

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 6, 2010



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Opening Day

The tents were up early and the tables brimming with local strawberries from Westmoreland County, apples and hydroponic tomatoes from Pennsylvania, fresh farm eggs, baked goods, free range meats, plants and herbs for the garden set the scene for the opening market day in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, April 27. The green perimeter of the market parking lot is dotted with early daisies.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 18

Guarding the Henhouse

Frustrated by a lack of transparency and apathy, activists start taking complaints about police abuse.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Frustrated by a lack of transparency at the Fairfax County Police Department, Nicholas Beltrante began advocating for a citizen review board as a check on the power that comes with the badge. But the effort seemed doomed before it began. The Public Safety Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations declined to even consider the issue. And Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland interpreted

the lack of interest among members of the council as an indication that the effort had scant community support.

So the effort seemed dead. Until last week.

That's when a second-floor Sherwood Regional Library room hosted the inaugural meeting of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. The effort has the endorsement of a range of groups who are concerned about a lack of oversight and transparency at the Fairfax County Police Department.

SEE COALITION, PAGE 13

Neighbors Oppose Cell Tower Location

County rejects residents' concerns over potential health effects.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Residents who live in a community adjacent to the Park Authority's George Washington Recreation Center — Old Mt. Vernon Road — object to the planned building of a cellphone tower at the center's site.

Their objections center on the health effects of siting a microwave transmission tower in the

immediate vicinity of residential homes and five schools, including three elementary schools. The site is approximately 150 feet from the boundaries of an unincorporated group of homes and easy walking distance to several schools. Last year a similar proposed cell phone tower in the vicinity of Fort Hunt Road and the Masonic Lodge building was objected to by local residents and ultimately rejected.

SEE CELL TOWER, PAGE 12

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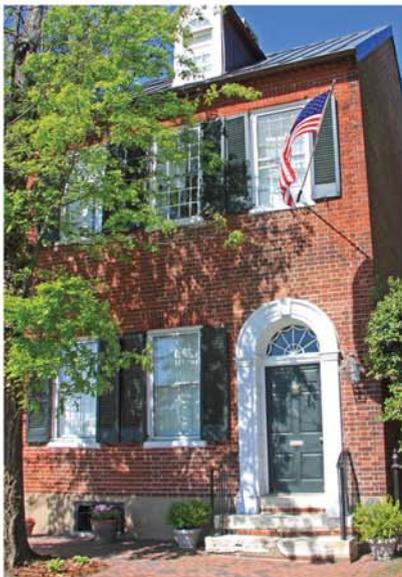
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The Skate Party directed by John Waldron and based on a script by Angelica Baah includes cast members: Jennifer Castro, Tymelya Archer, Sheila Sprattley, Dazelina Williams, Isabel Reyes, Cindy Sanchez, Christopher Banibasher, Jose Lopez, Larry Almendarez and Zariya Spence.



Woodlawn performed **The Greatest Sports Story Never Told** with: Destinee Banibasher, Thomas Berhane, Alexandra Berrios Sanchez, Jeremiah Floranz, Delicia Gore, Farah Hassan, Lyric Ingleton, Christian Nunez Escobar, Olivia Roper, Christopher Tait, Nia Williams, Emma Weston, Lesleigh Winner, Saad Salman-Nahi and Joel Okyere.

After School and on Stage

Thirty-eight fifth graders from Mount Vernon Woods, Woodlawn and Woodley Hills Elementary Schools have been participating in the fourth year of the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's After School Program, creating original plays on themes of importance to them and rehearsing them since January.

This year, long-time MVCCT instructor/director John Waldron has been working with the students at all three schools in conjunction with MVCCT Education Coordinator Melanie McCleerey, who serves as coordinator for the program.

Woodlawn Elementary School Principal Stephanie Bisson stated that Woodlawn "is thrilled to be a part of the MVCCT's After-School Theater Program. This program offers Woodlawn Elementary students a unique opportunity to express themselves. The skills they are learning will enhance students' learning at school and throughout life."

Mount Vernon Woods Principal Marie Lemmon concurred, stating that "Mount Vernon Woods is greatly appreciative for the opportunity to have our students participate in such a wonderful program ... many of our students would not have the means to take advantage of programs like these."

This program is partially funded by grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Yeddaly Valverde as the **Pirate Lady Gaga** in **The Quest for Mt. Olympus**. The cast also includes: Esmeylin Contreras, Stephanie Garcia Perez, Usama Gill, Juan Carlos Blanco, Tabatha Labarca, Dairyn Ramirez Yanes, Bill Owusu, Mikyla Kelly, David Roffeld, Chelsea Takyiwaah, Daquan Beavers and Mekayla Williams.



PHOTOS BY
LOUISE
KRAFFT/
GAZETTE



MVCCT instructor/director **John Waldron**.

In the Quest to Mount Olympus by students of Woodley Hills, **Daquan Beavers** performs the part of **Ash**, the detective in the search for **Jasmine** and **Anna Margaret**.



Rachel Lau, West Potomac High School, with Queenie Cox, Gala organizer, MVCCA Consumer Affair Committee chair, and Judy Harbeck, MVCCA Education Committee chair.

Jasmin Lawrence, Mount Vernon High School, with Al Bornmann, MVCCA co-chair.



PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/ THE GAZETTE

MVCCA Gala Presents Awards

At the 23rd Annual Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Gala, on Saturday, May 1, two students, a citizen and an organization were awarded.

Mt. Vernon District Organization of the Year: Glenda Booth, president, accepting in behalf of Friends of Dyke Marsh, with Al Bornmann, MVCCA co-chair.



Mt. Vernon District Citizen of the Year: Joan McClellan, social services advocate and volunteer; with Al Bornmann, MVCCA co-chair.

HIGH SCHOOL FUNDING FOR POOR STUDENTS

High School	Percentage of Poor Students	Total Student Population	Current Poor Student Funding	2010-2011 Poor Student Funding	2012-2013 Poor Student Funding
Stuart	56%	1,642	\$419,962	\$387,336	\$354,709
Annandale	46.2%	2,670	\$253,767	\$397,635	\$475,687
Falls Church	41.4%	1,565	\$392,064	\$320,915	\$249,766
Mount Vernon	41%	1,774	\$388,923	\$334,653	\$280,383
Lee	40.6%	1,794	\$0	\$187,427	\$281,398
West Potomac	37.9%	2,158	\$125,739	\$248,708	\$315,421
South Lakes	32.2%	2,073	\$107,526	\$204,734	\$257,472
Edison	32%	1,660	\$394,766	\$300,023	\$205,279
Hayfield	25.8%	1,941	\$0	\$0	\$0
Herndon	25.1%	2,180	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fairfax	22.3%	2,366	\$0	\$0	\$0
Marshall	21.9%	1,483	\$87,369	\$43,685	\$0

'Needs-Based' Staffing Proposed

FCPS may provide extra teachers to high schools with the largest number of poor students.

For the first time in several years, Fairfax County Public Schools may provide extra teachers to those high schools with the largest number of poor students.

Schools superintendent Jack Dale has proposed giving nine of the county's 25 high schools more staff next year because they are perceived to have needier student populations. Fairfax already allocates extra staff to elementary and middle schools with larger percentages of poor students.

The Fairfax County School Board would have to approve "need based" staffing for high schools as part of the system's overall 2011-12 school year budget. The board votes on the budget May 20.

Fairfax defines students as poor when they qualify

for free or reduced-priced meals at school.

Some "needs based" funding was put in place at local high schools more than a decade ago. But the current allocation was never adjusted to reflect shifts in high school demographics over the last 10 to 15 years.

According to officials, South Lakes, West Potomac and Annandale high schools, which all currently receive some money for poor students, would receive even more assistance under Dale's plan. Lee High School, which doesn't receive any extra help currently, would also get the equivalent of 3.6 extra teaching positions next year.

Less money would go to Stuart, Edison, Falls Church and Mount Vernon for "needs based" staffing if Dale's program was implemented. Marshall High School, which currently receives an extra \$87,369 for needy students, would lose all funding for needy students by fall 2012.

Overall, Dale has proposed increasing "needs based" staffing at high schools from \$2.17 million this year to \$2.42 million by the 2012-2013 school year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



New Child Development Center

Ground was broken and a new Child Development Center dedicated this past Friday by Fort Belvoir military and civilian leaders, Federal officials, and local elected officials, along with the help of young children of the kind who will directly benefit by the Center. The \$10 million center will be located directly across from the new community hospital near Pence Gate. The funding was provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and will provide services for 338 children. The Center is projected to be completed in 18 months. In attendance locally was: Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, County Board Chair Sharon Bulova, and U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly.



The Hollin Meadows Spirit Squad comprised of fourth through sixth graders performs with a group of kindergartner's, first and second graders. The older students worked for a few days with their younger schoolmates teaching them the words and steps to the Earth Day songs and cheers.

Hollin Meadows Celebrates Earth Day

On Saturday morning, April 24, students, parents, staff and friends of Hollin Meadows Elementary School came together at the school to weed, mulch and add plantings to the existing school gardens in celebration of Earth Day.

Hollin Meadows student Riley Clautice recycled a pair of childhood shoes into a flower planter.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Jill Christensen and her daughter Maria weed one of the flower beds in the courtyard garden.



Ella Laczko uses a sponge to add color to the mural on the classroom trailer at Hollin Meadows.



Nia and Caty Campbell plant flowers by the fence surrounding the reading garden.



Another trailer wall gets the first coat of scenic painting as the students take turns filling in a lush green for the "Valley and Ridge" region of Virginia.

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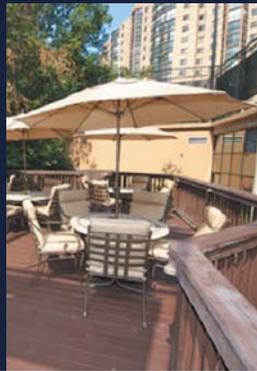
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NEWS

Interior Designers Help ReStore

Annual event
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BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
THE GAZETTE

For the third year in a row this April, uptown met downtown for a special one-day sale at the Alexandria/Mount Vernon Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

According to local ReStore spokesperson Virginia Patton, the Greater D.C. chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) reached out to its members and vendors for donations.

"They donate higher-end items than what we usually have to offer at this Habitat for Humanity Re-Store," Patton said. "Wall hangings, drapes, fabrics — it's a different scale of furniture and accessories for us. ASID members bring in the items, price them and even get volunteers to sell with us here in the store."

