

# Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 13, 2010



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE

## Celebrating Mother's Day at Woodlawn

Staff members Rebecea Myers-Lesak, Karen Kiday, Stacy Haukins, Joan Irvin and Annette Miller at the Mother's Day tea inside the Woodlawn estate on May 9.



Celtic harp player Chris Van Dyke performs for guests as they sip a special Woodlawn blend of tea on Mother's Day.



Susan Cooper and her daughter Jennifer are served treats by Joan Irvin, also served with the Mother's Day tea are cornbread muffins made with corn-milled from George Washington's gristmill.

## Five Schools Cited as Low Performers

The Virginia Department of Education has awarded extra assistance to six Fairfax County elementary schools who are having trouble meeting standards testing goals. Five of the six schools are located along the Richmond Highway corridor.

Fairfax school officials expect the commonwealth to give Bucknell, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods and Woodlawn elementary schools about \$175,000 each next year to help boost academic performance. The Virginia education department is particularly concerned the schools have fallen short of the testing goal laid out under the

federal No Child Left Behind law.

All five schools have among the most challenging demographics in the school district. The percentages of students living in poverty at Bucknell (69 percent), Hollin Meadows (45 percent), Hybla Valley (83 percent), Mount Vernon Woods (80 percent) and Woodlawn (59 percent) are significantly higher than Fairfax as whole. Poor students make up about 25 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools' total population. Bucknell, Hybla Valley, and Hollin Meadows are part of the West Potomac High School pyramid. Mount Vernon Woods and Woodlawn are part of the Mount Vernon High School pyramid.

## School Board Angers Community

Many call process for changing programs for needy students flawed.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE GAZETTE

Laurie Blackburn calls the public school where her son attends first grade extraordinary. She isn't the only one.

Hollin Meadows Elementary has drawn national attention for its outdoor gardening and science program, where students grow food and learn about native plants and insects on the school site. First Lady Michelle Obama visited the Mount Vernon school to learn more about its outdoor program last fall, and Hollin Meadows students have been invited to her vegetable garden at the White House two years in a row.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture interviewed staff at and shot footage of Hollin Meadows for a short instructional film they intend to distribute to other school districts around the country. They want other teachers and principals to use Hollin Meadows as a model for setting up their own gardening programs.

But the community at Hollin Meadows isn't even sure that their own gardens will survive the Fairfax County School Board vote on the annual budget May 20. Much of the funding used to pay for the school's outdoor learning space comes from two programs the school board has already indi-

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 3

## Woodley Hills Worries About Loss of Funding

School does not make cut for extra funding under new "needy school" proposal.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE GAZETTE

Several representatives from Woodley Hills Elementary School came to the Fairfax County School Board's final budget hearing May 12 to complain about potentially drastic cuts in the school's funding and programs next year. The school board will make its final budget decisions May 20.

Sally Hazard, Woodley Hills Elementary School



The following are two representatives who spoke on behalf of the Woodley Hills Community.

Sally Hazard, a parent and employee at Woodley Hills Elementary School in Mount Vernon, is upset that Fairfax County School

SEE WOODLEY HILLS, PAGE 3

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# School Board Angers Supervisors, Community

FROM PAGE 1

cated it intends to eliminate next year.

The programs, Project Excel and Focus, were established more than a decade ago, in part to help elementary schools with a larger percentage of needy students. Superintendent Jack Dale now says the money used for those programs can be spent more effectively in another way.

But what Dale's new initiative entails is unclear and how much money individual schools which benefited from Project Excel and Focus will receive has not been released. The Hollin Meadows community, for example, is not sure whether they will get as much funding under Dale's new plan as they have in the past or whether the school system will let them use any of the money to maintain the gardening program.

"We have a program that three weeks ago the USDA was here to film because they said it was five years ahead of the curve and we don't know what kind of hit that program is going to take," said Blackburn.

"When you are changing from an old program to a new program, you should bring people along and

not leave them in the position of not having any clear idea what kind of school their children are going to be going to in three months," she said.

**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY** Board of Supervisors agreed with Blackburn.

During county budget deliberations last month, several supervisors called the school board irresponsible and insensitive to the community when it came to the elimination of Project Excel and Focus, as well as a year-round school calendar program in place in a handful of county schools.

Supervisors Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) and Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), threatened not to vote for the overall county budget — including the more than \$1.5 billion allocated to the school system — because they could not determine what type of extra help the school board would provide to schools with high levels of poverty.

Even after meeting one on one with Dale, both Hyland and Hudgins said they weren't clear on what Dale planned to do for students who are poor and need to learn English next year.

"I didn't have a comfort level



**U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited Riverside Elementary School, a school that has two programs Fairfax County Public Schools is likely to eliminate.**

that this was going to be addressed. The details of the new program is still something that needs to be fleshed out," said Hyland.

Eventually, Hyland and Hudgins supported the budget, partly because the Board of Supervisors voted 8-2 to consider providing extra money to the school system to support a transition plan for those schools losing Excel, Focus and a year-round school calendar.

Several supervisors said the school board should have had a long and extensive community engagement process about eliminating such long-standing programs, especially since they affect some of the county's most vulnerable children.

"I hold three public hearings when a gas station wants to change the color of its awning. This is a policy shift of much more importance," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

**UNDER THE LAW**, the supervisors cannot legally tell the school board how to spend the money the county turns over to it each year. They also cannot require the school board to hold hearings about the elimination of certain programs.

"If the Board of Supervisors wants to run the school system, then it can ask the voters of Fairfax County to go back to an appointed school board," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

Gibson and several other school board members were upset that the supervisors were second-guessing their judgement.

"I think I have a pretty good idea, after serving 15 years on this board, what is best for kids," he said.

But several members of the community, including Blackburn, said they appreciated the supervisors pressuring the school board on Project Excel, Focus and the modified calendar program.

"I was grateful to the supervisors. They said out loud what we have not been hearing. And that is that there are people in Fairfax County government that are concerned about needy kids," said Blackburn.

But many of the details about

the school system's new initiative for at-risk students were fuzzy because the schools were not sure how much funding they would receive from the county or the Virginia government, said school board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville).

"It would have been great to let people know what was happening in February, but we didn't know how much money we were going to get and it looked pretty bad," said Strauss.

There were also several earlier indications that the school board would be changing their approach to addressing the needs of students in poverty.

Last year, school board members voted to use federal stimulus money to fund Project Excel, which provides an extended school day on Mondays at 16 elementary schools. The supervisors should have known that the stimulus money was limited and would run out at the end of next year, said several school board members.

The school board also excluded funding for Focus or Excel when they initially voted on next year's school budget last January. Then, they voted to discontinue the year-round school calendar in February.

That same month, the school system sent out letters to teachers at the 16 Project Excel schools, including Hollin Meadows, informing them that they would be likely to receive a pay cut next year because the program was likely to be eliminated this May.

In defense of the school system, Dale and many school board members also pointed out that the most significant funding that elementary schools with students in poverty receive comes in the form of a lower staff-to-student ratio. The school board never considered cutting the funding for smaller class sizes in challenged elementary schools, they said.

Still, several members of the community said they felt "ambushed" by the change and supervisors found the timeline too condensed for such a major change.

"I would have hoped we would have focused on it for more than just a few months," said Hudgins.

Even when the county is unsure of its level of funding from the state, the supervisors still move forward and reach out to the community about major programmatic changes, said McKay. "That is no excuse. The schools didn't have to know how much money they were going to get to go out and have a conversation with the community about this," he said.

## Woodley Hills Left Off 'Priority' List

FROM PAGE 1

Board is likely to eliminate two special programs that provide extra funding and staff to Woodley Hills currently.

The school is part of the countywide extended day learning program, where students receive extra instruction through a longer school day on Monday. Woodley Hills also receives extra money to deliver more robust math and science curricula as a focus school.

Both specialty programs are on the chopping block this May. Schools Superintendent Jack Dale wants to redirect the money from extended day learning and focus to a new "priority schools" initiative instead.

Many of the 30 campuses that would receive money through the "priority schools" plan are the same places where extended day learning and focus are in place currently. But Woodley Hills is not among the "priority schools" list and would lose all of its extra support if the school board approves Dale's proposal.

