Governor Tours New Hope Shelters

McDonnell commit to promoting housing for the homeless.

By Gerald A. Fill
The Gazette

Gov. Robert McDonnell visited two homeless shelters operated by New Hope Housing last week. McDonnell, along with New Hope Housing Executive Director Pam Michell, board members and staff, other housing for the homeless advocates, and elected officials, toured Mondloch House 1, which serves homeless adults, and Mondloch House 2, which assists homeless families.

During his visit at the New Hope facilities, McDonnell said, “Working to help people move from homelessness to permanent housing is critically important. A stable home aids in workforce readiness, allows children to thrive and learn, and strengthens Virginia’s communities. I commend New Hope Housing for their work to help transform the lives of the people they assist.”

New Hope, which opened its first shelter in 1978, provides emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development provides State Shelter grant funding to New Hope Housing for shelter operations and support services in its emergency, transitional, and hypothermia facilities. These grants include both federal and state funds. New Hope also receives Virginia State grant funding to ensure that homeless children have access to appropriate support services.

In her prepared remarks in welcoming the Governor to the New Hope Housing facilities, Michell reminded the assembled guests that many believe that Northern Virginia needs more affordable housing and called for a “New Hope Housing Executive Director Pam Michell, board members, and staff.”

Former Youth League Coach Arrested in Poland

Hamilton fled to Europe before court appearance.

By Gerald A. Fill
The Gazette

John Hamilton, former Fort Hunt Youth League coach, who was charged in June 2009 with aggravated sexual battery and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child under his supervision and then failed to appear in court, was detained last week by the Polish border police as he attempted to enter Poland.

PACK Seeks Off Leash Dog Area

500 petition signers seek Westgrove Park as off leash dog area.

By Gerald A. Fill
The Gazette

This past spring dog owners in the northern part of the Mount Vernon district formed an organization called Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness (PACK) to urge the Board of Supervisors to designate Westgrove Park as an off leash dog park/exercise area. Signs at the park specifically prohibit dogs from being off leash.

Members of PACK sent a letter originally signed by 300 residents to Supervisor Gerald Hyland and the Board of Supervisors requesting that the board establish Westgrove Park for interim designation as an off leash dog area until a long range plan for the park is developed. The organization has not received a reply to the June letter. Since sending the letter in June, PACK has garnered 200 more signatures, and now have a total of 500 residents in the region who support their efforts.

The formation of PACK was triggered by the ticketing in April, 2010 of four dog owners for violating the County’s dog leash law in the Westgrove Park.

Petition Letter

Excerpt from the June 2010 PACK petition letter to the Board of Supervisors:

“Use of Westgrove Park as an OLDA [Off Leash Dog Area] (temporary) would meet a clear need of residents of Mt. Vernon district with minimal impact on the environment and without additional cost to the county. Because many communities in this district have no sidewalks (and some prohibit fences) dog owners have scant opportunity to provide the level of exercise and off-leash training and socialization that healthy dogs require.”

“We respectfully urge the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to designate Westgrove Park an OLDA (temporary), interim to the county identifying funds and obtaining citizen approval for an alternative use.”

The park is completely fenced in by a chain link fence. As their letter states, the Westgrove Park “is a reclaimed sewage station area which comprises 23 acres under the Park Authority.”

The Westgrove Park has been under the Park Authority’s stewardship since 2001 according to Park Authority spokeswoman, Judy Peterson. Since 2009 Fairfax county’s animal control officers began issuing $107 tickets to those dog owners found to be allowing their dogs to run off leash, in violation of Section 41.1-1-1 of the County code.

According to Mary Tracey, vice president of PACK, no first offense warnings are issued, and the offense is a criminal offense. She is aware of six tickets that

Symphonic Season

Alexandra residents Greta Richard, Paul Johnson and Chris Ferrari perform with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. The new concert season begins Saturday, Sept. 11. See Page 10

See Governor, Page 4

See Hamilton, Page 21
Architectural Digest Sleek!
Chef’s kitchen is sure to wow with Silestone, Miele, Franke, Fisher Paykel, Silestone counters, glass tile backsplash. Two full marble baths include vessel bowls, Bain Ultra massage tub, rain showers, ToTo. Master suite and sitting room have custom closets and lighted display niches. Completely finished lower level media room. Outdoor room has pergola and delightful landscaping.

Susan Craft
703.216.4580
www.susanr craft.com
MLS ID: AX7242168

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www.vicibogues.com
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**News**

**Dead Body Found on Fort Belvoir**

The body of a deceased male was found Monday, Aug. 30, in a wooded area on Fort Belvoir. The deceased individual is believed to be that of a soldier, according to Chris Grey, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. The name of the deceased individual is being withheld as CID investigates the circumstances of the death and makes notification to the next of kin once positive identification is made.

**More Victims Scammed by Suspects**

Police have determined that two other victims have been scammed out of their money by at least two suspects claiming to have a winning lottery ticket. The most recent was on Friday, July 9, when a 45-year-old man relinquished nearly $15,000 in cash to two men he met at a gas station believing he would receive a percentage of the lottery winnings.

One suspect was described as having a heavy accent and an olive-skinned complexion. He was about 45 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, with a heavy build and short, light brown hair. He wore a chain necklace with a two-inch cross on it. The second suspect was described as possibly Brazilian, with a darker complexion. He was about 5 feet 2 inches tall and between 35 and 45 years old and 140 to 155 pounds.

On Friday, May 12, two suspects used the lottery ticket scam to gain $2,000 from a 62-year-old man they approached in the parking lot of a grocery store in the 7600 block of Richmond Highway. The suspects in this case were described as black, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and between 150 to 165 pounds. One suspect was about 40 years old and the other was between 22 and 25 years old.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

**Tax Breaks for Business Owners**

The Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a business lunch seminar, “Seven Tax Breaks for Business Owners,” on Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road.

Guest speaker is Sean O’Connell, a personal financial specialist, CPA, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Northern Chapter of the Virginia Society of CPAs.

For more information, contact Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Holly Dougherty at 703-360-6925.

**Discussing ‘Healthcare Wishes’**

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital will present “ Loving Conversations,” a Town Hall event being, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the hospital, 2501 Parker’s Lane, Yellow Entrance, Alexandria, to educate the community about how to communicate their healthcare wishes before a health crisis occurs.

A panel of experts will be present to discuss the social, medical and spiritual aspects of advanced planning and other resources will be available to assist and inform family members about understanding their loved one’s healthcare wishes. For more information call 703-750-8800.

**To Boldly Go Where …**

Students hope to be first high school group to launch their own satellite.

By Julia O’Donoghue

In October of 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the world’s first artificial satellite, into orbit.

The event ushered in a new fascination with space exploration and tipped off the space race between the American and Soviet governments.

By the beginning of 1958, the United States had sent its own satellite, Explorer I, into space. Congress also created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA, later that year.