Patton explained that the purpose and mission of ReStore is to benefit local Habitat for Human-



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER / THE GAZETTE

Local ASID members helped the Alexandria/Mount Vernon ReStore have a record-breaking day on Saturday, April 24. Sales for the day totaled \$13,000, including \$7,000 from the ASID donations. Pictured front, from left: Nancy Overstreet of Alexandria, ReStore's Virginia Patton, and Sue Debevec of Del Ray. Back row, from left: Joann Manzek of Stratford Landing, Sonya Worosz of Falls Church, and Sydnye Pettengill of Rosemont.

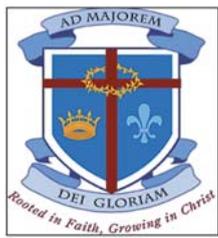
ity projects.

"We also are working to prevent materials from ending up in landfills," she said. "Building suppliers, contractors and homeowners all donate unused as well as used

materials, and we sell to the public for 50-90 percent off retail."

Stratford Landing resident Joann Manzek and Sue Debevec

SEE DESIGNERS, PAGE 29



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Local Author Describes 'Earth in the Hot Seat'

By SENITRA MCCOMBS
THE GAZETTE

Global Warming can be a baffling subject for even most avid pro-environmental individual. Not to mention children.

However, author Marfe Ferguson Delano, who lives in the Tauxemont neighborhood, simplifies the concept in her new children's book "Earth in the Hot Seat: Bulletins from a Warming World."

On April 9, "Earth in the Hot Seat" won the 2010 National Green Earth Book award for the nonfiction category at the Newton Marasco Foundation's annual Children's and Young Adult Literature Festival.

When her editor at National Geographic first approached her about the book, her initial reaction was fear. However, her passion for the subject matter grew more and more throughout her research.

"When I was writing this book I realized that I was telling one of the most important stories which is the story of what's happening on our wonderful earth right now,"



Marfe Ferguson Delano

she said.

Delano also wants to empower children by showing how they can change their world for the better.

"I'm a firm believer in knowledge is power. The more knowledge you have about any problem or challenge, the more power you'll have to address or tackle that challenge," she said.

In addition, Delano said that "climate change isn't something

that's obvious to most people" like a polluted river, so they tend not to take it seriously. She hopes that "Earth in the Hot Seat" will help children and adults gain a better understanding of the topic and get them excited about renewable energy sources.

Not only does "Earth in the Hot Seat" explain the basic concept and effects of Global Warming but it also deals with large scale solutions as well as personal solutions that children can do to "reduce their use of energy and protect the planet."

Her favorite part of "Earth in the Hot Seat" is a chapter on chemist Charles D. Keeling who began collecting air samples to test the amount of carbon dioxide in it during 1955. On one of his camping trips, his green notebook where he recorded his findings is stolen by a "big mule deer" after he leaves his pants outside his tent. Although the notebook had the deer's teeth marks in it, all the data was still there when the deer became exhausted and finally drop it.

"I love telling that story because it helps kids realize ... that scien-

tists are out there in the field working and having exciting adventures." Delano said.

Her biggest challenge was making sure the book wasn't too depressing while making sure it was straightforward and understandable for children. Another challenge Delano faced was "keeping up with the latest scientific facts and figures."

Delano enjoys writing for children and considers herself a 10 year old at heart. She is always looking for those "oh cool" or "oh wow" facts that hook them.

However, she primarily writes biographies or about history.

Delano has done biographies on Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Anne Sullivan (Helen Keller's teacher) along with a collection of short bios on people who've made major contributions to American history called "American Heroes."

Currently, she is working on a

book about George Washington.

Delano draws her inspiration from authors like EB White, the author of "Charlotte's Web" because of he writes so "clearly, simply and tells a wonderful story."

She was also inspired greatly by her 8th grade teacher Ms. Ellington who encouraged her to write and taught her "an awful lot about putting together a sentence."

"Even though I'm writing nonfiction I'm always trying to tell a good story when I write nonfiction no matter what the topic is," Delano said.

Although she also had dreams of being a French teacher or a concert pianist when she was a child, Delano began her career as a writer after graduating from Duke University with a B.A. in English.

During her down time, she sings with the Alexandria Choral Society.



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OPINION

Police Power Demands Transparency

Local police departments should open their books, release original documents, welcome public scrutiny and involvement.

First, we should say that we appreciate and support the police officers who serve and protect our communities. These are remarkable men and women who have dedicated themselves to community service even in the face of danger. They are entitled to a special level of respect.

Police in all communities also wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in the 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can. The actual reports filed by po-

lice officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every jurisdiction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

“I don’t think we have to justify it,” said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

A Fairfax County spokesperson asserted that it was only a few “individual reporters” who were interested in more information from the police.

“Conscientious and dedicated judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement officers work in a system which is as transparent as it needs to be,” wrote Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel.

EDITORIAL

Sengel is mistaken.

“Incident reports like the ones the Virginia law enforcement authorities are saying can’t possibly be released across the country every waking minute of every day,” Charles Davis, director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, told reporter Michael Pope.

“In Florida, with the transparency level that we have, it helps law enforcement,” said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. “It’s made us better agencies simply because we proceed knowing that our work product is going to be reviewed by the press, by the public and by the people who are actually involved in the cases we are working.”

This isn’t an academic exercise.

In the extreme example, Fairfax County police shot and killed an unarmed motorist in

Join the Debate

- ❖ Read Michael Pope’s story, “Transparency Blackout: Police departments in Northern Virginia refuse to release public documents,” at <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=338832&paper=59&cat=104>
 - ❖ Read Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel’s response, “Confidentiality Trumps Disclosure” at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339154&paper=59&cat=110>
 - ❖ Read an excellent rebuttal to Sengel’s letter, “Citizens Have Right to Know Details of Crimes,” by Ryan J. Donnemoyer <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=339781&paper=59&cat=110>
- Email your thoughts to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com, and watch this space next week to find out how to request information about crime and police activities in your neighborhood.

November, and have said that the shooting was justified. But they have refused to release the name of the officer who did the shooting, refused to release video from the patrol car near the shooting, refused to release any document at all that might shed light on what happened or why.

In everyday examples, a scan of police incidents within a mile of a Tysons Corner address reveals multiple drug offenses and sex offenses. But that’s all the information that is available — the label of the offense, the time, date and block where it occurred. If you as a resident want information on crimes like this near you, you should be able to see for yourself if these are minor or isolated incidents or part of a more serious pattern.

Police should not use a “blanket exemption” from public information laws to refuse to provide specific information about any crime or police activity from the public.

Next week in this space, you’ll learn how to find incidents occurred in your neighborhood, and how to ask the police for more information.

LETTERS

Newsworthy Stories

To the Editor:

Re: “Excessive Coverage” letter.

I wish to applaud the Mt. Vernon Gazette for covering the gun owners’ rally in Fort Hunt Park. The Gazette would have been remiss to ignore a story that had local and national reportage. Censorship comes in many forms and it is not unusual for newsworthy stories to be spiked or ignored by the media. Gun owners from across the country traveled to Fort Hunt, in part, because they are tired of being ignored. The tone of [the “Excessive Coverage” April 29-May 5] letter indicates that he has a problem with gun owners and that is his right. Agendas can be advanced through persuasion or by force. History is filled with ex

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



MVHS Football Teams Up with Fire and Rescue

On Saturday April 24, the Program Committee of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, sponsored a Route 1 Highway Clean-Up. Twelve members of the Mount Vernon High School football team served as volunteers along with the local fire department to clean up Route 1 from Beacon Hill to Huntington. Karen Jupiter, chair of the Chamber of Commerce Program Committee, said: “Many thanks for all your help with the Route 1 Clean Up day. It was a great event and Route 1 is now a cleaner place.”

Mount Vernon Gazette

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OPINION



It's Now Official

At the April 28 meeting of the CKI Club at NOVACC (Alexandria campus), Bruce Malkin, president of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club (MVKC), presented to Ashraf Elmelik, president of the new CKI club sponsored by MVKC, its new banner, bell, and gavel, which were then used to open the general meeting officially. The CKI student members then discussed their plans to continue their community service efforts over the summer holiday months. Barbara Callahan of MVKC and Ken Balbuena, CKI advisor, also participated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

amples where force was used when persuasion failed. Force can only succeed, however, when no countervailing force is around to oppose it. During the Cold War, tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union never escalated because each side had sufficient force to destroy the other. For decades the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction kept the peace. The Founders understood this principle which is why they crafted the 2nd Amendment to protect people from government tyranny. Our republic depends on the consent of the governed and absent consent force becomes more likely.

While I agree on the need for responsible gun laws, I disagree with those who would ban gun ownership outright. Paradoxically, the 2nd Amendment has played a significant role at keeping America a civil nation and at ensuring that [a letter writer] can express his views even if he wants to silence

others. Tyranny can only take hold when the people are first disarmed. Those who would disagree are free to persuade Americans otherwise. Until they do, however, advocates of the 2nd Amendment have a right to be heard and to carry their guns.

Thomas M. Beattie
Mount Vernon

Donate Food At Mailbox

To the Editor:

Again this year the food pantries of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission and United Community Ministries will benefit from this national program [18th Annual Stamp Out Hunger[™]]. On May 8, letter carriers will pick up food left by your mail box and make sure that it gets to Rising Hope and UCM to feed the many hungry and need in our community. This is a very important source of food for

the hungry in our community. Rising Hope alone feeds over 8,000 people in 2,000 families over the course of a year. Help us feed the hungry.

Rev. Keary Kincannon
Rising Hope United
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What Blocks Revitalization?

To the Editor:

I read with interest your article regarding the continuing debate on the North Hill site. Whether the site is ultimately developed as affordable housing or preserved as some sort of tree sanctuary is much less important to the revitalization of Richmond Highway than the fact that this issue has dragged out as long as it has. The feigned concern for the future of revitalization along the highway is

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Proceeds from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce golf event have provided more than \$72,000.00 in scholarships for students from Mount Vernon High School, West Potomac High School, Edison High School, Hayfield Secondary School, South County Secondary School, and Bryant High School to pursue further education in a business-related field.