Hazard said Woodley Hills needs the extra money and assistance

**Anna Cushman, Woodley Hills PTA president**



because its demographics are challenging.

About 58 percent of the student body at Woodley Hills qualifies for a free or reduced-priced lunch. Approximately 42 percent of the population speaks limited English.

Hazard suspects that Woodley Hills was left off the priority schools list because it has met Virginia's achievement goals on state tests recently. Some other "priority schools" with more forgiving demographics have struggled more on state standardized tests.

But Hazard said the extra support provided through the extended day on Monday and the focus funding is part of the reason Woodley Hills has exceeded expectations.

"The bad news is you are taking away the thing that works," said Hazard.

**WOODLEY HILLS** PTA president Anna Cushman urged the school

board to "throw out" a proposal from Dale that would reorganize the way funding for needy students was distributed.

Cushman complained that Dale's "priority schools" initiative was vague at best. She was also concerned about throwing out programs the community feels are effective and replacing it with something that many people don't yet understand.

"Priority schools lacks clarity, research, direction and anything that would give it substance," said Cushman.

There also seems to be a flaw in the selection process for picking the "priority schools." Woodley Hills, with 58 percent of the student population considered poor, should have been among those that qualified for extra funding, said Cushman.

Several schools who made the "priority schools" list have less challenging demographics that Woodley Hills, though they may also have struggled more with standardized testing goals.

"Why isn't Woodley Hills on this list? Are you penalizing schools for doing well?" said Cushman.

PEOPLE

# 'Toast to Fashion' Highlights Style

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

There was something for everybody at last week's Toast to Fashion. Not only were there plenty of fashions for young women, but there were also styles shown for older women, men, children and even some maternity attire.

Half a dozen local boutiques once again came together to display their fashions. Some of them also had booths set up to sell merchandise before and after the show.

Fashion show participants included Appleseed, Bloomers, Fornash, Hysteria, J. McLaughlin, Kiskadee, Mint Condition, Monday's Child, Pink & Brown, Purple Goose, Queen Bee Designs, Sherman Pickey, Shoe Hive, Top It Off and Treat. Other vendors were Bellacara, Smathers & Branson, J. Ryan Jewelry, Magical Monograms and Stella & Dot.

Lavender Moon provided several types of cupcakes to complement the appetizers and desserts that were served by Belle Haven Country Club.

Co-chairs Jennifer Ashby, Anne Ashley Croker and Natalie Johnston kicked off the event, while Allison Priebe Brooks moderated the fashion show.

In addition to the food and fun, there was



**Jennifer Ashby, Anne Ashley Croker and Natalie Johnston chaired the event.**

a Service Award Ceremony recognizing three dedicated women. Junior Friends president presented the awards.

Kimberly Bacon Speed received the Barbara Pratt Lee Heart of Gold Award for "distinguishing herself through leadership and personal dedication to the advancement of The Campagna Center's mission."

The Golden Halo Award was presented to Tamara Mlynarczyk for "demonstrating

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE



**Kimberly Bacon Speed (shown here with her daughter) receives the Barbara Pratt Lee Heart of Gold Award.**

a selfless commitment to fundraising for the programs of The Campagna."

The Anne Culbert Legacy of Service Award was initiated this year to "honor a person who has had a tremendous impact on the Junior Friends community." Anne Culbert was the first recipient to receive this award.

*Gale Curcio is an independent writer and public relations consultant in Mount Vernon.*



**Eileen Kuletz in a Mexican wedding dress from Gossypia.**



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PHOTO BY MEREDITH MUCKERMAN

## NEWS 'Learning about Money'

Burke & Herbert Bank "Learning About Money" Team Members Toni Andrews (foreground) and Dan Convery lead a recent financial literacy session at a local elementary school. The bank's new "Learning About Money" program will be recognized by Fairfax County Public Schools on May 13 at FCPS' "Partners in Education & Mentor Works" awards ceremony at Robinson Secondary School. The financial program is designed to introduce personal finance concepts to children in grades K-12. Members of the Burke & Herbert Bank Financial Literacy Team visit schools to support educators in teaching about money, the role of banks and making informed decisions about personal finances, including the use of credit.

## Hilltop Golf Course Hosts Benefit

Springfield Chamber of Commerce President Dan LaMay, UCM Director of Development Niki Wanner, Supervisor Jeff McKay and UCM Executive Director Cynthia Hull get ready for tee off at the 7th Annual Hilltop Golf Club Charity Golf Outing on April 20 to benefit UCM and Good Shepherd Housing. More than 100 golfers turned out to raise funds to support these local non-profits.



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Large 3000sq. ft. beautifully renovated and expanded 4BR/3BA Cape Cod. 3 living rms w/fpl in each; wet bar & valuted ceiling in great rm. Remodeled kit w/granite opens to dining rm & lg brkfast rm; all 3Bas updated, MBR suite w/den on mn lvl. Great Mt. Vernon location across from Mt. Vernon Country Club. Gorgeous .67 acre lot; fenced bkdy w/large deck, hot tub & 2 sheds.



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# ME & MY MOM



HelenAnne Listerman and her daughter Sophie Fischbach, 14 weeks, of Wayneswood celebrate spring and friendship with Heidi Steiber and her daughter Ella Kreinar, 7 weeks, of Tauxemont. All are happy to be new residents of the Mt. Vernon area. Photograph taken by Heidi Gunst of Del Ray.

Mom Jeannie White with children (from left) Ella, 5 1/2, Jack, 7, and Cecilia, 7, photographed on Easter Sunday, 2010.



Lyndsay Austin and daughter Caroline Austin, 13, at Shambles in York, England, April 2010.



Makayla Jalloh, 5, and mom Angela Barbour of the William Ramsey area of Alexandria love spending time with each other.



Usah Wallace with her girls.

## May is Stroke Month.

Do you know what to do?

# Act F.A.S.T. and Call 911.

- F**ace      Ask the person to smile. Look for facial droop or an uneven smile.
- A**rm      Look for arm numbness or weakness. Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- S**peech    Look for speech slurred, difficulty speaking or understanding. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can he/she repeat the sentence correctly?
- T**ime      If the person shows ANY of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911 to get to the hospital IMMEDIATELY!



**Inova Mount Vernon Hospital is here for you!**  
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# County Program Protects Rights of the Elderly

By GERALD A. FILL

**M**ay is Older Americans Month. Locally and nationally the number of seniors reaching 55 and over is growing dramatically. The Mount Vernon area in particular has a large and growing seniors population, and is thought to have the largest concentration of seniors in Fairfax county on a per capita basis.

One of the most important and difficult decisions an individual or family may have to make in their lifetime is choosing where to place a loved one in a Long Term Care Facility. In making the selection it

## THE NEW MIDDLE AGE

is important to select a facility in which the rights, dignity, health, and safety of the individual will be protected and the individual's quality of life maintained. Fortunately, help is available for seniors, their families, and personal representatives, through the Ombudsman Program of Northern Virginia.

The northern Virginia Ombudsman program relies on seven full-time paid ombudsmen (there are a total of 31 state-wide) and a large cadre of carefully selected and trained volunteers. They are available to help counsel individuals and families on the factors to consider when selecting a facility and, once placed in a facility, the resident can rely on the availability of

a volunteer ombudsman to serve as their advocate. For example, if a resident, family or personal representative has a concern or complaint a volunteer ombudsman, backed up by a trained and full-time paid ombudsman, is available to take up his or her complaint with the staff of the facility. Of course each facility is licensed, and is staffed by qualified nurses, social workers, and administrators. But issues do arise and for some the presence of the Ombudsman program can give solace and peace of mind that a resident has readily available an advocate willing to take up his or her cause should the in-house staff not respond in a reasonable or timely manner. For adult children of elderly parents in a long term facility who do not live in the immediate area this can be especially helpful; knowing there is someone who they can contact about their loved one.

Two volunteer ombudsmen with several years experience in the program talked about their motivation in volunteering, and their experiences.

Angela Elliott, retired nurse, said, "I joined the Ombudsman program because of my mother, who died of Parkinson's disease. After she died I realized that I enjoyed being her advocate. As a volunteer ombudsman I love what I do. I feel privileged and blessed to meet so many amazing men and women ... each with a unique life story."

