

# Mount Vernon Gazette

VOL. XXI, No. 22

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 3, 2010



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**It's Elementary** Waynewood Elementary School student Halle Jackson leads the pack in her 100 yard dash. Students from five elementary schools competed at West Potomac High School last week.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 4

## ACLU Considers Lawsuit for Name Police shooting on Richmond Highway may prompt challenge.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE

**D**oes the Fairfax County Police Department have the right to withhold the name of the police officer who shot and killed an unarmed man on Richmond Highway? That's a question at the heart of a potential legal challenge now being considered by the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. Executive Director Kent Willis said an "army of lawyers" would be closely examining documents presented to the Richmond-based organization this week from a Mount Vernon organization

known as the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

"We've filed these kinds of lawsuits before, and we're not afraid to take chances," said Willis. "We'll be taking a close look at the documents."

At issue in the case is a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the coalition in May for the name of the officer who killed motorist named David Masters last year. The police denied the request, citing an exemption clause that allows Virginia police broad discretion about what kind of information they are allowed to withhold.

SEE POLICE, PAGE 22

## Waynewood Neighbors Gear Up for Emergencies

Eight new members receive their CERT certificates.

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

**B**odies lying on the floor. People moaning in pain. Men and women wearing green vests and hard hats applying bandages and recording injuries.

An explosion? An accident? No,

it's a group of men and women learning what to do in case there should be a disaster.

The most recent training for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was held in the meeting room at the Mount Vernon Government Center during the month of March and April. The evening training course consisted

of two-hour classes on five consecutive Mondays.

The lead instructor is certified by the Fairfax County CERT Organization. Students learned about Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue Operations/hazards, Disaster Psychology, and Terrorism. Practical application drills enhanced the training.

Members for this class were recruited from the Waynewood subdivision. Prior to the class, Waynewood had nine CERT members; with addition of the spring class, there are now 17 CERT members in Waynewood. Classes such as this are being held throughout Fairfax County and will continue to be held.

Kent Siegel coordinates Neighborhood Watch, and was instrumental in gathering together the members for this training session. He recently sent out an email to the members, saying, "While the county's emphasis is on training and periodic drills, it will be up to

each community to get local CERT members organized. Otherwise we will be a bunch of loose ends with no ability to act forcefully as a unit when there is an emergency situation for which we were trained.

"As we move forward, I will pass pertinent information on to you that I receive, including opportunities to participate in additional training and events in which you can participate for annual CERT re-certification. A good way to track this sort of information is on the CERT blog at <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com>."

"**I ATTENDED** class last year," said Mary Beth Powers. "Kent Siegel asked me to join the ranks of the other 'CERTS' in the neighborhood, however, I had an ulte-

rior motive in attending — my job. With all the events I plan, I am bound to have an emergency sooner or later; therefore, the course taught me how to handle many different types of emergencies and disasters. I would recommend it to everyone!"

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a system of training citizens to respond to large scale emergencies within their own neighborhood when the resources of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue system have been overwhelmed. These citizens are trained in the absence of a fire department response to mobilize and organize a rescue team for their community.

"It all starts with the people, if a  
SEE WAYNEWOOD, PAGE 22



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Volunteer instructor Kevin Mullins checks to see if Rich Hall's airway is obstructed.





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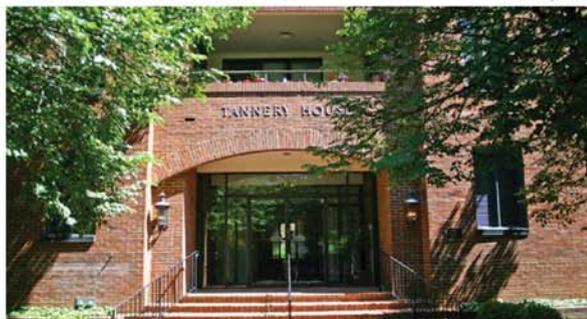
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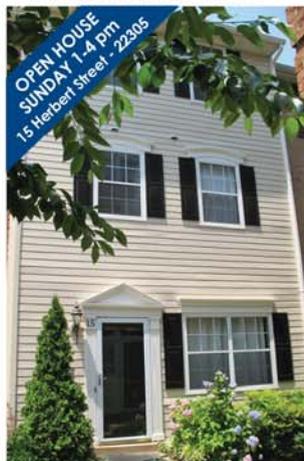
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### ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

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### Sleek and Sophisticated

This totally renovated, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath townhome will amaze you! Fabulous master suite on its own level with tasteful upgrades and walk-in closet is the perfect retreat. Kitchen offers black granite counters, breakfast bar, and stainless appliances, open floor plan with spacious room sizes, decorative touches, private rear patio all just steps to fun on "The Avenue." Minutes to Old Town, DC, Metro, and airport.

**Jennifer Walker**  
703.675.1556

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



### ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN

\$1,449,500



### Right Out of a Magazine

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

**Janet Price**  
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### FORT WASHINGTON, MD

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OPEN HOUSE  
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### Boater's Paradise

9811 makes a shining statement with a 2,000+ square foot home, impressive gardens, dock, tiered decking, and 150 feet of waterfront. Sweeping views everywhere. Distinctive, three-bedroom home with historic features - never before on the market. Close to National Harbor, Fort Washington, DC and Alexandria.

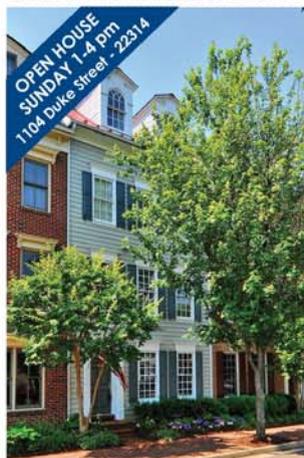
**Sandy McMaster**  
571.259.2673

[www.FisherMcMasterHomes.com](http://www.FisherMcMasterHomes.com)  
MLS ID# PG7290737



### OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$824,900



OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY 1-4 pm  
1104 Duke Street - 22314

### Desirable Old Town Village

Located in the heart of Old Town, this bright, four-level townhouse has many extras including hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen, open living room and dining room, two-car garage, and pretty deck views. An expansive master bedroom, built-ins, and community pool/gym await you.

**Cecily Winchell**  
703.851.9292

[www.cecilywinchell.com](http://www.cecilywinchell.com)  
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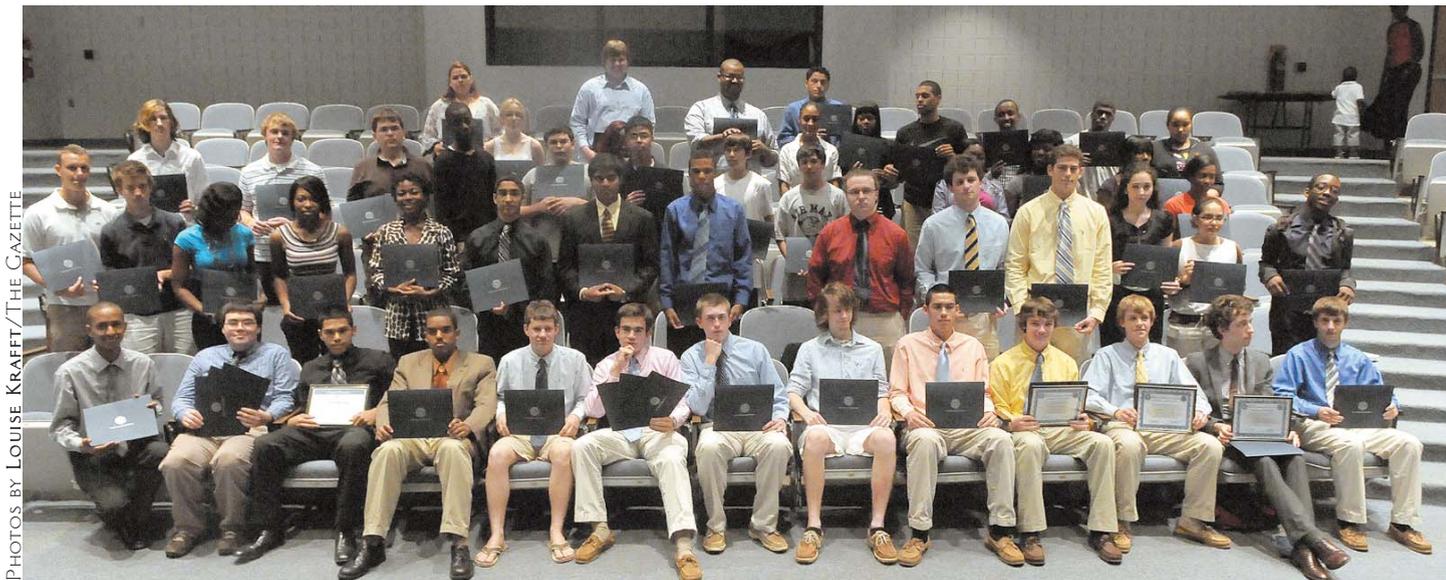
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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

The business students pose for a photo after the conclusion of the awards presentation.

# Principal Davis Retires

Served 16 years as principal of Walt Whitman Middle School.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

## Students Earn National Business Awards

West Potomac High School held its first annual Business Certification Ceremony on Wednesday, May 26, in the Kogleman Theatre. More than 75 students won certificates with 24 students placing in the top 20 percent nationwide. Nationally 76,892 students took these tests for business knowledge. The

national average score was 70 percent and 524 students nationwide had perfect scores. West Potomac has one of those students: Lucas Alexander.

The other students in the top 20th percent group are: Abena A. Agyei-Boateng, David Burns, Sean J. Bush, Ian Cunningham, Devon O. DesJardins, Rigoberto A. Diaz, Ibrahim Elmi, Ryan A. Frydenlund, Alexander Gheesling, Matthew A. Jagg, Deontae R. Knighton, Hilda

A. Kyem, JyKeel T. Little, William A. Llewellyn, Jeffrey A. Lopez, Ryan C. Mach, Gonzi S. Mallea, Alla I. Muhammad, Maxwell R. Muir, Campbell A. Parker, Daniel J. Singer, Delonte M. Tinsley and Jeffrey M. Toth.

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Lisa R. Ramirez of the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information on the tests and program, visit [www.challenge.treas.gov](http://www.challenge.treas.gov)

A well-regarded and energetic head of Walt Whitman Middle School, Otha Davis is, according to teachers and parents, the personification of an effective school administrator. He earned his bachelor of science degree in education from D.C. Teachers College and his master of arts degree in counseling from Trinity College.

**Q. Why did you stay at Whitman Middle School all these years?**

A. Because I enjoy the challenges which this school, designated as a special needs school, provides. I also enjoy the Mount Vernon community and the support they give to our school. This is a dream job for anyone lucky enough to work here as an educator.

**Q. What would you say is one of the most gratifying aspects of your job?**

A. Without a doubt seeing children at this level mature and go on to a successful high school and in many cases college experience. When former students come back years later and thank me and others for our help and guidance, that to me is very gratifying.