But what took the backing of a world superpower to accomplish 50 years ago may become fodder for high school curricula in the 21st century.

Over the past few years, students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology have been building their own satellite called TJ CubeSat. They hope to become the first group of high school students to create and launch a satellite themselves this fall.

“It is kind of shocking to people at first when you tell them. They pause and say ‘Wait, what are you doing?’” said Alex McGlothlin, a freshman at the University of Virginia who graduated from Jefferson last May.

McGlothlin, who lives in Mount Vernon, worked on the satellite for three years in high school and was most recently the project’s systems engineer. He and five other students spent about five to 10 hours per week on the satellite this summer. Walker Ferguson, a Great Falls teenager who attends boarding school in England, also assisted the team as an intern with a local aerospace firm.

“TJ wanted to prove that high school students could build a satellite themselves. … It was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said McGlothlin.

**APPARENTLY** 30 to 35 students from Thomas Jefferson have participated in the creation of the satellite over the years, with students leaving the project behind as they graduate.

The satellite began as the primary focus of Jefferson’s engineering systems class, taught by Adam Kemp.

Since the beginning, Orbital Sciences Corporation — a local aerospace engineering firm — has provided students with mentors, financial support and access to the company’s facilities in Herndon.

Unlike many other high school assignments, Kemp and other teachers cannot always point students in the right direction when it comes to designing the satellite.

They have no more experience than the students so the teenagers often consult professional engineers at Orbital for guidance.

“It has helped having Orbital just 20 miles away,” said McGlothlin, who met with the other Jefferson students at Orbital’s campus on a weekly basis this summer.

Orbital is also covering the cost of the satellite launch.

See To Boldly Go. Page 4
Virginia has no problems with poverty, homelessness, and other social ills.

“I want to remind everyone that there are a large number of poor people in the Route 1 corridor,” Michell said. She went on to describe the New Hope housing programs which she characterized as providing emergency, transitional, and permanent housing assistance programs that provide “shelter and dignity to the individuals and families we serve.”

The Governor’s visit came as part of his recently issued Executive Order committing to the development of what he described as the Commonwealth’s first comprehensive housing policy. A special Task Force on Housing, chaired by the Governor’s special advisor, Bob Sledd, is now working on the development of housing policy recommendations which are expected in November.

Reactions from attendees to the Governor’s Northern Virginia visit to the New Hope shelter facilities, and his commitment to the development of a comprehensive housing policy for the Commonwealth included:

Linda Horner, president-elect, board of directors, New Hope Housing: “The Governor’s Executive Order and formation of a Task Force under Bob Sledd is a great first step. I look forward to the recommendations which emerge from the Task Force. One area I hope the TF will explore is creating incentives for the creation of public-private partnerships that will expand private sector participation in programs that reduce homelessness.”

Scott Surowell, state delegate: “I hope the Task Force sees that investing in taxpayer dollars in homelessness prevention and mitigation is not only the morally right thing to do, but also pays tremendous dividends to taxpayers because it avoids much more expensive taxpayer burdens that result if these problems are not addressed.”

Phyllis Chamberlain, executive director, Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness: “I am excited about the opportunities that the Governor’s housing policy presents to us. This is an opportunity for state and local governments, non-profits, and faith-based organizations to focus on long-term solutions to homelessness and not simply band-aids to the problem. I want to thank the Governor for his understanding that housing is critical to any economic development initiative. Without housing, a family often does not have the stability or opportunity they need to increase their self-sufficiency.”

### Statistics

- New Hope Housing’s accomplishments last year:
  - Served over 820 individuals, including 130 children in one or more of its programs.
  - Provided over 48,000 “bednights” of shelter through six shelter programs.
  - Assisted 35 families and 38 single adults in four transitional and six permanent supportive housing programs.
  - Assisted 11 families and 57 single adults to move from shelter to transitional housing into permanent housing.
  - Provided homelessness prevention services as part of Fairfax County’s Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing program.

As of January 2010 there were 2,434 persons, including 746 children in families that were homeless in Northern Virginia (Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria). This is an unduplicated count that took place on a designated night in January.

### More

**NEW HOPE HOUSING**
8407-E Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
www.newhopehousing.org
United Way #8179
CFC: #13831

The Mondloch House Shelters managed by New Hope Housing are located at 3510 Lockheed Blvd.

**THE SATELLITE**

- Smaller than the size of a human head, should stay in orbit for anywhere from three months to three years.
- McGlothlin said it is expected to launch either from the Virginia Coast, California or possibly Russia this fall.
- The mechanism is designed to receive special text messages while in space and then vocalize the words so that they can be heard with an amateur radio back on earth.

### Nya

**NEWS**

**To Boldly Go Where No High School Has Gone Before**

The Jefferson students have adopted the Cal Poly model.

“They are certainly working at a university level. This is challenging. It is like giving kids a really difficult piece of music to work on,” said Brunschwyler.

While the students from Jefferson are talented, Brunschwyler said many teenagers would be up to the challenge of building and launching a satellite.

“The kids are talented but they are not magical,” he said.

**WORKING** with the staff at Orbital has not only bolstered the students’ technical skills but also given them a pragmatic look at the professional world.

Devan Samant, a McLean resident who worked on the project for two years, said he learned a lot of valuable lessons about how to work with other people.

“I found it very interesting how things work in the real world. I learned a lot about how to communicate with other engineers,” said Samant, who has started his freshman year at the University of Virginia and graduated from Jefferson last May.

The students often have questions about project schedules and budgets just as much as engineering and design. For example, they want to know what to do when another person won’t return their phone call, said Brunschwyler.

“It certainly gives them a taste of what it is going to be like working out in the industry. This is not a college education. This is going to be like working out in the industry,” he said.

**THE SATELLITE**, smaller than the size of a human head, should stay in orbit for anywhere from three months to three years. McGlothlin said it is expected to launch either from the Virginia Coast, California or possibly Russia this fall.

The mechanism is designed to receive special text messages while in space and then vocalize the words so that they can be heard with an amateur radio back on earth.

### School Notes

**Maxwell Brindle**, son of Eugene and Connie Brindle of Alexandria, has been named to the Dean’s List at Hamilton College for the 2009 fall semester. Brindle, a junior majoring in government, is a graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School.

**Jason D. Neithamer** of Alexandria made the dean’s list at Bucknell University for the fall semester. He is the son of Calvin and Susan Neithamer of Alexandria, and a 2008 graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School, Alexandria.

Mount Vernon resident and 2006 MVHS graduate, Heather Nocera, graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College May 15, earning a BA degree in English and the Virginia state teaching certification. Nocera was a standout athlete at MVHS, earning MVP awards for both varsity softball and gymnastics during her senior year. At VWC she played Div. Ill softball for two years. She will begin graduate work at George Mason University this fall.