## Seminars

Fairfax County's Independent Living Program for older adults offers the following upcoming free seminars at the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria on Thursdays at 12:15pm, as follows:

- May 13** – Services for Older Adults: Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
  - May 20** – Fall and Fire Prevention: Fire and Rescue Department
  - May 27** – Hearing Aids: Northern Virginia Rescue Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - June 3** – Brain Fitness: Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area
  - June 10** – Stroke Prevention: Inova Health Systems
- Registration is required. Call 703-324-7210, TTY 703-449-1186, or email Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov

Beth Pautler, retired hospital social worker, said, "I do this work to 'give back.' As a former hospital social worker part of my job was to arrange discharges to nursing facilities. I also worked with patients admitted to nursing homes. In doing so I heard some good, but also mostly bad things about patients' stays in these facilities. Being a volunteer ombudsman allows me, in some small measure, to try to improve the experience and care of long term care residents".

The heart and soul of the program is the approximately 70 + volunteer ombudsmen who are assigned to one or more long term care facilities. There are currently 115 licensed facilities in the northern region.

## THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA



**Northern Virginia Volunteer Ombudsman Coordinator Lisa Callahan, between two volunteer ombudsmen, Beth Pautler (left), retired hospital social worker, and Angela Elliott, retired nurse.**

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is constantly recruiting and training people who are empathetic, diplomatic, assertive, and skilled communicators to be volunteer ombudsmen. Supervised by full-time paid ombudsman staff the volunteers are viewed as a critically important component of the Ombudsman program. Lisa Callahan, the volunteer coordinator for the program who interviews and selects volunteer candidates for a formal three day training requirement, said: "We receive applications and select people from virtually all walks of life: retired judges, lawyers, nurses, business people, housewives ... not everyone who applies is selected; those selected for training continue to be evaluated during the training pe-

riod before we offer a volunteer applicant a spot on our team." Currently, Callahan is looking for volunteers who speak a foreign language as well as English. She mentioned the current need for volunteers who speak Korean and Vietnamese. As she puts it, "How can we know the needs of a resident who speaks only a foreign language?" Identifying someone who can communicate in the resident's language is essential to assuring the resident's quality of life in the facility."

Interested in volunteering? Those selected and who successfully complete three days of training must agree to a minimum of four hours per week for one year. Contact: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman), or 703-324-5861



**Betty Puscheck, the event coordinator.**



**Elaine Kolish, David Fitzgerald, Kermit Quick, Patsy Quick, Joanne Malkin, Mary Ellen Mehler, Shirley Richey and Alice Bagwill gather for a Kiwanis Club evening out at the Little Theater of Alexandria.**

# Kiwanis Club Hosts Fund-Raising Night at the Theater

**T**he Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club sponsored the whole theater at the Little Theater of Alexandria for the May 5 performance of Oscar Wilde's social satire "Lady Windermere's Fan."

The nearly sold out house enjoyed a wine and cheese and fancy snacks buffet both before the show and during the intermission. Raffle tickets for large baskets of good wines were chosen by MVKC President

Bruce Malkin after the show, while several silent auction big ticket items were also sold for donations.

MVKC member Betty Puscheck, the event coordinator, coordinated the evening that

raised several thousand dollars to help the poor children and families in the Mount Vernon area. The club has already reserved a comedy in June 2011 for its next LTA event.

# OPINION

## 'Let us Hear that Concern'

Citizens have a right to know the details of crimes in their neighborhoods and activities of police.

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 some information.

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 information and document they can.

The actual reports filed by police officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every jurisdiction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

Leaders in Northern Virginia's police departments continue to assert that most people aren't don't care about the level of secrecy employed by police.

"Let us hear that concern," said a Fairfax County police spokesperson. "We are not hearing it from anybody except the media, except individual reporters."

"I don't think we have to justify it," said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

It's time to let them hear the concern, and tell them that they do have to justify decisions to withhold public information. Contact your chief of police, along with your state and local elected officials. We'd appreciate receiving a copy of any letter you send.

Police should move to make as much information open to the public as possible. Should they have the right to redact some information, for example, the name of an undercover officer? Certainly. But withholding information should be a rare exception, not a blanket policy. But the process of repressing critical information undermines the contract of trust between police and community, like the name of the shooter and exact details when police shoot and kill an unarmed civilian, as in the case of David Masters.

"Citizens truly do have a right to know the details of crimes in their neighborhoods, not summary information the police choose to release," wrote Ryan Donmoyer in a letter to the

EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Team Efforts In Creek Cleanup

To the Editor:

Congratulations and thanks to the Friends of Little Hunting Creek who participated in the creek cleanup conducted April 10 under the auspices of Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. The massive effort takes place annually and involves thousands of volunteers (7,326 this year) picking up litter and trash along streams and rivers in the Potomac River watershed. This year, 500 cleanup sites were registered in D.C., Md., Pa., Va., and W.V., and Fairfax County had 101.

Friends of Little Hunting Creek far surpassed last year's cleanup results. At 10 sites from Route 1 to the mouth of the creek, 117 volunteers picked up 227 bags of trash, 13 tires, and other weird and weighty items.

Several groups vied for 2010 Trashmaster of Little Hunting Creek. The winner and new champion is:

Karl Egloff and the Captains of Captains Row picked up a whopping 53 bags of trash, five tires, and a propane tank. This is the first cleanup held by Stratford-on-



Friends of Little Hunting Creek collected 227 bags of trash in April.

the-Potomac Civic Association, and they turned in an awe-inspiring debut performance.

Runner up: David Gahart's Crew picked up 40 bags of trash, a tire, wheel, sheet of plywood, propane tank, a freezer, and tricycle. This new team surpassed expectations

and wins the coveted Improving Conditions for Wildlife Award. This goose pair (see photo) will no longer have to nest atop a heap of plastic bottles.

Second runner up: Tom and Karen Fahy, working the Wagon Wheel Oxbow, turned in their

usual stellar performance, collecting 35 bags of trash, a tire, the front end of a tricycle, a shovel head, and a wash tub. Way to go, Tom and Karen! But, in a shocking turnaround, Fahy, Trashmaster

### See for Yourself

Police departments include a wealth of information online, from statistics to the locations of some incidents. But the information is exactly what police choose to release. Each site includes some disclaimer like this one from the Alexandria Police website: "Detailed information from crime reports, such as victim names, specific addresses, and motive, may be confidential and may not be available to members of the public."

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime/>, and click on mapping or incident reports.

Alexandria Gazette Packet. "And the press plays a pivotal role in the unfettered dissemination of such essential information."

We continue to be grateful for the service, presence, expertise and judgment of the police officers patrolling our neighborhoods. The misguided decision to abuse the ability to withhold every piece of information possible comes from the leadership level. The police officers you come into contact with in your daily activities are not at fault here.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

of the past two cleanups, was topped by two novice teams!

And, fourth runner up: Mort Isler and the Brady Street Irregulars, who covered the Brady Street Reach, collecting 25 bags of trash, a propane tank, two tires, a plastic child's car, and a hula hoop. The Irregulars have been on the job more years than any of us.

Leading Stratford Landing trash collectors and contenders for prizes sponsored by the Stratford Landing Citizens Association were:

- ❖ Boertlein and the Cub Scouts, who collected 22 bags of trash, a fender, an air conditioner cover, motorcycle helmet, lawn chair and tire on the grounds of the Little Hunting Creek pump station,

- ❖ Whitesell and Friends, with 21 bags of trash, a tire, and a sheet of plywood collected from the Stirrup marsh,

- ❖ Larkin and the Girl Scouts, collecting 16 bags and a big pile of honeysuckle from the Northern VA Conservation Trust site,

- ❖ PaulNBets, collecting 10 bags, a 3 hp motor, and a tire at Shaw Park Court.

- ❖ Cullen and Girls, collecting five bags on Stockton Parkway.

Since Whitesell won last year, Celia Boertlein and Kim Larkin won this year's SLCA rain barrel prizes.

And, finally, the real winners: those of us who love the creek and love to see its beauty unmarred by trash. Every year we get closer to having full cleanup coverage of all

segments of the creek from Route 1 down to its mouth. Of course, there's plenty more trash every day, so we're glad to have fresh volunteers with strong backs and enthusiasm.

