

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 19, 2010



Jenna Martin and Lucy Roberts take a few twirls in some of the costumes.

Seriously Shakespeare Summer Camp

Heather Sanderson leads a group of students in a summer Shakespeare at St. Aidan's. The students are learning their lines for a performance of "The Merchant of Venice."



BJ Ramkesson rehearses for a part as Shylock.



Isabella Diaz as Portia.



Emily Lyon as Antonio goes over a scene with Josh Turner as Bassanio.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE
KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE



Workshop director Heather Sanderson goes over a few parts with the actors.



Josh Turner works on his lines as Bassanio.

Eyes and Ears

County needs help from residents to enforce zoning violations.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

That car parking in the front lawn down the street isn't just an eye sore. It's illegal — punishable by a \$500 fine for the first offense and \$200 for subsequent offenses. Fairfax County zoning codes prohibit cars from being parked on lawns for more than 48 hours. That's a grace period meant for cleaning, repairs or loading. Yet in many neighborhoods around the county, that's not how it works.

But on many streets in Fairfax County, old and abandoned cars linger on front lawns. In other areas, residents are driving onto their lawns each day to park their cars there. County records show 3,000 complaints logged in the last three years.

"It's really starting to make the neighborhood look trashy," said one Mount Vernon resident, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of retribution. "And it's only getting worse."

SEE COMPLAINTS. PAGE 6

Local Actor, Screen Writer, Wins Awards

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

'Hard to Be Me'

An award of excellence for a new television pilot, "Hard to Be Me" and an award as a leading actor went to Edward Bach in the Accolade Competition in July.

"I'm thrilled to be honored for my acting on screen in 'Hard to Be Me,' said Bach. "As the creator and writer of the pilot I am very pleased that the concept, idea, and presentation are all being so well received by the judges and public ... but to make an actor's performance award-worthy you also need a great director, editor, actors, and producers — we had all those working on this pilot.

"Cyndi Lauper, multi-platinum selling music artist, has also agreed to lend her considerable

The television pilot which Edward Bach wrote the screen play for and is the leading actor, in "Hard to Be Me" is described as a new family friendly story with an edge, and web 2.0 savvy. Borrowed from storylines about real life and not reality TV the promoters' literature describe the film series, which is a candidate for network television production, as reminiscent of the best comedy dramas of the past three decades. Life, love, success, disappointment, and the ability to overcome life's foibles are the themes depicted in the non-political side of family life in the Nation's Capitol. The story line revolves around the exploits of an art school sophomore, Kevin Hamilton (played by Bach). Kevin prefers to express himself through his art, but is forced to face his fear of public speaking when he receives an assignment to post a weekly 'vlog' for his Communications 101 course. Through this takeoff we get to know Kevin, his art school friends, his family, and a host of quirky characters. 'Hard to Be Me' focuses on the value of relationships and links between people.

SEE PILOT. PAGE 6

See: www.hardtobeme.tv

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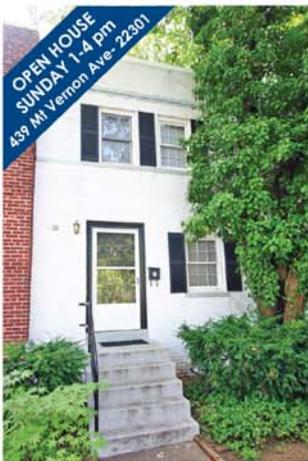
On .7 acres in a cul-de-sac, five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath, two-car garage Colonial featuring stately, grounds, mature trees, generous room sizes, meticulous details: built-ins, fitness room, rec room, master suite. Boast about easy commuting, a home with over 5,000 square feet including neighborhood boat ramp with access to the Potomac.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

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Old Town Condo

This gorgeous condo is an irresistible fusion of old world charm with modern elegance. Gleaming heart of pine floors welcome you into this beautiful home which basks in abundant natural light from extra large windows. The kitchen is thoughtfully renovated with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, glass tile backsplash and lighted cabinetry. Located just blocks from the King Street Metro and one block over from the wonderful shops and restaurants of Old Town.

Ann Yanagihara
703.725.2346
www.relocatewithann.com
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Route 1 Expansion On Hold

Money that U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) announced he had secured months ago to pay for the expansion of Richmond Highway around Fort Belvoir has moved out of reach. The transportation project is expected to be delayed at least for several months, according to several Fairfax County officials.

Language that would have allowed officials to spend \$130 million on the highway expansion was taken out of a bill before the U.S. Senate passed it earlier this month. Moran has inserted the same language into another bill but congress is not expected to take up that item until after the November elections.

The delay makes it almost impossible for the highway expansion to be completed by the time several thousand new employees move to Fort Belvoir's campus as a result of changes related to the national base realignment and closure committee's decisions.

Moran had tied the \$130 million to the new hospital currently being constructed on Fort Belvoir just inside the Pence Gate. The facility, which will serve all branches of the military, will see 500,000 outpatient visits annually, according to Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

"We have been working on this for years and there is absolutely no debate about the need. That section of Route 1 in front of Fort Belvoir is in massive need of improvement. ... I look at this as a major setback," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Richmond Highway is the only option for people accessing the hospital from the north or the south. McKay said it makes no sense for the military to have spent over \$800 million on a new hospital that military personnel and veterans will have to sit in traffic to access.

"Every day that passes where we don't have the money is another day of gridlock on Route 1. It will be frustrating for people trying to get to the hospital," said McKay.

TJ Employee Sentenced

Susan Thanh Litwin was sentenced to 15 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for stealing more than \$279,000 from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The former finance technician at Jefferson received her sentence Aug. 13, according to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Litwin was responsible for overseeing funds that had been donated for student activities like clubs, athletics and dances. She pleaded guilty to theft from an organization receiving public funds on May 6.

Litwin stole the money from the school by writing checks to herself and making unauthorized withdrawals ranging from \$2,500 to \$35,000 over approximately a two-year period, according to the U.S. Attorney's press release.

In an interview with law enforcement, Litwin said the money was used to support a gambling habit and funding trips to Las Vegas, Nev. and Atlantic City, N.J. She also used the stolen funds to help cover extensive credit card debt and a large mortgage on her home in Prince William County, Va.

Foreclosures Increase Slightly

A recent economic report released by Fairfax County shows that the number of foreclosures in the locality had increased slightly from March to May, though the total number of foreclosures in Fairfax is still significantly lower this year than it was last year.

The number of foreclosures was 705 in March, 744 in April and 767 in May, according to report issued by the county government. The countywide peak of foreclosed properties was 2,257 in September 2008.

On average there were 823 foreclosed properties on the market from July 2009 through May 2010. This is lower than the average of 1,794 foreclosures on the market during the same time period a year earlier, according to the county's economic report.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Veteran Teacher Retires

D'Orazio moves on after 39 years of teaching elementary school.

BY ALEXANDER SLIPPEN
THE GAZETTE

After 39 years as an educator, Nancey D'Orazio of Mount Vernon will settle into retirement this year. D'Orazio has spent the latter part of her career teaching at Waynewood Elementary School, where she has worked since 1992 mostly teaching fifth-grade classes. A role model who has helped shape the lives of many children, D'Orazio is an advocate of "cooperation" and "respecting individual differences" within education. "If everyone gets along, you open the avenues for education to be able to flow freely," she said.

D'Orazio received a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University and a social foundations of education master's degree from the University of Virginia. D'Orazio has fond memories of spending a year as an instructional assistant at The American School in Japan, located in Tokyo. "I had these kids who were bilingual, but I didn't speak any Japanese so they translated for each other, which was a great learning experience for me," she said. Following her time in Japan, D'Orazio returned to the United States and graduated from Michigan State a year later before later receiving her master's. She then sought a teaching position in Fairfax County, eventually receiving a position under the guidance of a more experienced "mentor teacher" at Woodley Hills Elementary in Alexandria.

After a period of time there, D'Orazio began teaching at Waynewood in 1992. Since her start there, she has taught mostly fifth-grade classes, an age she thoroughly enjoys. "As [the students] get older, you can kid around with them and they get your sense of humor ... 10 year olds are fun," she said. In terms of departing the Waynewood community as a full-time teacher, D'Orazio will miss the enthusiastic way both students and parents approached education. "[At Waynewood], you have volunteers come back that don't even have children there anymore. The way the kids are so prepared for school made teaching a

pleasure. The mindset in and around this area is that education is really important," she said.

Additionally, D'Orazio looks back fondly on many of the small pleasures found in the commonalities of a school day. "I will miss those 'aha!' moments kids have ... when kids are looking at microscopes in science class and say to themselves, 'I've found the light!' That can be taken a couple of different ways," she said.

According to Waynewood Principal James T. Meier, D'Orazio possesses a number of teaching qualities that will make her a difficult teacher to replace. "She's passionate about what she does, she's thorough, and she cares about every student in that classroom. She wants to ensure the success of every student in a class, and she is a teacher who's a credit to the profession of education."

Although D'Orazio is retiring from teaching on a full-time basis, she plans on remaining involved at Waynewood by volunteering and substitute teaching.

"I think the best thing about subbing is going to be that I don't have to do lesson plans or report cards. Also, I won't miss getting up early [so frequently]," she said with a smile.

In addition to continuing to take an active role at Waynewood in retirement, D'Orazio plans to travel and even continue to be a mentor teacher in her own family – her daughter will be following in her footsteps and teaching middle school-level English. Throughout her nearly four decades as an educator, D'Orazio is perhaps most thankful for the nurturing atmosphere she has found at her schools. "Everyone was sharing and ready to help out when you needed it. I've really been blessed because I worked with so many excellent administrators and faculty."



Nancey D'Orazio

"I will miss those 'aha!' moments kids have ..."

— Nancey D'Orazio

Seniors' Concerns: Housing, Taxes

Surovell and Puller survey Mount Vernon seniors.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Fully aware of the growing senior population in Northern Virginia and in particular the legislative districts which they represent in the General Assembly, state Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell recently collaborated on a survey to find out what issues most concerned their senior constituents. Here are the results:

What do you think is the primary issue facing seniors' life in the Mt. Vernon area?

- Housing (ability to stay in your home): 32%
- Real Estate Taxes: 21%
- In-Home Health Care & Assistance: 15%

- Maintenance of Daily Needs: 6%
- Hospital Care: 3%
- Income: 3%
- Transportation: 3%
- Other: 18%

Reacting to the survey results, Puller said, "The findings of our survey reinforced my understanding about what our legislative priorities should include as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session ... I am calling you from a meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) that I am attending. ... At this meeting I will be discussing with legislators in other parts of the country their ideas on what they are doing to help seniors needing as

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 11

BUSINESS

Risk and Patience Pay Off at Restaurant

Mamma's Kitchen proves popular in Mount Vernon.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Marianna Johnnides' bucket list is getting shorter. At a relatively young age, she has already crossed off a few things.

A successful career in the corporate world – check.

The purchase and management of a building – check.

The opening and running of a restaurant – check.

Johnnide took a chance when she opened Mamma's Kitchen in January of 2009. She had little experience in running a restaurant, but it has paid off for her and her family.