**Theresa A. Meehan** of Alexandria, Class of 2011, has received Faculty Honors for the 2009 fall semester.
BURGLARY
Two armed men robbed the 7-Eleven store at 2405 Faithaven Ave. around 11:16 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 18. They took an undisclosed amount of money and fled. They were described as about 6 feet tall and wore masks. One suspect wore a dark-colored striped, button-up shirt. The second suspect had on a blue shirt with white long sleeves and was distributing burglurous tools, wearing masks in certain places and grand larceny.

A man was arrested after an allegedly burglarizing the Su Pollo Restaurant, 8741 Richmond Highway, around 1:46 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12. A 21-year-old male of the 8700 block of Richmond Highway in Alexandria, was charged with burglary and possession of burglurous tools.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR
Police responded to a noise complaint the 8500 block of Richmond Highway around 1:32 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17. After a brief investigation, a 17-year-old boy was issued a summons for underage consumption or possession of alcohol and a 19-year-old man was arrested for allegedly purchasing alcohol for the minor and assisting a law enforcement officer. The 19-year-old, male of the 8500 block of Richmond Highway, was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and obstruction of justice.

SEXUAL BATTERY / ARREST
A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly inappropriately touching a 15-year-old girl on Thursday, Aug. 19 around 5:46 p.m. in the 7100 block of Groveton Road. The 22-year-old male, of the 8800 block of Badger Drive in Alexandria, was arrested and charged with sexual battery. The victim did not require medical attention.

ROBBERY
A 19-year-old man allegedly robbed a 12-year-old boy of his cell phone at gunpoint on Thursday, Aug. 19 around 5:46 p.m. in the 7100 block of Groveton Gardens Road. The suspect, of the 7100 block of Hunley Creek Place in Alexandria, was apprehended and charged with robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The victim was not injured and his cell phone was returned.

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Aug. 27.

CRIME REPORT

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Aug. 27.
have been issued to dog owners caught with their dogs off a leash in Westgrove Park.

Gill McCutcheon, Mount Vernon District member of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, said he is awaiting staff comment on the off leash dog area proposal for Westgrove Park.

He added, “We can’t afford to let the park stay in its present condition,” but had no comment on the long-range plan for the park.

According to Park Authority spokesman Judy Peterson there are currently seven designated off leash dog parks in the County. Other parks are included in the master plan provisions for an off leash dog park but no action to create them has been taken. Mount Vernon District currently has one off leash dog park located at Grist Mill Park. For dog owners in the northern part of Mount Vernon district, PACK members estimate that it would take approximately 20 minutes to get there by car.

Steven Nixon, president of PACK, said there is no long range master plan for Westgrove Park unlike those for most Fairfax County parks. Peterson said that the Park Authority has been responsible for the Westgrove Park since 2001.

The entrance to Westgrove Park is immediately south of Belle View Elementary School, on Fort Hunt Road. There is a small parking area adjacent to a chain link fence that has a small opening where visitors can enter. There is a road and trail of about 50 yards that leads down to an open commons area field of three and one half acres. This grassy area is surrounded by mature forest that on its eastern lower edge combines with a wetlands area that links to the Dyke Marsh wildlife preserve adjacent to the Mount Vernon Parkway. Dog owners frequently the park attest to the presence of deer, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, fox, and a variety of birds that regularly use the area.

Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh, said, “We do not support further development of Westgrove park.”

As evidence of the fragile nature of the Dyke Marsh and Westgrove nature areas Booth cited the following statistics: “Recent Belle Haven watershed management analysis, which encompasses this area, found that 80 percent of the streams in this area are in less than adequate condition … 26 percent are in fair condition; 46 percent are in poor condition; 28 percent are in very poor condition. There is a pattern of land use and development that is creating problems for all of our streams, forests, and wetlands areas in Fairfax County. As to the prospect that Westgrove could be developed into a ballpark or lacrosse playing field, Booth said that her children all played youth league sports and benefited by the presence of parks which offered ball fields; however, she could not support ballparks or lacrosse fields at Westgrove for her previously stated reasons.

Nixon said, “We are nature lovers, and we believe that having dogs at the park actually helps Dyke Marsh. Unlike a ball park [McCutcheon, according to PACK, has in the past proposed establishing a lighted ballpark on the property] we do not need fertilizers, herbicides, nor do we attract heavy people loads, or require additional parking.

“We are simply asking for interest in off leash dog exercise status until the County decides what it wants to do with the land. We are not asking the County to provide any improvements; we are happy with the Park as it is. We would like to exercise our dogs off leash at Westgrove without fear of getting ticketed by Fairfax County Animal Control.”

OPEN-GOVERNMENT ADVOCATES CLASH WITH PUBLIC-SAFETY OFFICIALS OVER ACCESS TO POLICE DOCUMENTS.

Section 41.1-2-4. Unrestricted dogs prohibited; Leash Law. Subsection (a) No dog shall run unrestricted, as defined in Section 41.1-1-1, in the County ... this section shall not apply to ... an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by Fairfax County designated by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors as an off-leash dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority as an off-leash or dog exercise area ...
Harmful to the Public?

SECRETIVE. Megan Rhyne, associate director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, wrote that records in closed cases should be presumed open. Hope Amezquita, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, agreed that opening criminal records for review would encourage accountability of law-enforcement agencies.

“Right now people do not know what is going on in their communities because nothing is being released,” said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. “This is one of the highest concerns we have in the press association.”

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE were not interested in pursuing the version of Edwards’ bill as it was introduced earlier this year, which would have opened up documents in cases that are closed. But they may be interested in another version of the effort. During a discussion of allowing a judge to determine availability, subcommittee member Del. Morgan Griffith (R-8) suggested a variation on Edwards’ compromise that would put the burden on the petitioner rather than the government.

“That’s the only direction I think we could go in to resolve this,” said Griffith. “I think what Senator Edwards is trying to get at may not be possible to create some kind of petitioning process.”

Chairman Fifer concluded the meeting by directing the subcommittee’s staff to prepare a draft of potential legislation. After the meeting, Fifer was clear that the preparation of a draft is not necessarily an endorsement of it. Once the draft is completed, members of the subcommittee will take another look at language and make a determination on it. If they endorse the idea, the draft legislation could go before all members of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council in advance of the next session of the General Assembly. That would clear the way for a debate between open-government advocates and public-safety officials.

“I believe this is a good first step,” said Stanley after the meeting concluded. “The idea of clarifying and coming to some sort of uniform understanding throughout the commonwealth is a laudable goal.”

Yet even in its amended form, the effort is likely to come under intense opposition. “It’s impractical,” said Sengel after the meeting. “Frankly, I just don’t think that our court system can handle the workload at this point. We are already stretched to the limit with the resources we have, and I just think this is a lot of potential litigation we don’t need to be engaging in.”
Code Red

T his summer, despite the heat, we’ve had fewer “Code Red” air quality days than one might have expected, possibly a result of the slower economy. On “Code Red” days, children, older people and people with asthma, heart or respiratory problems should reduce outdoor activities. Even healthy individuals should limit strenuous outdoor work and exercise.