**Q. In that connection, what important message would you like to leave for the school and parent community about what is important in order to continue the success of Walt Whitman?**

A. Continue to fully fund the special needs programs of the school. The success of the school is directly attributed to not only effective and dedicated teachers and administrative staff but the funds available to implement the variety of special needs programs now operating in the school. That includes maintaining a pupil-teacher ratio which is consistent with the needs of all our students.

**Q. What do you attribute to your effectiveness and the support you enjoy within the school community?**



Dr. Lisa R. Ramirez congratulates Lucas Alexander on his perfect score.



Principal Cliff Hardison is joined onstage by Aaron Engley, department administrator; Dee Williams, Wachovia Bank (business department supporter); Dr. Madelyn Turner, guidance counselor; Zina Facemire - TESPEC (Test proctor); Marilyn Moore, Lead TEAL/Business Department chair; Mr. Robert Wise, business/marketing teacher; LaTrease Rich, SGA sponsor/ leadership and business teacher; Daryl L. Mackey, business teacher / program coordinator, and Dr. Lisa R. Ramirez, keynote speaker.

## Consolidation Yields New Human Services Agency

The Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Association's Committee on Health & Human Services received a briefing Tuesday, June 1, from Fairfax County's Dr. Telly Winfield on the Board of Supervisor's decision to create a new Department of Neighborhood & Community Services Agency.

This new agency, a consolidation of the

Department of Community & Recreation Services and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services, is projected to save \$1.2 million and eliminate 10 positions. The new agency will have a total of 180 positions.

The agency director will be selected and announced in the next several weeks. Winfield assured the Mt. Vernon

Committee attendees that the consolidation would not result in a cut in services to the Region 1/Route 1 corridor. His presentation, in a conference room at the Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital, included a discussion of improved targeting and planning of services needs that will achieve more cost efficient and effective delivery of human services needs.

— GERALD A. FILL



The Fort Hunt Track Club gives out a cheer after completing its warm-up exercises before last week's track and field meet.



Second grader Annabelle O'Bryan jumps over five feet in the long jump.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Belle View Elementary student Sydney Himes takes her turn at the long jump.



Second graders Hailey Baldwin and Annabelle O'Bryan race to the finish line in the 100 yard dash.

## Track-Filled Competition

Students from Fort Hunt, Waynewood, Belle View, Hollin Meadows and Stratford Landing participated in a track meet on Monday, May 24, at the West Potomac Track field. The event was coordinated by the West Potomac Track Team members. All proceeds from the event benefit the high school track team. The 2nd grade children began the wave of activity with a 100-yard dash, followed by the long jump and the softball throw and then the 200 yard dash and the relays.



The third grade boys begin the first wave of the dashes with cheers from their classmates.



Frank Flaherty and Dianne Anderson of ServiceMaster of Alexandria present Dianara Saget, insurance account representative with State Farm Insurance for agent Michael Garcia, with the grand prize 42" Panasonic flat screen TV.

COURTESY PHOTOS

## Company Hosts Appreciation Day

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

Twenty-five years ago, Greg and Jane Gandee opened a ServiceMaster franchise in Alexandria. Since then, they have become the largest ServiceMaster Disaster Restoration provider in the greater Washington area.

ServiceMaster of Alexandria operates a secured 27,000-foot facility to handle pack-out, off-site cleaning and storage.

They currently serve three major geographic areas: Alexandria, Ft. Washington, Md. and Washington, D.C.

In honor of their customers, they hosted their first Appreciation Day on Wednesday, May 19. Guests of honor were customers, area insurance agents, property managers and other friends of ServiceMaster. Special guest of the event was Stephanie Connelly, Miss Alexandria 2010.

ServiceMaster Clean Racing provided the "Clean Machine" Hospitality Trailer, which serves as the hospitality center at NASCAR tracks around the country. It also provides aid to catastrophic events such as the flooding in Rhode Island and more recently in Nashville, Tenn. ServiceMaster is the sponsor of the Yellow Caution Flag period and last weekend was at Dover's Monster Mile in Delaware.

Other highlights included blood pressure checks by Inova Healthcare nurses; caricature drawings by Alexandria artist Peter Scott; ultrasonic jewelry cleaning; technology displays; games; food and a door prize drawing for a 42" plasma television.

"This event provided an opportunity to thank those who have helped ServiceMaster of Alexandria serve the Washington area since 1986 and to showcase the Alexandria facility," said Jane Gandee.

Director of Production Chris Coffin added, "The event provided insight into some of the new disaster restoration techniques (such as dry ice blasting and hydroxyl removal of odors) and healthy home solutions technologies (such as radon mitigation and crawlspace improvements) available through

ServiceMaster of Alexandria."

While the organization has handled many difficult jobs, certainly the most difficult to date was when the Pentagon called them at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001 – they needed somebody to clean the smoke and water-damaged areas of the massive five-sided structure.

The ServiceMaster Recovery Management staff, dedicated to catastrophic disaster mitigation and restoration, was at the Pentagon on Sept. 12 by 8:30 a.m. A crew of 50 ServiceMaster Clean technicians gathered in the Pentagon's western parking lot. Supplies and people from ServiceMaster Clean local offices were mobilizing up and down the East Coast and as far away as Michigan.

Two ServiceMaster Clean restoration shifts worked 24/7 for five weeks. A day shift completed the job on Nov. 16 and five million square feet of office space was back in operation.

For more information, call 703-212-7000 or visit [www.servicemaster-dc.com](http://www.servicemaster-dc.com).

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



Rob Flint looks on as Jeff Arnette, from WAVA radio, steers his way around the track in the NASCAR simulator at the ServiceMaster of Alexandria First Annual Appreciation Day celebration.

Alexandria. The office is now open to the public and ready to serve the community.

A ribbon-cutting was held on Wednesday, May 19, to welcome the community to see the resources available at their local chamber of commerce.

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce has been serving businesses

along the Richmond Highway corridor and surrounding neighborhoods for more than 55 years. The chamber of commerce offers business resources, educational seminars, and networking events. The chamber website [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org) is a great resource for finding business services.

### BUSINESS NOTES

Send announcements to the Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnews-papers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews-papers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged.

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce announces the grand opening of its new office located at 6911 Richmond Highway, Suite 320,



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**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$854,900**  
**5412 Grist Mill Woods Way**  
Spectacular Bk Colonial w/over 5200 finished sq. ft., sits on a beautiful .73 acre cul-de-sac lot backing to woods-huge gourmet kit opens to the breakfast rm, sun rm & family rm- front & rear staircase-plus library/office on main lvl. Upper lvl offers 3 full baths, 4 spacious BRs, & a den. Lg lower lvl w/5th BR, 4th BA, rec rm. & lg storage-1 mile to Ft. Belvoir-17 minutes to Huntington & Old Town, 27 minutes to Ntl Airport.



**Alex/Riverwood \$679,900**  
**3715 Riverwood Road**  
This is a fabulous opportunity to buy into sought after waterfront community of Riverwood-bordered by Mt. Vernon Estate & the Potomac River. Spacious well maintained colonial w/lg 2-car garage on a beautiful .39 wooded lot. Just update the kit & bathrms & you've got a gem of a home at a great price. Close to GW Pkwy for scenic commute.



**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$498,500**  
**5114 Old Mill Road**  
Golfers & Nature Lovers: A sophisticated touch of country directly across from Mt. Vernon CC! Large beaut renovated & expanded 4 BR, 3 BA, Cape Cod on a magnificent 2/3 acre lot. This home is bursting w/charm & offers a country front porch & 2-tiered deck w/inviting hot tub overlooking a lg fenced back yd. Updated kit w/granite counters & opens to breakfast & dining rms. A huge great rm w/wet bar & vaulted ceil is perfect for entertaining. 3 updated BAs, new siding & replacement windows in 2004. Walk across St to MVCC—1 mile to GW Pkwy & 2 miles to Ft. Belvoir—This home is truly unique!



**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$394,900**  
**7737 Schelhorn Road**  
Lovely 1-level brick rambler on a beautiful .53 acre lot. Freshly painted interior, beautiful parquet floors, vaulted ceilings and 2 full baths. Family room can be easily converted to a 3rd bedroom. Great location—10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (south) or Huntington Metro/Alex (north).



**Alex/Bucknell Manor \$379,900**  
**6932 Vanderbilt**  
Stunning & meticulous 2-level Cape Cod loaded w/updates: Kit, both baths, double pane replacement windows & washer & dryer on upper level. Roof in '03, siding in '04 & A/C in '07. Large gorgeous back yard w/newer privacy fence. Minutes to shopping & Huntington Metro, 25 minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$374,900**  
**2104 Shiver Drive**  
This house is sold "As Is" but home inspection is welcome for go/no go status. Needs work. 3 BR, 1.5 bath brick rancher perched on a knoll. Hardwood floors. Good location, just minutes to Old Town, I-495 and Huntington Metro. Close to shopping, Potomac River, Mt. Vernon Bike Trail, library, and indoor county swimming/ice skating.



**Alex/Bucknell Manor \$255,900**  
**6839 Kenyon Drive**  
Beautiful home, meticulously maintained, in convenient location close to GW Pkwy, Huntington Metro, Old Town! New appliances, furnace, AC, windows & gorgeous renovated bathroom. It's a 10 & priced so reasonable! Large yard with shed. Easy maintenance (brick & siding). This home is ready to move in & enjoy! Close to library, rec center, Belle View shopping, Bike Trail, Marina, & POTOMAC RIVER!

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**NEWS**



PHOTO BY JERRY VERNON/THE GAZETTE

**Avenue of Flags Extends to 31 Years**

Mount Comfort Cemetery presented its 31st annual flag display in honor and memory of veterans on Monday. Guests streamed into the cemetery located on South King's Highway throughout Memorial Day to view the flags which included a late morning ceremony in recognition of all veterans. More than 400 flags were dedicated to specifically named veterans and adorned the 51-acre park which is located on Fairfax County's highest point, according to the Mount Comfort web site.

**OBITUARY**

**Raymond A. Devers**

Raymond A. Devers, "Dr. Ray," age 65, died on Sunday May 16, 2010 at home of natural causes. He is preceded in death by his father Raymond A. Devers Sr. and his mother and step father Dorothy and John H. Bahlman Sr.

He leaves behind a daughter Melissa Phillis (Mike) and a son Raymond

Alexander (Michelle) and six grandchildren.