"What I realize now if I had full knowledge of the proposition, I might not have done it," said Johnnide.

When she purchased the commercial space on Fordson Road, the economy was booming. However, it took five years to get her permits approved, and by then things had slowed considerably and she was having trouble finding tenants.

That's when she decided to open a restaurant in the space to drive traffic to the building.

"I knew it was a risk, but as they say, 'no risk-no rewards,'" said Johnnide.

She uses her business skills to manage the



Maggie Famin, Jaron Drucker and Alexa Botha greet and serve customers.

business side of the restaurant, while her love of cooking and family recipes give the cooking side a boost.

"My parents had restaurants when I was younger," said Johnnide. "I grew up creating things by observing. I enjoy cooking."

The lasagna recipe is her mother's, as is the pastichio that she made this past weekend as a special dish. She marvels at how much her customers have taken to that dish — to her, it's just a dish that she used to make at home.

IN ADDITION to Greek specialties, she serves several types of gourmet pizza, salads, sandwiches and much more. Johnnide came up with the idea of the open brick oven because she wanted the pizza to be more authentic and to stand out. The col-

ors were her idea and she worked with an artist to create a Mediterranean feel.

"I really enjoy making food that people enjoy," she said.

Overall, Johnnide is pleased at the support that she has received from the Mount Vernon neighborhood.

"People come from Belle Haven, from the Fort Hunt area and from down in Mount Vernon," said Johnnide. "It has been a good experience."

Giving back is important to Johnnide, who does fund-raisers for many of the local schools, as well as organizations like United Community Ministries (UCM).

Last week, UCM advertised the fundraiser as, "Enjoy Great Food for a Great Cause." They encouraged everybody to join UCM for lunch, dinner or a snack at Mamma's



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Vinh Nguyen, Sarah Stone, Stefanie Bass, Elizabeth McNally and Jean Mitchler-Fiks enjoy lunch during a UCM fund-raiser at Mamma's Kitchen.

Kitchen on Tuesday, Aug. 10. Mamma's Kitchen in turn donated 10 percent of the proceeds from all of the meals that day.

By noon that day, several UCM staff members were at the restaurant, as well as several supporters. They continued to do a brisk business throughout the day.

Sarah Stone, development and communications officer, said, "Mamma's Kitchen is tremendously supportive of United Community Ministries. They hold fundraisers for UCM, donate food for volunteer appreciation and are great neighbors. We are so grateful for their generosity."

OF GREEK DESCENT, Johnnide was born and raised in Mount Vernon, attending

SEE COOKING, PAGE 14

Owner Lives Childhood Dream as Dry Cleaner

Passion for job and helping community.

BY EDISON RUSS
THE GAZETTE

ZIPS Dry Cleaners franchise owner Jeff Levine is passionate about his business and has donated to various causes over the last two years.

Levine is the owner of the ZIPS at 6216 North Kings Highway in Alexandria. ZIPS offers a flat rate of \$1.99 dry cleaning for any garments, and guarantees that garments delivered by 9 a.m. will be returned by 5 p.m. the same day. All garments must be prepaid in cash.

Levine has donated money to youth athletic teams like Cardinal AAU basketball, the Gainesville Grizzlies football Turkey Bowl, and the Virginia Special Olympics.

Levine used to coach high school wrestling in Maryland and believes sports are important for kids. "They can learn a lot of life's lessons through playing sports," Levine



Jeff Levine

said. "Work ethic, determination, and how to work with others and handle adversity."

He has also donated to the West Potomac Marching Band, Mt. Vernon High School Drama Boosters, and a mentoring program for Edison High School. He also offers free dry cleaning to the Pulley Career Center for graduation gowns.

One of Levine's customers, a breast cancer survivor, asked him if he could donate to the Avon Breast Cancer Walk in April. "Of course I said yes," Levine said.

LEVINE ALSO participates in franchise-wide clothing drives. ZIPS partners with Goodwill for the Will2Work clothing drive in June. ZIPS accepts donations of gently used professional clothing and dry cleans them at no charge for Goodwill to distribute to the unemployed. ZIPS partners with the Veterans' Administration in November for the Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down Project. Donations of winter clothing are accepted for free dry cleaning, then distributed to homeless veterans.

Levine grew up around the dry cleaning business. His grandfather was a tailor who came to America from Europe after World War II. He eventually opened a dry cleaner. Levine invited him to career day at his school, and told him that he wanted to be in the business too.

"Don't do it," Levine said, quoting his grandfather's response. "Stay out of this business, whatever you do. Be a doctor. Be a lawyer. Be something. Don't be in the dry cleaning business." Levine was not deterred.

"Anything that's in the family is in the blood," Levine said. His dad, aunt and uncle are also in the business.

Levine got his start dry cleaning working for his aunt and uncle at the Alexandria location. They had an agreement that Levine would work for them for two years, then buy the location. They now have ZIPS locations in Annapolis and Philadelphia.

BEFORE ZIPS, Levine sold dry cleaning equipment with his grandfather out of college. He also worked for a while at his parents' Ma & Pa store in D.C. He looked into restaurants at one point, but he was still attracted to dry cleaning.

Dry cleaning seemed recession-proof to Levine, in that everyone wears clothes. He also wanted a business that was closed at least one day a week.

"It's really important to have at least one day of family time and down time away from the working world," Levine said.

In his time at ZIPS, Levine learned Spanish. "I learned a lot about the dry cleaning business, but I learned a heck of a lot of Spanish," he said. He felt it would be helpful for him to learn the language so that he

SEE LIVING, PAGE 14

Growing, Donating Healthy Food

Members of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church are cultivating an organic garden on the property; they donate the produce to community institutions that work with low-income and at-risk families and individuals.

The church members worked together to prepare the garden plot, plant a variety of seeds and plants, and schedule one family per week to care for the garden. The Rev. Kate Walker blessed the garden, and families from the religious education program take turns watering, weeding, and chasing the deer away.

The church is sending fresh produce from the garden to United Community Ministries, New Hope Housing and Rising Hope. The project is supported by the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, and by MVUC's social justice budget.

MVUC's garden plot is only a beginning. A call has been launched to other churches in this area to consider a similar project if they own sufficient land to grow food. If one church can offer, say, one pound of fresh tomatoes per week, ten churches may offer ten pounds or more of fresh and healthy produce. The faith community can thus continue to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.



Georgia Pourchot, volunteer social justice program coordinator, and the Rev. Kate Walker participated in a blessing of the garden.

Albano and Oliver Are Engaged

Captain Tony Albano, USN, Ret. and Mrs. Judy Albano of Alexandria, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Christina, to John Oliver, Lieutenant, United States Army, son of Johnny and Donna Oliver of Glen Allen, Va.

Christina is a 2004 graduate of West Potomac High School and a 2008 graduate of Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She currently resides in Richmond, VA and is a teacher at a private school.

John is a 2004 graduate of Hermitage High School and a 2008 graduate of Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. He currently resides in Richmond and is stationed at Fort Lee for Army basic officer courses.

John and Christina are planning an early 2011 wedding.

Christina Albano and John Oliver



Animal Allies Responds to 30 Feral Cats

Local members of Animal Allies for Cats responded to a report of 30 cats in the Clermont area last week and need help in taking care of them.

The organization has kittens available to be adopted; the rest will be neutered and returned as part of the Trap-Neuter-Return strategy for feral cats.

Residents are reminded that feral cats need to be fixed, or the problem will multiply.

Animal Allies for Cats hosts adoptions at Pet Valu in Rose Hill on Tuesdays and Saturdays. See www.animalallies.com, click on Calendar for specific dates and times. The organization also has information on low-cost clinics for spaying/neutering of feral cats.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Aug. 13.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING

Two men were injured during an altercation in the 7400 block of Vernon Square Drive around 12:05 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 6. The two victims, 48 and 19 years old, were drinking beer with a group of strangers. When they attempted to leave, they were reportedly assaulted. The 19-year-old victim was

treated at the scene and the 48-year-old victim was transported for non life-threatening injuries. A 39-year-old male of the 2600 block of Arlington Drive in Alexandria, was charged with malicious wounding. **A man was arrested after a brief vehicle and foot pursuit** on Tuesday, Aug. 10 around 2:55 p.m. A patrol officer initiated a traffic stop for traffic charges in the 8100 block of Richmond Highway. The 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier, operated by a 19-year-old man, accelerated away from

the officer. The driver lost control of the car and crashed at the South County Government Center. He jumped out and fled into the county building. Officers locked down the building and located the suspect inside. A 19-year-old male of the 7400 block of Vernon Square Drive in Alexandria, was charged with felony speed to elude, reckless driving, no operator's license, obstruction of justice, hit and run and possession of marijuana.



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Alex/Stratford Landing \$649,900
8719 Waterford Road
 Stunning 5BR, 3BA, Cape on a spectacular landscaped .31 acre lot. Upgraded top to bottom: hdwd flrs refinished, inter freshly painted, crown molding thruout, windows rplcd, 6 panel doors, fin bsmt & totally updated kit & baths. Beautiful covered porch in front & lovely pergola w/brick patio out back. This is a 10! Great location: 15 mins to Ft. Belvoir or Old Town, 30 to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex/Woodmill Estates \$589,900
8808 Northern Spruce Lane
 This beautiful Mt. Vernon home is absolutely meticulous and staged like a model! Lovely sunroom, 2 car garage and professionally landscaped yard. Roof, heat pump, windows and appliances have been replaced. Baths remodeled, refinished hardwood floors, interior/exterior painted. Charming kitchen with oven inset into arched brick wall. Great loction, 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 20 to Old Town, 35 to Pentagon, D.C.



Alex./Wessynton \$659,900
3020 Cunningham Drive
 Large 5 BR/2.5 BA Colonial with 2-car garage and full unfinished basement in Mt. Vernon's premiere contemporary subdivision of Wessynton. This home is priced to allow some updating. Large covered screened porch off the family room allows you to enjoy your beautiful private backyard. Wessynton offers a pool, tennis court, and boat launch that allows quick access to Potomac River - 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, Alex.



Alex/ Mt. Vernon \$489,900
8424 Washington Avenue
 Absolute Cream Puff! Beautiful 3BR, 2BA Cape Cod/FPL, 3 finished levels & spectacular detached 2 car garage/workshop w/extra wide asphalt driveway. Totally updated: kit, baths, HVAC, energy efficient dbl pane windows, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels, beautiful sun room addition w/separate HVAC. Finished walkout basement, interior painted, screened porch-spectacular.42 landscaped lot. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 Huntington Metro/Old Town, 35 to D.C.



Alex./Wessynton \$664,900
3008 Sevor Lane
 Large, meticulously maintained 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial w/2-car garage & finished bsmt in Mt. Vernon's premiere contemporary Wessynton. Pride of ownership is apparent: exterior painted in '06, HVAC systems all replaced in past 5 yrs. Beautiful carpet over hdwd floors throughout main & upper levels. Large picturesque windows over look beautiful landscaping. Lower level has rec room, den, 2 storage rms, & bath w/large jacuzzi tub. Wessynton offers pool, tennis, basketball courts & boat launch. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport & 30/35 to D.C./Pentagon.