The primary causes of air pollution in Northern Virginia are vehicle emissions and pollution from coal-burning power plants here and to the west. Approximately 60-70 percent of the pollutants that cause ground-level ozone are created from vehicles, other garden equipment and common household products, according to the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments.

OPINION

Starting School after Labor Day

We cruise into the last week of summer vacation for most Virginia school districts with temperatures in the high 90s and “Code Red” air quality, the state mandate to delay opening schools until after Labor Day doesn’t seem like such a bad thing.

While students across the river in Montgomery County headed back to the classroom on Monday, Aug. 30, Virginia students have an extra eight days of summer break. Long held up as an example of corporate influence over the General Assembly (King’s Dominion makes strategic donations to state legislators and senators while lobbying for the “start after Labor Day” rule), if the result is that families have a little more time for vacation, possibly giving the economy a little boost in the process, perhaps no harm is done.

Here are a few suggestions to help air quality in the short term:

❖ Limit driving, combine trips or work from home.
❖ Use area bus and rail lines.
❖ Avoid mowing lawns with gasoline-powered motors.
❖ Refuel vehicles after dusk; avoid idling.
❖ Conserve electricity, turn up the thermostat for air conditioning, turn off unneeded lights.

For the air quality forecast for Northern Virginia and links to maps, see http://www.deq.virginia.gov/airquality.

MVCCA Board Responds

To the Editor:

To read the weekly criticisms of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations (MVCCA), chronicled almost exclusively by a lone individual, one might think the organization deserves no standing in our community, has no useful purpose, and is composed of a handful of individuals dedicated to ruining our way of life. Nothing could be further from the truth. At MVCCA Co-chairs we strive to lead a respectable organization that serves its mission and its membership. As an unwritten policy we normally do not address individuals that have no standing in the MVCCA, particularly those with self-seeking agendas whose complaints have little or no merit. This letter has been submitted to the Gazette to inform the Mount Vernon community of the reality of the MVCCA, and to set the record straight.

Founded in 1969, the MVCCA has continuously represented the interests of member citizens’ associations in the Mount Vernon District. Literally hundreds of volunteers have served this outstanding community organization in various capacities over the years, whether it has been as a member of one of the eight standing committees, a special committee, or on the Board of Directors as a committee chair, secretary, treasurer or co-chair. It has been offered that the MVCCA is a “special interest group” and does not represent a majority of citizens. Allowing for the fact that most associations located south and west of Fort Belvoir generally belong to our sister organization, the South County Federation, and taking into account those non-residential areas that are publicly or commercially owned, it is clear that the MVCCA does, in fact, represent an overwhelming percentage of residents. It is no wonder that Supervisor Hyland and other supervisors on the Fairfax County Board listen carefully to the formal positions taken by the Mount Vernon Council and the Mount Vernon District. We are by far the most proactive citizens’ council in all of Fairfax County and have influenced policy beyond our borders.

Refined over the years, our by-laws (www.mvcca.org/docs/bylaws.pdf) continue to serve as the guiding document of this volunteer organization, even as numerous individuals have served their community via the MVCCA and then moved on. We take these by-laws seriously.

In repeated misguided missives to the Gazette, the detractor offered that the current Environment and Recreation Chair is violating one of the MVCCA by-laws by also serving on the Fairfax County Wetlands Board (FCWB). The conflict would arise if, in fact, sitting on the FCWB would qualify as a “policy-making position in Fairfax County.” This charge was investigated nine months ago and found to be of no merit. It turns out that the enabling legislation requiring Fairfax County to establish a Wetlands Board makes no mention or suggestion of the word “policy” in any form. As stated by officials at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission during our investigation, the wetlands boards’ purpose is not to establish policy; rather they “shall preserve and prevent the despoliation and destruction of wetlands within its jurisdiction while accommodating necessary economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation.” The statute allows for “rules and procedures” for each individual board, but the efficient functioning of the committee is a far cry from establishing policy for the entire County. Furthermore, all Wetlands Boards across the Commonwealth report to the Wetlands Board Commissioner within the Virginia Marine Resources Division — not the local elected officials of the area they serve.

In another baseless attempt to discredit the MVCCA regarding the APR nominations, the detractor falsely accused the MVCCA Special Committee for Long Range Planning developed and organized several nominations through an open, public process that included various organizations and literally hundreds of individuals beyond the MVCCA. These nominations truly reflect the desires and needs of the citizenry of the Mount Vernon District. Through the process, the MVCCA has been fully cognizant of the possible need and substantial cost of a Chapter 527 traffic study required by some nominations, and has successfully explored various means to enable a non-profit citizens group to participate in the CP process without fronting the substantial cost. This entire process — planned and executed by your neighbors in the MVCCA — has been a huge victory for all citizens of the Mount Vernon District.

Another example of an effort to distort public opinion of the MVCCA was the unwarranted bashing of the recent MVCCA Gala. This traditional event honors those volunteers and pillars of the community who have served the Mount Vernon area in any number of beneficial capacities throughout the years. While it is unfortunate that the event lost money during one of the worst economic times in this country’s history, we are not generally concerned. Attendance was, in fact, lower than normal due to factors including timing and venue; the unavailability of Gerry Hyland to attend was an unfortunate coincidence of scheduling. We move forward with confidence that future MVCCA Galas will enjoy higher attendance during better economic times and of course will feature the District Supervisor in attendance.

Finally, let’s review the charge that a recent decline in attendance at MVCCA meetings is somehow a reflection of the current Board of Directors. Historically, attendance at MVCCA meetings correlates directly with the time of...
People

New Business

The traditional Lion Dance, the Muping Dance Troup and Tai Chi Performers celebrated the opening of the Whole Health Medical Center and Spa on Saturday, June 26, at 6910 Richmond Highway. The center will offer a combination of Eastern and Western holistic medicine and spa treatments. For more information on Whole Health, visit www.wholehealthmedicalcenters.com or call 703-901-6588.

Students Attend International Conference

Three student officers, Ashraf Elmelik, president; Ryan Pierpoint, vice president, and Alexander Case, communications officer, accompanied by their Faculty Advisor Kenneth Balbuena, of the Kiwanis Circle K International (CKI) Club at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVACC) in Alexandria, participated in the CKI International Conference in St. Louis, Mo., from Aug. 5-7. Their goal was to improve their skills in CKI’s objectives of leadership, fellowship, and service.

Elmelik and Pierpoint are West Potomac Kiwanis Key Club alums who founded this college-level club earlier this year to continue their tradition of service to their community through Kiwanis.

This trip was paid for mainly by the Northern Virginia Community College and partly by the CKI Club’s sponsoring organization, the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club.