He also leaves behind four sisters Gertrude O'keefe (Tom) Joyce Jackson, Joan Betz (Bill) and Janet Stancil and one brother John H. Bahlman Jr. (Donna) and many nieces and nephews, his Aunt Beatrice S. Keen and numerous friends.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday May 26, at Bethel Cemetery.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Promoting Government Contracting**

❖ Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis will address the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce on "Dos and Don'ts of Federal Government Contracting" during a June 24, 7:30 a.m., breakfast at the Belle Haven Country Club. Prime contractors who are Chamber members will discuss available subcontracting opportunities at this "Contacts-4-Contracts Government Procurement Breakfast. See [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

❖ The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), a Route 1 economic

revitalization promotion organization, will host a June 29 Business Seminar at a 8:45 a.m. breakfast at the Hampton Inn, 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, entitled "Seven Steps to Win Government Contracts." The keynoter for this seminar is government contracting consultant, Judy Bradt, CEO, Summit Insight. The purpose of the seminar is to provide small business owners with strategies to secure government contracts. See [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

— GERALD A. FILL



**History Tableau**

Students from Lorrie Rezendes' and Juli Schull's fourth grades pose for a tableau vivant (a living picture) of Powhatan Indians and settlers in Jamestown while reviewing Virginia History. Belle View students created scenes to re-enact the full scope of Virginia history using props and costumes funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Gifted Education. Mollie Tkacik, the Advanced Academic teacher at Belle View, was awarded the grant for a multicurricular unit that she created which incorporates elements of drama with specific elements of Virginia History. Students, pictured from left, are Emanuel Venzen, Destiny Sarver and Beck Friedman.

# CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon District of the Fairfax County Police Department through May 28.

## ATTEMPTED MALICIOUS WOUNDING/

### FELONY HIT AND RUN/ ARREST

**Police arrested a 20-year-old woman** after she allegedly struck a 27-year-old woman with her car during an altercation on Saturday, May 22 around 9:46 p.m. The suspect, of the 8200 block of Gleaves Court in Alexandria, was charged with attempted malicious wounding and felony hit and run. The victim did not require medical attention.

## RAPE/ABDUCTION/ARREST

**Police arrested a 15-year-old boy** who allegedly sexually assaulted a 6-year-old girl around 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 24 in a home in the Hybla Valley area. An investigation determined the suspect resided at the home. He was transported to the juvenile detention center and charged with two counts of rape and one count of abduction. The victim was taken to a local hospital and treated for non life-threatening injuries.

## ROBBERY

**Two men robbed a 29-year-old man** around 10:05 p.m. on Monday, May 24 in the 7400 block of Vernon Square Drive. They assaulted him, took his wallet and fled toward Vernon Square Drive and Arlington Drive. The suspects were described as black, between 18 and 25 years old, wearing dark clothing. The victim was treated at the scene for non life-threatening injuries.

## LARCENIES

- 1500 block of Bell View Blvd.** Cash stolen from business.
- 4300 block of Buckman Road.** Jewelry stolen from residence.
- 3100 block of Collard St.** Wallet stolen from residence.
- 3100 block of Collard St.** Bag of coins stolen from vehicle.
- 7800 block of Fordson Road.** Snow blower stolen from church.
- 7900 block of Grimsley St.** Power saw stolen from residence.
- 6200 block of Hibbling Ave.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** Wallet and keys stolen from business.
- 6600 block of Potomac Ave.** Tires stolen from vehicle.
- 6400 block of Richmond Highway.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 6400 block of Richmond Highway.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 7800 block of 8100 block of Richmond Highway.** Speakers and amplifiers stolen from business.
- 8100 block of Richmond Highway.** Jewelry stolen from business.
- 9100 block of Richmond Highway.** Computer stolen from vehicle.
- 2700 block of Saint Elliott Court.** Bicycle stolen from residence.
- 6600 block of South Kings Highway.** Handgun stolen from vehicle.
- 8500 block of Wyngate Manor.** Purse stolen from vehicle.

## VEHICLE THEFTS

- 3300 block of Lockheed Blvd.** 2002 Chevrolet.
- 6100 block of The Parkway.** Dodge Grand Caravan.



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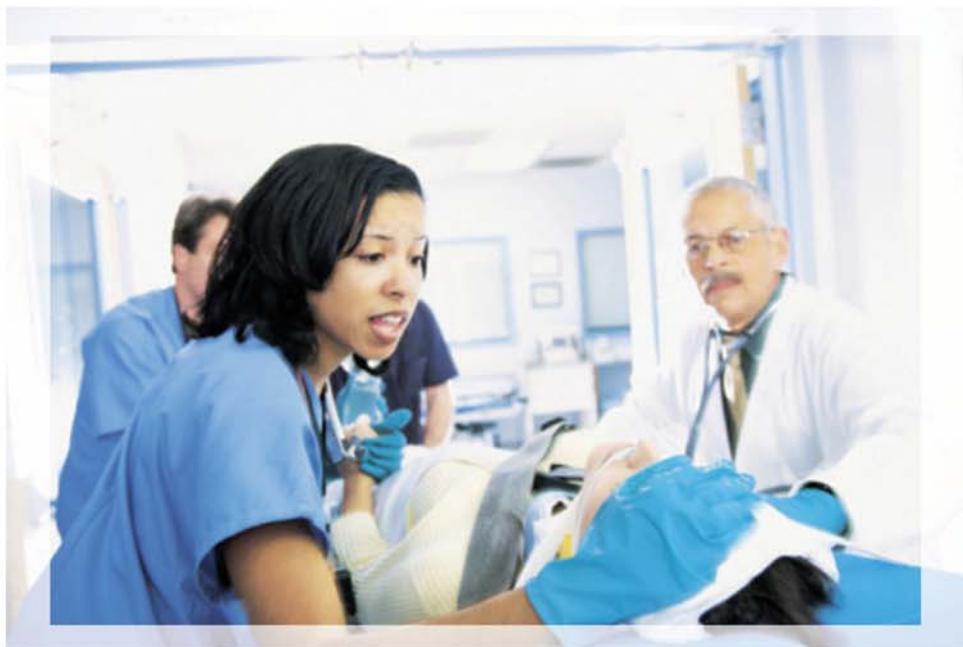
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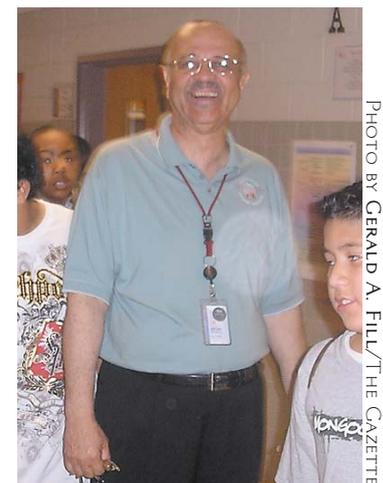


PHOTO BY GERALD A. FULLER/THE GAZETTE

**Retiring Walt Whitman Middle School principal Otha Davis at his desk.**

## Davis

FROM PAGE 3

A. Many things enter into being an effective middle school principal. Hiring dedicated teachers and other staff, instilling in them the importance of putting the students first in their decision-making and the importance of reaching out to the students and parents. I tried to hire teachers who viewed his/her role as a calling, not merely a job. As for the support I enjoy within the school community you will have to talk to others about that. However, I have always believed that by sharing decision-making with my staff you build an effective team that way. Students and their parents quickly sense the unity and dedication, and everyone gets on board and is happy with the team approach to education.

**Q. How do you want to be remembered by your colleagues, students and parents after you retire?**

A. As one who always gave his best to meet the needs of all students.

**Q. Finally, what are your plans in retirement?**

A. First, I want to take trips with

SEE OTHA DAVIS, PAGE 9

### SCHOOL NOTES

**Alexander Slippen** of Alexandria was named to the dean's list at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. He is a member of the class of 2012 and is a media and communication major. He is the son of Mr. Richard I. Slippen and a graduate of West Potomac High School.

**Sarah C. Watson** of Alexandria has been awarded a corporate-sponsored scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Watson, who attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and intends a career in chemical engineering, will receive a National Merit SAIC Scholarship.

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# Otha Davis Retires After 30 Years

FROM PAGE 8

my wife to such places as Barbados, Cancun and the Bahamas. Secondly, I want to spend more time enjoying my family, including my four grandchildren. Also, I plan on taking time to improve my golf game. However, after some time off I eventually would like to return to what I love and do best; serve as an education consultant, mentor and/or counselor.

What others say about Davis, and why they believe he was effective:

**Karen Bullock**, teacher: "He was consistent, fair, disciplined ... he had a vision and plan for learning and went about implementing it."

**Mary Fee**, teacher: "Great passion for students. He connected with students and parents ... very approachable administrative style."

**Susan Virostek**, current president, PTA: "He follows through on his commitments ... He exercises good judgment, and has great rapport with the students and staff. His open door policy, willingness

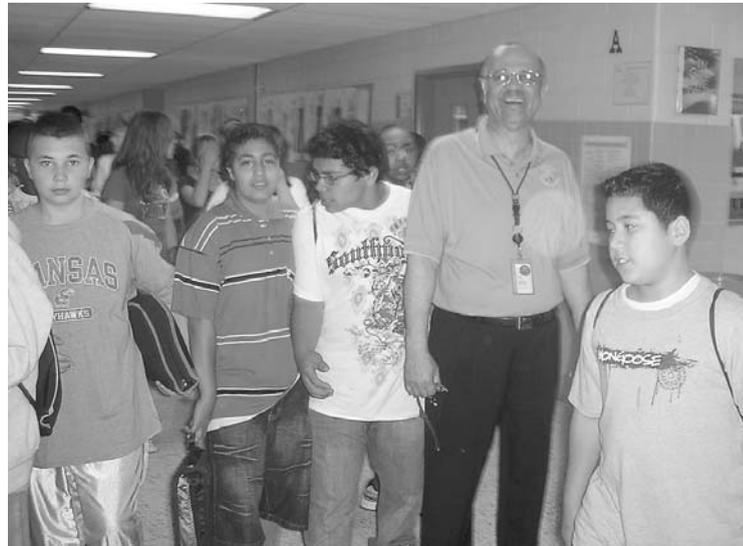


PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

**Principal Otha Davis with students in the hallway at Walt Whitman Middle School.**

to try new things, and make everyone feel important enabled him to command respect and get things done; his departure will be a sad day for everyone associated with the school."

**Dean Norton**, former PTA president: "A leader who inspires others ... led his staff in a way that created a wonderful educational environment ... he gave every

child who went through the schools' doors a chance to succeed ... He will be sorely missed."

Mt Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland sponsored a Board of Supervisors' resolution commending Davis for his excellence and dedication during his many years in the Fairfax County public school system and principal of Walt Whitman Middle School.

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# OPINION

## Together, We Can Make an Impact

Turn out for the cure.

BY AMBASSADOR NANCY G. BRINKER  
FOUNDER AND CEO,  
SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

For nearly three decades, millions have walked or run to honor a loved one and to both raise awareness about breast cancer and to raise funds to discover the cures of tomorrow and fund breast health services that might save the lives of their neighbors today.

We can be proud of how far we've come. What started out as 800 women walking around a shopping mall in Dallas, Texas has grown to include more than 1.5 million people walking or running in more than 140 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® events worldwide this year. People are walking in Richmond and Rome; Cleveland and Cairo. It has truly become a global movement.

**ALL THIS WALKING** has paid off too. In the U.S. we have entered into a new era of awareness, early detection and personalized medicines. This new era is saving lives and providing hope of one day putting an end to the suffering for good.

Yet for all of our successes, this hope is not universally shared. In capitals across the globe, women and their families do not yet fully understand this disease or appreciate the benefits of early detection. And they live in communities with health care systems which are unable to adequately screen or treat the disease.