Alex./Wessynton \$765,000
3009 Cunningham Drive
 Completely remodeled 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in premiere-contemporary community of Wessynton. All major systems updated: kitchen-ceramic tile floor, granite counters, cabinets, sub zero frig, etc., baths, total HVAC systems, roof & gutters, thermal windows & freshly painted interior. 2-car garage. This is "turn key." Beautiful lot backing to woods. Wessynton offers boat launch just minutes to Potomac River by boat, tennis & basketball courts, and pool. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to National Airport, 30/35 to D.C./Pentagon.



Alex./Bucknell Manor \$338,500
6932 Vanderbilt
 Stunning & meticulously maintained 2-level Cape Cod loaded with 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.

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NEWS

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Cars and trucks overflow onto the lawns off Main Street.

Complaints Lead to Enforcement

FROM PAGE 1

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay said people can file formal complaints with the county's zoning office without fear of having their names released to the public. If people don't want to give their names, McKay says, they can call his office and he will file the complaint in his name. Because the county does not proactively seek violations, McKay emphasized the importance of neighbors who are upset about zoning violations taking the initiative to make a complaint.

"One of the problems is that people will complain to their relatives and their friends, but they won't call and make a formal complaint," said McKay. "The problem with that is we can't enforce the zoning ordinance unless people call and make a complaint."

"The problem with that is we can't enforce the zoning ordinance unless people call and make a complaint."

— Lee District Supervisor
Jeff McKay

later to log the violation. That's a significant amount of time for zoning violations that are not at the top of the priority list, which is why county officials say they rely on residents to be their eyes and ears.

"Under state law, the names of people who file complaints are completely confidential," said Michael Congleton, a county code compliance official. "In the

vast majority of cases, people remove their vehicles after being approached by an inspector."

One recent legislative change that may have helped the situation is a new ordinance limiting the percentage of lawns that can be paved. Because some residents were trying to circumvent the zoning ordinance by paving their entire front lawns, McKay said the new legislative fix cuts down on the number of violators. In many cases, people simply don't know they are breaking the rules until approached by a county official

explaining how the zoning ordinance works.

"Normally when we talk to someone about this, they stop doing it," said McKay. "If we have to go to court, we'd better have the evidence to prove it or a judge will throw it out."

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS collecting information is length of time necessary to issue a court summons. County inspectors need to visit the suspected violator once to note the time of the initial placement of vehicles. Then they need to return at least 48 hours

Pilot Gains Theme Song by Lauper

FROM PAGE 1

musical talents in providing our pilot television series in the form of her theme song, 'Its Hard to Be Me' from her album, "Shine." She agreed to sign a two-year license to the use of her song for the pilot. Cyndi Lauper's agreement to lend her prestige to the pilot is, simply put, the best thing that could happen to us."

Entry into the competition for the Accolade awards of the recent New York festival is part of the promotional strategy which many fledgling television productions use to attract network television sponsors to finance getting on the air as a pilot TV series.

The film will be shown at the end of the month in the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival in New York City, and again as part of The Indie Gathering Festival in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bach said, "Everyone involved is very happy with our progress and reception with festivals, and we've made some inroads with folks that distribute television ... we're further along than I had anticipated. Pilot Season is long gone for Fall 2010, all networks have their Fall lineup already set but the January 2011 season is a whole new world of possibilities for us."



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Patricia (Kendra North) and Kevin (Edward Robert Bach) have a mother-son heart-to-heart at the college where Patricia teaches.

While promoting the film and hoping for a break in the film and television industry, Bach works under contract for BAE Systems, Inc., assigned to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C., as a graphic designer and photographer.



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SCHOOLS



Cultural Exchange Two Fairfax County English teachers — Laura Brown of West Potomac High School and Brian Olmes of Robinson Secondary School — have embarked on a month-long journey to Korea where they will have the opportunity to meet with Korean teachers and students, and explore the cultural offerings of the Songpa-gu district of Seoul, South Korea. The trip, funded by the Songpa-gu government, includes trips to museums and tours of markets and the countryside. Songpa-gu families will host the two teachers, where they will have the opportunity to be immersed in the language and culture of South Korea. Brown and Olmes arrived in Seoul on July 23 and will return Aug. 23. A delegation from Fairfax County (above) visited Songpa-gu in September of last year, and toured Youngdongil High School during the trip.

UCM Helps Students Get Ready

United Community Ministries (UCM) is seeking donations to provide more than 800 children with school supplies, to be distributed Aug. 26 and 27.

All donations should be dropped off to 7511 Fordson Road by Aug. 20. Items needed include backpacks, pens, pencils,

glue sticks, glue (8oz.), crayons, markers, highlighters, composition books, loose leaf notebook paper, calculators, three ring binders, dividers, rulers, scissors, pocket folders, calculators and more.

For more information on needed supplies, contact Christine Fiske at 703-768-7106 ext 328.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The following local students were named to the High List, Episcopal High School's academic honor roll, for the first quarter of the 2009-10 school year. This honor denotes an average of 90 or above in five or more academic courses for the quarter.

◆ **Nancy Elizabeth Walker**, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Walker of Alexandria.

◆ **Alexa Linn Williams**, senior, daughter of Mr. David B. Williams and Ms. Kathleen S. Ligon of Alexandria.

The following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the 2009-10 Fall quarter at DePaul University in Chicago.

- ◆ **Megan Miller** of Alexandria,
- ◆ **Nicole Menendez** of Alexandria,
- ◆ **Ethan Hertzberg** of Alexandria.

Gustaf Robert Cavanaugh of Alexandria, a senior at Washington and Lee University, has been included in the 2010 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Cavanaugh is the son of Mr. Robert P. Cavanaugh and Mrs. Claudia J. Fletcher from Alexandria.

Leadership is the ability to get men to do what they don't want to do and like it.

—Harry S Truman

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OBITUARIES

James “Jim” Todd

James B. “Jim” Todd died on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010. While born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Jim made his home in the Maryland and Northern Virginia areas. In 1986, after a successful 17-year career with Marriott Corporation, he opened his first two Roy Rogers franchise restaurants in Alexandria, and later added other locations. As the business grew, so did community involvement. The “School Night” program begun in 1996 has benefited many throughout the years. Numerous civic awards were bestowed on him and he remained a well-liked and respected member of the Mt. Vernon business community.

In 2006, Jim retired to Williamsburg where he continued with volunteer work, enjoyed extensive travel, golf and the company and support of many new friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Bernice Moen Todd, his children



from his marriage to the late Margaret A. Todd; sons James T. Todd, wife Susan, of Dumfries, Va., Jeffrey M. Todd, wife Becky, of Alexandria; daughter Judi Todd Darnell of Alexandria; six grandchildren: his stepsons, Michael F. Moen, wife Kara, of Virginia Beach; Dennis E. Moen, wife Gretchen of Richmond; and three grandchildren, sister Beverly Plappert, Husband William, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. on Monday at Nelson Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 9810 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, with burial immediately following at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Pkwy., Williamsburg, VA 23188.



Mount Vernon Primary Care Associates proudly welcomes Allison Valentine, M.D. to our practice as of September 2010.

Dr. Valentine is a graduate of The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. She completed her residency at Fairfax Family Practice in Fairfax, VA. Dr. Valentine grew up in North Carolina and moved to Northern Virginia for her residency training in 2007. Her professional interests include prevention and wellness, women’s health, and a holistic approach to health and life. Outside of work, she spends much of her time running, cycling, swimming, and practicing yoga.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Valentine, please contact our office at 703-799-4000.

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Frances Elliott McCahill

Frances Elliott McCahill died on July 7 after a brief illness. She resided at The Fairfax military officer retirement community at Ft. Belvoir.

She was the widow of Col. William F. McCahill (AUS retired) who died in 1997.

She is survived by three sons, Barry of Eagle, Idaho; Brian of

Glen Allen, Va.; and Burke of Leesburg, Va.; eight grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and a sister, Joy Thacher (Richard) of Atlanta, Ga. She is also survived by a devoted companion, Col. John “Tommy” Thompson (USA retired) of Ft. Belvoir.

Frances McCahill was born in 1914 in Philadelphia, Pa. to Frank Winslow and Grace Elliott. She grew up in Montclair, N.J. and graduated from The Kimberly School for Girls there. She attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and Miss Farr’s School in London, England. She and Col. McCahill were married in 1946.

She moved to the Washington,



D.C. area in 1952 when Col. McCahill was assigned here following the Korean War. From 1955-1959 they lived at Ft. Shafter, Honolulu, Hawaii, and then moved to Alexandria, where they lived until retiring in 1989 to The Fairfax. They traveled the world extensively and enjoyed a

summer home on Lake Cobbosseecontee, Winthrop, Maine.

She served from 1972-1989 as a Red Cross Grey Lady volunteer at Army posts, was a licensed tour guide in Washington, D.C., and collected early American antiques. She was a long-time member of Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

Funeral services will be held on Sept. 14, 11 a.m. at Ft. Myer Chapel, with interment following in Arlington National Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations in her memory be made to either Grace or Pohick Episcopal Churches, or the charity of one’s choice.

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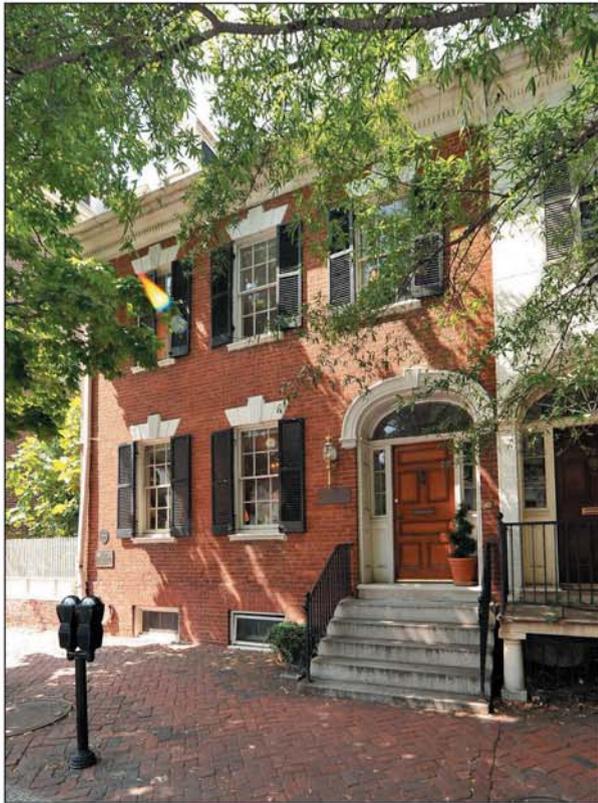
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OPINION

World Press Freedom Heroes

Kemal Kurspahic, Connection editor, one of the original 50 press freedom heroes of the world.

In September, the International Press Institute will celebrate its 60th anniversary in Vienna, Austria by adding 10 journalists to its list of World Press Freedom Heroes, bringing the total to 60.