Special thanks to the following for their support: Alice Ferguson Foundation, Stratford Landing Citizens Association, Stratford-on-the-Potomac Citizens Association, Girl Scout Troop 2459 (led by Judy Joyce), Cub Scout Pack 1509, Den 4 (led by Karen Zaragoza), Boy

Scout Troop 993 (coordinated by Christa Cook), Matt Thompson's Mount Vernon High School class in chemistry and environmental science, Northern VA Conservation Trust, and Fairfax County's David McRory (for providing access to the Little Hunting Creek Pump Station) and Stephen Sopo (for collecting all that trash promptly on Monday morning).



**Betsy Martin**  
Alexandria

**Thanks to the cleanup efforts, this goose pair won't have to nest atop a heap of plastic bottles.**



FROM LITTLE LEAGUE TO THE BIG LEAGUES,  
EVERY DAY IS GAME DAY AT SAINT CHARLES.

## Community Contributes

To the Editor:

Just wanted to thank your paper for putting a notice in Mount Vernon Gazette about the Mount Vernon Evening Lions' White Cane Day. We collected \$339 within four hours on May 1 at the Belleview Safeway. This money will be used for sight projects.

We also received several pairs of used eyeglasses. The Lions Clubs of District 24-A have a recycling center near Bailey's Crossroads where the glasses are washed, read by a machine for its prescription strength and then boxed to be sent to many parts of the world.

**Lion Andrea Corsillo**

## Write

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

Baseball is always a part of the place we want to call home. From the Maryland Blue Crabs Stadium to the Little League diamonds, it's all part of living well in Saint Charles. You'll find beautiful homes, beautifully priced in a place whose time has come. Saint Charles is an exquisitely designed community located in the heart of Charles County just eleven miles south of the Beltway. Swimming, tennis, golf,

first-rate public and private schools, the Saint Charles Towne Center, miles of hiking and biking trails, and even a weekly farmer's market are all a part of your new community. There are twelve apartment communities to rent and townhomes and single-family homes by three of the finest national home builders—Lennar, Ryan Homes and Richmond American—all beautifully designed and beautifully close to D.C.

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**8307 EAST BOULEVARD DRIVE**  
**\$1,800,000** | South Alexandria  
Elegant 5 BR + 5 ½ + ½ + ½ Georgian colonial with lovely views of the Potomac River.  
**Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156**

**NEW PRICE, NEW LOOK!**



**3824 JAY AVENUE**  
**\$378,000** | Fairlington Towne  
Just painted and great reduction. Two level 2 br, 1.5 ba with 2 patios, updated kitchen.  
**Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788**

**CIRCA 1810**



**425-427 NORTH ST ASAPH STREET**  
**\$1,375,000** | Old Town Alexandria  
Historic brick 3BR + 1 ½ bath townhome plus buildable lot!  
**Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156**

**JUST LISTED**



**311 BEVERLEY DRIVE**  
**\$685,000** | Alexandria  
Woodland views are enjoyed from every window of this 4 BR + 2 ½ bath contemporary.  
**Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156**

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10 new homes on quiet street, by Morris Construction custom builders. Luxury colonials on large lots.  
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**5611 EDMONT DRIVE**  
**\$939,000** | Alexandria / Clermont  
New Custom home! 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 2 car gar & more! Gorgeous thruout! [www.5611Edgemont.com](http://www.5611Edgemont.com).  
**Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207**

**CLOSE TO THE RIVER**



**1716 W. ABINGDON DRIVE, UNIT 202**  
**\$229,000** | Potowmack Crossing  
Spacious 1BR, sep DR, updated kitch & abundant storage! Mins to GW Pkwy, Nat Airport, DC and heart of Old Town!  
**Joy Deevy | 703.518.2811**

**UNDER CONTRACT!**



**8620 CONOVER PLACE**  
**\$524,900** | Wayneswood  
4 Bed/2 Bath Saratoga Model with family room addition. Beautifully landscaped.  
**Lyssa Seward | 703.298.0562**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00!**



**1250 S WASHINGTON STREET, UNIT 824**  
**\$668,000** | Old Town Alexandria  
1582 sq ft 2BR 2.5 bath condo w/ river views, fireplace, balcony and garage parking, reserved garage space.  
**Denise Davis | 571.332.8531**

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**2107 HUNTINGTON AVENUE**  
**\$424,900** | Berkshire  
Three bedroom, two full, two half bath townhome, great location, courtyard setting, shows beautifully.  
**Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041**

**JUST LISTED**



**5927 KIRKCALDY LANE**  
**\$439,900** | Kingstowne  
3 Level Stone Front, 2 Bedroom/2 Full BA/2 Half BA/ 1-car garage town home in Kingstowne  
**Yvonne S. Croft | 703.973.1540**

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**607 VIRGINIA AVENUE**  
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## 3 Featured Listings in Wellington Open Sunday 1-4!

### 7613 Woodridge Circle— OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



Inspiring and idyllic. One level living in country setting on cul-de-sac. Open floor plan 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, fam rm with vaulted ceiling and soaring windows, skylights and see thru frpl. Enjoy spring on screen porch overlooking private yard. ~\$649,000



George Wash Pkwy South, Right on Morningside lane, Left on Ridgecrest Dr, Right on Lyndale Dr, Left on Woodridge Circle.

### 1203 Essex Manor Court— OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



STUNNING light-filled beauty on 1/2 acre! Open floor plan on cul-de-sac backing to trees. Sun room, music room, his & her offices! Lower level nanny suite. Large kitchen, island, & breakfast area overlooking deck and private treed yard. 5 bedrooms/ 4.5 baths 2 car gar. Steps to park-way and bike trail. ~\$1,290,000



From Old Town: South along the George Washington Parkway, right on Morningside Lane, left on Admiral, left onto Essex Manor Court.

### 7602 Ridgecrest Drive— OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



Two master bedrooms. One on main level and suite on upper level. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage, library, 3 frpls and cooks kitchen which opens to an expansive 2 story great room overlooking pool and private fenced backyard. Completely finish lower level. ~\$1,089,000



George Washington Parkway South, Right on Morningside Lane, left on Ridgecrest Drive, House on the right.

### Glenwood Estates— Only 3 Lots Remain!



Custom built homes by Morris Construction on large lots in Alexandria starting at \$799,000!

#### OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!

Beltway to Telegraph Road South, turn right on Franconia, right on Clermont Drive, left on UPLAND, TO RIGHT ON Glenwood Drive.



### 8839 Fort Hunt Road – Charleston Colonial



Inviting and refreshing southern style with front and back porches custom built and only 3 years young! 6700 finished sq feet on 1/2 lush acre. Dual staircases, modern open floor plan, easy entertaining flow, 6 BRs, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, wide wood floors, 3 fireplaces, chefs kitchen Exercise, music and game rooms, walk up attic, study. Steps from Ft. Hunt Park! ~\$1,795,000

### 8733 Plymouth Road— Nantucket Estate



Nantucket style home on private one acre w/pools, mature trees and gardens. Large flowing comfortable rooms, high ceilings, wide hallways, hardwoods throughout, 4 frpls, dual staircases, farm table sized breakfast room, true cooks kitchen w/ comm. Appliances, island & fireplace. Music and entertainment rooms, private study, 2 car garage and oversized driveway in rear. A welcoming home!! ~\$1,899,000

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**NEW PRICE! OPEN SUN**

1139 Cedar Dale Ln \$769,000  
**Character Abounds!**  
Exceptionally attractive Classic Cape in prime location on gorgeous .60 acre lot mins from OT, just off GW Parkway. Tastefully expanded and updated to preserve the integrity of original home. Fabulous features include stunning family room, spacious first floor master suite, upgraded kitchen and more! Custom in ground pool. Great New Price! OPEN SUN 5/16, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Collingwood, R- Cedar Dale.

**JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN**

4404 Ferry Landing \$598,500  
**Absolutely Stunning!**  
What a value. Huge 3 level colonial on spectacular, fenced half acre lot with trees. Four huge bedrooms, three full baths, family room, rec room, large eat-in kit featuring stainless steel, granite and ceramic tile, refinished wood floors on main level and upstairs hallway, three fireplaces, sun room, deck and lots of storage areas. Balcony off master suite. Truly a Must See! OPEN SUN 5/16, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate, L-Forest Haven Rd, L-Ferry Landing Rd.