### For the Cure, June 5

**Late Registration:** Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill  
Congressional Rooms A & B (Follow the signs from the lobby)  
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, June 2, 3, 4, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
See [www.globalracefortheure.org](http://www.globalracefortheure.org)

Here too, in the heart of our nation's capital, many women do not fully understand the disease, are confused about early detection, and must navigate a significantly fragmented health care system that is unable to properly serve many areas of our community, particularly for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Together, we can make an impact, both here and abroad. On June 5 on the National Mall, we will host the 21<sup>st</sup> running of the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure®. Up to 75 percent of all the funds raised by the Komen Global Race will stay right here to help local women. The rest will go to support our efforts to share the lessons we have learned educating low-resource women in the U.S. with women in low-resource countries of Asia and Africa and Latin America.

And let me be honest – we have a lot of work to do.

In recent years Komen has sought to raise awareness about breast cancer, particularly in low-income and underserved communities, and to break down barriers that have prevented some women from getting the care they need. And we've had some great successes, such as drastically decreasing the time women at some clinics have to wait in order to get a mammo-

gram.

Yet we are far from satisfied. Komen just finished a comprehensive review of the National Capital Area, and what we found has given us a renewed call to action. Despite our success in raising awareness, women diagnosed with breast cancer in Washington, D.C. are still more likely to die from the disease than women in the rest of the country.

While there are many reasons for this, two things popped out at us.

**WE LEARNED** that awareness is not enough – women need to truly understand breast cancer, including how it's detected and treated. We found that myths and misconceptions are still widespread. Many women are afraid of screening, thinking it is painful and that a cancer diagnosis equals a death sentence. Others are confused by media reports with conflicting messages about who should get a mammogram and how often. This confusion is not limited to the health care consumer, but is also prevalent among health care providers.

Notably, we also found that the region's overly fragmented health care system produces substantial barriers to accessing care for major segments of the population. Many women cannot access affordable screening because there is too little funding for programs that provide free and low-cost mammograms. These women face economic and transportation barriers that keep them from seeking help.

No woman should have to die just because of where she lives or where she was diagnosed. While we've come a long way, we are not yet at the finish line. We must keep running. Will you join us?

### LETTERS

## Accountability & Transparency

To the Editor:

I am pleased to inform your readers that since the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability was organized this past April, citizens from all parts of Fairfax County have communicated their solidarity and support of the CCPA to promote accountability and transparency from the Fairfax County Police Department. Several large local, state and national organizations have joined the CCPA by appointing representatives to work with us to accomplish our goals.

As a result of a number of favorable published articles in the Mt. Vernon Gazette, other Connection Newspapers and the Washington Post, we have received over 100 e-mails from concerned citizens favoring our objectives.

At our recent meeting, guests included Cindy Colasanto, mother of Ashley McIntosh, a 33-year-old

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



**Preparing for Party** About 20 members of the Kiwanis Key Club at West Potomac High School decorated the dance hall area on May 17 at the Hollin Hall Senior Center on Shenandoah Road with the theme this year being All Things American. This is the fourth year they have organized this event, and the seniors eat and dance with the students.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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

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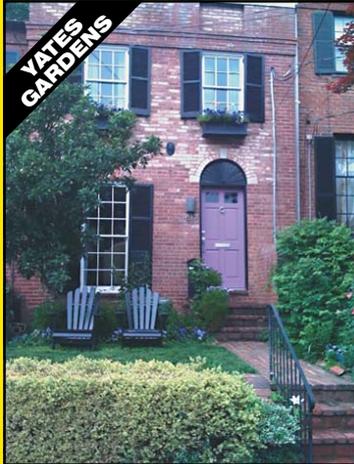
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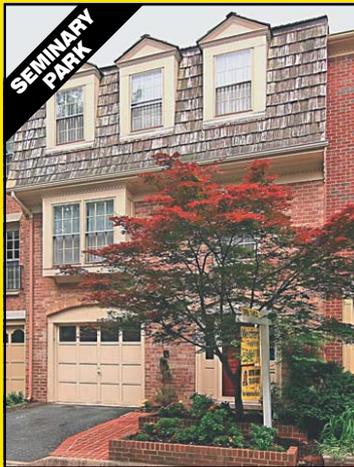
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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

kindergarten teacher's assistant who was killed on Feb. 12, 2008 as a result of reckless driving by Officer Amanda R. Perry, a 22-year-old Fairfax County policewoman. In January of this year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, awarded the family of McIntosh \$1.5 million in an unprecedented out-of-court settlement. Also in attendance was Gail M. Masters, former wife of 52-year-old David M. Masters, former Army Green Beret, a mentally ill unarmed man who was fatally shot by an "unidentified" Fairfax County police officer on Nov. 13, 2009. Masters allegedly had taken flowers from a planter outside of a Hybla Valley business. The officer was cleared of criminal wrongdoing by the county's chief prosecutor. The FBI has launched a civil rights investigation of the shots that killed this unarmed man. Also attending the CCPA meeting were Alan and Brenda Smith, parents of Ian Smith, a 25-year-old county resident. Smith was shot multiple times at close range in the chest and stomach on Feb. 4 at his home by Fairfax County SWAT Team officers. Smith remains hospitalized in serious condition. The officers

have been cleared of criminal liability by the county prosecutor.

These three tragic cases clearly demonstrate the critical and urgent need for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to appoint a citizen complaint review board to investigate misconduct or negligence on the part of police officers.

In the 70-year history of the Fairfax county Police department, no officer has been charged with a crime for shooting someone in the line of duty. Since 2005, according to published reports, nine people have been killed in Fairfax County Police-involved shootings and twelve others have been wounded.

For more information about the CCPA go to [www.virginiaccpa.org](http://www.virginiaccpa.org) or email [virginiaccpa@aol.com](mailto:virginiaccpa@aol.com).

**Nicholas R. Beltrante**  
Executive Director, CCPA

## New Blood Needed

To the Editor:

I've volunteered in the civic arena for many years. In recent years, I've concluded that all too often, those who volunteer do so

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23



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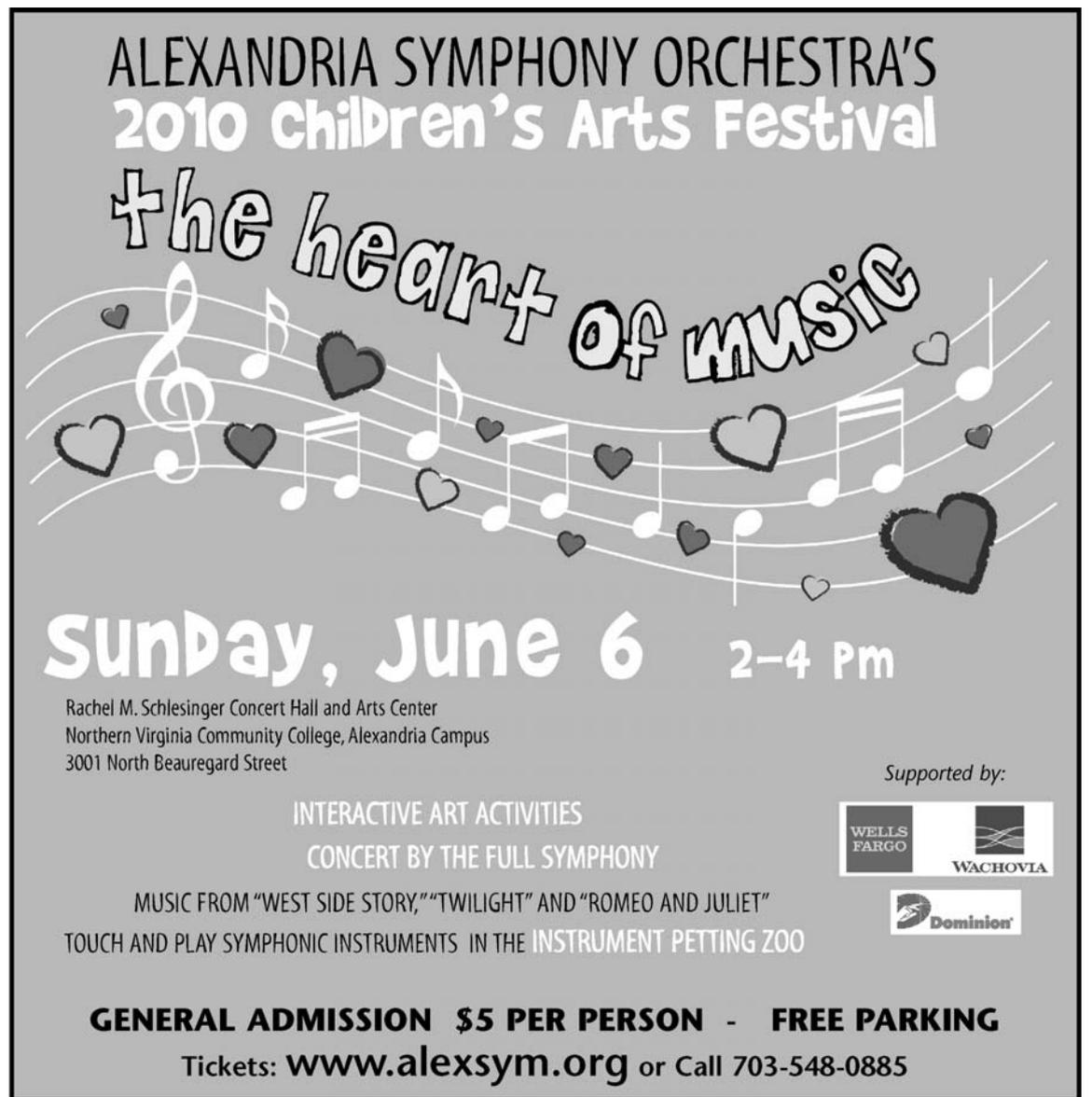
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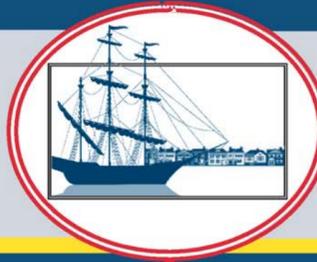
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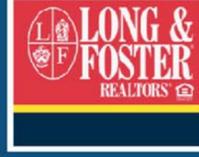
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# Randy Bender

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Mount Vernon Country Club, Monday, June 7th

11 a.m. Registration, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start



*This year's net proceeds will be designated for a new Telemedicine Service for the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Emergency Department. Telemedicine extends the reach of healthcare to increase the quality of patient care and provide state-of-the-art services to our community. This technology will benefit not only the patients who are able to receive healthcare more efficiently, but also the doctors who can streamline their efforts to assist more patients.*



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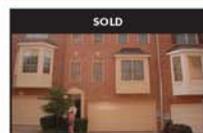


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This home SOLD before even going on the market! Very popular Jefferson model. Three bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Dramatic living room has 14 foot ceilings, three sets of French doors with Palladium windows that walk out to very large deck. Large master has bay window & luxury bath. Finished lower level rec room has 12 foot ceilings, 2nd gas fireplace, two large closets, more large Palladium windows for much light & walks out to 2nd large deck.