The International Press Institute is a global network of editors, media executives and journalists dedicated to freedom of the press, the protection of freedom of opinion and expression, the promotion of the free flow of news and information, and the improvement of the practices of journalism.

Why does it matter? Halfway through 2010, at least 45 journalists, 10 of them in Mexico, have been killed around the world to silence them. 109 were killed in 2009. Both organized criminals (like drug cartels in Mexico) and government authorities who do not want to see their activities exposed go to extreme lengths to suppress information.

Why is it local? Of the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named 10 years ago — and who will be honored again in Vienna next month — one is Kemal Kurspahic, managing editor and community editor for the Vienna, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Connections — sister papers to the Gazette.

According to the World Press Freedom award:

In December 1988, Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first elected by the paper's staff. Until then, the Communist Party had controlled all editorial appointments.

Then after the communists were ousted and Bosnia's first democratic elections held, one of Kurspahic's first battles was to maintain his paper's newly acquired editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties, through a constitutional court case in 1991.

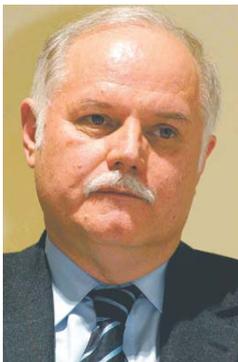
During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite snipers' bullets, constant shelling, and newspaper print shortages, the paper's multi-ethnic staff of Bosniaks, Serbs and

Croats — guided by Kurspahic — worked day and night in a nuclear bomb shelter to put out a daily issue of the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. The paper's modern high-rise building was reduced to rubble by the shelling, and yet the paper was produced every day. Oslobodjenje was a symbol of coexistence and the struggle against intolerance and "ethnic cleansing."

Between 1992 and 1995, more than 10,500 people were killed in the Sarajevo area. Five employees were killed and more than 20 wounded. Kurspahic himself was injured in a car crash in 1992 while eluding sniper fire. Throughout this period, Kurspahic and his staff never missed a day of publication, despite shortages of electricity, fuel, paper and ink.

Kurspahic was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University; Clark Fellow at Cornell University;

and a Senior Fellow at the US Institute of Peace and worked for five years for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, first as the spokesman in Vienna (2001-2004) and then as the Caribbean regional representative, responsible for 29 states and territories. Kurspahic served as the managing editor of The Connection Newspapers from 1997-2001, returning in the spring of 2007 after his time with United Nations. Kurspahic has excelled at community journalism in Northern Virginia, winning many awards here, teaching editors and reporters by example, and serving the community by continuously increasing the number of local voices in the papers he edits.



Kurspahic

He is the author of four books, including "Prime Time Crime: Balkan Media in War and Peace" (US Institute of Peace Press, 2003) and "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" (Pamphleteer's Press, 1997).

Sometimes in the last two years during the recession, it has taken what feels like heroic efforts to continue to publish independently owned, hyper-local newspapers that have to operate on current revenues. But the biggest physical threat to reporters here is probably the automobile accident. As for intimidation, it is garden variety, officials who threaten to withhold information when they don't like what we write.

Here at the Connection Newspapers, we have Kemal Kurspahic to remind us about true heroic efforts of journalism.

Sources: www.freemedia.at/awards/kemal-kurspahic, www.mediaindemocracy.org

EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lack of Participation

To the Editor:

I am a strong proponent of the theory of the MVCCA. The concept of an umbrella organization truly

representing the interests of a large number of individual civic associations is a good one. Such an organization could employ "strength in numbers" to exert political influence on elected officials taking decisions affecting our community.

Unfortunately, the reality is that the current iteration of the MVCCA does not serve the purposes for which it was founded over four decades ago. Instead, its leadership has become infested with community members who, by their record, demonstrably serve not community interests but their own private agendas which they seek to impose on the community through the power they exert by virtue of Supervisor Hyland's use of the MVCCA as political cover for decisions he takes in the name of the Mount Vernon District.

August is as good a time as any to begin summarizing the MVCCA's actions during 2010 which should result in forfeiting their prior role as representative of numerous civic associations.

Currently, the MVCCA has 56 member associations. Typically, its committee meetings are attended by representatives of fewer than a dozen member organizations and its monthly Council meetings are attended by fewer than half of its members. Here are the attendance statistics for the past three meetings of MVCCA Committees and its Council, taken from its publication, the MVCCA Record (NM = no meeting): Budget & Finance: 8, 7, NM; Consumer Affairs: NM, NM, NM; Education: 7, 8, NM; Environment & Recreation: 3, 9, 7; Health & Human Services: 6, 9, NM; Planning & Zoning: 14, 15, 15; Public Safety: 6, 4, 7; Transportation: 17, 17, 16; Housing: 4, 5, 5; Strategic Planning: NM, NM, NM; Council: 27, 23, 21. The Council averaged 24 attendees, less than half the membership and committee meetings averaged 6.3 attendees barely 11 percent. Taking away Planning & Zoning (15) and Transportation (17), the remaining committees averaged four member associations represented,

less than the MVCCA quorum requirement. Yet, Supervisor Hyland was quoted in the July 2010 MVCCA Record as stating he considers the MVCCA and South County Federation the most accurate "voices of the people" and that he will continue to value their input. I can't speak to the South County Federation, but concerning the MVCCA, Gerry you're going to have to wake up and smell the coffee. When the MVCCA committees average barely 11 percent of their member associations attending and their Council meetings are attended by fewer than half their member associations, the MVCCA doesn't represent the Mount Vernon District. Rather, it represents the views of the very few who attend its meetings.

Next week, I'll recount the specific actions of the MVCCA that have resulted in forfeiture of its prior role as community representative.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Seniors' Concerns: Housing, Taxes

FROM PAGE 3

istance in order to stay in their homes and community.”

Surovell said, “The survey showed that the primary concern of respondents was maintaining their ability to stay in their home. Our support in the Virginia General Assembly for the recently enacted “Med Cottage” legislation (HB-1307: Temporary Family Health Structures) is directly related to our effort to find creative solutions to enable seniors to remain in their homes. We will continue to look for other solutions to assist seniors as we prepare for the upcoming Session.”

Jeff Reed, executive director of Mount Vernon at Home (MVAH), said, “I am not surprised by the survey results ... it validates the survey results of MVAH in the recent past when the founders planned for the creation of our organization. ... The American

Association of Retired Persons (AARP) also found in a recent nation-wide survey that fully 80-90 percent of seniors surveyed want to remain in their home and stay connected to their community ... MVAH is responding to this reality by providing our growing membership with services and advice on home health care and assistance, help in identifying reliable adult companion care, providing transportation services to enable seniors to keep doctor appointments, go grocery shopping, and keep them socially connected.”

Barbara Sullivan, a senior services consultant, said, “The results are not surprising. However, one must be cautious in how to interpret the results. For seniors to remain safely and happily in their homes is far more complex than merely providing housing. They need a range of easily accessible and affordable in-home services, transportation to doctor appointments, etc.”

Sobriety Checkpoint

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Sunday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were checked to assure that

their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 738 motorists passed through the checkpoint on North Kings Highway at the Metro station. Four arrests were made for DWI. One arrest was made for under age possession of alcohol.

Correction

In last week's Mount Vernon Gazette, in the homeschool group, Morningstar Production of “Cinderella,” [page 6] the Sunday performance date was incorrect.

The Gazette regrets the error.

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- 1. Breakfast w/ Mary & Bob—8:30
- 2. Tai chi group at 10
- 3. Stop by library before lunch?
- 4. Pottery class—1:00
- 5. Scrabble club at 3:00

Notes:
Asian Night in the dining room!

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Stately Mt. Vernon Colonial
One of Mt. Vernon area's most imposing homes. Stately columned front and exceptionally large lot with custom pool creates true "estate" feel to this special property. Features include: large room sizes, three finished levels, hwd fls, updated kitchen, 3.5BAs, masonry fireplace and large garage. Gorgeous setting on spacious fenced lot which combines custom pool with plenty of room for other activities. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac near Mt. Vernon Estate just off Parkway.

OPEN SUN

7106 Colgate Dr \$550,000
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Owner's relocation provides unique opportunity in prestigious "close-in" Hollin Glen. Spacious well maintained home just minutes from Old Town. Many fabulous features include: 4 BRs, 3 BAs, updated gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors and 2 fireplaces. Custom two tiered deck. Check the comps! Nothing like it in close-in Fort Hunt are for under \$600,000! **OPEN SUN 8/22, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, R-Belle Haven, L-Fort Hunt, R-Rollins, L-Colgate.**

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7808 LEE AVE Alex / Mt Vernon \$ 799,000
ONE ACRE LOT! Don't buy someone else's grand home when you can build your own on a beautiful treed level lot in sought after Wellington just off the GW Parkway. "As is" estate sale offers options: renovate, add on, or start over. Original owners built their dream home in 1953. Now you can build yours.

Ruth Gulrard 703.609.3343

8614 Vernon Ave \$399,500
This Is Not A Typo! Real Price! Unbelievable opportunity! Totally updated 3 level colonial near Mt. Vernon Estate (at give away price)! Total renovation: gourmet kitchen with granite, SS, 42' cherry cabs new paint, new roof, 2.5BAs, 4BRs and finished lower level. You will not find a home in this location & condition even those priced \$100,000 higher!

8418 Aylce Pl \$698,900
Classic Colonial - Just off Parkway!
This is the one you've been waiting for! Rare 4 bedroom, 3 level colonial in Prime Collingwood-Waynewood location. Spacious home features updated eat-in kitchen w/SS appli. and granite, 3 finished levels, 2.5 updated baths, 2 fireplaces and large garage. Elegant dining and living rooms. Gorgeous fenced yard w/privacy fence and patio on quite cul-de-sac in Waynewood School area.

9316 Allwood Dr \$507,000
Absolutely Impeccable! New Price! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon.

6133 MANCHESTER PARK CIR Alex / \$ 560,000
UPSCALE- LIGHT & BRIGHT! An immaculate end unit of approx. 2,600 sqft w/9' vaulted ceilings, sunny eat-in kit w/family rm, library/office on main lvl, formal living rm opens onto deck. Huge MstrBR has walk-in closet/soaking tub & double vanity. LL walk-out rec rm w/gas fireplace provides perfect get-away. 2 car garage. Fios access.

Connie McKeen 703.626.4417

5902 MT EAGLE DR #706/ Montebello \$ 365,000
You will feel right at home in this beautifully appointed 2BR, 2BA condo at Alexandria's premiere gated community. Resort living with an array of award-winning amenities, garage parking & a nice pool view. See virtual tour: www.usanmovesyou.com

Susan Haughton / Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

8647 VERNON AVE Mt Vernon \$ 500,000
RENOVATED!!!!!! Entire main level new hardwoods - Completely new kit w/maple cabs, granite, breakfast bar, SSA - Lower level huge family room w/FP & new carpet - New light fixtures & fans - All 3BAs updated - Systems updated - Windows updated - 4BR - Brick patio - Fenced - Garage - Cul-de-sac. NO HOA FEES!

