to West Springfield 8-0 on April 23. The loss was the Wolverines fourth straight and seventh in eight games. West Potomac traveled to face Annandale on April 28. Results were not available prior to deadline.

5Qs

Five questions with Mount Vernon junior goalkeeper Charlene Belanger



have and everyone else steps up and does the same.

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

A: San Diego for a soccer tournament — college showcase.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: Gov't Mule, because they're intense.

Q: What is the best feeling you can have during a soccer game?

A: When you give everything that you

Q: What is your favorite food?
A: Greek food.

Q: You orally committed to play soccer at American University. What are you most looking forward to about the transition?

A: Definitely the higher level of training and level of competition.

— JON ROETMAN

Eager to Move on

Jon Roetman
The Gazette

Nicole Burdett's mother encouraged the T.C. Williams senior to figure out her college plans early to avoid stress as her high school days came to a close. Burdett took her mom's advice and was accepted to Coastal Carolina University right before Thanksgiving.

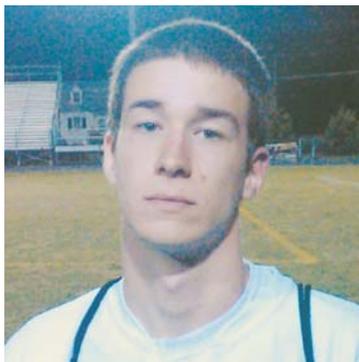
Five months later, Burdett, who said she's been "chillin'" since her acceptance to the South Carolina school, discussed her excitement over the future while sporting a Coastal Carolina sweat shirt and sweat pants.

"My cousin went there and it's 20 minutes away from Myrtle Beach," Burdett said. "They have a great marine biology [program] and they do a lot of internships."

Burdett, who played volleyball for the Titans, said she was overcome with nervousness after she applied, worried that she'd get rejected. But after receiving reassurance from her boyfriend — and the acceptance letter — she's ready to move on to the next stage of her life. She's looking forward to living in a warmer climate and playing intramural beach volleyball. Burdett said she's going to double major in marine biology and history.

MOUNT VERNON senior Dylan Bischoff is interested in engineering and will attend Virginia Tech. Bischoff's knowledge of academics and compassion for those close to him were evident one day when a soccer teammate was having trouble with his homework. Mount Vernon boys soccer coach Robert Garza recalls looking in the locker room and seeing a player struggling with math. Bischoff approached his teammate and became a tutor.

"I don't have kids," Garza said, "but if I was to actually have a kid, the way that Dylan cares about his teammates, his friends, his family, that, to me, is how you want your kid to be."



File photo

Mount Vernon senior Dylan Bischoff wants to study engineering at Virginia Tech.

Bischoff said he got serious about looking at colleges during his junior year. It came down to Virginia Tech, James Madison and Christopher Newport. After visiting Christopher Newport during spring break this year, Bischoff's mind was made up.

"I want to major in engineering and [Virginia Tech is] one of the top engineering schools in

the country," he said. "I was looking at a bunch of in-state schools for in-state tuition. I visited around to a bunch of the schools I got in to and I liked that one the best and it seemed like the best fit for me."

Fellow Mount Vernon senior Greg Wise got rejected by his "safety" school, Christopher Newport. But everything worked out in the end as he'll be attending Virginia Commonwealth University.

Wise, a soccer player for the Majors, considered playing the sport at a Division III school. Instead, he's happy to be attending a larger school that offers his desired major — communications — and is a comfortable distance from home.

"It was a good location," Wise said of the Richmond campus. "It's an hour and 30 minutes away. You can drive there but my parents aren't going to come every weekend."

Wise said some of his friends are attending VCU and he's looking forward to attending a city school and having more freedom.

"He's a kid that has the most heart," Wise's coach Garza said. "He never stops, he never complains. He'll ask questions for clarification. You put him on a mountain and there could be the biggest storm coming at you, forcing you to go back, and Greg's going to find a way around the storm and get on top of the mountain."



Jon Roetman/The Gazette

Mount Vernon senior Greg Wise wants to study communications at Virginia Commonwealth University.

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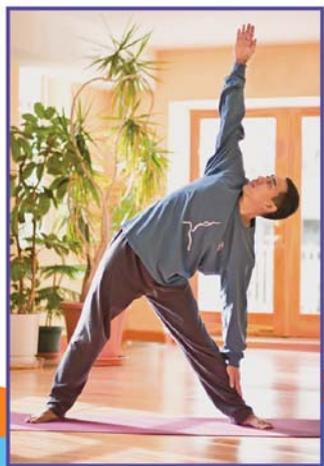


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FROM PAGE 22

ball between his legs and off the glass before catching it and stuffing it home.

Hankins' go-to dunk was the windmill, but he couldn't get it to drop.

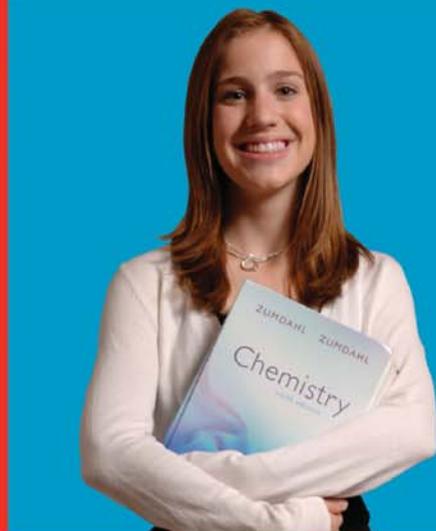
"It was a good experience because I've been wanting to do it since I was a freshman," Hankins said. "I'm just kind of mad that I lost. [The windmill has] been going down for me, it just wasn't going down today."

West Potomac coach David Houston III, who led the Wolverines to their first Patriot District title since 1996, watched the evening's festivities from the stands.

"We actually do some stuff through out the year and have a little [dunk] competition every couple practices or so," he said. "It was good to see those guys out there. I think they were a little nervous because I've seen them do much better."

Hayfield senior and C-N All Star Reggie Tate was named the game's most valuable player. Larsen won the dunk contest and Centreville's Warren Denny won the 3-point shootout.

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21 Announcements

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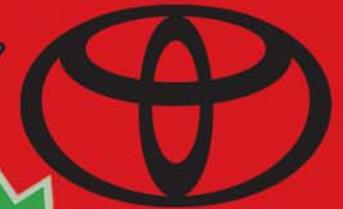
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ALEX./SO **\$425,000**
GREAT LOCATION

Beautifully renovated, granite countertops, new stove, elec. w/d in basement, marble tiled bars, fenced back yd, and much more. *From Old Town, South G.W. Pkwy, R Belle View Blvd, cross Ft Hunt Rd, L on Quander, at light R Duke to 6804.*

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ALEX/WAYNEWOOD **\$684,000**
PERFECT 5-LEVEL SPLIT

Featuring Master bedroom suite on its own private level, this all brick home has been meticulously maintained and comes complete with hardwood floors and remodeled kitchen with granite counters. **1057 Dalebrook Drive**



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ALEX/WAYNEWOOD **\$798,000**
THE MUST-HAVE KITCHEN

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