LETTERS

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nothing more than a convenient straw man created by various factions within the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations (MVCCA) with nothing but contempt for commercial development. David Dale's statement that allowing the development of affordable housing at the North Hill site would be "like telling developers that Richmond Highway is at the bottom of the food chain," is an insult to those who need affordable housing in its suggestion that somehow their presence would scare away further revitalization efforts.

As a developer who recently completed two redevelopment projects along the highway, the future use of the North Hill site was completely irrelevant to the pursuit of our projects. There was never a concern that additional affordable housing would somehow undermine the viability of our efforts. By contrast, the process for achieving development approvals nearly derailed our projects and has resulted in a determination that further redevelopment activity on the Mount Vernon side of the highway is not economically viable.

Any developer pursuing a project in the Mount Vernon District must appear before David Dale and his MVCCA planning committee in order to respond to their list of demands in exchange for their support of the project.

An ignorance of the economic variables that drive the commercial development process is no deterrent to this self-important collection of busy bodies. The report that the council is now wielding its power along with a healthy dose of anti-affordable housing elitism is not surprising.

To read that Mr. Dale is concerned that the development of affordable housing on the North Hill site sends the wrong message to commercial developers interested in building on Richmond Highway is laughable. This new-found angst regarding the inability to attract commercial development is the height of hypocrisy from an individual who has done as much as anyone to ensure that development along the highway is so burdensome as to be virtually unfeasible.

The MVCCA is nothing more than a special interest group. Its approval is not a statutory requirement for the approval of any development project in the County. Yet, because our elected leaders are absent from the debate, the MVCCA is left as the arbiter of the revitalization efforts in the Mount Vernon District.

The North Hill site was acquired by the County in 1981 with the expressed purpose of developing affordable housing. In its final two sentences, the Gazette article reported that Supervisor Hyland declined to express an opinion on the issue because he is still waiting for a staff report on the issue. So nearly 30 years after acquiring the property for a specific purpose, the County Supervisor has not formed an opinion as to how the property should be used and appears as a virtual footnote in an article regarding the issue.

Unfortunately for those interested in revitalizing Richmond Highway, this has been Supervisor Hyland's approach to any commercial development project with a hint of

opposition. Delay, obfuscate, refer the matter to the MVCCA and hope that things somehow get resolved or go away without having to take a stand. In that respect the relationship between the Supervisor and the MVCCA is perfect for both parties. The apparatchiks at the MVCCA operate with the imprimatur of the Supervisor, and the Supervisor can hide behind the MVCCA allowing him to keep revitalization as a campaign issue rather than a reality.

Short of turning the North Hill site into a toxic waste dump, there is little that the County could choose to do there that would have any impact on commercial development on the highway. Rather, it is the failure of the County and the Supervisor to follow-through on the original commitment for the site, coupled with the absence of leadership from Supervisor Hyland and the ceding of authority to the MVCCA on commercial development issues that have imperiled revitalization efforts on Richmond Highway.

Mark Rogers
Mount Vernon

Taxes Could Have Been Lower

To the Editor:

In the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman's opinion piece published in your paper regarding the approved FY 2011 county budget amendments she states include: "A Real Estate Tax Rate of \$1.09, an increase of 5 cents. At this rate the average homeowners's tax bill is a reduction of \$48.55.

That statement is very misleading because had the tax rate not been increased by 5 cents, the average homeowner would receive a tax decrease of \$264.76 because of the decrease in assessed value in 2010 over 2009 instead of only \$48.55. So the difference in those two amounts represents a tax increase of \$216.21. And for homeowners, totaling 55,613, that had no change in assessed value, their total tax bill will increase in 2010 over 2009 by 5 cents per \$100 of the total assessed value.

To calculate your real property tax increase for 2010 over 2009, multiply your 2010 assessment by 5 cents, the tax rate increase approved by the Board of Supervisors.

County officials should not attempt to sell a tax increase with broad brush generalized statements. Politics should never be placed ahead of the pocketbooks of the homeowners and hard working taxpayers.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Lobbying for Clean Energy

To the Editor:

On Sunday, April 25, I joined thousands of people on the Mall in D.C. to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. But this year, Earth Day isn't just about celebrating and planting trees. Our country is facing a



PHOTO BY FRED DIERSMEIER

From left: Kathy Spitzer, Scholarship co chair; Jimmi Barnwell, Past President; Austin Doh, Scholarship recipient; Thao Pham, Scholarship recipient, and Marion "Barney" Barnwell, president.

Inova Auxiliary Awards Scholarships

At its Spring Semi-Annual meeting, the Inova Mount Vernon Auxiliary awarded two scholarships to Mount Vernon High School students, Thao Pham and Austin Doh. Each student received \$5,000. These students volunteered 240 hours and 211

hours, respectively, to the hospital through the Junior Volunteer program. Both are interested in pursuing careers in the health care area. Pham will pursue her education at Duke University and Doh will matriculate at the University of Virginia.

historic energy crisis, and it's time to take action.

We spend about a billion dollars a day on foreign oil. Dirty, old-fashioned fossil fuels are polluting the environment and threatening our planet. Our national security is threatened when we fail to produce energy here at home.

That is why three fellow students and I did more this year for Earth Day. Last week, we paid a visit to both our senators' offices on Capitol Hill to urge them to invest in clean, renewable energy technologies that are available today. Clean energy is one of the world's fastest growing industries. By investing in the technology of the future, we can build new factories and businesses, which could create thousands of jobs right here in Fairfax, Va. It is time for a clean energy revolution.

Jason Von Kundra
Alexandria

Supporting Accountability

To the Editor:

Mount Vernon resident Nick Beltrante has been advocating for several months the creation of a citizen review board to review actions of police officers that might amount to misconduct or criminal activity. His efforts arose in part from two recent tragedies involving Fairfax County police. One was the death of Ashley McIntosh in February, 2008 — she was killed in a crash by a Fairfax County police officer. The other was the death of David Masters — he was shot and

killed by a Fairfax County police officer in November, 2009. In each case, the officer involved was cleared of criminal charges. Another motivation for Mr. Beltrante is the fact, reported in a Jan. 28 article in the Washington Post, that in the 70-year history of the Fairfax County police, "no officer has been charged with a crime for shooting someone in the line of duty." I'm a strong supporter of our county police force - among other things, I've testified before our Board of Supervisors in favor of restoring proposed budget cuts to the police force on numerous occasions. However, no one is infallible, including our police officers. It strains credulity to believe that human beings in any profession are infallible. Perhaps Mr. Beltrante's idea is a good one.

He asked Supervisor Hyland to support his idea. The Supervisor said he'd have to check with the Mount Vernon Council (MVCCA) before making up his mind. He asked the MVCCA's Public Safety Committee to consider the proposal - they reported back after their January 2010 meeting that they weren't interested. Committee Chair Dallas Shawkey was quoted as saying such a review board would accomplish little more than creating a pile of paper and that those who feel wronged by the police should file civil suits. Mr. Hyland contacted Mr. Beltrante and told him that since the MVCCA is opposed to the idea, he couldn't support it.

Subsequently, articles and letters to the editor have appeared in the Gazette concerning Mr. Beltrante's proposal. Apparently, this public scrutiny caused Mr.

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LETTERS

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Shawkey to revisit Mr. Beltrante's proposal. The April edition of the MVCCA Record reports that at the April meeting of the Public Safety committee, attended by nine representatives out of a possible 64 MVCCA member organizations (14 percent), the committee again decided not to support Mr. Beltrante's idea. When I read this report, the first thing that came to mind was whether the MVCCA had invited Mr. Beltrante to attend their meeting to make a presentation and answer questions. I phoned Mr. Beltrante and found out that the answer was "no."

From his background and credentials, Mr. Beltrante is more than qualified to lend his expertise to the MVCCA. As reported by the Gazette on Dec. 3, 2008, Mr. Beltrante is a World War II veteran, was a D.C. police detective for 14 years and holds a law degree. He also operated a successful detective agency from 1976-2008. The fact that the MVCCA refrained from inviting Mr. Beltrante to meetings where they debated his proposal makes their decision illegitimate. It is illegitimate for another reason: Article IV of the

MVCCA Bylaws vests the sole authority to take public positions on behalf of the MVCCA with its Council of Presidents. MVCCA Committees have utterly no authority to take positions on behalf of the MVCCA. Thus, the decision of the MVCCA's Public Safety Committee to decline to take up Mr. Beltrante's proposal is not the official position of the MVCCA on the issue. The MVCCA has no official position on this issue. For that to occur, under the MVCCA's Bylaws, the committee would have to pass a resolution opposing Mr. Beltrante's idea, the MVCCA Board of Directors would have to approve publishing the resolution in the MVCCA Record and the MVCCA Council would have to approve the resolution. None of this has been done. As such, Supervisor Hyland's decision to use the opposition of the Public Safety Committee as political cover for his opposition to the idea of a citizen review board is both ill-advised and inappropriate.

To his credit, Mr. Beltrante has gone ahead and created his organization named the Citizen Coalition for Police Accountability (CCPA). I attended their first meeting last week - among the attendees were Gazette and Post reporters, officials of the local NAACP

and ACLU as well as the mother of Ashley McIntosh and the ex-wife and daughter of David Masters. When these family members were asked if they had any comments to make, they all burst into tears. The sadness of their situations was palpable. I have no opinion on whether there was wrongdoing on the part of the Fairfax County police officers who killed Ms. McIntosh and Mr. Masters. At the same time, readers should place themselves in the shoes of these survivors and understand that Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) includes provisions allowing our police department to refrain from producing documents that could shed light on what actually occurred when Ms. McIntosh and Mr. Masters were killed. There can be no closure on the part of these family members unless they can have access to the facts. This does not seem to be an unreasonable request.

I urge our state legislators to amend Virginia's FOIA law to facilitate public access to police records so that organizations such as Mr. Beltrante's can introduce a measure of accountability to our police force.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



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Cell Tower

FROM PAGE 1

by the county. That site location was proposed on private land. The applicant is suing the county for rejecting the application.

At an on-site meeting Sunday, May 2, residents Margaret Szayna, Patrick Hawley, David Graff, Robert Botto and Alan Goozner expressed the reasons for their opposition:

- ❖ Unincorporated homeowner communities in close proximity to the planned site were denied adequate representation and not informed in a timely way to effectively impact on the review process.

- ❖ The 120-foot tower, extending about 60 feet above the tallest trees will be unsightly and adversely affect home values.

- ❖ It is visually inimical to the historic properties in the area.