Connie McKeen 703.626.4417

9316 Heather Glen Dr \$675,000
Major Price Reduction - Super Value!
Don't miss out on this unique opportunity-Price Slashed on fabulous colonial. Expanded with the most dramatic family room addition you'll ever find! All glass window walls overlooks magnificent custom pool! Other features include: screen porch, 3 lvl, 4BR and 2 car garage.

6515 Princeton Dr \$815,000
Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!
Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan. Features include open kitchen with SS and granite, 3 finished levels, 4 large BRs and oversized 2 car garage. Formal living and dining rooms, family room off breakfast area. Prime "close-in" location. Two tiered deck and seasonal river views. Lower level hosts large rec room, full bath, huge storage area and direct outside access.

8714 Bluecald St \$629,000
Stratford Landing - Colonial!
Classic four bedroom center hall colonial on gorgeous level lot in prime Stratford Landing location. Home has been exceptionally well maintained and has had major updates such as thermal windows, new HVAC unit and foyer extension. Large deck overlooks landscaped private yard. Priced to sell!

OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!

619 S PITT ST Alex / Old Town \$ 998,000
Expansive & beautiful renovation of one of Old Town's historic homes in the SE quadrant. Highlights include: 3BR/3.5BA, hardwood floors, granite, luxurious master suite, 3 gas fireplaces, detached gar has private BR & full BA.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

PRICE REDUCED!

7227 STOVER CT Alexandria \$ 335,000
RARELY AVAILABLE MODEL! Large 3BR & den/4th BR, 3.5 BA TH in Woodstone w/sep DR, LR & eat-in Kit. HDWDs main lvl, fenced yard, deck, fin. basement. Updates: windows, carpet, siding, HVAC, HWH, kit w/granite, SSA, pantry + more. Convenient to Ft. Belvoir, DC, 1495.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

1675 HUNTING CREEK DR Alex / \$ 825,000
Come see our GORGEOUS kitchen renovation - lovely granite countertops & upgraded GE Profile stainless steel appliances. This elegant space is a cook's paradise! Open floor plan, spacious rooms w/master suite, loft w/private bath. Family room and deck, LL rec room & a patio oasis. 1 mile to Metro, 2 lights to DC.

Laura Blederman 202.309.1350

WATERFRONT!

4713 Dolphin Lane \$1,395,000
Custom Waterfront-Private Dock!
Spacious, updated home remodeled and expanded by leading custom builder as his own residence. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan capitalizes on fabulous waterfront location. Features include huge deck, private dock, waterview master suite, updated kitchen spectacular sunroom, gorgeous yard, two car garage and bulkheaded water frontage. Owner Financing Available!

9333 Brambly Ln \$549,500
One of Area's Best Values!
Don't miss out - Quite simply the best value for under \$550,000 you will find in Alexandria area. This home offers everything: updated, 5 bedrooms, large room sizes, brick fireplace, hardwood floors, covered parking, pristine condition and prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Compares favorably with properties that cost thousands and thousands more. A stunning value!

Fall Delivery!

We're Underway!
8826 Camden St \$874,900
Ground floor opportunity to add your personal touches to this new creekside home in Stratford Landing. Custom Wakefield home loaded with upgrades! Call for details.

PRICE REDUCED!

5902 MT EAGLE DR #718 / Montebello \$ 525,000
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Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

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1250 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST Porto Vecchio \$ 480,000
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Pat Tierney 703.850.5630

5236 BRAUNER PL Cameron Station \$ 689,900
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Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252



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BUSINESS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lisbon Lane kitchen before renovation.



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO

Anila and Ilir Angjeli enjoy their new kitchen. Note the efficient use of space in the corner behind them.

Kitchen Remodeling Goes Green

Owner of Aline Architecture uses design skills at home.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

As the owner of Aline Architecture, Anila Angjeli is used to designing new spaces — for other people. Recently, however, she and her husband decided to redesign their own kitchen in Hollin Hills.

“Sweet Kitchen’ is what we had in mind when we started,” said Angjeli. “The end result was just that: honey spice, chocolate slabs and caramel drops. The rich colors evoke unique emotions and they bring in new energy in the space.” The process was neither short nor easy but it was worth it. The new kitchen meets our needs for functionality, storage space and beauty. This project achieved an integrated openness to the main floor, blending the look and feel with the other parts of the home.”

The new design opened up and made better use of the existing space. “We utilized every square inch and added a peninsula, which was much needed in

our wide kitchen ... saving the cook from unnecessary mileage” said Angjeli.

The honey spice is reflected in the cabinets; the chocolate slabs in the countertop and the caramel drops in the pendant lights purchased from Alexandria Lighting. Countertops with complementary creme color full backsplash were provided by Granite Designs of Manassas. Flooring work was done by Wilson Navia, owner of Modern Tiles.

The project was planned, designed and coordinated by Aline Architecture, LLC. Cabinets were purchased from Home Depot, but David Miller, owner of True Carpentry, customized them, and Adrian Tase did the electrical work.

Throughout the process, Angjeli was conscious of using green features. Appliances like the refrigerator and the dishwasher are Energy Star rated. The Silestone countertops and backsplash have high post-consumer recycled content. The new lighting design employs energy efficient fixtures such as recessed fluorescent lighting and LED under-cabinet task lighting.

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

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO



All of the appliances are energy efficient and state-of-the-art, including an oven with a baking mister that kicks in when it senses dryness.



Open House at Neighborhood Center

UCM’s Sacramento Neighborhood Center will hold its Fall Open House and Resource Development Reception on Wednesday, Aug. 25, from 6:15 – 8 p.m. The event will feature presentations about the center’s offerings and other local resources, registration for the latest free pro-

grams and distribution of school supplies for those families who signed up in advance. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be available.

The center is located at 8792 E Sacramento Drive.

Doug and Becki Kennett come for lunch to support UCM.



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Cooking Up Support

FROM PAGE 4

Wayne Wood Elementary School, as well as Fort Hunt and West Potomac High Schools. Her husband, Konstantine Ioamou, is very supportive of the business, and helps take care of their five-year-old son.

“I try to spend as much time with him [my son] as I can,” said Johnnide. “I didn’t anticipate the amount of work required to run a business, but it has helped to develop my management skills.”

Johnnide said that she tends to be very selective in hiring as her employees reflect who they

are. As another way of giving back, she makes a point of hiring students from the local high schools. Some of her servers will be heading back to college, so she will soon be looking to hire some new students.

Mamma’s Kitchen is located at 7601 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 232306. They can be reached at 571-312-6690. They are open Tuesday through Sunday and serve breakfast on the weekends.

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



Mamma’s Kitchen is located near United Community Ministries on Fordson Road.

Living Childhood Dream

FROM PAGE 4

could help the employees or customers who spoke Spanish.

Some of the challenges Levine encounters in his work are employee turnover, consistently training employees and customer retention. The location also gets hot during summer, and ironing clothes doesn’t help.

“I’m still waiting for them to make a cool iron,” Levine said. “So when you blow the iron, it’d be cool. That’d be really nice.”

Checking every pocket is an important task. Aside from common items that could disrupt the dry cleaning process – combs, pens,

crayons, tissues – Levine has found silverware, dog food, and chicken bones.

“I remember when we had the chicken bones. Everybody knew that there was chicken bones there, because that was really gross,” Levine said. But Levine and his employees haven’t let items left in pockets reduce the quality of their dry cleaning.

ZIPS customer Don Ford said the service was prompt, and that he hadn’t received any garments that were still stained. Frequent ZIPS customers Lisa and Dan Willis have also had prompt service and no problems with stains. “We love this place,” Lisa Willis said.

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A Tempting Theatre Season

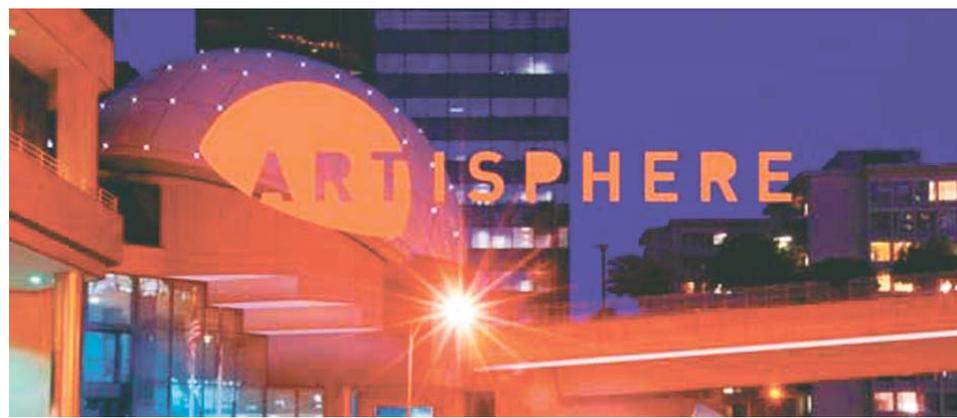
Local companies slot variety of productions for the fall.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The number of theaters offering productions in Alexandria and Arlington may have dropped during the recession, but the variety of material for their dramas, comedies and musicals has remained high, and the 2010-2011 season offers great choices for theater lovers at a wide range of price and professionalism.

We mourn the loss of Firebelly, a small company that specialized in giving new performers meaty parts into which to sink their teeth. It has closed down. We will no longer have the productions of Charter Theatre, which specialized in new plays. They have decided to confine themselves to presenting readings of plays. At the same time, we wish Keegan Theatre well as they have moved out of Northern Virginia to a house in Washington. But the companies that continue to produce have announced some very interesting productions.

For Alexandrians, the best news of the season is that the venerable Port City Playhouse has found a solution to its long-standing problem of an inappropriate venue. For years they have struggled to fill even a small percentage of the too many seats in the Lee Center and to keep its too-large-for-them stage from look-



The new Artisphere Arts Complex will use the space that used to house the Newseum in Rosslyn.

ing as empty as the auditorium. Now, the company which does its best work when its doing small, intimate pieces before small, attentive audiences, will begin performing in a new space, The Lab at Convergence Creative Community on Quaker Lane.

Port City will perform its last two productions, "Farragut North" and "Rashomon," at the Lee Center and then take up residence in their new space in February. They kick it off with a drama of life in North Carolina under the Jim Crow laws in the 1940s. It has a provocative title taken from the signs in shops and restaurants of the area that excluded both African Americans and Jews, "No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs." In the Spring, Bruce Folmer directs the crime thriller "Mindgame."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria has a full season of intriguing productions beginning with Noel Coward's comedy of modern art,

"Nude with Violin," followed by the play "The Visit" on which Kander and Ebb's last musical was based. During the holiday season, as they have in recent years, LTA will have both a full production, this year it will be a musical version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and a late-night show which will be the quirky musical parody by Christopher Durang, "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge."

In 2011 LTA will present a mystery set in Wales called "Widdershins," a bedroom farce "Move Over, Mrs. Markham," the lively four-character musical comedy about writing a musical comedy titled "[Title of Show]" and the comedy "The Little Dog Laughed."