For more information about the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, which sponsors community service clubs in four area high schools and one elementary school as well as at NOVACC Alexandria, see its website at www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org or its Facebook Page or send a message to brucemalkin1@gmail.com.

Belle View Hosts Craft Fair

A dozen or so tables were set up in the Belle View Village Center for a summer craft fair on Saturday, Aug. 21. Jewelry, fabric crafts, paper art and a crochet arts were on display.

Jo Ann McBridge makes gifts with a twist, origami made from U.S. currency and maps.

People Notes

Graham Kolle, a resident of Fort Hunt, Alexandria, is participating in the 45th season of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Graham has studied double bass for 7.5 years. A senior at West Potomac High School, he is the son of Bernard Kolle and Rachel Pharr.

This Fort Hunt resident will work with members of the BSO, BU faculty, and visiting artists.

Esther Cha, 24, of Alexandria, has been accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for Niger on July 7, to begin pre-service training as a Community and Youth Education Peace Corps volunteer. Upon graduation from volunteer training in October, Cha will be increasing awareness of the importance of both formal and informal education, especially for females, improving the quality of teaching by assisting with teacher training, and creating opportunities for more community based organizations.

Cha is the daughter of Mynng Soo and Sun Cha, and a graduate of Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria.

She then attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in international studies and French, graduating in 2004. Cha previously worked as a youth coordinator for special needs students at the YMCA.
Orchestra Growth Continues

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra opens season Sept. 11.

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra’s 2010-11 season repertoire will include performances at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts in Fairfax, and the expansion of their performances to the new Hylton Performing Arts Center on the GMU campus in Manassas.

“We are thrilled to be performing in Merchant Hall at the stunningly beautiful new Hylton Performing Arts Center,” said Elizabeth Murphy, executive director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

“This is a great opportunity for the orchestra to expand both its audience and its opportunity to play together,” said Maestro Christopher Zimmerman, who is entering his second year as Fairfax Symphony Orchestra’s music director. “This orchestra is definitely up to the challenges presented by adding another venue.”

THE SEASON WILL OPEN Sept. 11 with Tchaikovsky’s “The Tempest Fantasy-Overture,” Schumann’s Piano Concerto, and Rachmaninoff’s Third Symphony. Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff have always been staple fare of the FSBO, and deservingly so, since these two composers have penned some of the most heartfelt and passionate music ever. “Here are two major works of theirs which, unaccountably, are not particularly known to both orchestras and audiences alike, but they show every bit the inspiration and mastery of their better known cousins ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and Symphony No. 2,” said Zimmerman. The guest artist is the French pianist Philippe Bianconi who, according to Zimmerman, “is both a beautiful pianist and profound interpreter.”

The Oct. 23 concert highlights the FSBO and the FSO performing together. As part of three-year Sibelius exploration, the FSBO will perform the symphonic fantasy “Pohjola’s Daughter,” another of his wonderfully evocative tales. Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante features FSO Concertmaster David Salness and Greer Rupert, principal viola, as soloists. Bartok’s Concerto for Orchestra makes similar virtuosic demands on individual players and orchestral sections alike, allowing the FSBO to, as Zimmerman said, “place the spotlight on itself.”

On Nov. 20, guest conductor Eckart Preu will lead the orchestra in a performance of music from the first half of the 19th century and the second half of the 20th. Zimmerman described the musical selections as “sparkling, clean, and clear.” The mischievous and humorous Mozart’s La Clemenza Overture contrasts with the drama and poetic introspection of Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 3 in the early Romantic Period.

The Jan. 15, 2011 program will mark both the Fairfax Symphony’s first concert in a series of double performances, and its debut performance at the beautiful new Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. From England, Central Europe and the United States, Zimmerman has chosen three masterpieces that he believes apply exemplify Western music’s profound and beautiful legacy. Bernstein’s Overture to “Candide” and Dvorak’s Symphony No. 9, “From the New World” are traditional audience favorites, beloved in the repertoire. Walton’s Violin Concerto, not as frequently performed, will feature guest artist Chee-Yun, who returns to the FSBO after her acclaimed performance of Sylvie Bozicka’s “Concerto di Fiore” in its 2008-09 season.

The first part of the 20th century was one of the richest and most exciting eras in all of Western music.

See Orchestra. Page 18

Welcome to the FSO

Let me introduce you to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO), an important part of your new community.

From our unique and valuable education programs in County schools, to our free summer concerts in the parks, to our fabulous concert season throughout the year at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts, we are everywhere you are. Take advantage of our low ticket prices, convenient location, and neighborhood environment and come to a concert this season.

Founded in 1957, the FSO has grown to be one of the finest regional orchestras in the country. We routinely welcome world-class guest artists to perform with us on our stage, and are committed to fostering music education for every age group, from the youngest beginning student, to the adult learner. Our highly trained, professional musicians come to us from all walks of life: they are teachers in the public schools, members of military bands, computer technicians, bank tellers, mothers, fathers, and neighbors that you might even know! Their love of performing and music draws them together.

Ticket prices are $25, $35, or $55 for adults and $5 for students under 18. Visit us on the web at www.fairfaxsymphony.org today to find out more and join our email list to hear about special ticket offers and other events before anyone else.

Best of all, we are right here in your own backyard. Here’s my personal invitation to you and your family — come hear us this year. You’ll be glad you did.

See you at the Symphony.

Christopher Zimmerman
Music Director

Musician Profiles

CHRISTIAN FERRARI
Age: 42
Instrument(s): Trumpet
Town of Residence: Alexandria
Years in FSO: became a member in 2008 but have subbed for 10 years

Studied Music At: Syracuse University and New England Conservatory

Career Outside of FSO: I am a member of “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band.

Groups Other Than The FSO: Besides playing the Marine Band and the FSO, I play at a variety of churches and have played on several studio projects for various publishing companies.

Did you grow up/to high school or college in this area? Where?
No, I grew up in Illinois.

Sparked your interest in music? How old were you? When you knew you wanted to play professionally?
I started playing trumpet in 6th grade and really loved the sound. My father played me recordings of several trumpet artists including Herb Alpert, Severinsen, Maurice Andre and Wynton Marsalis. I realized I wanted to try to play professionally around 10 or 11th grade when I started to think about going to school for music.

What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who is considering a music career?
As a youth, I would give to a young person who is deciding how serious he/she is about music?
You can ask yourself a few questions. Do you love playing your instrument more than anything else? Do you get excited when you hear professional musicians play your instrument and want to emulate them? Are you willing to spend many hours learning about and practicing your instrument every day? If so, then you should search for a good teacher and give it all you got.

What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who has stopped playing an instrument but would like to take it up again?
Since you already know how to generally play your instrument, you should take the time to practice productively and take care to learn to play as efficiently and as relaxed as possible.

What is your favorite piece to play?
I enjoy playing all types of music but probably my most favorite are Orchestral Pops and theater or ‘pitt’ work.