- ❖ It will have adverse short and long term health consequences to everyone in the immediate vicinity and in particular the children who attend five different schools. All the schools are located within the 1,500-foot perimeter of the recognized international precautionary standard according to the position paper handed out by Botto.

The latter issue, the health effects of radiation on residents living in close proximity to the tower, and to school children attending nearby schools, was a primary focus of the residents' objection.

Hawley, a parent and resident of Pettit's Landing, said, "With up to 5 Telecom providers eligible to use the tower to transmit microwaves near five schools in a residentially zoned area and into my children's bedrooms, why is the citizenry, especially parents of elementary school children, remaining passive? ... The answer is parents are unaware of the site location planned, and they are unaware of the health consequences to their children of sustained microwave exposure".

Similarly, parent Szayna, a biophysicist, expressed concern about the health risks associated with high levels of radiation exposure and the lack of attention to this issue by the county agencies' involved in the application review process.

The residents also collectively believed the process was tilted in favor of the commercial interests of T-Mobile, the applicant for the telecommunications tower construction. One estimate of the financial benefits to the Park Au

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Coalition Advocates for Citizen Review Board

FROM PAGE 1

ment, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. The group elected officers and set out to do something about what they see as a pattern of opaque government and political inaction.

"We're not here today to generate animosity toward the police nor to promote the perception that all police officers are prone to abuse. They are not," said Beltrante, executive director of the coalition. "The police need us, and we need the police. However, no one is above the law."

THIS ISN'T just a group formed to persuade the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to appoint a citizen review board, although that remains a goal. The Citizens' Coalition for Police Accountability has already started taking complaints about the police. So far, Beltrante said, the coalition has already received 11 formal complaints from the NAACP. Soon, the group will appoint members of an investigation committee that will begin submitting Freedom of Information Act requests for incident reports and other documents.

"The problem is that there's a lot of police misconduct in Fairfax County," said Fairfax NAACP member Shirley Stewart, who filed one of the complaints with the coalition. "And it's getting swept under the rug."

Those who support citizen oversight of the police say the department can't be trusted to investigate itself, a situation the coalition likens to the proverbial fox guarding the henhouse. Over the last 20 years, communities in 36 states and the District of Columbia have created some



Nicholas Beltrante is the executive director of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

form of citizen oversight of their police agencies. Virginia is one of the 14 states that has no civilian review of its police agencies, and it also happens to be one of the only states where basic documents such as incident reports are kept secret from the public.

"Fairfax County is an outlier in that it is one of the largest jurisdictions without any form of independent review of the police," wrote Philip Eure, president of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, in a letter endorsing the coalition's effort. "Therefore, we urge government officials in Fairfax County to become educated about the benefits of citizen oversight, a field that has become highly professionalized in recent years."

SO FAR, THE BALANCE of the formal complaints received by the coalition have been from the Fairfax NAACP. President Olivia Jones-Smith said she has not filed formal complaints with the Fairfax County Police Department because her organization can't get basic documentation. One clause in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act

gives police the ability to withhold "complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence."

"We get a lot of complaints, and we try to investigate them," said Jones-Smith. "But we can't get any information from the police."

According to Beltrante, the Fairfax Police Department has shot 21 people since 2005, killing nine and wounding 12. Prosecutors cleared the officers in all 21 cases. But Beltrante said many consider these cases questionable, creating an atmosphere of growing distrust between the police and citizens they are charged

with protecting. Beltrante said he was prompted to take action after the Fairfax police shot and killed an unarmed motorist named David Masters in November, a case that's still shrouded in secrecy because the police have refused to release the incident report or even the name of the officer who killed Masters.

"I was surprised," Gayle Masters, the wife of the slain man, said in the hall of the Sherwood Regional Library after the coalition's meeting drew to a close. "I just thought they'd share all the information."

BUT THEY DIDN'T. And police officials say they're not about to anytime soon.

According to Fairfax County Police Department spokeswoman Mary Ann Jennings, the practice of the police is to use the exemption in all cases — regardless of what the case is about and regardless of whether the case is open or closed. As for the identity of the officer who fired the fatal shot killing Masters, Jennings said that's

not something that seems to be at the top of the public agenda.

"Let us hear that concern," said Jennings. "We are not hearing it from anybody except the media, except individual reporters."

Reason Magazine senior editor Radley Balko responded that Jennings' answer is "astounding." In a piece that will be published in the June issue, Balko takes issue with the attitude of Virginia law-enforcement agencies that the public is not entitled to incident reports and other basic facts about their day-to-day operation. Balko concluded that Virginia police agencies are "among the most secretive, least transparent law enforcement agencies in the country" — and that "local political leaders don't seem particularly concerned about it."

"There are ample stories in recent headlines of police reports that haven't lined up with video evidence, or where police reports have been shown to be not merely inaccurate, but falsified," Balko wrote. "There are plenty more examples where journalists or advocacy groups have shed light on bogus arrests, police cover-ups, on-duty cops lacking training and certification, and wrongful convictions after accessing public records."

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY is a major objective of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. Beltrante said one of the first acts of business for the coalition will

be to submit a Freedom of Information Act request for the name of the officer who killed Masters. Because the Fairfax Police have already denied this information in response to a public-records request from Connection Newspapers, it's likely that his request will be denied as

well. But he's prepared for that.

"If it's a negative response, we are going to proceed with the next step," said Beltrante. "We're going to pass it along to the ACLU and then proceed with a court action."

"I just thought they'd share all the information."

— Gayle Masters

Residents Worry about Health Effects from Cell Tower

FROM PAGE 12

thority is it will receive \$7,000 per month when the tower is completed and operational. The Park Authority and the Planning Commission are responsible for reviewing the T-Mobile application.

Mt. Zephyr Civic Association and Woodley Hills Community Association supported the site location. In addition, Park Authority spokesman Judy Peterson said that her agency supports locating the tower on the center property. She pointed out that the site has been under consideration by the Park Authority since 2007. The authority considered the public's need for the tower and potential health effects during the pub-

lic review process. Peterson added that the Fairfax County Planning Commission reviewed the tower proposal, conducted a public review, and gave the application "a section 2232 approval." This required a public hearing and extensive staff analysis of the application, as required by law.

IN CONTRAST, Botto, a scientist, who stated that he works on radio frequency spectroscopy issues for the U.S. Department of Defense, provided a position paper that discussed what he described as authoritative epidemiological studies showing a statistically significant risk of developing cancer for even short-term exposure to microwave transmission towers. His paper, which

he said was not given adequate consideration, referenced the studies.

Information provided by Supervisor Gerry Hyland's office stated that the site location application process was followed by the county the same as all other similar applications pursuant to the 2232 application review process.

At this time the Planning Commission and Park Authority have completed their review and have approved the construction of the telecommunications tower at the George Washington Recreation Center site. The Board of Supervisors does not have to review and approve an application which involves Park Authority land.

When contacted about the residents' con-

cerns, Hyland said: "Radiation from telecommunications towers is one of the most studied issues. ... This issue has come before the Board of Supervisors on numerous occasions; the evidence is not conclusive, and in fact we have received conflicting evidence of the health effects due to radiation emitted by a telecommunications tower ... I can understand their concern about the potential health effects and respect the rights of concerned parents not to want their children to be exposed to harmful radiation. However, the Planning Commission and the Park Authority went through an extensive review process and it was their view that the GW Recreation Center site should be approved."

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310 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 703.518.8300 Main Office
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Dayna Blumel
Kerry Adams
703.587.7841



8063 FAIRFAX ROAD Hollin Hill \$789,500

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619 S ST ASAPH ST Old Town \$2,390,000

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1139 Cedar Dale Ln \$799,000

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Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



918 DARTON DR Waynewood / Alex \$749,900

DELUXE HOT TUB W/ MUSIC, waterfall, lights, deck, fenced yard & 2-car garage! Classic 5-level split w/kitchen & bath renovations, family room/sunroom, rec room, living room w/fireplace, separate dining, coffered ceiling, recessed lighting, glass-tiled entry. 4BR, 3 full baths, over 3,500 sqft - Great home for family and entertaining!

Frankl Roberts 703.898.0840



1906 BELLE HAVEN RD Belle Haven / Alex \$2,100,000

OPEN SUN 1-4pm! Spectacular brick colonial with slate roof in the heart of Belle Haven has all the bells and whistles. Total renovation includes new windows, chef's kitchen and luxurious master retreat with spa bath. 7BR, 5.5BA including nanny/teen suite w/separate kitchen and entrance. Large lot backs to trees.

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



JUST LISTED — UNDER CONTRACT!

4706 Tarpon Ln **9110 Chickawane**

9124 Volunteer Dr \$699,000 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!

9316 Heather Glen \$699,000 Magnificent Addition!

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Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
Shane Canny 703.346.2067

www.WaynewoodRealtors.com

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8422 CROWLEY PLACE Waynewood \$799,900
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8510 CYRUS PLACE Waynewood \$714,900
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8422 DOYLE DRIVE Waynewood \$662,500
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8621 Woodward **9105 Patton Blvd**

7501 Park Terrace **4816 Stillwell Ave**

9314 Brambly Ln **8311 Mt Vernon Hwy**

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7705 ELBA ROAD Hollin Hills / Alex \$569,000

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COMMUNITY



Multiple varieties of spring onions overflow in some of the local farm stalls.

Opening Day

The tents were up early and the tables brimming with local strawberries from Westmoreland County, apples and hydroponic tomatoes from Pennsylvania, fresh farm eggs, baked goods, free range meats, plants and herbs for the garden set the scene for the opening market day in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, April 27. The market will be open every Tuesday morning at the corner of Sherwood Fall and



Grace Banhene of Grace's Pastries helps out another customer.



Three Way farm customers Ann Clark and Christine deCourt pick up a bouquet of fresh greens and a flat of strawberries.

Parker's Lane until November. The Mount Vernon market is a producer's market. The vendors are the producers and live within a 150-mile radius of the market.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Fresh farm eggs from Valentine's Country Bakery and Meats travel here from their farm in Orange, Va.

NEWS BRIEFS

Historic Huntley Site Work To Begin

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin making improvements to the Historic Huntley Site located at 6918 Harrison Lane. Work will include rehabilitation of the Huntley Mansion, restoration of the historic outbuildings, and related site work. The project will begin in earnest in June and is scheduled for completion by April 2011. The general contractor will be Grunley Construction Company, Inc. of Rockville, Md.