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre has set dates for its fall show, "Saving Grace." It will be performed Oct. 15 - 31, but they have

SEE SEASON, PAGE 16

Alexandria Restaurant Week is Aug. 20-29

The first-ever summer Alexandria Restaurant Week will delight dining enthusiasts from Aug. 20-29. Some 60 restaurants throughout the city will feature either a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two; a \$3.50 sweet treat is offered at participating local bakeries, chocolatiers and dessert shops.

Restaurant Week menus and online reservations are available now on VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

A one-stop shop for a complete Alexandria Restaurant Week experience, the website invites diners to browse the diverse list of delectable restaurant choices. Many of the city's favorite foodie establishments are participating.

Royal Laughs-Out-Loud at The Birchmere

Queer Queens of Qomedy to perform at Birchmere.

BY DYLAN YEP
GAZETTE PACKET

Five years ago, Poppy Champlin was a comedian looking for publicity that could result in more bookings. She was working as her own manager and agent and wanted to perform in bigger theaters. She contacted the Birchmere in Alexandria about performing, but they declined because she lacked enough name recognition. That's when she decided to bring in two other lesbian comedians and pitch the show as the "Queer Queens of Qomedy." The Birchmere agreed to book the show. It was a successful idea and she has been touring the country with the show every year since.

On Aug. 21, Poppy Champlin, Carol Leifer, and Dana Goldberg will be headlining the Queer Queens of Qomedy at The Birchmere.

Champlin went to college to play basketball at the University of Rhode Island. At the time there was no professional league she could play in after college, so she decided to major in theater. This led her to stand-up comedy in the form of a cabaret sponsored by the University's Oceanography Department. Inspired by Lucille Ball in "I Love Lucy" and



Poppy Champlin



Carol Leifer



Dana Goldberg

comedian Joan Rivers, she performed a "fishstick" standup routine that stole the show.

Champlin observed that the field of comedy has been dominated by men. "I was inspired by Lucille Ball to be a strong female role model. She showed that it's still sexy to be funny," said Champlin.

Upon leaving college, Champlin took a job dancing in front of a deli dressed in a pork chop costume that she made herself. When a bakery down the block saw her act, they were so impressed that they later hired her to dance in front of their store in a loaf of bread costume. "I was a hot commodity," quipped Champlin.

Champlin moved to Chicago and became a member of the Second City comedy troupe, known for its many famous alumni including John Belushi, Steve Carell and Tina Fey. Champlin compiled an impressive resume performing on the Showtime, VH-1, and A&E

channels in addition to opening for comedians like Ray Romano, Denis Leary, and Rosie O'Donnell.

The most famous comedian on the Queer Queens

of Qomedy bill is Carol Leifer. Her recently released book "When You Lie About Your Age, The Terrorists Win" is on the Wall Street Journal's best seller list. Leifer has been nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for her work as a writer of the 2010 Academy Awards show. This is her third nomination, the first two were for her writing and producing the television shows, "Seinfeld," and "The Larry Sanders Show." She has also written for "Saturday Night Live" and performed on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

She began doing comedy as a child when she performed shows for her neighbors. When she went on to college, she did stand up on open mic nights and began performing at clubs in New York. By the time she was a senior in college, she had decided that she wanted to be a comedian. She continued to

work in New York clubs until David Letterman happened to be at one of her performances. This meeting eventually led to 25 appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

Dana Goldberg is the youngest comedian performing, but she's not without experience.

Being a comedian was a childhood dream for Goldberg. Her kindergarten teacher described her as the funniest 5-year-old she had ever met. In middle school, she began listening to comedy tapes of Steven Wright and Robin Williams. In high school, Goldberg won her school talent show performing a 10-minute standup comedy routine. She performed at open mic nights and did her best to get recognized by sending information about herself to magazines and newspapers. Eventually, her name and her talent were recognized which resulted in numerous bookings at many venues.

"I think when you're doing what you're supposed to be doing in life, sometimes doors just open to you. I was in the right place at the right time," said Goldberg.

She has been touring as a standup comedian for the last several years and performing at festivals around the world. She was voted one of the top five "Funniest Lesbians in the Country" by CURVE Magazine readers and released a DVD "Hot & Bothered-Dana Goldberg Live." Currently she can be seen in her comedy special, "One Night Stand Up; Episode 4" on the LOGO network.



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AUCTIONS ~ APPRAISALS

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Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours,
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Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday - Steak and Chop Night

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

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Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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THEATER

A Tempting Theatre Season

FROM PAGE 15

yet to set dates for their Spring musical which will be "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," a musical that Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice created before either of them had a "Sir" before their name.

Professional theatre in Alexandria is principally MetroStage on North Royal Street. The season there starts with a new jazz age musical "Glimpses of the Moon." The cast will be led by Natascia Diaz who won a Helen Hayes Award for her work on MetroStage's "Rooms: A Rock Romance." Later, they offer "A Broadway Christmas Carol" by Kathy Feininger. In 2011, MetroStage presents Bernardine Mitchell as Ethel Waters in a bio-play titled "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" and then they reunite the trio of Ralph Cosham, John Dow and Michael Tolaydo who won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble last season. This time out they share the stage with Catherine Flye in Tom Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound."

Zemfira Stage will return to the Lyceum on Sept. 11 for its annual one-night-only staging of Artie Van Why's play about his experiences during the terrorist attacks in New York in 2001, "That Day in September."

For Arlingtonians the big news this season is yet another indication of the

incredible support for the arts that is the county's tradition, the opening in October of the new Artisphere Arts Complex that will use the space that used to house the Newseum in Rosslyn. It will have two theaters, a ballroom and art galleries. The new Dome Theatre in the space that used to be a planetarium and which is such a visible landmark in Rosslyn will seat 220. A 125-seat black box theater will be the home of the Washington Shakespeare Company, which is losing its long-time venue, the Clark Street Playhouse, to redevelopment north of Crystal City. Among the offerings in its first season at Artisphere will be Shakespeare's "Richard III" in repertory with "Mary Stuart" by Friedrich Schiller.

Artisphere is a continuation of the commitment to the arts that Norma Kaplan, director of the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation has maintained for over a decade. In 1996 the County's Art's Incubator program became the first arts effort ever to win the Ford Foundation/Harvard University award for Innovations in American Government. Among the successes of the program have been the growth of Signature Theatre into a Tony Award-winning professional company and the nurturing of smaller companies that fill defined niches such as the American Century Theatre, which is one of the few theater companies in the nation concentrating on the influential or initially acclaimed American plays of the 20th century that are rarely performed today, and Synetic Theater which will have new performance opportunities in the Crystal City facility being vacated after a temporary residency by Arena Stage.

BUILDING ON their phenomenal success using movement, mime and music to tell complex stories in highly dramatic form, Synetic has announced two productions for the new season in Crystal City. In October their Artistic Director Paata Tsikurishvili directs Ben Cunis in the title role in a wordless "King Arthur." Next June Tsikurishvili directs company regular Dan Istrate in

"Don Quixote." (In between, the company will perform two shows in Washington at the Lansburgh Theatre on 7th Street NW.)

The American Century Theatre season includes such tempting fare as Paddy Chayefsky's "The Tenth Man," Gore Vidal's "Visit to a Small Planet," George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's "Stage Door," and Eugene O'Neill's "Beyond the Horizon," which is rarely performed despite having won him a Pulitzer Prize.

Artisphere may be the latest new space for Arlington, but it has only been three years since Signature Theatre opened its two-theater complex upstairs from the County Library in Shirlington. This season's fare in the larger of the theatres, the 230-seat MAX, will be the major musicals "Chess," "Sunset Boulevard," "Side by Side by Sondheim," and "Wheatley's Folly," a new musical about the oldest American musical — "The Black Crook," which came about in 1866 when a stranded touring French ballet company joined forces

with an American melodrama theater to create a show that is generally considered to be the genesis of today's musicals. The MAX will also host a new farce by Ken Ludwig starring Holly Twyford, "A Fox on the Fairway."

Signature's smaller theater, the 99-seat ARK, will have Sherri L. Edelen and Nancy

Robinette in a new two-actress play by Joe Calarco titled "Walter Cronkite is Dead," and a new production of Yazmina Riza's three-actor play "Art."

Teatro De La Luna will host the International Festival of Hispanic Theatre for the 13th year at the Gunston Arts Center this fall, and then mount two full productions of its own. They haven't yet announced the titles or which Hispanic theaters will participate in the festival, but each year they manage to host a wide range of productions by theaters from around the Hispanic world. The majority of their productions and the shows they host from other nations are performed in Spanish with English surtitles projected above the stage.

Arlington's support isn't confined to professional companies. Among the highlights of the new season are offerings from the Arlington Players and Dominion Stage, two quality community theater companies. The Arlington Players will stage three shows at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre on South Old Glebe Road, the Kander and Ebb musical "Cabaret," Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull," and the stage version of the musical movie "42nd Street." Dominion Stage mounts its shows at the Gunston Arts Center on South Lang Street. Their season also includes two musicals and one non-musical. One can't really call Charles Busch's "Psycho Beach Party" a "strait play." It is a bizarre parody of both the beach movies popular in the 1960s and the slasher films of the 1970s. The musicals for the season are "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" and the up-tempo "Altar Boyz."

There may well be fewer theatre companies mounting shows this season, but the variety of their offerings remains impressive.



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

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 19

Dave Tucker Combo. 7-9 p.m. Free. Dave Tucker is an internationally-known performer of early jazz styles. Dave specializes in performing ragtime, novelty, blues and Harlem stride piano music, but has expanded in recent years to include performing with dance orchestras and several small combos. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Garden Stroll and Tea. 1-3 p.m. \$27 Take a relaxing docent-led stroll through the demonstration gardens and enjoy an afternoon tea at the Historic House. This is a delightful introduction to the mission and history of Green Spring Gardens, one of the preeminent places for horticulture in the Washington, D.C. area. Individuals and groups are welcome. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Earl Lloyd Book Signing. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Alexandria native and NBA pioneer Earl Lloyd will discuss and sign copies of his book "Moonfixer" at a reception. Lloyd, a graduate of Parker-Gray High School, became the first African American to play in the NBA in 1950. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

"Breast Talk." 6-8 p.m. Free. The Full Cup Women's Health Series Presents "Breast Talk" with Beth Becker, executive director, Capital Breast Care Center. Beth will speak on the importance of regular mammograms, self exams, how diet affects breast health and the benefits of all as they relate to breast cancer. At The Full Cup - Old Town - 218 N. Lee Street, Suite 206, Alexandria. RSVP to lindsay@thefullcup.com by August 17. Space is limited. www.thefullcup.com.

Great Books Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Will discuss Jane Austen's book, Emma. Meets at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call Bill Scouton at 703-931-3559.

FRIDAY/AUG. 20

Dixie Melody Boys. 7:30 p.m. At the Mt. Calvary Community Church. Call 703-971-0165 or visit www.mtcalvarycc.com.