**NEW PRICE! OPEN SUN**

4401 Jackson Place \$448,000  
**Special Value!**  
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot in heart of Mt Vernon with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Covered parking and extra driveway space. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000! OPEN SUN 5/16, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate, R-Old Mt Vernon Rd, L-Woodley, R-Washington Ave, L-Jackson Pl.

801 N PITT ST #414 Alexandria \$184,900  
Seller to pay 6 months condo fees! Sunny charming Old Town Port Royal studio completely remodeled. Private balcony with river views.

Fresh, clean, bright, delightful!

**Martha Deal 703.622.6797**

5927 COLFAX AVE The Palisades Alexandria \$665,000  
**JUST LISTED!** It's Like Living in a Tree House! Large 3 level home, 5BR, 5BA, backs to 50 acre park, creek, 3 level deck, immaculate condition, cul-de-sac, nearly 1/4 acre lot, ready for move-in. Approx 10mi to downtown DC, close to Ft Belvoir, Pentagon, Old Town.

**Delaine Campbell 703.518.8740 (Text/Cell)**

**OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!**

3 RUSSELL ROAD Unit D / Alexandria \$349,000  
RARELY AVAILABLE 2 bedroom, top floor Station Place Condo located at the foot of the Masonic Temple just steps to the King Street METRO. Hardwood floors, 3 sides of window, off street parking, close to everything & priced to sell.

**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**

4713 Dolphin Lane \$1,395,000  
**Private Dock!**  
Custom waterfront contemporary. Spacious, updated home remodeled and expanded by leading custom builder as his own residence. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan capitalizes on fabulous waterfront location. Many features include stunning waterview master suite, updated gourmet kitchen, spectacular sunroom, walkout lower level, gorgeous yard, two car garage and bulkheaded water frontage.

**OPEN SUN**

9316 Allwood Dr \$535,000  
**Absolutely Impeccable!**  
This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Bright open floor plan, gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage soaring cathedral ceilings on main living area and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. OPEN SUN 5/16, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate, L-Ferry Landing Rd, L-Allwood.

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

12489 ROSE PATH CIR Fairfax \$499,900  
**PREMIUM LOT! PRIME LOCATION!** Gourmet kit w/center island, French door to deck & fenced yard, backs to common area, 9'x10' ceilings, gas flpl in rec room w/full bath, tray ceiling in MBR w/luxury bath. Minutes to Fair Oaks, 66, FFX City Pkwy & Gov't ctr. 3BR, 3.5BA.

**Denise Effes 571.212.3114**

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

Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809  
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633

8615 CONOVER PL Waynewood \$539,900  
Great opportunity to own a renovated & expanded "Saratoga" - 2 Mstr suites, 3FBA, deck, fenced private lot, 2 car car-pad.

8701 EAGLEBROOK CT Waynewood \$1,250,000  
Total renovation. Main lvl in-law suite w/priv entry, .54 acre, heated in-ground pool, prof landscape-a 10+!

**NEW PRICE! OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!**

1001 CROTON DR Waynewood \$709,000  
Totally renovated & expanded, 5 lvl, sunroom add, family rm w/den, hot tub, screened porch, deck, heated in-ground pool.

8422 DOYLE DRIVE Waynewood \$662,500  
Sunroom add., 4 fin levels, entire interior renovated, new carpet, fresh paint, hardwood, fenced backyard, landscaped beautifully.

**JUST LISTED!**

**We're Underway!**  
8826 Camden St \$899,000  
Ground floor opportunity to add your personal touches to this new creekside home in Stratford Landing. Custom Wakefield home loaded with upgrades! Call for details.

**CONTRACT! JUST LISTED!**

9124 Volunteer Dr \$590,000  
**Stunning Value!**  
Large Home—Great Price! Impeccably maintained on half acre corner lot in the heart of Mt. Vernon's finest neighborhood. Numerous special features include: sunroom, 2 fireplaces, large room sizes, 3 baths, table space kitchen, fabulous custom built three car garage and gorgeous grounds. Columned Front Veranda with Brick Floor. Could use a little updating as price reflects, however home is in immaculate "move-in" condition. What a buy!

**Field of Dreams!**  
Lofty Oaks \$755,900  
Build your Wakefield dream home on fabulous 3/4 acre estate site in the heart of Mt. Vernon. New low price! Pre-Construction opportunity allows for maximum customization. Call for details.

200 S FAIRFAX ST #4 / Alexandria \$400,000  
ONE OF A KIND IN HEART OF SOUTH-EAST QUADRANT. Stunning 1BR/1BA home beautifully renovated & features an open & airy dining / living room w/wood burning FP opening to brick patio for outdoor entertaining. Additional features include a state of the art kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, inside parking & extra storage.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825**

**OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!**

808 S FAIRFAX ST Yates Garden / Old Town \$600,000  
A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH! Estate sale of a large Yates Gardens model! 3BR, 1.5BA, hdwd, wood burning flpl, 3 lvl including walk-out LL w/high ceilings, & brick patio. Rare opportunity to remodel w/your tastes in SE quadrant of Old Town.

**Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433  
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

828 SLATERS LANE Alex / \$549,000  
**\*\*Seller to PAY CONDO FEES thru 2010!\*\***  
SPECTACULAR CITY VIEWS from rooftop terrace! 1,763 sq. ft. - 9ft ceilings - 3BR/2.5BA, 2 master suites, gourmet kit, gas flpl, hdwds, plantation shutters, handicap accessible + 2 gar spaces. 1 light to DC.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825  
Shane Canny 703.346.2067**

**CONTRACT! SOLD!**

8621 Woodward  
9105 Patton Blvd

**SOLD!**

7501 Park Terrace  
4816 Stillwell Ave

**SOLD! JUST LISTED! SOLD! JUST LISTED!**

4706 Tarpon Ln  
9110 Chickawane

8327 FRAN COURT Raceway Farms \$599,888  
HUGE GREAT ROOM & a private oasis too! Lounge in your gazebo overlooking heated in-ground pool & spa or relax on your patio surrounded by lush gardens and Koi pond. None can compare to this lovely center hall Colonial on cul-de-sac in sought after neighborhood. 4,400+ sq ft, 4BR, 3 full and 1 half bath

**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

6616 E WAKEFIELD DR # B-2 Belle View / Alex \$247,000  
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## LETTERS

### MVCCA Has Too Much Influence

To the Editor:

I commend Mark Rogers for his letter in last week's Gazette concerning Supervisor Hyland, the MVCCA and commercial development on Route 1. Mr. Rogers hit the nail on the head concerning the delegation of responsibility on the part of our Supervisor that has resulted in out of proportion influence of the MVCCA (which represents only 64 out of the 228 community organizations in the Mount Vernon district) and its member communities. His frustrations with the process of gaining approval to develop property in the Mount Vernon district are not surprising.

Mr. Rogers' skepticism concerning David Dale's latest justification for opposing the North Hill compromise is also well taken. I was a leader in drafting the MVCCA resolution that enacted their endorsement of the "compromise," namely 1/3 of the property used to build 65 affordable homes and the other 2/3 used for open space and a park. When the resolution came up for a vote in 2007, Mr. Dale tried to stop the vote by using delaying tactics with the hope that the vote would not be taken prior to 10 p.m. when the MVCCA was required by Whitman Middle School janitors to vacate the premises. At 9:55 PM, Co-chair Dan Rinzel gavelled down Mr. Dale and called the vote — the resolution passed by a comfortable margin.

If the County doesn't build affordable homes at North Hill, it risks being required to refund a hefty sum, tens of millions of dollars including accrued interest, to the federal government for receiving federal funding for the North Hill acquisition, based upon the false representation it would be used for affordable housing. This implication can be discerned from a June 15, 1995 letter sent to the County by the HUD Director of their Community Planning & Development Division. Affordable homes will be built on North Hill if for no other reason than to avoid this possibility.

Examples abound concerning the out of proportion influence Supervisor Hyland accords the MVCCA and community organizations. In a prior letter (October 1, 2009), I pointed out how the Supervisor deferred to the wishes of the Newtonton Civic Association (NCA) when the Leatherland family sought to upzone their 7-acre

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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## THEATER

### MAY 14-30

**“Abandonment.”** By Kate Atkinson. Directed by Susie Poole and Genie Baskir. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Tuesday at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16/general, \$14/seniors and students, \$12/groups of 10. At Alexandria’s Port City Playhouse, 1108 Jefferson Street in Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or visit [www.PortCityPlayhouse.com](http://www.PortCityPlayhouse.com).