What are other local music venues/experiences that you would recommend?
I would recommend hearing any of the premier military bands in the D.C. area. Classical or Jazz, they have some of the best players you could try! All their concerts are free and they perform in many different venues around the area. They also often feature amazing soloists which is always a treat for me.

Is there any other information you would like to share about your family?
Do you have relatives/children who also perform?
My wife is a professional bassoonist freelance in the area and has performed with the FSBO many times over the past year. She has also performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra.

Where do you “hang out”?
What do you like to do when you are not working?
I have two children and they take

See Profiles. Page 18

Chris Ferrari of Alexandria plays trumpet for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

up most of my time :) What is your favorite thing about playing for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra?
I enjoy getting to play with a full string section.

ANDREW HESSE
Age: 25
Instrument(s): Cello
Town of Residence: Alexandria
Years in FSO: This will be my third season

Studied Music At: Northwestern University and Illinois Wesleyan University

Career Outside of FSO: I teach music lessons privately, play in other regional orchestras, and perform with a quartet for weddings, etc.

Groups Other Than The FSO: National Philharmonic Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, McLean Orchestra.

Did you grow up/to high school or college in this area? Where?
No, I grew up in Illinois.

Sparked your interest in music? How old were you? When you knew you wanted to play professionally?
I can’t think of a time when I was not interested in music. My mom used to say that I was singing songs along with the radio before I could talk. I started playing the cello when I was 5 years old because my grand-mother played. The decision to play professionally was a bit more gradual. I took some time away from the cello in 9th grade and was reinvigorated when I started back up in high school. I would say that I knew for sure that I wanted to pursue music professionally by my junior year of high school.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is deciding how serious he/she is about music?
Music is one of the few activities we start as children that can be a part of our lives well into adulthood. For instance, after you graduate from high school, there are fewer and fewer opportunities to participate in organized sports. However, you can find fulfillment in music in so many different ways regardless of age or what profession you ultimately chose. My 88-year old grandmother, for example, still plays her cello at home and plays in the bell choir at church.

For those students who are considering music as a profession, I would say that it is a difficult path with many ups and downs along the way. However, if it is something you love, a career in music can be very rewarding.

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LETTERS

From Page 8

year (summer attendance is always low for obvious reasons) as well as with the significance of the issues affecting the community. One need only look at attendance figures when items such as County budgets and taxation, North Hill, Kings Crossing and other notable projects are being debated. Smaller issues simply draw a smaller crowd. Also, each member organization of the MVCCA is entitled to have designated representatives sit on all of the MVCCA Committees. Some choose not to do so, even though they have that entitlement.

When assessing these unfounded attacks on citizen volunteers it is important for the reader to understand that the one complaining individual was previously a member of the MVCCA Board of Directors for a brief period in 2007. His service was terminated when he was removed from office for a conflict of interest after he made the questionable decision to sue the president of his own citizens association. His efforts in that regard were a failure, as are his current efforts to undermine the primary citizen representation for our District. We will leave it to the reader to decide where this individual’s motivations really lie.

Despite the likelihood of future attempts by our detractor to garner the spotlight with creatively twisted interpretations, we will not be dissuaded from our mission to serve the public interest. We will not be engaging in an endless round of point-counterpoint; this will very likely be our only response to set the record straight.

We remind all of you in the Mount Vernon community that the MVCCA is here to serve you and your concerns. We are active, vibrant, and outspoken. We do not stand on the sidelines and complain while others move this District forward. We do our part.

Importantly we are an open organization (all meetings are open to the general public) and invite all eligible associations to join and become voting members of the Council. We look forward to seeing you at any one of our monthly committee meetings or at the monthly General Council. Visit www.mvCCA.org for more information.

David Plummer
Al Bornmann
Robert Reynolds
MVCCA Co-chairs

Restoring Dyke Marsh

To the Editor:

I read with interest the letter in last week’s Gazette from Glenda C. Booth, president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh. Her letter described the beauty of the marsh, the fact that it is a national treasure, and its role in enhancing water quality in the Potomac River as well as in providing a habitat for wildlife. She is correct. However, the sentence that drew my attention is: “Commendably, the U.S. National Park Service is moving to restore damaged areas.” The average reader would not realize that this sentence is referring to a proposal to fill in 270 acres of the Potomac River to recapture portions of dyke marsh that existed 100 years ago, but subsequently were destroyed by mining operations that removed sand and gravel from the bed of the Potomac River, causing a significant portion of the marsh to disappear.

I spoke with Brent Steury this week. He is a natural resources program manager for the George Washington Memorial Parkway who is involved in the pro...
Schaeffer Makes the Right Moves in Musical, “Chess”

Streamlined pop-rock musical hits heights.

By Brad Hathaway

Art League Helps Kick-Off Alexandria Festival of the Arts

The Art League will host a variety of free creative programs on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria (The Art League will be located at the corner of King & North Fairfax Streets).

Fun, hands-on, art activities for all ages will be offered throughout the day along with demonstrations by nationally recognized artists. They will also hold their first artistically delicious fundraiser — The Ice Cream Bowl. Art League Instructor and artist Steve Prince kick off the festivities with a fun, hands-on activity for kids.

❖ 10 a.m. - noon: Kick Off with Art League Instructor Steve Prince and Mayor Bill Euille at Market Square. Art League Instructor and artist Steve Prince kick off the festivities with a fun, hands-on activity for kids.

❖ 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser at Market Square. Support The Art League Ceramics Department while enjoying ice cream.

For $15, select a handmade ceramic bowl created by the artists of The Art League’s Ceramics Department and enjoy a bowl of local artisan ice cream by ACKA Cocoa Bar in Del Ray.

Participants in the Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser may enter the free drawing to win an Art League Gift Certificate.

The Ice Cream Bowl benefits The Art League’s Ceramics Program. Thanks to ACKA Cocoa Bar for generously donating ice cream and supplies; students, associates, and instructors of The Art League’s ceramics program for creating and donating the handmade bowls; and Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association for their support.

❖ 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Art Activated in the Torpedo Factory Art Center with Patrick Kirwin. Art League Instructor and muralist Patrick Kirwin demonstrates his techniques for creating “fool-the-eye” effects. At the main hall of the Torpedo Factory.

❖ 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Plein Air Painting Demo with Fred Markham at Market Square. Art League Instructor and landscape artist Fred Markham shares his painting tips for capturing the essence of any scene.

S
ignature Theatre’s Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer has turned his attention to a musical that has never quite worked and created a high-tech, high-sheen, high-volume version of the mod-pop musical “Chess” that spins its story more efficiently and, in many ways, more effectively than its previous versions had.

“Chess” was originally created as a concept album by lyricist Tim Rice who had had great success with two other musicals that began as concept albums, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Evita.” For those, his composer had been Andrew Lloyd Webber, but he was busy with “Cats,” so Rice teamed with Casio van Esser and Bjorn Ulvaeus of ABBA to create a rock musical score with a distinctly pop sound. This was in 1984. The cold war was raging and Rice wanted to create a piece about international power plays and the way superpowers manipulate people in their ploys using the game of chess as an allegory.