Historic Huntley is a federal period villa built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. Acquired by the Park Authority in 1989, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

Funding for the historic restoration is provided by the 2008 Park Bond and a federal Save America's Treasures matching grant for \$100,000. Total project costs are \$1.7 million.

Library Branch To Close Saturday

The Martha Washington Library will close to prepare for its move to a renovated branch this summer. This will allow staff time to move the collections to the newly renovated building and begin preparing the library branches for the public. The Martha Washington Library, currently housed in a temporary facility at 6328 Richmond Highway, Unit F, Alexandria, will close 5 p.m. Saturday, May 8. The re-opening celebration for the newly renovated Martha Washington Library will be Saturday, July 10 at 2 p.m. at 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

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THEATER

MAY 6-29

Teatro de la Luna. *Rifar! el Corazón* (Heartstrings) by Dino Armas (Uruguay). Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m. Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25/regular, \$20/students and seniors. At Gunston Arts Center, Theater Two, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington.

NOW THROUGH MAY 15

"Lady Windermere's Fan." Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Contact Rachel Alberts @ 703/795-0659 or RachelACLU@aol.com.

MAY 18 THROUGH JUNE 13

"Sycamore Trees." "Sycamore Trees" is the second part of Signature's "American Musical Voices Project" sponsored by The Shen Family Foundation. Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$52 to \$76. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or go to www.signature-theatre.org. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

NOW THROUGH MAY 16

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

Schaeffer's Broadway Musical Draws Top Tony Nominations

Show adds to Drama League and Critics Circle nominations.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

"Million Dollar Quartet," the jukebox musical directed by Arlington's Signature Theatre Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, had a great morning on Tuesday when the Tony Award nominations for the 2009-10 season were announced. The show pulled three nominations and they were in some of the biggest categories the awards cover.

The show was one of four new musicals out of the 10 that opened this season to be nominated for the Best Musical of the Year Tony Award. It also drew a nomination for Best Book for a New Musical and Levi Kreis, making his Broadway debut in an explosive performance as Jerry Lee Lewis, was nominated for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical.

Based on an actual incident — a day in 1956 when Carl Perkins ("Blue Suede Shoes,") Johnny Cash ("I Walk The Line,") Jerry Lee Lewis ("Great Balls of Fire") and Elvis Presley happened to be in the same recording studio in Memphis — the show tells its story crisply and cleanly in order to avoid distracting from the nearly three dozen historic rock 'n roll hits that constitute the score. As such, the script, or to use Broadway's lingo "the book," drew a Tony nomination for authors Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux. Since all the songs in the show are well known hits from the 1950s it was not eligible for nomination in the other major category, Best Score for a Musical.

Schaeffer attended last year's Tony Award ceremony along with Managing Director Maggie Boland to pick up the special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. That award is always announced ahead of



Robert Britton Lyons as Carl Perkins, Levi Kreis as Jerry Lee Lewis, Eddie Clendening as Elvis Presley and Lance Guest as Johnny Cash in the musical "Million Dollar Quartet" on Broadway.

time, so there was no suspense as envelopes were opened. This year, three of those envelopes will be of special interest to him.

The competition for the Best Musical award comes from three very different shows. "Memphis" is a fictional tale of the early days of rock 'n roll which can be expected to be drawing from the same demographic pool for its audiences as "Million Dollar Quartet." A somewhat younger audience is probably drawn to "American Idiot," a punk-rock musical based on the album by the band Green Day. The fourth show, "Fella!" is based on the career of Nigerian Afrobeat legend Fela Anikulapo Kuti. It was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and is also competing with "Million Dollar Quartet" for the award for Best Book of a Musical.

The Tony nominations come in the wake of similar nominations for other New York theater awards including three for the

Drama League Awards in the categories Best Musical and Best Performance for both Kreis and Lance Guest who plays Johnny Cash. Kreis was also nominated for Best Featured Actor in this year's Outer Critics Circle Awards.

This is the second of the three musicals Schaeffer has directed on Broadway to draw attention from the Tony committee. George Hearn earned a nomination (but not the award) for his performance in the Schaeffer-directed "Putting it Together" in 2000.

The winners will be revealed on the national television broadcast on Sunday, June 13. Each of the four nominees for Best Musical will be given the opportunity to present a scene or song from their show.

"Million Dollar Quartet" is playing an open ended run at the Nederlander Theatre, 208 West 41st Street in New York. Tickets are \$56.50 to \$136.50.

Composer Inspired by Fluidity of Nature

ASO presents
'Atmosphere as a Fluid System' by
American composer
Libby Larsen.

BY MERRIE LEININGER
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Libby Larsen is one of only 20-30 people in the country who make their living purely from composing music for orchestras and operas.

Most people hold down a second job — most as a teacher at a university — but Larsen is one of the most frequently com-

missioned American composers, and also is in demand as a speaker. She has written more than 400 works, including operas, songs, orchestra and chamber music, and has more than 50 recordings of her music.

"I like to keep busy. There are so many ideas to pursue — and life is short," she said.

The Larsen work that will be performed by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra on May 22-23 is "Atmosphere as a Fluid System." Maestro and Music Director Kim Allen Kluge picked the piece because it fits into the season's theme: "Inspired by Nature."

Larsen described how a plane ride led to



Libby Larsen

the music: "One day, years and years ago, I was flying somewhere, plastered up against the window watching light on the clouds, and I saw a rainbow cone in the clouds, and although we were moving, the rainbow was moving with us, and I could see right down the center of the cone," she said. "I was fascinated by it, because I had never seen anything like it, and I began to study, I wanted to find out what it was.

Turns out it was something called Ulloa's Ring."

Larsen said "Atmosphere" is meant to

transport the listener into a cloud.

"Along the edges and in the middle of clouds, this fluidity is dynamic and we get tornadoes and hurricanes from this kind of thing. I wanted to write a piece from the inside of a cloud, and that's what this piece is — it moves all the time, it is very fluid and

SEE COMPOSER, PAGE 22

When & Where

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's presentation of Libby Larsen's "Atmosphere as a Fluid System" is part of the celebration of women in the arts, Minds Wide Open, across the state of Virginia this year. Larsen's work will be performed twice — Saturday, May 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 23 at 3 p.m. — at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center in Alexandria. Visit www.alexsym.org for further information or call 703-548-0885. Larsen's website is www.libbylarsen.com.

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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

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.

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/MAY 6

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

First Thursday in Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Businesses along Mt. Vernon Avenue will have special events for kids. Bands featured will be School of Rock and the George Washington's Middle School Orchestra. Contact Pat Miller at 703-683-2570.

Yoga for Tone. Free first class for beginners at The Body in Balance Center, 1423 Powhattan Street, Suite 7, Alexandria. Call 703-518-4434.

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 then 11th Annual Toast to Fashion.

Lynn Hollyfield and Grace Griffith. 7-9 p.m. Free. Lynn Hollyfield and Grace Griffith celebrate the interconnectedness of life and nature through folk music that touches and lifts the human spirit. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 7

Cinco de Mayo. Dinner by Baja Fresh, and live music by the Black Moon Tonic Band. Includes dinner, dancing and a silent auction. At Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Preschool. Contact the preschool director Jennifer Krieger at 703-765-7867.



PHOTO BY SAM CORL

Chris Dudley, a countertenor who volunteers as an EMT with the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, will perform with the New Dominion Chorale's performance of "Chichester Psalms."

SUNDAY/MAY 16

Beveridge and Bernstein. 4 p.m. The 240-voice New Dominion Chorale conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge. The work will be "Symphony of Peace" for chorus, soloists and large orchestra, and Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms." Tickets are \$25/general, \$20/seniors, \$5/students. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria Campus of NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Visit www.newdominion.org or call 703-442-9404.

SATURDAY/MAY 8

"Rain in a Dry Land" Film Screening. 4:30 p.m. Free. Part of "Movies with a Mission." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Spring Carnival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring inflatable obstacle courses and moon bounces, sack races, dunk tank, prizes and refreshments. Proceeds benefit Woodley Hills Elementary School, 8718 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. Rain date is May 22.

Tea & Chocolate: World Fair Trade Day. Noon to 4 p.m. Free samples of fairly-traded Tea & Chocolate in celebration of World Fair Trade Day. Fair Trade ensures that artisans and workers in developing countries receive a fair and living wage for their work. At Mindful Hands, 211 King Street, Alexandria.

Fair Trade My Home. Shoppers at Ten Thousand Villages in Old Town Alexandria can examine professionally designed room "vignettes" using fair trade items from the store. From noon to 2 p.m., the designer will be on hand to demonstrate how to incorporate fairly traded home décor into your existing design scheme, or how to create a pulled-together look for your entire home using only fair trade items.

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

Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local fiber artists, jewelers, and more will be showing off their wares! Event will also include a used book sale. Admission is \$1 and event is rain or shine. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Build Your Own Rain Barrel. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. At James K. Polk Elementary School, 5000 James Polk Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Environment

Neighborhood Social. 5-9 p.m. To celebrate Labels Exchange and Blueberry Art Gallery's collaborative retail, art and cultural venue. At 2417 Mount Vernon Avenue. Contact Monique Drummond by phone at 703-836-2211 or by email at buyer@labelsexchange.com. Online at www.labelsexchange.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 9

Mother's Day Tours. Free. 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org. Call 703-548-1789. Or call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org and www.apothecarymuseum.org.

Candlelight Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Loretta Di Gennaro combines a vinyasa style of hatha postures and breath work with moving meditation, tapping into subtle energy centers for a transformative and relaxing experience. Every Sunday at Mindful Hands, 211 King Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$65 for 6 weeks, first class free. Drop-ins welcome! Call 703-683-2074.

TUESDAY/MAY 11

Alexandria City Council Session. 7 p.m. At Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Jackie Henderson at 703-746-4550.

Books to Film Discussion Group. Will discuss the movie "Adaptation" (2002) and the novel The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call Mark Schwartz at 703-519-3498.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 12

Fiesta Cinco de Mayo. 6-8:30 p.m. Fiesta-style food and cocktails. Admission of \$55 includes food, drinks and music. Hosted by Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services. At Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-618-6362, email cincodemayoalex@aol.com or visit ANHSF's web site www.anhsf.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 13

"Sail into Service" Boomer & Senior Volunteer Fair. 10 a.m. to noon. Baby boomers, retirees or semi-retirees, empty nesters and seniors who are looking for new and exciting things to do in and around the Alexandria area are invited to attend. More than 20 area non-profit groups and city agencies will exhibit at the fair to discuss their current volunteer needs. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Contact Jeannine Purdy at 703-841-3834 or via email: jpurdy@ccda.net

Mateo Monk. 7 p.m. Performs on acoustic guitar and flute, as well as vocals. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit myspace.com/mateomonk.