### NOW THROUGH MAY 29

“Rifar el Corazón” (“Heartstrings.”) At Teatro de la Luna. 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.

### 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](http://www.signature-theatre.org). At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

### NOW THROUGH MAY 30

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

# Teatro Delivers a Gentle Treat

## Uruguayan play “Rifar el Corazón” (“Heartstrings”)

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE CONNECTION

Arlington’s Teatro de la Luna is offering a gentle comedy/drama from Uruguay at the Gunston Arts Center’s Theatre Two. It is presented, as most of Teatro’s plays are, in Spanish with English surtitles projected above the playing space.

This means that the show is instantly accessible for the Spanish speaking portion of our community. That is a community which is served by two professional Spanish language companies (the other being GALA Hispanic Theatre in Washington).

It also makes the theatrical literature of the majority of the Americas accessible to our English speakers who can read along with only slightly more effort than watching and listening to a play in their native tongue.

“Rifar el Corazón” (“Heartstrings” in English) is a warm drama with plenty of humor by Dino Armas, an award-winning and highly prolific playwright from Montevideo. It is directed with simple, straightforward honesty by Teatro de la Luna’s Artistic Director, Mario Marcel on a simple but efficient set of his own design.

Most of the play takes place center-stage at a dining room table where two sisters share thoughts, memories and barbs over tea or the ubiquitous South American beverage mate, which is sipped through a metal straw from a gourd. Two spaces to the sides are draped with thin fabric which lets the audience see flashback scenes that fill out the plot between sisterly reminiscences.

These reminiscences bring to light the reasons that underlie the tensions between the sisters, the near catatonic state of the daughter of the older sister. She has neither spoken nor stood since she underwent an abortion following an affair her mother may well have opposed. The story of the affair, the abortion and the reaction comes out in a cascade of details as the sisters re-

musicians, including Michael Jackson.

Just what is Carmina Burana’s appeal? The poetry deals with timeless subjects of life, love and loss. Although written in 13th century Latin it has a surprisingly modern sensibility. The Latin language gives the poetry an extra punch and is ultra-expressive and descriptive — sometimes shockingly so.

But it is the music — the unforgettable rhythms, pounding and hypnotic — that gets under your skin and makes your hairs stand on end. The music sounds contemporary and relevant. Even hip-hop music seems to pale in comparison to the primitive and expressive power of Orff’s music.

So it’s the combination of compelling and graphic poetry with this hyper-propulsive music that give “Carmina Burana” its unique appeal — to both classical music lovers and popular culture.

So electrifying is “Carmina Burana” that is practically impossible for me to sleep after



PHOTO BY CESAR RECALDE

### Mate or Tea? Nucky Walder and Marycarmen Wila in Teatro de la Luna’s production of “Rifar el Corazon” (“Heartstrings”).

call bits and pieces of their past.

While it is a three-woman show, one woman sets the tone. She’s Nucky Walder, a Teatro de la Luna regular and its producer. Her comfort level on stage is such that she carries the evening on her shoulders. As the older sister, the one who has spent her later life caring for her wheelchair-bound daughter, she sets the pace of the conversation and it is her transitions from lighthearted banter to defensive retorts and from exasperated rejoinders to reluctant regrets that make the show much more than just a verbal contest between sisters.

The other sister is played by Marycarmen Wila with a smooth, pleasant presence. Yovinca Arredondo Justiniano is fully up to the more challenging task of portraying the daughter both in the current moment in her wheelchair, and in the flashbacks, as a love-struck and vital young girl.

A very important element in Marcel’s staging is the presence of a fourth performer, Alex Alburqueque who sits at a piano on one side of the stage and sings soulful songs before each act and between each scene. His smooth delivery is appropriately devoid of flashy embellishments, allowing the simple beauty of the songs to linger in the hall. Unfortunately, the lyrics of the songs are not translated into English for display on the surtitle screen.

Reading and following simultaneously does take a bit more concentration than simply watching, but the experience soon becomes nearly second nature. The English translations of the Spanish text of the play are best viewed from the seats higher up in the rows where the eyes can follow both text and action without English speakers having to keep moving their heads up and down with each line of dialogue. Spanish speaking audience members, on the other hand, would do better to sit lower down where they may not even notice the surtitle board once the action gets going. Either way, the play provides a gentle pleasure.



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

## Where and When

Teatro de la Luna’s production of “Rifar el Corazón” (“Heartstrings”) plays through May 29 in Theatre Two of the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. with matinees on Saturday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$30. Call 703-548-3092 or log on to [www.teatrodelaLuna.org](http://www.teatrodelaLuna.org)

# Musings from the Maestro

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra’s popular 2009-2010 season, entitled “Inspired by Nature” comes to an ecstatic conclusion in its Grand Finale concerts on May 22-23. The centerpiece will be Carl Orff’s timeless masterpiece, “Carmina Burana,” which has reached far into popular culture, making it into the soundtracks for the films “Excalibur,” “The Hunt for Red October,” and “The General’s Daughter.” It has also been used by many pop

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performances! Sharing the stage with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will be The Metropolitan Chorus, Heritage Signature Chorale, NOVA Chorus and Alexandria Choral Society.

Also on the program are guest flute soloists Josue Casillas and Sara Stern playing music by Telemann and a fascinating work by Libby Larsen, entitled “Atmosphere of a Fluid System.”

Our “Inspired by Nature” theme this season was so popular that we are extending it into an exciting new direction for our 2010-2011 season, entitled “Symphonic Vistas!” Headliners will be Garrick Ohlsson, Jenny Oaks Baker and Steffen Horn in a season featuring many of music’s greatest evocations of nature ... and of man’s endless fascination and love of nature.

See you at the concert!

— KIM ALLEN KLUGE

*O Fortune,  
like the moon  
you are changeable,  
ever waxing  
and waning;  
hateful life  
first oppresses  
and then soothes  
as fancy takes it;  
poverty  
and power,  
it melts them like ice.*

— CARMINA BURANA

## Where and When

The ASO performs “Carmina Burana” on May 22 at 8 p.m. and May 23 at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center. Tickets are available at 703-548-0885 or [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org). \$5 youth tickets (8-18) on either day.



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## CALENDAR

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

### 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 McKenna 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

### 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](mailto: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](http://myspace.com/mateomonk).

**Second Thursday Art Night.** 6 - 9 p.m. At the Torpedo Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit the studios, meet the artists, and enjoy the Karen Reddy Dance Performance. Free. Contact 703-838-4564 or [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

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

**Lunch Bunch Concert.** 12:15 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King St.,



**A Packard from last year's show.**

### SATURDAY/MAY 15

**Old Cars in Alexandria.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Longtime locals may remember "Chevy Corner" at King and Henry streets, Bendall Pontiac, Herby's Ford, or Old Dominion Motors, which was once the second largest Hudson dealer in the country. At the Lyceum parking lot, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Those who wish to exhibit vintage cars (model year 1980 or earlier) are asked to contact Jim Mackay at 703-746-4725. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

Alexandria. Features St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School 5th Grade Saints Choir. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather and subject to change without notice. Call 703-746-5592.

### FRIDAY/MAY 14

**Ballroom Dancing for Couples.** 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$15. Join the Friday Nighters at their "Spring Fling." Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; Private club; reservations required [www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com](http://www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com)

**Jazz Concert.** 4 p.m. Students from Hammond Middle School play an ensemble of jazz pieces. At the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

### 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

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the main fundraising event of the year. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. Call 703-

914-0223.

**Taste of India.** 2 to 3 p.m. (for all ages): Sample the aromatic cuisine of India with food from Bombay Curry Company and Nirallas Sweets. At the Burke Branch, 4701 Seminary Road.

**Stories from India through Dances.** 3 p.m. (for all ages): Feast your eyes with classical dances presented by the Kalanidhi Dance Company. At the Burke Branch, 4701 Seminary Road.

**Meditation Basics with Art of Living.** 10 a.m. Learn basic exercises for clearing your mind, gaining focus, and minimizing stress. At the Beatley Central, 5005 Duke Street.