Putting the highly successful music of the album (which included songs that became hits singles such as “One Night in Bangkok”) on a stage has been a mixed bag, however. A London production ran nearly three years and was a financial success, but was criticized for an unorthodox telling of a confusing story. A Broadway version with a completely rewritten plot was a quick financial failure although it was praised for strong performances.

Schaeffer’s version, which will play through Sept. 26 in Signature’s 259-seat theater in Shirlington, offers equally strong performances in a streamlined storytelling structure that, if not fixing all the problems of earlier versions, at least solves most of them and then covers up the remainder with theatrical pizzazz that keeps the audience from focusing on plot weaknesses until after the show is over and the music has died down.

In the process, he has brought the running time of the show down to under two and a half hours of fast-paced highlights. This is no small accomplishment if you consider how difficult it must be to make a compelling dramatic musical out of anything quite as static and silent as a chess match. As the leading lady sings at one point: “a game in which silence is golden and speaking a crime.”

The love triangle between an American and a Russian chess master and the woman who leaves one for the other has been cast with strong stage presence to the piece. Most impressive is Evan Morton, best known for his role as Boy George in his Broadway debut in “Taboo.” The strength and clarity of his voice and the intensity of his performance are impressive all evening long. Matching Morton’s Russian chess master is Jeremy Kushnir as the American bad boy chess star who believes in mind games off the board as well as on. He

Where & When

“Chess” plays through Sept. 26 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Avenue in Shirlington. Performances are Tuesday - Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday - Sunday at 2 p.m and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are $55 - $81. Call 703-573-7228 or log on to www.signaturetheatre.org.

Jeremy Kushnir with the Ensemble singing “One Night In Bangkok” in “Chess” at Virginia’s Signature Theatre through Sept. 26, 2010.

Characters are just serviceable and the decision to place the ensemble in black uniform-like tunics raises confusing thoughts of why, for example, is the press corps that is interviewing the chess players dressed as bellmen at a swank hotel?

A key factor in the success of any musical at Signature, where the intimacy of the theater makes the sound of the music almost an environment in itself, is the orchestra and the orchestrations they are playing to support the voices on stage. As so often happens here, this production benefits from fine playing by, in this case, 10 musicians under the baton of Jenny Cartney. The new orchestrations are by David Holenberg whose years in the pit for the ABBA musical “Mamma Mia!” seems to have given him an instinct for the strength of Anderson and Ulvaeus’ compositions. There is a significant difference in the sound of the music between the two Anderson/Ulvaeus shows. This makes perfect dramatic sense, however, since “Mamma Mia!” has a score to be sung by happy people at a joyous point in their lives, while “Chess” concerns angry people at a tense point in theirs.

The individual contributions are kept in balance by Schaeffer, who gives the entire project a sense of momentum that drives it forward even when the story seems to be faltering. It may well be the most satisfying Chess game you’ve ever listened to.

Scott Suchman/The Connection
Notes from the Director
By Carolyn Griffin, Producing Artistic Director

A new Jazz Age musical, “Glimpses of the Moon,” based on the novel by Edith Wharton, will open MetroStage’s 2010-11 season next week. MetroStage has become known for its small-scale musicals (we leave the epics to other theatres that have larger dressing rooms!). “Glimpses of the Moon,” which played in a cabaret space in New York last year (if you consider the Oak Room of the famous Algonquin Hotel a cabaret space), will leap onto our main stage here in the north end of Old Town with a fabulous cast from Washington and New York, beautiful music and original choreography. Producing new work, especially musicals, and giving them a life beyond the written page, is one of MetroStage’s primary missions. Book and lyrics writer, Tajlei Levis, and composer, John Mercurio, will be here from New York to witness this next stage for their new work, as well as the original New York producers and potential producers for the future. The MetroStage season will be opening with great anticipation and excitement as well as great possibilities for a future life for this lovely new musical.

Every regional theatre in the country has a distinctive personality and mission. MetroStage is a small, intimate theatre with a unique configuration that brings the audience and the actor together for a powerful, often times exhilarating, theatrical experience. By presenting an eclectic season the audience will experience a sparkling romantic musical depicting life in the 1920’s, followed by an uproarious Broadway parody of the classic holiday show, Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” entitled “A Broadway Christmas Carol,” followed by a classic Tom Stoppard farce, “The Real Inspector Hound,” starring the three actors who appeared in “Heroes” last year and won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble. This apparently is the year of the classic. As I write this description of the MetroStage offerings this season, I realize that the shows are all classics in their own individual, inimitable way. A classic writer famous for her social commentaries of the leisure class in the 1920s; the holiday classic with the most classic of familiar Broadway show tunes; the classic legendary singer from the first half of the 20th century singing blues, jazz and gospel standards; and a classic Stoppard farce that is a send up of the classic Agatha Christie mystery — all are classics and will offer the audience a broad range of unique theatrical experiences.

Singing blues, jazz and gospel standards; and a classic Stoppard farce that is a send up of the classic Agatha Christie mystery — all are classics and will offer the audience a broad range of unique theatrical experiences.

If you lived at the Hermitage, tomorrow would bring a full calendar of delightful choices among friendly neighbors in a welcoming community. You’d enjoy freedom from home maintenance and chores in a spacious, newly remodeled apartment. The Hermitage has been serving the seniors of Northern Virginia for 48 years.

What do you have planned for tomorrow?

Discover a secure, fulfilling life at the Hermitage!

Call today to arrange a tour! 703-797-3800

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You’ll find balance, calmness, and happiness through expertly taught yoga exercises, meditation, and breathing techniques. Classes offered daily. Beginners welcomed.

Register today
- Next six-week session begins September 13
- Try a FREE class from September 13-19
- Wake Up Yoga every Monday at 6:30 a.m.
- Yoga for Kids every Monday at 3:30 & 4:30 p.m.
- Yoga for Seniors every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m.
- Unlimited class passes available Call for details
- 15% off single, new student registration with this ad Call for details

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Register two people for the price of one
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George Mason University Center for the Arts
- TCHAIKOVSKY: The Tempest Fantasy-Overture
- SCHUMANN: Piano Concerto
- RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 3

Upcoming Concerts
October 23rd - November 20th - January 15th
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The Royal Restaurant
(now smoke free)

“What’s for Dinner?!”
You don’t have to think too hard, let us solve this classic question.
In addition to our award winning menu, we have added some popular specials that add variety for everybody taste.
Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night
Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having dinner.

Tuesday - Greek Night
Lamb Marinaded and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

Wednesday - All American Night
Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham.