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Beautiful Townhome w/eat-in kitchen, granite countertops, hardwood flrs, adjoining family rm that walks out to deck. Living room w/cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace & many windows. Master has soaring ceilings, loft luxury bath w/soaking tub, separate shower, vanity, large walk-in closet. This home also offers 2 car garage parking, community pool, clubhouse, tot lots, & is in an excellent Alexandria location.



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**11281 Cresswell Landing**  
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**\$2,300,000**  
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**6000 St. Catherines Lane**  
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**Interior Lot (5 acres)**

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# Two New Shows, One Old Problem

Getting audiences to care about characters is difficult.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

One of the important things that any theatrical production has to accomplish is to get the audience to care about the characters in the story. It isn't as easy as it sounds and it is the stumbling block that prevents many a performance from being all that it otherwise could be.

Two examples opened last week. They are very different shows, one with a cast of seven on a large set of an apartment in Chile, the other with a cast of just one on a small set featuring a chair, two suitcases and a wall of suspended pieces of paper. But each falls victim to the problem of getting the audience to care enough about the principal character to want to expend the energy needed to follow convoluted plot lines and put the pieces together to understand the underlying themes.

The Washington Shakespeare Company's production of the Chilean drama "Every Young Woman's Desire" tells of a young woman listed in the program simply as "She" who is victimized by a mysterious stranger just known as "He." Given the fact that it is 1987 and notes in the program make it quite obvious that the locale is a city in the South American nation of Chile, "He" is clearly an agent of the government of Augusto Pinochet who ruled that nation through a 17-year reign of terror following the coup of 1973.



The Washington Shakespeare Company's "Every Young Woman's Desire."

When "She" is visited by "He," an officious and increasingly offensive man who assumes the authority to do anything he wants without restraint, she is instantly terrified. Since the audience never sees her in anything short of the state of panic, it is difficult to comprehend just what sort of transformation she has undergone. We never know the un-terrorized "She" so we never know just how far she has descended down the slope of fear and dread. Without that, it is difficult to make the connection between the world that playwright Marco Antonio De la Parra intends to expose and the pre-coup normalcy of Chilean culture.



PHOTO BY DENNIS DELORIA  
Melissa Flaim as Sophie Treadwell in The American Century Theatre's "Treadwell: Bright and Dark."

The energetic but initially over-emotive Kari Ginsburg plays "She" in such a way that we see her become dazed by terror and disappear into a numbness brought on by over-exposure to horror. Of course, there is ample reason for her reactions what with her boss being "disappeared," his replacement killed, her best friend also murdered and plenty of violence or threats against her person from Christopher Henley as "He." Henley is his creepy best (and few can play creepy as well as can Henley) but he has little to work with in this script. An ensemble of five additional actors play subordinate characters, each providing other events to increase the terror "She" experiences.

In the American Century Theater's world premiere of Allyson Currin's new drama "Treadwell: Bright and Dark" the entire cast is Melissa Flaim, a capable actress who brings her character to life with a host of tiny touches. This bio-play lets us get to know the writer/playwright Sophie Treadwell.

Who? Well, if you are a regular at this theater company, you will remember their production of Treadwell's play "Machinal"

## Where and When

The Washington Shakespeare Company's "Every Young Woman's Desire" plays at the Clark Street Playhouse, 601 South Clark Street through June 20. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$26.50 to \$36.50. Call 703-418-4808 or log on to [www.washingtonshakespeare.org](http://www.washingtonshakespeare.org). The American Century Theatre's "Treadwell: Bright and Dark" plays at Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive through June 19. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$26 - \$32. Call or log on to [www.americancentury.org](http://www.americancentury.org).

six years ago. You might also recall that a short piece of hers was included in an evening of playlets by the same theater in 2007. But I don't recall leaving the theatre after either of those productions with a strong desire to get to know more about the playwright, and this production spends a great deal of effort trying to answer a question that few in the audience actually are asking: "Who was Sophie Treadwell?"

That lack of intrinsic interest in the topic (at least for those whose interest in theater doesn't approach an obsession) creates a problem for Ms. Flaim, and Ms. Currin's script doesn't offer a great deal of help in the early going. But it does provide many human interest asides which, in Flaim's hands, add up to an intriguing character. In the end you like her Sophie Treadwell even if you don't treasure your knowledge of her place in theater history.

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).

# Signature Offers Another World Premiere Musical

Gordon's autobiographical musical opens in Shirlington.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

Craft and energy mark the world premiere of "Sycamore Trees" at Signature Theatre. It is a bio-musical by one of the more avant-garde composer/lyricists now working in musical theater: Ricky Ian Gordon. The musical, which slated its official opening for Tuesday of this week with only two weeks remaining in the run, features performances by some of Broadway's big names.

The piece is by Gordon whose work has

been widely praised and recorded, although this is the first full-scale production of a musical by him to be mounted in the Washington area. Often, his work is viewed as "art songs" rather than "show music" and the score for the show at Signature exhibits a wide range of musical styles from jazzy pop songs to snappy show tunes to something approaching but not quite crossing the line into operatic arias.

The cast certainly has the talent to handle any style Gordon throws at them. Every one of the seven members of the cast has had featured or starring roles on Broadway, including Mark Kudisch who returns to Signature after earning a Helen Hayes Award for his performance in "The Witches of Eastwick" here and a nomination for the earlier "The Highest Yellow."

The show is structured as the story of the

life of one family as seen through the eyes of the one son among the family's four children. The family is a thinly fictionalized version of his own, and the narrating son is clearly Gordon's own view of himself. It rushes through the decades from his parent's first meeting to the death of his father. Along the way there are also the deaths of one of his sisters and of his lover. Love, loss and the struggle for acceptance is at the heart of the piece.

Tony Yazbeck, fresh from his Broadway run in this season's version of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," is charming in a slightly off-kilter way as the gay son who narrates the show. He brings both energy and humor to his performance along with a touch of schmaltz. Matthew Rich, who starred in last year's revival of "Pal Joey"



PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

At Signature Theatre, Diane Sutherland, Matthew Rich, Marc Kudisch, and Farah Alvin star in the world premiere musical "Sycamore Trees" by Ricky Ian Gordon, May 18 - June 13.

SEE SIGNATURE, PAGE 21

# 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

**The Upper King Street Fresh Farmers' Market**, located at King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King St., is just a few steps from the King Street Metro Station. Offering area residents and commuters the opportunity to shop for fresh, locally grown produce, meat, dairy and bakery items, the market is open Wednesdays through October 27 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visit <http://www.upperkingstreet.org>

**The West End Farmers' Market** is open to the public on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Nov. 21 at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. This outdoor market is one of a kind in the City's west end, featuring colorful displays of fresh, locally grown, in-season vegetables and fruits, gourmet coffee, fresh squeezed orange juice, and fresh baked pastries. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/farmersmarket](http://www.alexandriava.gov/farmersmarket).

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

**Meditation Class.** 10 to 11 a.m. every Sunday. Come enjoy a free group class on meditation instruction and practice. Class will be centered around calm abiding (shine/samatha). No experience is needed. All are welcome at the 3rd floor of Mindful Hands Gallery, 211 King Street. Visit <http://www.palyuldc.org/meditation.html>.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

**Tea Dances.** 1 to 3:15 p.m. Group class from 1 to 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/JUNE 3

**Third Annual Bubbles & Bluegrass.** 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Limited to 200 tickets, Bubbles & Bluegrass is a black tie to blue jeans, philanthropic, live music, giving back kind of event. Partygoers can expect libations and food from Alexandria establishments, a silent auction, raffle prizes and live bluegrass music from the band, Over Under Down Yonder. All proceeds will benefit The Reading Connection and Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia. At the historic Lord Fairfax House, 607 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.bubblesandbluegrass.eventbrite.com](http://www.bubblesandbluegrass.eventbrite.com). Contact Brandi Yee at [brandi@givebackalexandria.org](mailto:brandi@givebackalexandria.org).

**Celebrate Mount Vernon At Home.** 4 to 6 p.m. The organization whose mission is to help residents of the Mount Vernon area live safely, comfortably, and confidently in their own homes for as long as possible celebrates its launch at historic River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. All are invited for drinks, light refreshments, music, and lovely views of gardens and river. Remarks by Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland. Tickets: \$25/members, \$30/non-members. Call 703-303-4060 or email [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org)



**Bill Staines**



**Carey Creed**

## SUNDAY/JUNE 13

**Folk Singer Bill Staines with Carey Creed.** 7 p.m. At Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org). The Church of the Resurrection is located at 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Contact: Kay Coyte at [kay@focusmusic.org](mailto:kay@focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.

for tickets.  
**GWMS Jazz Band** performs at First Thursday. 6 p.m. in Del Ray, Alexandria. Corner of Mt. Vernon and Oxford.

## JUNE 3-5

**"Legends of Song."** 7:30 p.m. Annual West Potomac High School Choral Department's Spring Show. The show is produced and directed by Ernest L. Johnson, choral director at West Potomac, featuring choreography by Gennifer Lisenby, dance instructor for 25 years at Alexandria Dance. Held in the Springbank Auditorium. Tickets are \$12. Visit [www.westpotomacchoirs.org](http://www.westpotomacchoirs.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 4

**Sandra Y. Johnson Quintet.** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469).

**Theater Night Fund-raiser.** 7 p.m. Local cat orphanage King Street Cats will host its annual Theater Night. At the Little Theatre in Alexandria featuring "Play It Again, Sam" by Woody Allen. Tickets are \$40/advance, \$50/door. The event will raise money to support KSC goals of finding loving homes for all cats and kittens in their care and providing community outreach regarding the welfare and care of cats. Visit the website [www.kingstreetcats.org](http://www.kingstreetcats.org).

## JUNE 4-7

**Lifeguard Training.** Sponsored by the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. This four-day course meets on Friday, June 4 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 5 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, June 6 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Monday, June 7 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Course fee is \$200 (City residents) and \$225 (nonresidents). This course prepares individuals, 15 years of age and older, to become professional lifeguards. At the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King Street. Call Rashawn Jackson, Aquatics Supervisor, at 703-746-5436 or by email at [rashawn.jackson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:rashawn.jackson@alexandriava.gov).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 5

**Bridal Trunk Show.** Hannelores of Olde Towne will be hosting a trunk show with bridal designs from Victoria Nicole. The designer herself, Victoria, will be available to meet brides and

help fit gowns from her premiere line. At 106 North Lee Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-0387.

**Alexandria Art Market.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand Opening June 5, 10-4 p.m. Your monthly dose of art in the heart of Del Ray. Market dates: June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Nov. 6. Alexandria Art Market is on the green space of the Del Ray Artisans' gallery in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., on the corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues. Entry is free and open to the public. Call Kimberley Bush at 703-627-7656 or [DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com).

**Star-Spangled Bike Tour.** Begins at 9 a.m. Cyclists will learn about the impact of the War of 1812 from costumed interpreters. Goes 10 miles and starts at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. For information or to make reservations, contact [ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov) or call Alexandria Archaeology at 703-746-4399.