Urban Garden Workshop. 10 a.m. to noon. Jeremy Hager of Bartlett Tree Experts will discuss the components of successful soil. At the Carlyle House

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Historic Site gardens, Old Town Alexandria. Admission is \$20. Call 703-549-2997 to register.

MAY 14, 15, 16

Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. Sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries and live jazz on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Fruit and Cheese boxes are \$24/each. Tickets are \$30/person. Private reserved tables featuring a fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and VIP table service is \$1,000. Go to MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

Community Service Sewing Day. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Event hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. Free and open to public. Fabric and supplies will be provided free of charge. RSVP by sending an E-mail to novaasgrsvp@yahoo.com or calling 703-354-9467. At the upper level of the Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Rd, Alexandria.

Armed Forces Day Tours. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. Admission is free to veterans and military personnel. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children over 11. Children under 11 are admitted free. For more information, visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Titan Aid Live. 7:30 p.m. Benefit concert organized by T.C. Williams High School's Titan Aid Club to raise money for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. At the Birchmere, 3201 Mt. Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$20. See www.birchmere.com, click on Order Tickets and then "Virginia Coalition." Proceeds raised will be donated to Architecture for Humanity.

Blood Drive. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus. At 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE www.my-redcross.org.

Chrysanthemum Sale. New cultivars + Old favorites. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. At Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Springs Road, Alexandria. Next to the Salvation Army location on Little River Tpk. Call 703-642-5173. Visit the web site, www.odcsmums.org

Benefit Concert. 7:30 p.m. The band featured is Virginia Coalition, several members of which are T.C. Williams alumni. Fund-raiser for earthquake victims sponsored by the Titan Aid Club at T.C. Williams. Tickets are \$20. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Buy tickets at www.ticketmaster.com.

Riverfront Revolution Run/Walk and Wellnessfest Event. At the National Harbor. The conference will offer expert speakers addressing holistic health strategies and practices for preventing unnecessary diseases and illnesses. Visit www.riverfrontrevolution.com.

Contact Race Director and Organizer Mr. Gregory Taylor, 240-462-7983, taylor4life@mindspring.com.

The Cotton Ball. 7 p.m. to midnight. The evening will feature a musical revue of local talent performing oldies hits, and will include door prizes, a tasty buffet, and dancing. No ticket sales at the door. Sponsored by St. Joseph Church, Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. For ticket information, email StJoCottonBall@aol.com or call 703-768-2819.

Old Cars in Alexandria. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. At the Lyceum parking lot, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Those who wish to exhibit vintage cars are asked to contact Jim Mackay at 703-746-4725. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

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- May 9: Mother's Day Tea & Tour at Woodlawn
- May 28-30: Mount Vernon's Sunset Celebration
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COMMUNITY

Composer Is Inspired

FROM PAGE 19

moving and full of shifting colors, so it's as if you as an audience member were inside the cloud, moving with the atmosphere."

Nature is where she most often turns to for inspiration. She described the piece for two violas that she is currently working on: "It's really about the moment of quiet in the night where the stars are bright. It's a suspended moment in eternity."

Despite working in an industry that values the voices of dead European men over productive women who work and live among us, Larsen said that she feels like there is certainly room for growth and ground-breaking music on American stages.

"It's an industry that has become a repackaging industry, and those of us who can add to that — contribute to the canon — are vital," Larsen said. "It's less than from the public, that perception of boards of directors and marketing departments that an audience will not come to a performance of something they don't know. It's not the accepted thinking in any other form of art — not music, movies, art — but really only the classical music world who have bought that mythology hook, line and sinker."

However, Larsen says she understands the restrictions that orchestras are often under, and how little time musicians have to learn a new piece of music.

"I like to challenge myself to make music that is interesting and idiomatic for the performers and resonates with the audience, in the way the notes are arranged. I don't try to write music people simply 'like,' but are engaged with."

She said being a woman in this demanding — and sometimes isolating — profession can be difficult, but she maintains contact with other women composers such as Jennifer

Higdon, who just won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for composition.

"We have a wonderful community network, where we all e-mail. There is a league of women composers and wonderful trade associations. I support them where I can, but best of all is to be in communication, so we support each other," Larsen said.

Larsen said she respects other composers and musicians and is pleased when they enjoy her work, but she said she is thrilled when her work inspires audience members to reach out to her.

"I'm always delighted when someone who has heard my work goes out of their way to be engaged — sends an e-mail or says something to me in the grocery store. Because composition is when you make a shape out of sound and time, in order to communicate what it's like to be alive. When someone communicates with me about my music, it's because I made this sound, and I feel like the work I do — which is an odd way to spend your life — has meaning."

Larsen, who lives in Minneapolis, said she took up long-distance running a couple of years ago in order to get out of the head space where she often loses time to music: "The sound is in my head, I hear everything in my head, and work in a different kind of time when I'm writing. Two or three days can go by, and suddenly, I realize I really need to get out of the house and talk to people who are living in flat time."

Larsen said that keeping her life well-rounded only enhances her music.

"One can live an artful life, and the products of that artful life can be food, music, a perfect run, a fine interview, (art doesn't imitate life), they are one in the same. If your life is an artful life, you live a mindful life, where mind and emotion are in balance."

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.

Community members can donate dry-cleaned spring and summer formal dresses, shoes, handbags, jewelry, unused makeup (such as sample cosmetics) and shopping bags from department stores through Friday, April 30. Of particular need are formal dresses in sizes 18 and larger. Winter dresses, soiled or outdated items, casual dresses, or items for mature women will not be accepted. 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.

Students are served on a first come, first served basis, and all students from Northern Virginia schools — regardless of income level — are welcome. It is strongly recommended that parents accompany their daughters to participate in dress selection.

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.

ME & MY MOM



Gloria Karasick with daughter Natasha at her sixth birthday party. Gloria, Natasha and dad Andy are residents in the Stratford on the Potomac neighborhood near Ft. Hunt Elementary school. Gloria is a stay-at-home mom and Natasha attends Aquinas Montessori School near Mt. Vernon.



Debbie Fairbanks with son Stanhope, a Cub Scout, at the Disney on Ice show at the Verizon Center on Valentine's Day.



Mrs. J. Lynne Carveth-Fill with her two children, daughter Katherine at 6 months and son Stephen at 6 years, in October 1982 in the front yard of their home in the Fort Hunt community.



Stratford Landing Mom's Easter Photo: Marianne Francone with children-John, 14; J.D., 5 and Zoe, 4.



Sam Hernly with his mom Ann right after his nap.



Collin Marquis, 14, with mom Margaret Hagood, in front of their home in Alexandria on a recent warm spring day.

Hayden Kirkley (4 years 5 months) with Mom, Devon Streit in October 2009 in Cordes Sur Soleil, France. Hayden was picking dandelions and making wishes. Mom has just asked:



“What did you wish for?” Hayden responds: “A red soccer ball.” After returning home from France, a neighbor dropped off a red soccer ball for Hayden. The neighbor had no idea what had been happening in France.



Jennifer Winters and nine-year-old daughter Emma who has just scored another crushed penny for her collection, in Nashville, at the Wild Horse Saloon. Jennifer and Emma live in Mechanicsville, Va. Jennifer's dad, Bob Howe lives in Hollin Hills and once was a delivery person for the Mount Vernon Gazette.



My mom and I went skiing in Telluride and this was the first time skiing together after my lessons. My name is Olivia Parr (12 years old), my mom is Penny Parr. We live in the Collingwood Springs neighborhood of Alexandria.



Lori Markley and David Markley with son Aidan Markley and daughter Amanda Markley after the Fleet Foxes Race at Fort Hunt Park.

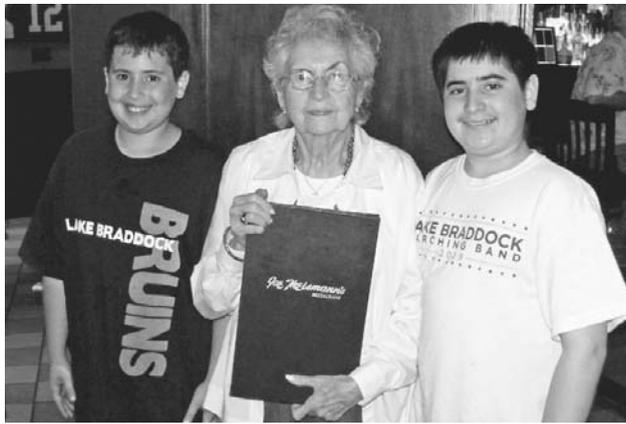
ME & MY MOM



“The Happy Cowgirls:” Mary Ann Diggs-Cannon and daughter Mia Cannon.



Cheryl Anne and Alexis FuBao Colton



Arlene Hewitt (grandmother - called “Nene”) with her two grandsons, ages 13 and 15, Michael and Teddy Rochlis. Photo was taken on April 25, 2010 at Joe Theisman’s restaurant, in Alexandria. Grandma’s night out with “her boys.”



Four generations gathered together on Jan. 1, 2010, New Year’s Day: From left, Jane Rosov, Lillian Tobin (holding Kelleigh Savannah Wright), and Carrie Wright. It was the first time Kelleigh met her great-grandma.



Laura Walker and her children Nick, Brettania, and Erin in Norway during a 2004 family vacation.



Elizabeth McIntyre (middle) with her daughters Anna Bossa (right) and Tori Bossa (left), both 14 years old, are in Washington D.C, enjoying the cherry blossoms on March 20, 2010.

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ME & MY MOM



Melanie Idler and daughters Sadie and Lucy enjoying the cherry blossoms this year.



Veronica Bruno with daughter Marilyn Bruno (2 now) and stepson Thomas Bruno (8 now) taken in June 2009 having a wonderful time, basking in the sun, in crystal clear calm water on the beach in Boca Raton, Fla.



Alberta Stokes (at far left) and (moving clockwise) Suellen Savukas, Deborah Stokes and Savukas' daughter Daphne Savukas. The three generations are in front of La Bergerie restaurant in Old Town.