**May Fest Play Fest.** 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. A 10-minute play festival that will give 10 middle schools a chance to perform and be judged theatrically. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit [FCPSDrama.com](http://FCPSDrama.com).

**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 [novaagsrsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:novaagsrsvp@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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

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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.

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Clark & Sampson  
Dominion Surveyors Inc.  
Hollin Hall Automotive

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

children over 11. Children under 11 are admitted free. For more information, visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.my-redcross.org).

**Chrysanthemum Sale and Native Plant Sale.** New cultivars plus 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](http://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](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Riverfront Revolution Run/Walk and Wellness 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](http://www.riverfrontrevolution.com). Contact Race Director and Organizer Mr. Gregory Taylor, 240-462-7983, [taylor4life@mindspring.com](mailto:taylor4life@mindspring.com).

**The Cotton Ball.** 7 p.m. to midnight. The evening will feature a musical



## SUNDAY/MAY 16

**Douglas Buchanan.** 4 p.m. Free. To perform latest composition, "Colonnades." At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

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](mailto:StJoCottonBall@aol.com) or call 703-768-2819.

**Fencing and Martial Arts in Colonial times.** 2-4 p.m. Tom Leoni and Steve Huff show 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century fighting arts as practiced by officers, gentlemen and frontiersmen. Cost is \$10/adults, \$5/children. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 for reservations.

**The Soloists of Spring.** 7:30 p.m. Performed by the American Balalaika

Symphony, under the direction of Peter Trofimenko. Tickets are \$20/advance, \$25/door, seniors and students/\$15. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. For tickets, call 703-751-1331 or visit [www.ABSOrchestra.org](http://www.ABSOrchestra.org).

**Respite Day.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For Grandparents and other relatives raising children. At Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Preregistration is required by Tuesday, May 11. Call 703-324-3517 (TTY 703-449-1186) to register.

**Gospel Music with Ec-Nova Choir.** 4 p.m. Under the direction of Sharon Young. At Third Baptist Church, 917 Princess Street, Alexandria. Call 703-751-2942

**Spring Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV), in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension, will be one of the vendors at the annual Spring Garden Day at Green Spring Gardens Park. Visit Booth 13 for a wide selection of perennials, annuals, native plants and herbs, all grown by Master Gardeners. Proceeds support MGNV's horticultural education projects. Location: 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

**Community Day Event.** Hosted by UCM Creekside Village Center. The goal is to build a strong sense of community unity within the Creekside Village neighborhood. Highlights will include health screenings from AmeriGroup, lunch donated by JLV

Partners, a bike rodeo presented by the police, face painting, games, musical performances and informational tables from UCM Workforce Development Center, Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, Mount Vernon Police Department, West Potomac High School, Fort Hunt Elementary School and AmeriGroup.

**Frog Pond Early Learning Center Open House.** 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Frog Pond, an inclusive non-profit early learning center for children from toddlerhood to pre-kindergarten that's dedicated to working families, offers a curriculum rich in science and nature (with a dedicated science teacher). At 7204 Harrison Lane Alexandria. Visit <http://frogpondkids.org>.

**Peter McCory — One Man Band.** 2 p.m. (for all ages): A musical romp around the world—fun for the family! No registration required, but limited to the first 50 people. At the Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue.

## MAY 15-16

**Garage Sale to Benefit St. Jude's.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Household items, pictures, toys, collectibles, furniture, clothing. At 4644 Kirkland Place, Alexandria. Call 703-408-4747.

## SUNDAY/MAY 16

**Tulip Mania.** 2 p.m. (for all ages): Did you know that tulips created an economic crisis in the 17th Century? Learn more about this coveted flower from the local company Fresh Tulips USA. At the Beatley Central, 5005 Duke Street.

**Empowerment Sunday.** 2-4 p.m. Join the Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network and Guild Auxiliary for an afternoon of Empowerment. At Charles Houston

Community Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. RSVP by May 14 to [rsvp@nvulypn.org](mailto:rsvp@nvulypn.org) or call 703-836-2858

**Spring Fling.** 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic School 20<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Fling (rain or shine). Rides, games, shopping, food, children's raffle and more. 400 Green Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1646.

**Spring Open House.** 2-4 p.m. Free. At Historic Huntley, a Federal-style villa built in 1825 for Thomson F. Mason. Features guided tours, a scavenger hunt and refreshments. At Huntley Historic Site. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/)

**Colin Casey 3K Run.** 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. registration. Run, walk or jog the 3K course across the street from St. Mary's Catholic School. Awards ceremony: 10 a.m. Prizes and medals will be awarded to the top finishers in each age category. At 400 Green Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1646.

**Douglas Buchanan.** 4 p.m. Free. To perform latest composition, "Colonnades." At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

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

**Beveridge and Bernstein.** 4 p.m. The 240-voice New Dominion Chorale conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge. 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](http://www.newdominion.org) or call 703-442-9404.

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---

**Tuesday - Greek Night**  
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---

**Wednesday - All American Night**  
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---

**Thursday - Italian Night**  
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---

**Friday - Fish Night**  
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---

**Saturday -Steak and Chop Night**  
Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

---

**Sunday**  
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---

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## Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

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# National District OPOY Doyle's 2 Goals Not Enough

Mount Vernon falls to Yorktown in district tournament semifinal.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon first-team all-National District defender Habib Balde stood on his home field long after the conclusion of the Majors' district tournament matchup with Yorktown and discussed what helped Mount Vernon reach the semifinals.

"I think we're a team that went on motivation," he said. "We went on tempo."

Earlier in the evening, Mount Vernon trailed 4-2 late in the third quarter when Isaac Ortiz scored a shorthanded goal to breathe life into the Majors. One minute later, district Offensive Player of the Year Brendan Doyle scored his second goal of the night to tie the game at 4 and send the Majors and their fans into a frenzy.

But just as Mount Vernon gained momentum, Yorktown snatched it right back. Michael Crowe scored with just 3.1 seconds remaining in the third quarter to put the Patriots ahead, 5-4. Early in the fourth, Yorktown penalties gave Mount



Mount Vernon attackman Brendan Doyle (11) was named National District Offensive Player of the Year.

Vernon a three-man advantage, but the Majors couldn't capitalize. At that point, the team that rode tempo to a 6-1 district record had been stymied. Mount Vernon watched as Yorktown padded its lead with three fourth-quarter goals and won 8-4, advancing to the district tournament title game.

"Horrible letdown," Balde said of not scoring with several Patriots in the penalty box. "Probably the worst feeling I've ever felt in my life. That's something we've got to take advantage of and we just didn't happen to finish."

While the Majors had their sights set on advancing in the district tournament, their

season will continue in the regional tourney starting on May 18.

While Mount Vernon will enter regionals as an underdog, the threat of Doyle gives the Majors a chance. The senior, who will play club lacrosse for the University of Texas next year, has 60 goals this season, four shy of the school record set by Truett Valentine.

"He's special," head coach Dale Dalls said of Doyle. "He's in elite company with John Hart (2003), Bryce Whittington (2001) and Truett Valentine (2005). Those guys were all special attackmen."

Dalls praised Yorktown's defensive scheme for limiting Doyle to two goals. Jon Hellberg also scored for Mount Vernon.

"We just have to get it out of our head," Doyle said of the loss.

Mount Vernon opened the season 2-5, including a 14-7 loss to Washington-Lee on April 13. After falling to the Generals, the Majors won six straight and seven of their next eight before falling in the district semifinals. Nalls credited senior leadership from Ryan Tracey, Joshua Thompson, Doyle, Balde and Hellberg for the team's success.

Balde is the team's top defensive player.

"He never takes a play off," Nalls said. "He goes hard. He's scary to play against. I played against him in practice and he injured me just playing hard."

Attackman Luke Sienkiewicz, midfielders Charlie Zyzyk and Hellberg and defender Tracey earned second-team honors.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Vigotsky Wins Senior Golf Tourney

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

Alexandria businessman Tim Vigotsky teamed with Richmond's Glenn Mullian to win the 55-and-over senior division at the 61st annual Bell Haven Four-Ball on May 2. They shot a smooth six-under 66 on the first day, and then rode timely birdies in the final round to gain a one-stroke victory.

Two young Maryland players won the Bell Haven Four-Ball. Chris Baloga of Towson teamed with Ray Sheedy of Mount Airy to beat a full field of top-flight players. They shot a 10-under, better-ball score of 69-70-67 — 208 to win by one stroke.