**Shade Gardening.** 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Fee is \$5/per workshop; advance registration required. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

**Historic Alexandria Museum Gala.** 6:30 to 11 p.m. Rescheduled. Dining and dancing to Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. Tickets are \$150/person or \$300/sponsor. At the Holiday Inn Old town, 625 First Street in Alexandria. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) or call the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703-746-4554.

**Ruby Tucker Day.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The days' activities will include performances from First Agape Church, Stephanie Tucker, as well as the youth from the RTFC. Additionally, the program will honor the life and years of service of the now deceased Ruby Tucker. At the Ruby Tucker Family Center, 322 Tancil Court, Alexandria. Visit [www.arha.us](http://www.arha.us)

**Color Your Garden Beautiful.** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Amy Neiberline, an instructor from George Washington University, will share her knowledge on garden design using color. Reservations required. \$18 per person. Call 703-642-5173 to register. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 6

**Learn to Know And Love Snakes.** Noon to 1:30 p.m. Kids must be at least 6 years old. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

# The Royal Restaurant

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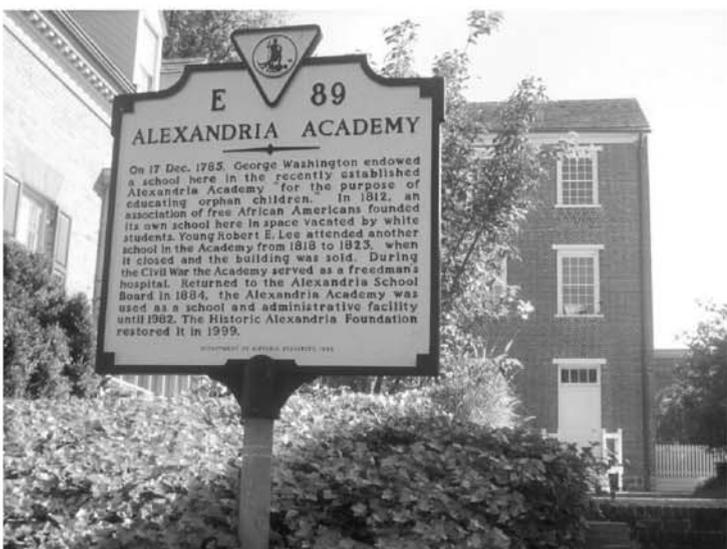


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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

To make a reservation, call 703-768-2525.

**Koi Auction.** 11 a.m. Sponsored by the ZNA Potomac Koi Club. At Hollywood and Vines Nursery, 8453 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Free registration to bid. Contact Mike Frady at 703-360-9142 or mike@znapotomac.org.

**ASO Children's Arts Festival: The Heart of Music.** 2 p.m. activities hour; 3 p.m. concert. Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture," Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story," Carter Burwell's "Bella's Lullaby," music from "Twilight." Tickets are \$5. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, NOVA Community College, Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic (WMP).** Concert. 3 p.m. Free. James Kazik Concert Overture (world premier). Benjamin Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, Op. 31 with tenor Jon Lackey and hornist Amy Smith. Pre-concert lecture with Dr. Stephen Bertino at 2:15 p.m. (both concerts). At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 8

**Vocal Recital.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Featuring New York tenor Christopher Preston Thompson and local mezzo soprano Marjorie Bunday in music of living composers, including Ned Rorem, Elizabeth Vercoe, Richard Pearson Thomas, and Richard Rice. At Alexandria's Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Visit RiceScores.com.

**Swing Dancing.** 9-11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, The Joker's Wild. At Nick's Nightclub, 641 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

**Books to Film Discussion Group.** 7 to 8:30 p.m. The group will be discussing the book and film, "The Big Sleep" by Raymond Chandler. Call Mark Schwartz at 703-746-1770. Meets at the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria.

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 9

**SPY Versus SPY Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Special guest Dr. David Robarge, Chief Historian of the CIA, will talk about the secret side of the Civil War. Sponsored by the Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Cost is \$17/person. Call 703-590-6562 or email SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

**Wine Tasting With Spanish Wines.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar. Fee is \$25/person. Reservations necessary. Call 703-548-1789. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org

**Wine Dinner.** 7 p.m. Columbia firehouse will host a wine dinner featuring d'Arenberg winery located in McLaren Vale in South Australia. Priced at \$70 per person (excluding tax and gratuity), the dinner will pair some of d'Arenberg's wines with a four-course menu created by Red Apron Butchery Executive Chef Nathan Anda. At Columbia Firehouse, 109 South St. Asaph Street, Alexandria. For reservations, call Planet Wine at 703-549-3444, Columbia Firehouse at 703-683-1776 or email Juliana Santos at jsantos@neighborhoodrestaurantgroup.com.

**Children's Author Andrea Montalbano.** 4 p.m. Will discuss her book, Breakaway. Montalbano is a former soccer player and captain of the Harvard University soccer team. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566.



### JUNE 11-12

**Jewelry Designer Trunk Show.** Noon to 8 p.m. Featuring collections of Mia Katrin for Jewel Couture LLC. Katrin will present her collections including best-selling limited edition necklaces and earrings of diamonds, emeralds, multi-colored sapphires, rubies and pearls in high-karat gold which have been worn by A-List Hollywood celebrities. At Goldworks by David Martin, 1400 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-0333.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 10

**Virginia Native Plant Society Registry Sites.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Join registry chair Rod Simmons as he takes visitors on a virtual tour of some nearby registry sites. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

**David Kitchen.** 7 p.m. Known as a road warrior in the local DC area, Kitchen has honed his skills performing before live audiences on an almost nightly basis, working as a sideman on various projects as well as fronting his own bands. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit myspace.com/davidkitchen.

### JUNE 10-12

**Summer Book Sale.** Hours are Thursday, June 10, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1704.

### JUNE 10-13

**Excavate Shuter's Hill.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alexandria Archaeology Institute is excavating the grounds of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Gain hands-on experience in site-excavation methods and record keeping. Learn how to use a transit and process and catalog artifacts in the laboratory, and interpret new discoveries. Advance registration is required. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 11

**Pot Luck Buffet Dance for Couples.** 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/person. The Friday Nighters Dancing Club's last dance before summer break in the Mount Vernon area. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor. Bring a buffet dish and join them. Reservations required. www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com

**Doug Parks and the Lonewolves.** 7:30 p.m. A four-piece ensemble based in Falls Church that performs blues and American roots music. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 12

**"New Muslim Cool" 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.

**Used Book Sale.** Sponsored by Friends of the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

**Summer Orchestra Series.** 7:30 p.m. With the Marine Chamber Orchestra. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

**"The Ultimate Block Party."** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests are invited to seminars hosted by local experts on the topics of entertaining and designing in small spaces. The event also includes hors d'oeuvres, summer beverages, and a live band. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour apartment homes, ask design experts' advice, and enjoy giveaways. At the Courts at Huntington Station apartment community, 5950 Grand Pavilion Way, Alexandria. Visit www.courtsathuntington.com/blockparty

### JUNE 12-AUG. 21

**Summer Dance and Fine Art Program.** Saturdays. Cost is \$350 for 10, two-hour classes. Students study dance for one hour followed by a one-hour fine arts class. For children ages 3 to 9 divided into three age groups. Contact Virginia Britton, Director, The Alexandria Ballet, at 703-379-8997 or 703-568-4425 or visit www.thealexandriaballet.com

### SUNDAY/JUNE 13

**AHA! Garden Party Fundraiser.** 4-6 p.m. Sponsored by At Home in Alexandria; supporting Alexandrians who prefer to remain independently in their own homes. \$40 donation. At 317 S. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Call 703-566-6488.

**Virginia Yoga Week Conclusion.** 3 to 5 p.m. During this week, studios and independent teachers throughout the state will offer free classes, \$5 classes and join in the VYW Karma project to benefit a charity of their choice. The event culminates at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria with "Yoga in the Fresh Air," featuring an appearance by Mayor Bill Euille.

**Lesson Zero Performs.** 7 p.m. Free concert at Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria. Go www.myspace.com/lessonzero for additional information.

**Folk Singer Bill Staines with Carey Creed.** 7 p.m. At Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org. The Church of the Resurrection is located at 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Contact: Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

**Soulful Sundays.** 7 to 11 p.m. At Weyone Lounge, 5801 Duke Street, Alexandria.

**Food and Wine Festival.** 12:30 p.m. Features John Shields, Host, PGS Series Coastal Cooking. Shields will appear on the Viking Stage with a representative from J.M. Clayton, a wholesale crab company. They will discuss the Maryland crab industry and share tips and recipes with the audience. At the National Harbor in Maryland. Visit www.foodandwinenh.com.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 15

**Mount Vernon Genealogical Society.** 1 p.m. The meeting will feature a presentation entitled "Unsere Ahnen: An Overview of German Genealogical Research." The program will be presented by Susannah E. Brooks. Meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, Alexandria. Contact Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

## FINE ARTS

### NOW THROUGH JUNE 27

**Put a Lid on It.** Artisan pottery add occasion to occasions. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday, with Thursdays until 9 p.m. At the Scope Gallery, Studio 19, 101 North Union Street Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288.

### JUNE 2-JULY 4

**A Day at the Beach or Accidental Models.** Paintings by Linda Bankerd. reception and light refreshments on Saturday, June 12 from 5 – 8 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. The gallery is open 11 – 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, as well as until 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, for the monthly Second Thursday Art Walk. Call 703-549-6006.

### JUNE 3-6

**Female Shorts:** Film and Video Showcase. June 3, 6:30-9 p.m. Female Shorts is a juried film and video competition opened only to female filmmakers worldwide. Opening reception to meet the filmmakers and the juror, Sydney-Chanele Dawkins June 4, 7 p.m.: Special Screening of "Who Does She Think She Is?" directed by Pamela Tanner Boll followed by an audience discussion mediated by Sydney-Chanele Dawkins and Pamela H. Viola (\$5 advance tickets; \$8 at the door). June 6, 5-6 p.m.: Closing reception/awards ceremony with special screening and director's discussion of "EcoDude" and "Beauty is Motion" by local student filmmaker, Sydney Schaedel. Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria, www.torpedofactory.org. See www.vamindswideopen.com.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 5

**Alexandria Art Market.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Your monthly dose of art in the heart of Del Ray. Market dates: June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Nov. 6. Alexandria Art Market is on the green space of the Del Ray Artisans' gallery in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., on the corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues. Call Kimberley Bush at 703-627-7656 or DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com.

### NOW THROUGH JUNE 6

**You Are Here by Susan LaMont,** contemporary realism artist. The show features four large works that examine the relationship between people and their increasingly complex environments. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

### JUNE 7 THROUGH JULY 3

**The Language of Paper.** With Latin American paper artists Luis Acosta and Miriam Londono from the Netherlands. Reception to meet the artists is Thursday, June 10 from 6-9 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Centers Target Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Open daily 10-6 p.m. and till 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

### NOW THROUGH JUNE 7

**Crown Me!** Capital Pool Checkers Club. Photos by Peggy Fleming and Musings; new work by Suzanne Quinlan. At Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

# Signature Offers Another World Premiere Musical

FROM PAGE 18

on Broadway, plays both the son's gay lover and all the subordinate male roles as the play barrels through six decades.