Sean Joy, Lisa Nanni Joy, Shannon Joy Patton, Hager Patton, Sheila Joy, and Erin Joy at Shannon and Hager's engagement party at the home of Amy and Ryan's Katz's in 2008.



Jenny Krese of Alexandria joins daughter, Elle, and son, Chip, in meeting Peter Pan at Disney World in March. Continuing the theme, the Krese Family also enjoyed a wonderful performance of Peter Pan by Alexandria's own Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater in April.



Makena, Keegan and mom Tracey Polson of Alexandria enjoy a cold dip in the Atlantic Ocean at Melbourne Beach, Fla., March 2010.

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Morales Strong in Goal for Wolverines

Taylor scores game-tying goal against T.C. Williams but West Potomac falls short.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The T.C. Williams boys soccer team had a hefty advantage in chances during its April 29 match against West Potomac. But all that mattered for the Wolverines was James Taylor's goal in the 75th minute was enough to force overtime.

Tied at 1, West Potomac had a chance to steal the game from its Patriot District foe. But the chances kept coming for the Titans, who finally took advantage when Conor Boyle scored the game-winning goal with less than three minutes remaining.

"They played well," head coach Andrew Peck said of his Wolverines after the 2-1 loss. "As usual, the end of the game didn't turn out to the result that we wanted to see."

West Potomac lost to West Springfield 5-2 on April 3, dropping the Wolverines' record to 3-7-1.

Against T.C. Williams, freshman goalkeeper Rafael Morales showed his athleticism, making several diving saves to keep the Wolverines in the game. Morales was not on the field when the Titans scored their first goal — he had received a yellow card — and TC's second goal came when Boyle's shot deflected off a Wolverine.



West Potomac junior James Taylor (18) scored the Wolverines' lone goal in a 2-1 loss to T.C. Williams on April 29.

West Potomac head coach Andrew Peck praised the play of freshman goalkeeper Rafael Morales after the loss to the Titans.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

"Their defender hit it with his head and tried to clear it," Boyle said of the action prior to the goal. "I was just standing there and it popped right under my foot. I took a step back, I swung my leg and it was going into the left corner. Their defender dove [for the ball to] hit his foot so it wouldn't go in but he ended up hitting it right in the opposite side."

"I was ecstatic. I was so happy. I feel like we really deserved that win. We had so many chances that game that we just couldn't put in."

Peck praised his goalkeeper after the game.

Morales is "very athletic and was able to come out and cut a lot of the through balls off," Peck said. "You can't do too much about the end of the game when it deflects off your player."

Taylor scored West Potomac's goal off a corner kick from senior midfielder Kyle Wilson.

Peck also praised senior sweeper Kwasi Owusu, referring to him as one of the team's standouts.

West Potomac has wins over Falls Church (4-1), Herndon (2-0) and Lee (3-1) this season. It also finished in a 3-all tie with Woodson. The Wolverines finished 1-5-1 in district play.

West Potomac hosts Yorktown at 7 p.m. on May 7 for senior night and concludes its regular season at Hayfield on May 13.

WP's Winning Streak Snapped

Second-place Wolverines shut out by Dunham, South County.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac softball team had breezed through most of its Patriot District schedule heading into its May 3 rematch with South County, the only team to blemish the Wolverines' district record. South County hadn't lost a district game since 2007, but taking the Stallions into extra innings before losing 1-0 on March 25 showed West Potomac could compete with best.

The second meeting began much like the first, with West Potomac sophomore pitcher Morgan Maniglia matching South County senior standout Chelsey Dunham zero-for-

zero on the scoreboard. But in the top of the fifth inning, a pair of West Potomac errors led to two unearned runs for South County. The support was more than enough for Dunham, who has rarely been scored upon this season.

Dunham allowed only one hit — a single by Danielle McHugh — as the Stallions blanked the Wolverines 6-0 at West Potomac. Only two of the six runs allowed by Maniglia were earned, but they were enough to drop the Wolverines' record to 12-4, 8-2 in the district, snapping a seven-game winning streak.

Maniglia entered the game with a 0.49 ERA and 85 strikeouts in 71 innings.

"I think she pitched well enough to keep us in the ball game," head coach Craig Maniglia, Morgan's father, said. "Unfortunately, when you have errors, it works mostly on the mindset of the pitcher. I think

SEE WOLVERINES, PAGE 28

5Qs

Five questions with West Potomac senior infielder Zannie Crowe



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

A: To Anaheim, Calif., for a yearbook convention my sophomore year.

Q: You compete in equestrian. How did you get involved?

A: When I was 5 I just really wanted to ride horses. I've been doing it ever since.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: The Goo Goo Dolls. They're easy to

sing along to.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

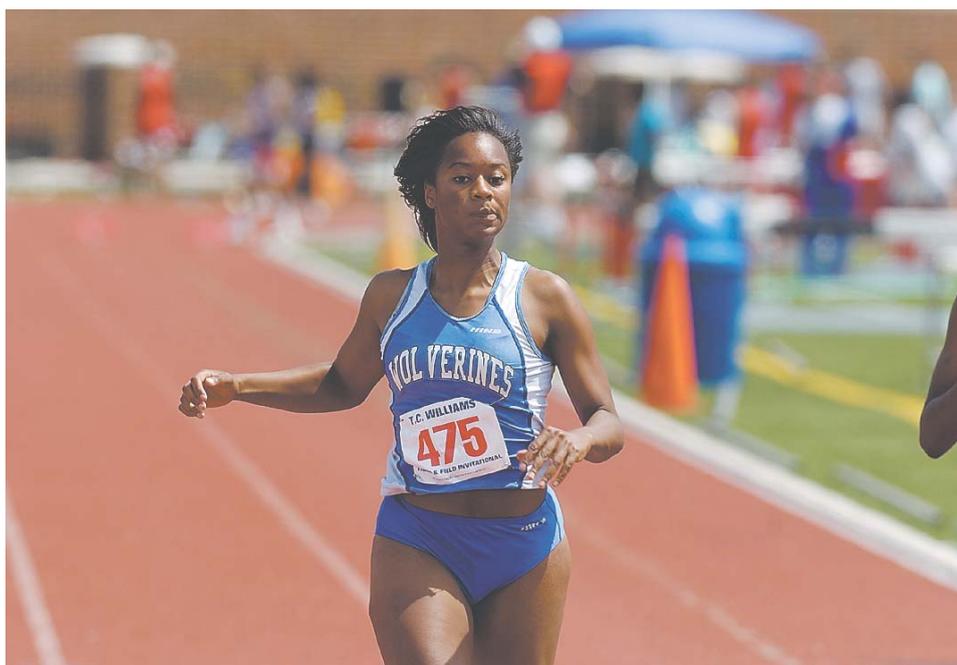
A: I'm going to attend George Mason and hopefully ride on their equestrian team.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "The Breakfast Club." I love a good '80s movie.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS



Ashleigh White placed third in the long jump and fifth in the 100 meters on May 1 at the T.C. Williams Invitational.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE GAZETTE

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Competes At TC Invitational

Members of the West Potomac boys and girls track and field teams competed at the T.C. Williams Invitational on May 1. The girls finished in seventh place with 47.5 points and the boys were 11th with 16.

Lisa Kinston won the discus throw with a mark of 97 feet, 7 inches and placed third in the shot put (33-9). Sophia Passacantando placed second in the 1,600 meters (5 minutes, 26.93 seconds) and Amanda Gunderson was fifth (5:34.59).

Ashleigh White placed third in the long jump (16-8 1/2) and fifth in the 100-meter dash (12.92 seconds).

Isabelle Cooksey finished fifth in the pole vault (7 feet) and Dale Lescher was fifth in the 400 (1:03.03).

Margaret Haley finished third in the 800 (2:26.84). Colleen Boyle was fourth in the 3,200 (12:51.13) and Lauren Price was fifth (14:10.23).

For the boys, Tyrone Jenkins won the triple jump with a mark of 43-10. Max Muir placed fourth in the

1,600 (4:30.62) and Ben Aleixo was sixth (4:32.75).

The Wolverines are scheduled to compete in the Southern Track Classic in Richmond on May 7. The Patriot District Championships start on May 12 at T.C. Williams.

Mark Vincent Basketball Camp

The Mark Vincent basketball camp will be held at Walt Whitman Middle School. First session will be held from July 12-16. Second session will be held from July 19-23. Tuition is \$200 per camper. Camp hours are from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day except on the last day; it will end at noon. Boys and girls ages 7-15 are welcomed to attend.

For information regarding summer basketball camp, contact via e-mail markvincentbasketballcamps@gmail.com

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 28

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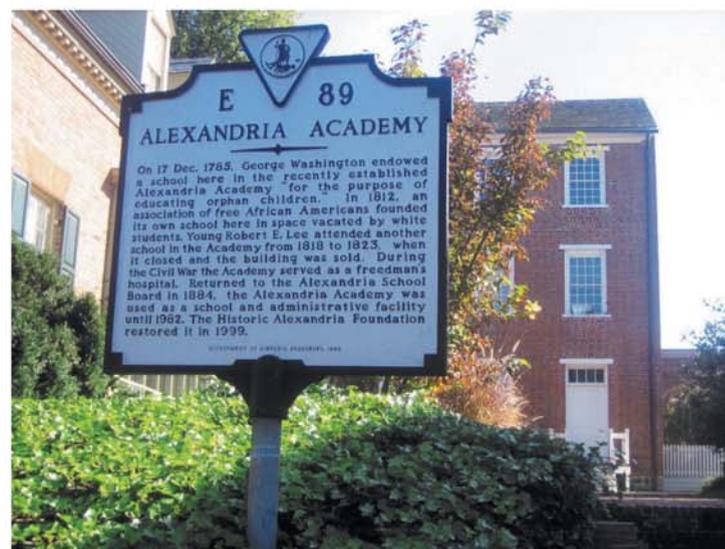
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Wolverines Shut Out

FROM PAGE 26

she hung in there pretty tough. ... I think she had her stuff, [South County] just hit. If you give a team of that quality four or five outs an inning, you're going to lose."

Craig and Morgan Maniglia said the Wolverines focus on treating each game with the same level of preparation and intensity. After the May 3 loss, the coach said his pitcher didn't come with the right approach.