Almost 100 two-man teams competed in the traditional opening event of the Washington-area amateur golf season. Each golfer plays his own ball, and two teams play in groups of four, hence the term "four ball."

Baloga, who won the 2008 Middle Atlantic Amateur at Belle Haven, produced the most sparks



Alexandria native Tim Vigotsky, left, teamed with Richmond's Glenn Mullian to win the senior division of the Four-Ball.

in the final day by birdying five holes, including 17 and 18 to seal the win.

"Ray had sure pars on the last two holes, so I was able to hit aggressive putts," Baloga said afterward.

At the awards ceremony, Sheedy

explained the team's success: "I just kept saying 'Good putt, Chris' over and over again."

Two players from Alexandria's Episcopal High School — Patrick Bailey and Adam Stowe — won the junior division. Eight high school teams participated.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

## 5Qs

### Five questions with Mount Vernon defender Habib Balde



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

A: Fort Benning, Ga., for basic [training] this summer.

**Q: What was that experience like?**

A: Best experience of my life — best and worst.

**Q: Who is your favorite music artist?**

A: Lil' Wayne. It has to be. He's a musical god.

**Q: What are your plans**

**for after school?**

A: I'm going to play football at Norfolk State University and commission as an officer through ROTC.

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

A: "Avatar."

— JON ROETMAN

# SPORTS



Front Row from left: Jeff Bigler (father), Julianne Bigler, Julie Bigler (mother); back row from left: coach Jenn Dietz, Mrs. Kane (grandmother), Mr. Kane (grandfather), James Bigler (brother), coach Amy Kraut.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### West Potomac's Bigler Signs with Virginia Tech

The West Potomac cross country and track and field programs announced the signing of a national letter of intent by Julianne Bigler to attend Virginia Tech in the fall. Bigler is a three-time All-State athlete in track, and a three-time All-Region performer in cross country. Bigler has been a captain in both programs for over two years. She was a large part of the team's success in the 2007 indoor district championship and when the girls team qualified for the state cross country championships this past fall. At the conclusion of the 2009 fall season she was voted Outstanding Scholar/Athlete for the entire school athletic program.

Besides being a standout on the track, she has been a coach and mentor for the track teams at Waynewood Elementary and Hollin Meadows Elementary. She also has been in charge of the fin-

ish line for two years at the "Running Is Elementary" Track Meet held annually at West Potomac. This task is to control the speed and accuracy of the entire meet, which is attended by more than 600 elementary children each year.

### 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 us via e-mail at [markvincentbasketballcamps@gmail.com](mailto:markvincentbasketballcamps@gmail.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@RDowns@lindsaycollision.com](mailto:him@RDowns@lindsaycollision.com)

### West Potomac Softball Falls To Woodson

The West Potomac softball team lost to Woodson 5-2 on May 7, dropping its record to 13-5 and its Patriot District mark to 9-3. Woodson was the first district team other than South County to beat the Wolverines.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

property to match the density of the adjacent NCA members. NCA objected and the MVCCA supported their member association. Against all logic and to the detriment of the entire community including NCA, Supervisor Hyland supported the opposition of the MVCCA and NCA thereby killing the proposal which included 15 pages of proffers benefiting the entire district.

During the Kings Crossing debacle, Supervisor Hyland gave Spring Bank Community Association (SBCA) virtual veto power over the proposal. They exercised that power when the first proposal included an ingress and egress on Fairview Drive in SBCA territory.

The developer was forced to change it to a turnaround circle. When an MVCCA P&Z committee member asked Mr. Dale (in his role as P&Z chairman) whether perhaps the committee was seeking too many concessions from the developer, he replied that they have plenty of money and can well afford it. It's just that MVCCA mentality and Supervisor Hyland's grant of virtual veto power over the Kings Crossing town center proposal to MVCCA member SBCA, that contributed to the result: a Wal-mart store rather than a town center. Development proposals shouldn't be looked upon by the MVCCA and its members as potential windfalls to be exploited. They should be considered as opportunities to elevate our community as a whole and should be accorded substantial deference as a result.

Until Supervisor Hyland cuts the apron strings from the MVCCA (and its member communities) and limits their influence over his decisions, developers like Mark Rogers will have little incentive to step up to the plate and upgrade Route 1.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



**Commissioning Day 2010** U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, state Sen. Toddy Puller, Del. Scott Surovell and County Board Chair Sharon Bulova helped kick off the 2010 boating season at Mount Vernon Yacht Club on May 2. The Rev. Tuck Bowerfind of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church offered the blessing of the fleet and invocation for the annual event at the Tarpon Lane site on Dogue Creek near Mount Vernon. The US Coast Guard's Color Guard presented the national, state and yacht club colors during the ceremony, which was followed by a race between rowing crews from Mount Vernon High School. Coach Ryan Ward presented the yacht club with a signed photo of the crew team, and the yacht club announced a cash gift to the team to help defray expenses of damages to the crew team's racing hulls during the winter blizzards. Also on the program were representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association. The Mount Vernon Community Band provided music.

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<b>Sunday</b> 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)	

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**28 Yard Sales**

**Huge Yard Sale.**  
Saturday, May 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Home decor, jewelry women's suit jackets, kids games, video games, sporting equipment, CM supplies, books, furniture. At 4909 Silo Road, Alexandria, in the Rose Hill subdivision. Contact Susan: 703-922-9074.

**Multi-family yard sale**  
Saturday, May 15  
8 a.m. - noon  
Mt. Vernon Terrace  
(corner of Patton Blvd & Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy.)  
5124 Remington Drive  
Alexandria, Va. 22309

**21 Announcements**

**Equal-Parenting**  
State-wide Meeting  
May 15, 2010, go to  
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**25 Sales & Auctions**

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**21 Announcements**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**28 Yard Sales**

**YARD SALE Sat May 15, 8am-1pm**  
8135 Norwood Dr, Alex, VA 22309 (Richmond Hwy to Russell Rd. to Buckman Rd to Norwood Dr)  
Antiques, collectibles, designer purses, jewelry, shoes and clothes, silver, china and crystal, linens, decorator items, floral arrangements and Christmas items.

**Yard & moving sale**  
Sat, May 15, 9AM-1PM  
1111 Waynewood Blvd, 22308  
Young adult men's and women's clothing and shoes, books, working tv and dvd player, dvd's, other household items.

**26 Antiques**

We consign/pay top \$ for antique/semi antique furn. including mid century & danish modern Teak furniture, sterling, mens watches, painting/art glass, clocks, jewelry, costume jewelry, etc. Call Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790.

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**21 Announcements**

**29 Misc. for Sale**

**KITCHEN CABINETS Warehouse Clearance Sale**

Miscellaneous kitchen cabinets: maple, oak, cherry vanities and sink tops, some appliances  
Saturday May 15th. 8am-5pm  
**ST. CLAIR APPLIANCE DISTRIBUTORS**  
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**3 RE for Rent**

**For Rent: Alexandria/Mt. Vernon \$2500.00**

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**21 Announcements**

**29 Misc. for Sale**

**3 RE for Rent**

**21 Announcements**

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**Woman Plants Spring Flowers on 18th Green After Using Thera-Gesic®**

BEXAR COUNTY – Apparently inspired by Earth Day, Mary W. applied Thera-Gesic® to her sore lower back and proceeded to plant 55 beautiful petunias on the 18th green of the local golf course during the night. When asked why she chose a busy putting green, she painlessly replied: "None of your dang business!"

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**Workshops will be held at the Flint Hill School June 21-25, 2010.**

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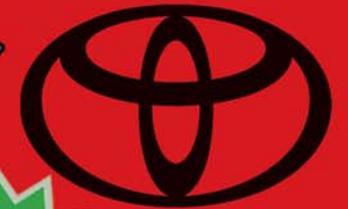
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**SHOWS LIKE A MODEL!**

Must see this 5 bedroom 2 bath Raised Rambler, Owner has done some nice touches, lower level In-Law/Au Pair suite w/ full kitchen, bath and private entrance. large fenced back yard, detached garage and detached work shop. *Directions: from 495/95 follow US 1 (Richmond Hwy south) to L on Fairview Drive to R on Hillside to L on Phillips.*



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