The father who can't bring himself to accept his son's homosexuality, or the various perceived ways in which his daughters fail to fulfill his dreams, is played by Kudisch with a strong stage presence and a good deal of personal charisma in both the early and later sections of the play even as, in the middle, the script requires a period of bigotry and intolerance that runs counter to that early impression.

As his wife, a singer and comedian turned mother and housewife, is Diane Sutherland, a performer of charm and humor. It is harder to assess the performances of the actresses playing the three sisters. Clearly, Judy Kuhn is the most impressive, and strangely, the only one of the three without her own solo. The other two, however, have to cope with somewhat overwritten roles. Jessica Molaskey is the oldest sister who succumbs to addiction and her performance seems to succumb to the damage of the drugs as well. Farah Alvin is the youngest sister and her performance is hindered by the fact that she has to spout some tired clichés to establish her character as a radical liberal rejecting her father's values.

Gordon's output has been varied and voluminous. He's written works intended for traditional musical theaters, the concert hall and the opera house. His opera "The Grapes of Wrath" premiered at the Minnesota Opera but a concert version was mounted at Carnegie Hall earlier this year with Broadway stars singing and Jane Fonda narrating. He's written song cycles including "Orpheus and Euridice," which premiered

at New York's Lincoln Center. He's had off-Broadway and regional productions of musicals such as "My Life with Albertine" and "Dream True," which he wrote with Tina Landau who directed this latest production.

In 2006 Gordon was one of Signature Theatre's first recipients of a "Composers Grant" under the American Musical Voices Project funded by the Shen Family Foundation. Like the other recipients, he was given a \$25,000 grant plus four years of health insurance coverage so he could devote himself to writing a new piece. This is the second of the American Musical Voices Project musicals to premiere at Signature. The first was last year's "Giant" by Michael John LaChiusa.

In "Sycamore Trees" Gordon exhibits his talent at both story telling and song writing. However, he has chosen to tell a story that is crowded with clichés and focuses on all the negative aspects of American life over the second half of the 20th century without so much of a mention of any of the positives. That, of course, is the privilege of a playwright, but it makes for an evening that becomes a droning dirge of criticism that the strength of the music and the energy of the cast can't quite overcome.

## Where and When

"Sycamore Trees" plays through June 13 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Avenue in Shirlington. Performances are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$52 - \$76. Call 703-573-7328 or log on to www.signature-theatre.org.

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# Waynewood Neighbors Gear Up for Emergencies

FROM PAGE 1

disaster strikes, be prepared, know what to do and do it safely," said Kevin Mullins, volunteer instructor. "Our training can give you special skill sets and help you cope with the effects of a disaster."

Training doesn't involve any unusual physical requirements; and persons with health care, emergency service, construction and military experience are especially encouraged to sign on.

This is not a comprehensive medical or emergency course, but instead some practical instruction about what to do in case of an emergency. Some of it is common sense but forgotten in the panic of the emergency. For example, when going into a building that is dark and/or filled with smoke, the first inclination is to head right into the middle of the room. One student quickly learned that is not the correct way to approach the situation. Instead, you "hug" the perimeter of the wall, so that you can follow that same wall when you need to leave the building.

Students quickly learned three other things: The most important person is 'Me' (make sure that you are safe and uninjured before you start helping others); 'Do the Greatest Good for the Greatest Number of People' (attend to those that you can help within 60 seconds and move on to the next victim); and 'duct tape' is your best friend.

In fact, duct tape was used for just about everything, from taping up injuries to recording assessments of the injured (Green-walking wounded; Yellow-conscious, needs help; Red-not conscious, critical; and Red-dead).

**STUDENTS LEARN** to "Evaluate – Sort – Treat." They know that they have to work quickly.

Denise Hopp, one of the volunteer instructors, said, "I believe everyone can benefit



**Volunteer instructor Lani Young assists Rich Hall, Fairfax County Firefighter, in bandaging one of the "injured."**

from the knowledge taught in CERT. Whether you want to advance and continue to take other CERT classes or just want to obtain basic 'self-help' skills in disaster preparedness. CERT gives you a foundation to not take a victim mentality in the time of need and to be a valuable resource to yourself, your family and your community when it is most needed.

"It is fulfilling as an instructor to see students go from an 'I have no idea what to do' fear, to 'what else can I do' eagerness."

While the first class (CERT I) is pretty elementary, the next class (CERT II) goes into much more detail.

Tom Beattie took both classes and said, "Well, if you talk about CERT II it is much more hands-on. You practice pretty much everything that you read about in CERT I."

In addition, CERT members have plenty

of opportunities to work events, and participate in drills. One of these drills is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, at the Lorton



**Class members prepare for drill.**

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Prison.

The explanation on the website states: "We are in need of people to play the role of 'victims' for this drill. As a victim you will be expected to play your role as realistically as possible. You will receive 'make-up' to show 'wounds' and will have fake blood placed on your clothes. As such, please dress for the elements (we have the drill rain or shine) as you will be waiting outside to be found, in clothes that you can get very dirty, stained, and possibly even torn. You must wear long pants and closed end shoes, due to the location, we cannot make exceptions to this rule. Some of you may also be called upon to assist the rescuers in performing their duties. You may participate in any way you feel comfortable."

"This is a very exciting opportunity to help your community. Live 'victims' are essential to providing high quality training, and you'll learn quite a bit too! We'll even throw in lunch afterwards."

For more information, visit <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com> or call 703-246-4683.

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

## Police Shooting on Richmond Highway May Prompt Challenge

FROM PAGE 1

Coalition executive director Nicholas Beltrante said he was unsatisfied with the response from the Fairfax police. This week, he forwarded his request and the police denial to the ACLU of Virginia.

"To me, this is going to require a lawsuit," said Beltrante, a former private investigator who lives in Mount Vernon. "It's clear that Fairfax County is going to stick by their guns on this."

**LIKE OTHER POLICE** departments in Virginia, the Fairfax County Police Department refuses to release documents and information widely available in other states. The lack of transparency includes an unwillingness to share basic documents, such as incident reports. In an interview about availability of public documents, Fairfax police spokeswoman Mary Ann Jennings said she didn't understand why the depart-

ment should release the name of the officer who killed Masters last November.

"What does the name of an officer give the public in terms of information and disclosure?" she asked. "I'd be curious to know why they want the name of an officer."

Beltrante responded that disclosure is necessary to maintain public confidence, adding that he believed the county police department has a history of official misconduct that should be examined. Because the power of the government is derived from the will of the governed, Beltrante said, citizens of Fairfax County have a right to review the actions of police. In addition to calling on legal action from the ACLU of Virginia, Beltrante and the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability have also called for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to appoint a citizen complaint review board.

"We can ill-afford to pay millions of dollars in damages to the families of loved ones

as a result of police misconduct or negligence," said Beltrante, citing a \$1.5 million settlement to the family of Ashley McIntosh. "Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions without any form of independent review for alleged misconduct by police officers."

**ADVOCATES FOR OPEN** government in Virginia have criticized the state's Freedom of Information Act as inadequate, and legal experts say challenging the exemption clause used by the police to withhold information would be tricky. Although the beginning of the act clearly states that "any exemption from public access to records or meetings shall be narrowly construed," a section outlining disclosure of criminal records excludes "complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence."

"Fairfax is operating outside the spirit of the law," said Virginia Stanley, executive di-

rector of the Virginia Press Association. "The flow of information has just stopped."

But is a lawsuit the best way to challenge the unwillingness of the Fairfax Police Department to share information? Stanley cautioned that pending litigation might allow lawmakers a way to avoid ducking the issue during the next session.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Arlington-based Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press, agreed with Stanley that best way to deal with the county's lack of public accountability was to pursue a legislative fix rather than a court challenge.

But Dalglish said it would be better to apply pressure through the courts and the legislature to accomplish change.

"As citizens, we shouldn't have to put up with this," said Dalglish. "A lawsuit sounds like a good idea to me, although it seems to me the more effective way of pursuing this would be to go through the legislature."

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

to impose their personal agendas on the rest of us. I've debated these folks in vain, in the process attending MVCCA meetings, public hearings before the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission and speaking up for what I believe is right. I finally concluded that the good-old-boys (and girls) network is so entrenched within the Mount Vernon district, that it wouldn't be possible to change anything from within. Perhaps, the best way to change things around here is to expose the truth for all to see with the hope that the public, educated as to how the local machinery works, would rise up and demand change.

Since and including the Jan. 21, 2010 edition of the Gazette, I've sent in a letter to the editor every single week — each one was published and dealt with an important local issue. I'll continue to do so in an effort to change the culture of civic involvement in our community. I hope others will chime in as well with their experiences and views.

The article in the Gazette's May 20, 2010 edition headlined "Strategic Planning Committee Launches Listening Tour," if it rings true, represents an 11th hour 180-degree shift in thinking. The article identifies MVCCA officials who have begun visiting their member civic association meetings to "listen" to community concerns for the stated purpose of "mapping out recommendations for what the county's priorities should be for Mt. Vernon over the next decade." The trouble is, some of the MVCCA officials listed in the article are notorious for refusing to listen as they pursue their agendas.

These are the same MVCCA officials who: (1) refused to listen when they were asked to refrain from making Comprehensive Plan nominations that would require the MVCCA to conduct transportation studies that would cost at least \$15,000 each, a sum the MVCCA could not afford to fund (those nominations wasted the time of our County staff and thereby wasted valuable County resources); (2) sought an amendment of state law that would permit postponement of the transportation study until the Comprehensive

Plan was already amended so the eventual developer would have to foot the bill. In other words, they wanted their proposed nominations to be enacted without regard to the transportation impacts on our community; (3) passed budget resolutions advocating massive tax increases during the current recession; (4) refused to listen when my Stratford Landing neighbor Steve Chaconas and I attended the MVCCA's Board meeting on Aug. 31, 2009 to ask the MVCCA to refrain from going forward with a proposed nomination concerning the Little Hunting Creek pumping station. We sat silently for 1 1/2 hours while other agenda items were addressed. When the pumping station nomination came up for a vote, we raised our hands seeking to be recognized to discuss our concerns. The presiding chair refused to recognize us as our hands remained raised for over 5 minutes. She made eye contact with us but would not exercise her discretion and permit us to speak so she could listen. She is mentioned in the article as a listener.

I'm happy these MVCCA officials are finally "listening" but since their desire to listen is so selective, who should listen to them? I'll leave that conclusion to the readers.