Squeeze Bayou (Cajun). 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Squeeze Bayou Cajun Band, based in the D.C. area, plays traditional Cajun and zydeco dance music from Southwestern Louisiana, specializing in two steps and waltzes. Their music reflects a blend of many styles including country music, blues and Creole. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

AUG. 20-29

Alexandria Restaurant Week. 60 restaurants offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner, \$35 dinner for two, or \$3.50 sweet treat. Participants include Bastille, La Bergerie, the Grille at Morrison House, Del Merei Grille, A La Lucia, Tempo, Cheesetique, Fontaine Caffé & Creperie, and ACKC Cocoa Bar. 703-746-3301. Menus and online reservations on VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21

Neighborhood Craft Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Belle View neighborhood will be hosting its first craft show at the Town Center, 1204 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Enjoy lively jazz



SUNDAY/SEPT. 5

Lesson Zero (new adult contemporary indie rock/blues). 3-4 p.m. Free. A concert performed by Lesson Zero, new adult contemporary indie rock/blues. At Collingwood, 4.3 miles south of Old Town Alexandria, 8301 East Boulevard Drive. Visit www.collingwoodlibrary.com or call Judie Kunkle at 703-765-1652.

music as you peruse a variety of handcrafted items. Refreshments will be available. The rain date for the craft show is Aug. 28.

Summer Concert Series. 7 p.m. Free. Featuring the Concert Band and the Soldiers' Chorus. At Centennial Park, off of English Ave., Fort Meade.

Singer-songwriter Anne Hills performs. 7 p.m. Sponsored by Focus Music, a nonprofit supporter and presenter of folk and acoustic music that holds concerts in west Alexandria on Sundays. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact Gilliam at 703-975-8027 or markg@ssosystems.com. St. Aiden's is at 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria, between Fort Hunt Road and Route 1.

Unusual Fruits Tasting. 1-3 p.m. \$27. Ugli fruit, cherimoya, kumquat, star fruit... Many unfamiliar fruits are readily available in supermarkets, but are often ignored. Try some! Delight your taste buds as we serve up a selection of intriguing fruits and tell their stories. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Breakfast Reach Out Meeting. 9:15 a.m. Sponsored by Arlington Aglow with speaker Marilyn Henretty. Breakfast is provided; \$3.25 donation. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne Street, Bailey's Crossroads. Call Betty Rose Forsell at 703-671-9264.

Green Day Event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Helen Olivia Flowers will host a Green Day event at their store. The floral design business will showcase their efforts toward environmental consciousness. At 128 N. Pitt St., Alexandria.

SUNDAY/AUG. 22

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. Free. The Eastmont Trio performing string trios by Mozart and Dohnanyi. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.

Alte Kameraden. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. A German Festmusik band concert in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or www.nps.gov/gwmp and go to "News and Fun Things to Do."

West End Farmers' Market Closed. The West End Farmers' Market will be closed in preparation for the Annual Cambodian Community Day Festival. At Ben Brenman Park. The West End Farmers' Market will reopen Sunday, August 29 and continue Sundays through November 21. For more information, call 703.746.4343.

AUG. 23-27

The Play's The Thing Camp! 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$30/day - Ages 5-9.

Theatre games, improvisations, creative costume play, story time theatre and imagination exercises combine forces to help youngsters develop verbal skills, build confidence and individuality, and expand and improve collaborative and communicative skills. Although each daily workshop is different, they all have one thing in common - serious fun! All camps take place at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, 22308. Email Heather Sanderson at bardsplay@aol.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 24

Veteran and Pets Lecture and Fund-Raiser. 5-9 p.m. P2V, a non-profit that pairs veterans and active duty military who suffer from service related trauma, including Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury, with shelter animals, is holding its first lecture and fundraiser at Busboys & Poets, 4251 South Campbell Ave., in Shirlington. Visit <http://www.pets2vets.org>.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 25

Fall Open House. 6:15 to 8 p.m. UCM's Sacramento Neighborhood Center opens its doors for Fall Open House and Resource Reception. The event will feature presentations about SNC's offerings and other local resources, registration for the latest free programs and distribution of school supplies for those families who signed up in advance. At 8792 E Sacramento Drive, Alexandria.

THURSDAY/AUG. 26

Open Auditions. 7 p.m. Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus is seeking male singers. At Durant Community Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria (one block from the King Street Metro). Visit www.harmonizers.org or contact PhilHarmonizer@gmail.com.

Beatboxchip. 7-9 p.m. Free. Beatbox performer with a random eclectic mix of vocal and electronic elements. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Shopping Fund-raiser. 5-9 p.m. Ten Thousand Villages in Old Town Alexandria is joining the fight against modern slavery in the DC region with a shopping fundraiser. The fair trade retailer will donate 20% of the evening sales to the community organization, DC Stop Modern Slavery, in support of their efforts to put a halt to human trafficking in the Washington metropolitan area.

FRIDAY/AUG. 27

Andrew Acosta & Speedy Tolliver String Band (Folk/Bluegrass).

FINE ARTS

AUG. 21 THROUGH SEPT. 26

Systems Failure. Reception is Sept. 9 from 6-8 p.m. Special Programming on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. with a Juror Discussion with Sarah Tanguy. This exhibition examines the current crises facing our country and the world and the plight of the people who must suffer from the failures. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory. Located in Old Town Alexandria, the gallery is open daily from 10-6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursdays; www.torpedofactory.org.

AUG. 23 THROUGH SEPT. 26

Cultural Clay: East Meets West. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery. Hours are Monday Through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. At 101 North Union St., Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

NOW THROUGH AUG. 29

McLean Art Society's Summer Show. Juried by Gwen Bragg, teacher and award-winning artist. At River Farm, home of the American Horticultural Society, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, South of Old Town. The themes are flower painting and still life as well as landscapes. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Acosta is a traditional/roots/originals guitarist and singer from the Washington, D.C. area. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Quin Tango. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. For information, directions and rain cancellation call 703-324-SHOW (7469) or see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Alexandria Surrenders: War of 1812 Reenactment. Noon to 4 p.m. The Carlyle House will recreate the occupation of Alexandria by His Royal Majesty's naval forces. Historic interpreters attired as British Tars, Royal Marines, and Alexandria civilians will entertain your questions about life during the war. Free admission to the grounds. At the Carlyle House in Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.

AUG. 28-29

28th Annual Begonia Show and Sale. 9-4:30 p.m. on Aug. 28. 12-3:30 p.m. on Aug. 29. Expand your plant palette! Be tempted with splashes of color and shape for homes and greenhouses that last long after frosts have put our outdoor gardens to bed! The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 29

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. Free Pianist John Earle, violinists David Brown and Sheyna Burt, violist Suzanna Sitomer and

NOW THROUGH AUG. 29

Artist Diane Shiely Frykman. Free. Show entitled "The Four Seasons" includes still life and landscape oil paintings. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, in Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 12

Shelf Life / Mary "Mimi" Frank. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Hours are Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 6

"Scapes: The Annual Landscape Exhibit." Opening reception is Thursday, Aug. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. Artwork inspired by all environments may be a part of this exhibit - urban and rural, industrialized and primitive, coastal and arid, and works portraying the beauty and destruction created by Mother Nature. 'Scapes was juried by artist Joey Manlapaz, instructor at the Corcoran College of Art and Design. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 5

Artist Genevieve Lynn. "In Misty China" captures moments in landscape, people and culture. At Gallery West, 1213 King street, Alexandria. Visit www.jadriverstudio.com.

cellist Ryan Bridgland performing piano quintets by Dvorak and Robert Schumann. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.

Kings Park Concert Band. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. A concert in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or www.nps.gov/gwmp and go to "News and Fun Things to do."

The Fabulous Flapper Tea Program. 1-3 p.m. \$27. In the 1920s, a new kind of woman was born. She voted, drank, smoked and danced the Charleston. She wore short hair and short skirts. How shocking! We'll explore the birth of the Flapper Girl and the decade - the Roaring Twenties - that gave life to her unique image and attitude. A full English tea is included in this program. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Sundae in the Park. 3-5 p.m. An ice cream social with AHA! At Home in Alexandria, which supports Alexandrians who prefer to remain independently in their homes. On Madison Street between No. Royal and Fairfax Streets.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 1

Swing Dancing. 9-11 p.m. Admission is \$6. DJ Dance Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 641 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 2

Britt Neal. 7-9 p.m. Free. Britt Neal's sound is rich with gospel and blues, and glimpses of the world she's heard whenever she turned on her radio. Country and bluegrass, and good old Southern rock. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

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Alex/Stratford Landing \$579,900

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hearth fireplace, expanded and remodeled kitchen, Trex deck, yard borders parkland.

Arl/Odyssey Condominium \$799,000

Walls of glass and beautiful views in this gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo in popular Odyssey between Courthouse and Rosslyn Metros. 1,635 sq feet, gourmet kitchen with Wolf, Subzero, Bosch, Viking appliances. Full-size washer/dryer, two balconies. Luxury at its best. **Open Sunday. Call 703-360-4805.**



Alexandria/Ft Belvoir \$330,000

Beautiful living and value plus in this three level townhouse with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1-car garage, gourmet kitchen, deck, family room. Built in 2001.