"Morgan's big thing is she likes to compete, she likes to win," he said. "She can't stand to lose and she puts all the pressure on her. When she came here tonight her mindset was 'I'll either win this game or lose this game,' and that's the wrong motto for this team."

The sophomore said the Wolverines were too excited.

"There was a lot of hype and a lot of [desire] to win this game and we wanted it so badly," she said. "It was almost a negative thing."

The West Potomac lineup,

which has thrived this season, was quieted. Four players entered the contest batting .395 or better, led by senior Zannie Crowe. The infielder was hitting .522 with six home runs and 26 RBIs.

Is there a different mindset when facing a pitcher as talented as Dunham?

"I like to treat her like any other pitcher," Crowe said, "but I know that she does have control of the ball and she can throw [quality] pitches and she knows the game probably better than some of the other pitchers."

Morgan Maniglia entered the game hitting .489 with 13 RBIs, Sara Link was batting .444 and Maggie Berrigan was at .395.

If second-place West Potomac is able to bounce back, there's a chance the Wolverines will meet the Stallions for a third time — in the district tournament championship game.

"We'll just get them next time," Morgan Maniglia said. "We've got to keep fighting."

FROM PAGE 27

Aces Looking for Host Families

The Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League is looking for host families for the upcoming 2010 season. All players need is a place to sleep and access to a washer and dryer, the Aces take care of everything else. To volunteer as a host family, contact Aces Host Family Coordinator, Hilary Garner, at 202-216-8304, or e-mail Hilary at hilary@alexandriaces.org.

Fort Hunt Rugby Registration

Registration for Fort Hunt rugby is now open. Those interested can register online at fhya.org. Practices start May 18 at Collingwood Park. Matches begin June 19.

There is a \$100 registration fee, \$5.50 Fairfax County field use fee, a \$10 USA Rugby registration fee and a \$30 fee for those who live outside Fairfax County. A \$10 late fee is assessed for those who register after June 11.

For more information, contact commissioner Andy Vonada — alvonada@hotmail.com — or head coach

SCHOOL NOTES

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 Bettelheim's book, *The*

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 7p.m. and May 9 at 5 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 703-619-3100 x. 3259.

John Dacey — rugby007@aol.com.

Fort Hunt Football-Cheerleading Registration Open

Registration for the Fort Hunt football and cheerleading program is open. Those interested can register at fhya.org.

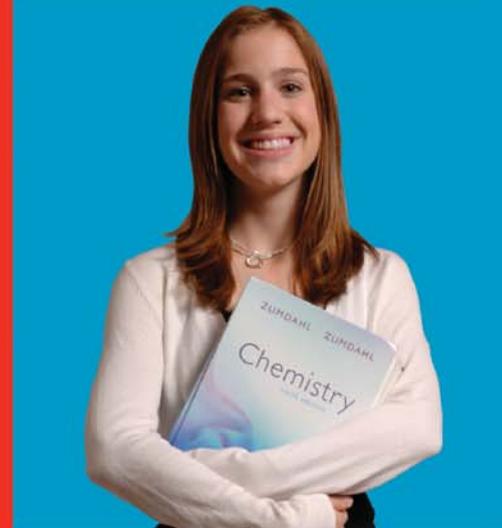
Questions can be e-mailed to commissioner Derrick Spearman at forthunt_commissioner@yahoo.com.

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@lindsaycollision.com.

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PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER / THE GAZETTE

Sydnye Pettengill and two ReStore employees help customer Rick Swigart of Beverley Hills get his new console in his car.

Designers Help ReStore

FROM PAGE 6

of Del Ray, both past presidents of the Washington Metro Chapter of ASID, co-chaired this year's event.

This fund-raising idea started out as a desire on the part of local interior designers wanting to help somehow with Hurricane Katrina recovery.

We knew Habitat for Humanity was involved with the recovery efforts," Manzek

said. "We got hooked up with Virginia Patton from the Alexandria Habitat for Humanity Restore, and she helped us realize we didn't need to go all the way to Louisiana to make a difference.

"We ask our members and industry partners to donate new and gently used designer items, and all dollars raised go into the Habitat coffers," she said. "It's a chance for us to give back to the community and help those who need it."

MVCCA BRIEFS

On April 28 the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations received a briefing from Supervisor Gerald Hyland, reports from Committee chairs, and voted on one transportation resolution.

Transportation Committee Resolution:

Requested Supervisor Hyland to call on the Virginia Department of Transportation or the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic impact analysis in the area of Ft. Hunt road, Richmond Highway, and Huntington Avenue in the vicinity of Woodrow Wilson bridge. Purpose is to analyze traffic impact in light of the completion of transportation improvements and the resulting altered traffic patterns. This is a primary gateway to the Mt. Vernon District. Resolution passed unanimously (24-0-0).

Supervisor Hyland briefing:

Submitted for Board of Supervisor's consideration:

1. To rename the Mt. Vernon Center for Community Mental Health the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health.

2. To recognize the outstanding service of retiring Walt Whitman Middle School Principal Otha Davis.

3. To invite a bloodhound name "Schnoz" and his handler, police Master Police Officer Pete Masood, to the next Board meeting to be recognized and thanked for their work in finding a distressed person suffering hypothermia who was lost in the Mason Neck State Park, and tracking down an armed

robbery suspect.

In addition, Hyland circulated the following information on actions taken before the Board:

- ❖ Requested that the Board authorize the filing of a special exception amendment, and expedite the application for the Lorton Community Action Center for the purpose of adding a 2,000 sf modular building for storage.

- ❖ Requested, with Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisor Jeff McKay, that the Board direct staff to determine the availability of federal transportation grants for the study of transportation improvements in the Richmond Highway/Route 1 Corridor.

- ❖ Requested that the Board direct the Fairfax transportation office to make recommendations for improving transportation in the Lorton road area between Silverbrook road and Lorton Market road. The purpose is to improve traffic flow in light of the planned development of the Inova Lorton Healthplex.

- ❖ Requested the Board, with Bulova and McKay, to direct staff to send a letter to the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation requesting that they develop creative solutions to expediting transportation improvements in the Mulligan road and Telegraph road project. The goal is to open the road to traffic no later than 2012 to accommodate the substantial traffic increases resulting from the expansion of services at Fort Belvoir.

— GERALD A. FILL

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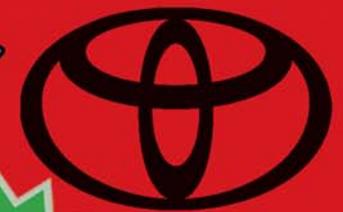
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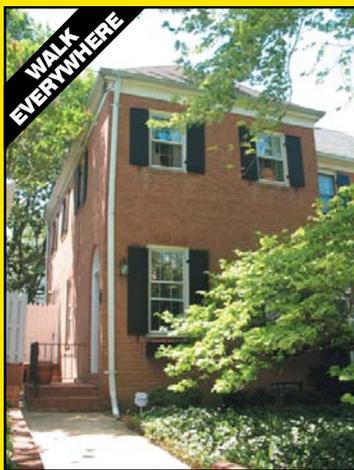
Alex./South \$1,285,000
 Don't miss out on this chance of a lifetime to wake up every morning to this magnificent vista. Reside comfortably in the existing 3 or 4 bedroom, 2½ bath brick Cape Cod or build the custom riverfront home of your dreams.
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Alexandria \$549,000
 Spacious TH-style 2-level condo w/2 master suites, beautiful moldings, 9-ft. ceilings, hardwood flrs, white kitchen w/black granite facing the family rm w/fireplace & doors out to deck. Convenient to everything.
1320 Roundhouse Lane
Mary Hurlbut 703-980-9595



Alexandria
 Experience this fabulous Cape nestled on corner lot in Del Ray moments from the Metro. Interior features include 5 BR, master suite addition, 2 BA, home office, open kitchen & dining area, off-street parking and much more!
905 Ramsey Street
Bobi Bomar 703-928-2213



Alex./Old Town \$739,000
 Perfect Old Town location! Fabulous end TH 3 blocks from river. 2 or 3 bedrooms & 2 baths. Large rooms, finished LL & fully renovated throughout!
310 Franklin Street
Lisa McCaskill 703-615-6036



Alex./South \$365,000
 Bright & airy 3 bedroom end unit TH w/brick façade. Appointments include main level family room w/bay window & powder room, eat-in kitchen w/ceramic tiled floors & Corian counters, 2 master suites & fenced back yard.
8308 Hunter Murphy Circle
Jennifer Bobsein 703-835-1256



Alexandria \$334,000
 This great 2 BR Madison unit w/fabulous kitchen w/exotic granite countertops, SS appliances, custom cabinets & cork flooring. The sun-filled living/dining rms overlook the lush blooming common area.
1907 N. Quaker Lane
Jennifer Bobsein 703-835-1256



Alexandria \$337,000
 Commuter's dream 3 blocks to King Street Metro! Perfect 2-BR pied-à-terre. Contemporary, open, gleaming hwd flrs, screened back porch. Bright corner unit. Assigned parking. Walk to Old Town & Del Ray.
300 Commonwealth Avenue #1
Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481



McLean \$899,000
 Pristine brick home in quiet cul-de-sac w/4 BR, 3 BA & kitchen/family rm breakfast area w/FP. Wrap-around deck on large beautiful lot w/garden path. Spectacular hwd thru-out main level.
1538 Dahlia Court
Rick Lane 703-519-8923



Alexandria \$300,000
 One mile to Metro. 2 BR, 2 BA—clean & bright. Wood floors at entry & kitchen, spacious rooms, 9-ft ceilings, columns, eat-in kitchen, W/D in unit. Master suite w/Jacuzzi, gas fireplace.
5990 Founders Hill #203
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alex./OT \$685,000
 Super master suite & private guest suite. 4 finished levels. 2 fireplaces & parking. Totally upgraded.
823 South Lee Street
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$549,000
 Gorgeous 3-level brick end unit TH on quiet cul-de-sac w/ lovely private brick patio & assigned parking. Two bedrooms, 3 updated baths, granite countertops, 2 fireplaces & tons of storage. Convenient to Old Town & Del Ray.
915 Colecroft Ct.
Dawn Gurganus 571-237-6151



Alexandria \$445,000
 Sun-filled 2-level TH loaded w/custom features, interior design & incredible upgrades. Bordered by parkland, this 2 bedroom end unit has fenced brick patio, 1-car garage & large covered balcony off the master bedroom w/sitting area.
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