One further note: The article ends with the report that Supervisor Hyland will soon launch his own task force, ostensibly for the same purpose as the MVCCA's listening tour. I will judge the quality of that task force by the list of its members. Inclusion of MVCCA partisans will signal that it's business as usual for Mr. Hyland. There are over 125,000 residents in the Mount Vernon district, plenty from whom to tap new blood for a task force that will help decide our district's future. This is no time to give agenda-driven MVCCA "leaders" any role whatsoever.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Support Basic Human Rights

To the Editor:

While freedom of religion is a right that we take for granted, most know that it is not practiced

everywhere. One of those places which do not consider this right important is Iran where seven Baha'i leaders have been held in Evin prison in Tehran for two full years as of May 14 because of their religion. One of them passed the two-year mark in March. Further, they were not called to court until January of this year where the charges were read but even now, after three court sessions, there appears to be no progress in the proceedings. No further court dates have been announced. On Jan. 12, the charges were read in a closed session. The defendants were accused of espionage, propaganda activities, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperation with Israel, sending secret documents outside the country, acting against the security of the country, and corruption on earth. Further hearings were held on Feb. 7 and April 12. All the charges have been categorically denied by the Baha'is. Attorneys associated with the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Tehran — co-founded by Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi — are representing the defendants. The names of the seven are Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm. Mrs. Sabet was arrested on March 5, 2008 and the others on May 14, 2008. There are a total of 36 Baha'is currently in jail in Iran for their religious beliefs. The U.S. government has made a number of statements on their behalf, including two congressional resolutions passed in October and December of 2009.

Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, said, "The earth is but one country, and mankind, its citizens." Through interfaith cooperation in this country, and support for human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, it is hoped that people everywhere, including everyone in Iran, can enjoy basic human rights including the freedom of religion. Working together, we take a stand for justice for all people.

The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Mount Vernon  
**Rachel Collins, William Collins, Rodney Johnson, Farhad Moalem, Ala Motlagh, Debra Taylor and Michael Taylor**

**Committee.** 8 p.m. At the Walt Whitman Middle School, Media Room (Library). Mr. Phillip Ellis, the Sierra Club Sustainable Metro DC coordinator, will discuss transportation with respect to the Council of Government Report and Metro funding. All MVCCA meetings are open to the general public. [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org).

public. [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org).

### MONDAY/JUNE 7

**MVCCA Planning and Zoning Committee. 7:30 p.m.** At the Walt Whitman Middle School Jack Knowles Lecture Hall. All MVCCA meetings are open to the general public. [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org).  
**MVCCA Transportation**

## BULLETIN BOARD

### THURSDAY/JUNE 3

**MVCCA Public Safety Committee.** 7:30 p.m. At the Mount Vernon Government Center Conference, room 3. SFC Christopher Burbrick will give a presentation on the Mall Police support provided by the Fairfax County Police. All MVCCA meetings are open to the general

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# Majors' Future Bright Despite Loss

**Mount Vernon loses in OT during regional quarters.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**railing 1-0 in the 65th minute against Robinson, the Mount Vernon boys soccer team played the ball down into the right corner. After Simond Kargbo passed to Ruben Alvarez, it appeared the ball was headed out of bounds.

At least, that's what the Robinson defenders appeared to think.

Alvarez then found Dannish Dacardi-Nelson in the box for a game-tying goal as Robinson defenders seemed to relax for a brief moment. Suddenly the Majors, who had trailed for 63 minutes of the May 27 regional quarterfinal match, were a threat to end the season of another Northern Region power. Two days earlier, the Majors fell behind early against Langley, but came back to win in overtime. Could it be happening again?

"That goal right there," Mount Vernon head coach Robert Garza said, "it raised the energy level up. We saw right then and there" we could play with this team.

Mount Vernon and Robinson went to overtime, but this time it was the Majors falling short, 2-1.

For Mount Vernon, it was the end of the program's best season since 2005. The Majors finished



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

**Mount Vernon's Nery Cruz-Lainer, right, looks to control the ball during the Majors' loss to Robinson on May 27 in the regional quarterfinals.**

11-4-2, reached the National District semifinals, advanced to the regional quarterfinals, had four players named first team all district and won non-district games against Langley, Centreville, T.C. Williams, West Potomac, Marshall and Lee.

"It's heartbreaking," Mount Vernon's Francisco Rodriguez said of the loss to Robinson. "We came so far. We played so good. We weren't ready for the season to be

over with. It hurts to know you're not going to play with the same guys in the future. It's over for us. ... Nobody believed in us. They thought we were a weak team and we had nobody. They thought we would lose to Langley, but we proved them wrong."

Against Langley, which started the season 15-0, Mount Vernon fell behind in the third minute but continued to battle. Against Robinson, the Majors were in a 1-

0 hole in even less time as Jose Noriega scored on a header 68 seconds into the game.

But once again, Mount Vernon didn't get down.

"I had a smile on my face" after Robinson scored, Decardi-Nelson said. "I knew we were going to come back and persevere."

Mount Vernon figures to be a strong team in 2011. The Majors return all-region goalkeeper Lucas Belanger, who was only a fresh-

man in 2010. They will also return freshman forward Kargbo, an all-district second-teamer, and honorable mention selections Amardo Oakley (sophomore midfielder) Nery Cruz-Lainer (junior midfielder), Damaro DaCosta (sophomore defender) and Bryan Castellon (sophomore defender). Mount Vernon also has as strong relationship with the program at Walt Whitman Middle School, according to Garza.

"We're trying to build a program," the coach said. "This season here, with the 'New Year, New Look, New Attitude' [motto], I think is going to be the actual stepping stone for what we have in the future. It's going to build our program up even more. We've gotten DI, DII caliber ball players coming out for soccer. The new sense that we have — we're really disciplined, the attitude we have — it's really going to raise our level even more."

The future looks bright for Mount Vernon. But after the loss to Robinson, it was also a time for reflection.

"We came so close together," said Rodriguez, who had just played his last game for Mount Vernon. "The chemistry is great on and off the field. ... [I'll remember] how a diverse group of students came together and formed a great soccer team and represented their school with their heads up."

Senior all-district first-teamers Decardi-Nelson and David Heller also played their final games for the Majors.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### West Potomac, Mount Vernon Compete at Track Regionals

The West Potomac girls track and field team placed third at the Northern Region Meet on May 27 and 28 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Wolverines scored 56 points, 28 behind meet winner Lake Braddock (84). The West Potomac boys took 11th, the Mount Vernon boys placed 19th and the Mount Vernon girls finished 16th.

The West Potomac girls were led by a strong finish in the 800, where three Wolverines finished in the top four. Sarah Jane Underwood placed second with a time of 2 minutes, 16.33 seconds. Kelsey Rosenberg was third (2:18.5) and Dale Lescher was fourth (2:20.28). The Wolverines also finished third in the 400 relay (Lisa Kinston, Kiara Artis, Natalie Comfrot, Ashleigh White, 50.06) and 3,200 relay (Lescher, Sophia Passacantando, Underwood, Rosenberg, 9:24.01).

The West Potomac boys were led by Peter Coffey, who won the regional title in the 3,200 with a time of 9:23.95. Peter Stebbins took second in the 800 (1:56.2).

24 ♦ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ JUNE 3-9, 2010

Clive Cameron led the Mount Vernon boys with a regional title in the 300 hurdles (38.77). He also finished seventh in the 110 hurdles (15.73).

Candace Bailey finished third in the shot put (36-06) and fifth in the discus (100-06) for the Mount Vernon girls.

### Aces To Open Season

The Alexandria Aces, a member of the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, opens its season at 7 p.m. April 4 against the Herndon Braves at Frank Mann Field. Tickets are \$5 per adult and \$3 per child.

June 3 is "Meet the Aces Night," starting at 7 p.m. Meet the staff, coaches and players, get autographs and talk about the 2010 season at The Dairy Godmother, 2310 Mount Vernon Ave. in Alexandria.

### Mark Vincent Basketball Camp

The Mark Vincent basketball camp will be held at

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 25

## Five questions with Mount Vernon senior midfielder Dannish Decardi-Nelson **5Qs**

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

A: Lil' Wayne. He's a lyrical genius. You have to pay attention to what he says.

**Q: What are your plans for after high school?**

A: Continue my soccer career.

**Q: What is your favorite movie?**

A: "Remember the Titans," because of the message that it brings.



**Q: What do you like to do in your free time?**

A: Hang out with my friends

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

A: Pizza.

— JON ROETMAN

# SPORTS

## Henderson Leaves MV for Edison

**Former Majors girls basketball coach takes over Edison boys program.**

By JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**erry Henderson helped turn the Mount Vernon girls basketball program into a regional contender. Now the coach is going back where his high school career began.

Henderson on May 20 accepted the position of head boys basketball coach at Edison. Henderson, a 1988 graduate of the school, was a varsity assistant with the program for two seasons before coming to Mount Vernon. While at Edison, he also coached the freshman boys team for one season and the junior varsity boys team for a season.

"One of the main reasons [I took the job] is the fact that it's my alma mater," he said. "That's where I started playing basketball. ... I still have a lot of ties to the community."

Henderson arrived at Mount Vernon in 2007, spending one season as a varsity boys assistant and the head JV boys coach. He then spent two seasons as head varsity girls coach, amassing a 39-10 record.

During the 2008-09 season, he led the Majors to a 24-3 record and a trip to the regional semifinals. The following season Mount Vernon went 15-7 and reached the regional quarterfinals.

"It really was a tough decision," Henderson said. "It's bittersweet. It would be a whole lot easier if I didn't have a job and I was going to Edison than to leave the girls and the boys and all the relationships" at Mount Vernon.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

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



**Terry Henderson went 39-10 in two seasons as head coach of the Mount Vernon girls basketball team. He recently accepted the position of head boys basketball coach at Edison.**

Henderson said he's in the process of familiarizing himself with whom the Eagles have returning for the 2010-11 season and identifying potential contributors who aren't already in the program.

Mount Vernon Assistant Athletic Director Tony Garza said the head girls basketball coaching vacancy has yet to be advertised and the search for a new coach will likely not begin until August or September.

"Coach Henderson's time at Mount Vernon has been very successful," Garza said. "The last two years he's taken ... our girls basketball program ... to new heights."

last day; it will end at noon. Boys and girls ages 7-15 are welcomed to attend.

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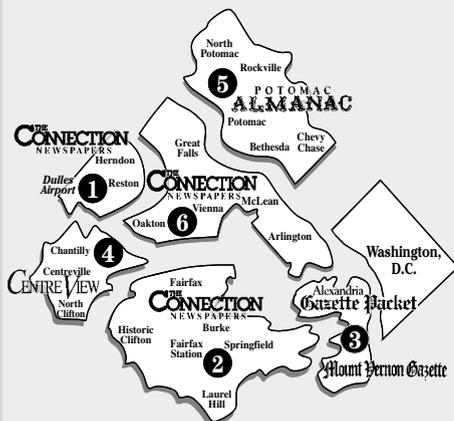
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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
CitySwitch proposes to construct wireless communications towers at the following locations: 154ft tower near intersection of Colchester Road and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks, Fairfax Station; 199 ft tower next to the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks near Bren Mar Dr. and Merle Pl., Alexandria. If you have concerns of any historic properties that might be adversely affected by either tower, please write to: Amy, Trileaf Corp., 10845 Olive Blvd., Ste. 310, St. Louis, MO 63141, 314-997-6111. Please include the tower location and the location of the historic resource that you believe might be affected.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements** **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

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