HOME SALES

July 2010
\$1,351,000 ~ \$470,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
4008 BELLE RIVE TER	7	7	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,351,000	Detached	0.90	.....	FERRY LANDING ESTATES
5019 BURKE DR	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,030,000	Detached	1.00	.....	MT VERNON TERRACE
8645 MOUNT VERNON	8	6	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$942,587	Detached	0.72	.....	WOODLAND PARK
7400 GATEWOOD CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$935,000	Detached	0.43	.....	VILLAMAY
8051 FAIRFAX RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$922,607	Detached	0.30	.....	HOLLIN KNOLL
6032 FORT HUNT RD	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$865,000	Detached	0.21	.....	BELLE HAVEN
7127 PARK TERRACE DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$840,000	Detached	0.31	.....	VILLAMAY
7800 ELBA RD	6	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$800,000	Detached	0.35	.....	HOLLIN HILLS
1100 GLADSTONE PL	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$796,000	Detached	0.17	.....	COLLINGWOOD MANOR
9306 OLD MANSION RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$770,000	Detached	0.36	.....	RIVERWOOD
1139 CEDAR DALE LN	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$750,000	Detached	0.60	.....	BOULEVARD ACRES
8901 BRIDGEHAVEN CT	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$739,900	Detached	0.50	.....	BRIDGEHAVEN
2306 KIMBRO ST	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$746,000	Detached	0.36	.....	HOLLIN HILLS
8900 GRIST MILL WOODS CT	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$740,000	Detached	0.50	.....	GRIST MILL WOODS
2412 SHERWOOD HALL LN	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$739,900	Detached	0.63	.....	SHERWOOD HALL ESTATES
2106 POPKINS LN	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$725,000	Detached	0.36	.....	HOLLIN HILLS
7113 RICHARD CASEY CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$690,000	Detached	0.20	.....	RANDALL ESTATES
7116 MARINE DR	6	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$675,000	Detached	0.35	.....	MARLAN FOREST
9000 VOLUNTEER DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$675,000	Detached	0.62	.....	WESTGATE
8422 DOYLE DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$652,000	Detached	0.25	.....	WAYNEWOOD
7613 WOODRIDGE CIR	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$650,000	Detached	0.60	.....	WELLINGTON HEIGHTS
3715 RIVERWOOD RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$650,000	Detached	0.39	.....	RIVERWOOD
8821 STRATFORD LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$640,000	Detached	0.41	.....	STRATFORD LANDING
2110 WILKINSON PL	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$630,000	Detached	0.60	.....	KIRKSID
3610 DREWS CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$620,000	Detached	0.18	.....	MOUNT VEE MANOR
8601 FALKSTONE LN	5	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$587,000	Detached	0.45	.....	MT VERNON MANOR
7004 PARK TERRACE DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$585,000	Detached	0.30	.....	WESTGROVE
1904 OLD STAGE RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$575,000	Detached	0.26	.....	RIVERSIDE GARDENS
7916 WASHINGTON AVE	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$550,000	Detached	0.69	.....	WELLINGTON
8702 WATERFORD RD	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$547,000	Detached	0.24	.....	STRATFORD LANDING
8305 FORT HUNT RD	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$540,000	Detached	0.38	.....	COLLINGWOOD ESTATES
8333 BLOWING ROCK RD	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$539,900	Detached	0.29	.....	RIVERSIDE ESTATES
8615 CONOVER PL	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$525,000	Detached	0.24	.....	WAYNEWOOD
4403 ARAGON PL	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$525,000	Detached	0.52	.....	MT VERNON MANOR
4010 BLUE SLATE DR	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$500,000	Detached	0.16	.....	WOODSTONE
6808 STONEYBROOKE LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$500,000	Detached	0.19	.....	STONEYBROOKE
6214 TALLY HO LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$500,000	Detached	0.27	.....	BELLE HAVEN
8610 CAMDEN ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$500,000	Detached	0.26	.....	STRATFORD LANDING
8621 CAMDEN ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$489,000	Detached	0.25	.....	STRATFORD LANDING
2337 HUNTINGTON STATION CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$485,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	HUNTINGTON STATION
1312 NAMASSIN RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$485,000	Detached	0.51	.....	TAUXEMONT
2355 HUNTINGTON STATION CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$483,500	Townhouse	0.02	.....	HUNTINGTON STATION
7911 BAINBRIDGE RD	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$482,000	Detached	0.29	.....	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
3786 MARY EVELYN WAY	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$479,000	Detached	0.09	.....	VERNON HEIGHTS
6932 STONEYBROOKE LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Detached	0.23	STONEYBROOKE

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Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

2:00 pm (en Español)

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9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Hyland's Appointments

Local residents play key roles on county boards and commissions.

S *Second of Two Parts* upervisor Gerald "Gerry" Hyland has been the Mt. Vernon community's elected local government official for 22 years, and during that time has influenced virtually every major public service issue impacting residents and businesses in the Mt. Vernon District and county-wide. What is not widely known is that a supervisor's influence is felt through appointments to county and regional Boards, Commissions and other advisory bodies. Here are many of Hyland's appointments.

Planning Commission: Earl Flanagan
 Park Authority: Gil McCutcheon
 Redevelopment Housing Authority: Liz Lardner
 Community Services Board: Mattie Palmore
 Water Authority: Bill Evans
 Wetlands Board: Glenda Booth
 Economic Development Authority: Ron Johnson
 Southeast Fairfax Development

Authority: Katherine Ward and Tamara Wichlens
 Library Board: Vacant. Prior: Doreen Jagodnik, Betty McManus
 Environmental Quality Advisory Committee: Larry Zaragosa
 Community Revitalization & Reinvestment: John Byers
 Disability Services Board: Kelly Greenwood
 Commission for Women: Diana Shermeyer
 Human Services Council: John Byers and Marion Barnwell
 Visit Fairfax: Jim Rees
 Trails and Sidewalks Committee: Peter Christensen
 Transportation Advisory Commission: Frank Cohn
 Health Systems Agency of No.Va.: Vacant. Prior: Sallie Eissler
 Health Care Advisory Board: Francine Jupiter
 Special Appointment Authority to the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation: Katherine Ward; Tamara Wichlens.

— GERALD A. FILL

Fairfax County High School Graduation Rates

The following are the percentages of students at each high school who earned a standard or advanced diploma within four years. The Virginia Department of Education released this information Aug. 12 as part of an annual report required under the national No Child Left Behind legislation.

	All	Black	Hispanic	White	Students with Disabilities	Poor	Limited English
Jefferson High	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Langley High	95%	100%	100%	97%	82%	67%	85%
Madison High	93%	83%	75%	96%	77%	69%	77%
Woodson High	93%	56%	85%	97%	87%	69%	74%
Oakton High	91%	72%	78%	94%	77%	60%	74%
Westfield High	90%	72%	71%	94%	65%	69%	77%
West Springfield High	90%	88%	77%	95%	69%	71%	77%
Lake Braddock Secondary	90%	87%	78%	93%	76%	63%	75%
Chantilly High	90%	73%	70%	93%	69%	66%	78%
Robinson Secondary	89%	84%	76%	93%	65%	69%	71%
Marshall High	89%	86%	79%	90%	60%	79%	69%
McLean High	89%	79%	71%	95%	76%	50%	65%
South County Secondary	88%	79%	78%	91%	60%	74%	72%
Fairfax High	87%	81%	64%	92%	67%	73%	75%
Centreville High	86%	71%	70%	93%	72%	71%	75%
Herndon High	85%	80%	56%	93%	55%	71%	62%
Hayfield Secondary	84%	80%	69%	87%	65%	68%	72%
Fairfax County	83%	73%	57%	92%	62%	62%	61%
West Potomac High	82%	80%	56%	95%	49%	65%	57%
Edison High	81%	76%	69%	91%	49%	70%	64%
Lee High	76%	78%	58%	86%	42%	64%	63%
Virginia	77%	66%	60%	83%	43%	61%	56%
South Lakes High	75%	59%	51%	88%	48%	62%	57%
Mount Vernon High	73%	74%	50%	89%	65%	62%	52%
Mountain View Alternative	51%	41%	31%	68%	38%	47%	25%
Bryant Alternative	27%	38%	15%	37%	17%	27%	16%

Townhouse Fire Intentionally Set

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators have charged a 28-year-old Alexandria man with burning a townhouse and setting fire to woods, fences, and grass, in connection with a fire at 5206 Pleasure Cove Court, in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County.

The man was charged with 18.2-79, a class 4 felony, and 18.2-86,

a class 6 felony of the Virginia code. Fire and Rescue units responded to the townhouse fire on Sunday, Aug. 1, at approximately 8:20 p.m. Due to heavy fire and the potential for spreading to adjacent townhouses a second alarm was struck, bringing over 60 firefighters to the scene. The fire was brought under control in approximately 35 minutes.

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ONGOING

Volunteer Career Mentors are needed to help under- and

unemployed adults find jobs. Contact Sarah Schultz, Employer Partnerships Manager at sarah@computer.core.org or call 703-931-7346 ext. 102.

Fairfax County's Independent Living Program for older adults offers free strength and balance classes followed by health seminars.

Classes take place at the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. All events are free. Registration is required. Call 703-324-7210, TTY 703-449-1186 or e-mail Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Rotary and AICI Recognizes Civility Counts at Mount Vernon HS

The Rotary Club of Springfield, Rotary District 7610 of Virginia recognized the Mount Vernon High School student body, staff and faculty for promoting Civility Awareness within the Mount Vernon High School Community. In May, Wayne Chiles, representing the club and assisted by Pat Locke, Ethics Coach at Rotary, presented recognition awards to Nardos King, Principal of Mount Vernon High School, on behalf of 10 students and one staff member for their efforts. Monetary gifts of \$250 were awarded to Carolyn Pierce, assistant custodial supervisor, and MVHS student, Christalyn Solomon. These two are also recognized as Civility Stars by the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI), the sponsors of International Civility Awareness Month as indicated in the Chase Calendar of Events. Four other MVHS students received monetary gifts of \$100: Veronica Bryant, Maira Diaz, Sarah Locke and Farzana Olla.

The student selected to receive the AICI Civility Star was Christalyn Solomon, founder and president of the girls club, Lovely Accomplished Ladies (LA Ladies), consisting of over 125 members ranging from 9th-12th graders



2010 AICI Civility Star was awarded to Christalyn Solomon of Mount Vernon High School.



Rotary President Jim McIntyre, Sarah Locke and Cindy Ann Peterson.

COMMUNITY



Members of the West Potomac Dance Team work on formations with West Potomac Academy dance instructor Courtney Betzel. Filming the rehearsal is Nancy Mantelli, West Potomac instructor for professional TV production



Catherine Canary and Haley Narins.

Joy of Dance

National Dance Day activities at Market Square in Alexandria on Saturday, July 31, were presented by Alexandria Dance Community, West Potomac Academy Program with the West Potomac Dance Team, in partnership with the City of Alexandria.



Mary Tran leads a group of students in the dance.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE



Lyndsay Leisher and Haley Narin go over a few dance steps with members of the audience.



Marsha Savchenko performs a Rumba. Savchenko and her husband Dmitry are a professional dance couple who participate in National DanceSport Competitions in the United States representing the City of Alexandria.

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-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

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PEOPLE

Scholar At-Large

James Theodore-Warshel Jakim from Alexandria has been named an All-American Scholar At-Large Award winner by the United States Achievement Academy. James, a seventh-grade student at Walt Whitman Middle School, will appear in the All-American Scholar Official Yearbook. He is the son of Lisa and Martin Jakim from Alexandria. The grandparents are Beverly and James Warshel of Duncansville, Pa., and the late Viola and Theodore Jakim of Lima, Ohio.



From left: Colin Amerau, Nardos King and Brittany Amerau.

In a Senior Honors Ceremony held at Mount Vernon High School on June 17, Colin Amerau, a 2010 graduate, was presented with three Service Academy appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy, respectively. Amerau, a standout scholar/athlete at MVHS, decided to follow in the family tradition and attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He was presented the Service Academy appointments by his sister, Ensign Brittany Amerau, a 2006 MVHS graduate and a 2010 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Also joining the Ameraus was Ms. Nardos King, principal of Mount Vernon High School. The MVHS Class of 2010 was offered over \$2 million in scholarships.

West Potomac High graduate **Laina Schneider** has been awarded the Pamplin Leader Award. Laina has participated and led her peers in activities such as Lacrosse, Chorus, Dance Team, National Honor Society, The H Project and Envirothon at WPHS while also serving the community through Aldersgate UMC. She goes on annual mission trips overseas, serves food with Sunday Suppers and assists in a weekly Sixth Grade Confirmation Sunday school class.



The Pamplin Leader is a one-year merit-based \$1,000 tuition scholarship. The scholarship is presented annually to one student from each public high school in Virginia. Pamplin Leaders are students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.

Jason Pittman, lead science resource teacher at Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School in Mount Vernon, has been named the 2010 recipient of the Edward C. Roy Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching.



The award was given from the American Geological Institute which is a nonprofit federation of 46 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists and other earth scientists. Given annually, this award recognizes one classroom teacher (K-8) throughout the entire U.S. for his or her leadership and innovation in earth science education.

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