Thursday - Italian Night
Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

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

Sunday
Brunch served 7am - 2pm
Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.
Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616
Free Ample Parking

Maizbon Afghan Grill is open 7 days a week between 11:30am to 2:30pm. Dinner is served between 4pm to 10pm.

Mount Vernon Gazette • September 2-8, 2010
WWW.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Rainy Day in NYC by Jill Banks, Best in Show, oil on canvas.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 6
“Scapes: The Annual Landscape Exhibit.” 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. The exhibit 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.

Fine Arts

Photograph by Marge Silverberg

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3
“Sunflowers Say Summer.” Photograph exhibit of sunflowers at Buza Bakery, Coffee and Lounge, 901 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. The work of six metropolitan-area photographers will be on exhibit. Photographers Grayce Warren-Boulton, Candace Clifford, Sheila Galagan, Jo Ann Tooley, Pam Richmond and Marge Silverberg are part of the 111, A Women’s Photography Collective.

Johanna Mueller, Tim Portlock, Matt King, John Henry Blatter, Kathleen Shafter and Joanie Turbek. Opening reception is Friday, Sept. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Contact Jeffy Cudlin, Director of Exhibitions at jeffy.cudlin@arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6810.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 12
Shore Line. 2-6 p.m. Featured by Van Landingham Paintings, Fire Enamels. A collection of works by Cindi Lewis. A show of paintings and fire enamels featuring scenes of beaches and sea by Marfan Van Landingham will open in studio 321, Torpedo Factory Art Center. The show will end on Sept. 25.

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.
THURSDAY/SEPT. 2
Tea Dances.
FRIDAY AFTERNOONS
Paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 is Thursday at noon for the following week’s
tos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Pho-

TUESDAY/SEPT. 7
in the Civil War.” At Morrison House,

Doggie Swim.

Lesson Zero (new adult
contemporary indie rock/blue).
3-4 p.m. Free. A concert performed by
Lesson Zero, new adult contemporary indie rock/group. Special guest
includes Rosa Maria Faulkner, a
Certified Personality Trainer. Sponsored by the Springfield/
Alexandria Women’s Connection. At
the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.
Reservations must be made by Sept. 3 at 703-590-6652 or e-mail to
SpringWInCean@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 17
Red Molly in Concert. 8 p.m. Tickets are $20/advance; $22 door; children under 14 with a half adult price. For reservations, go to soundpop.com or call 800-404-9049.

Live Well with Chronic Illness – Health problems such as arthritis, diabetes, heart diseases and respiratory problems can involve ongoing physical and emotional challenges. A free Fairfax County workshop helps people handle the frustration, fatigue, and pain associated with chronic illnesses. Workshops meet one week for six weeks to begin each Monday, Sept. 7 at Sherwood Hall Library, 201 Sherwood Hall Ln., Alexandria. Call 703-324-5489, ext. 777.

Square Dance Lessons. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday.

Do the right thing – come see if the classes are right for you and pay nothing. Class costs $40 per person for each eight-week period. At Lincoln Center, 4710 North Chambly St., Alexandria. Call 703-573-8378. Email tom.nanyatifdd@cox.net.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 9
Second Thursday Art Night. 6-9 p.m. Free. Art Work with David H. Wells at 8 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery. From 6:30-8 p.m., the Torpedo Factory Art Gallery hosts the reception for the All-Media Membership Show and Michelle Rea’s solo show, Vantage Point. From 6-6:30 p.m., “Target Gallery presents a Meet the Artists” reception for Systems Failure. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org. 703-838-4565.

David Glaser. 7- p.m. David Glaser burst onto the acoustic-folk scene in 2008 with “Cars and Lovers,” a genre-bending CD that shows his range as a performing songwriter. Performs at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

Canine Cruise. 8 p.m. Cost is $35/ person, $20/kids under 12. Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue invites humans and their doggie friends on a cruise. For more information contact: Warner down to the Potomac River and east to the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Reservations must be made by Sept. 3 at 703-590-6652 or e-mail to SpringWInCean@yahoo.com.

SEPT. 11-12
Alexandria Festival of the Arts. Free. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alexandria’s premier art fair returns for its 8th anniversary with the nation’s top established artists as well as new and emerging talents. Includes paintings, life size sculptures, photography, glass, wood, jewelry, collage and ceramics with prices ranging from $25 hand-designed earrings to $20,000 metal sculpture. In the French Market on King Street from Washington down to the Potomac River and east to the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 480 King street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriafestivalofthearts.org.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12
U.S. Open Tennis. 11 a.m. Live on CBS.

AUGUST 30

Composting Information. 10 to 2:30 p.m. Cost is $12/person. Green Spring Gardens’ Master Gardeners share gardening tips. To register, call 703- 642-5173. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11 “Blacks Without Borders” Film Screening. 4:30 p.m. Free. Part of “Movies with a Mission.” At the Alexandria Bar, 952 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alex blackthonline.org or call 703-746-4356.

Art Activated! Noon to 5 p.m. Free. During the Alexandria Festival of the Arts, the Torpedo Factory presents Art Activated featuring artist demonstrations, hands-on projects, art-inspired treats from Snackbash by Bittersweet and special performances by DeCypher, Joy of Motion Dance Center’s resident adult hip-hop company. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org. 703- 838-4565.

17th Annual Leukemia Cup
Regatta. Begins at 10 a.m. The largest race on the Potomac. One-Design, PHRF and model yachts are set sail. Spectator boats will be available to the public for a cruise and a chance to win a $100 per person. Guests may purchase tickets for the post-race celebration, at $10 per person. Ticket accommodations are asked to raise at least $100 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in lieu of a registration fee. To register for the events or for more information, contact Lara Lipari, Sales Campaign Manager, at 703-399-2957, or visit www.leukemianation.org/ncas.

SEPTEMBER 2-8, 2010

Calendario

Mount Vernon Gazette ▸ September 2-8, 2010 ▸ 17

Alexandria School for the Performing Arts
Classes in guitar, piano, brass, voice,
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301-836-2427
Registration now open. Less than $7/Class
Orchestra Growth Continues

FROM PAGE 10

More

Call 703-563-1990 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org. Tickets for the 2010-11 season range from $25-$55 (Fairfax) and from $25-$45 (Manassas).

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE by calling 703-563-1990 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org. Single tickets for the 2010-11 season range from $25-$55 (Fairfax) and from $25-$45 (Manassas). Directions to the concert halls and information on the FSO’s education and outreach programs, podcasts and other activities may also be found on the FSO’s website. Program notes for each concert are posted on the site at least one week prior to the performance. The orchestra is supported in part through funding by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the County of Fairfax, along with generous support from corporations, foundations and individuals.

Bound for Wolf Trap

On the morning of Aug. 6, a chartered bus took 52 children and their escorts from Springfield’s Creekside Neighborhood to see two performances at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. This trip was sponsored and paid for by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. For more information on how to help the club do more community service, visit www.mtvernonkiwanis.org and the club’s Facebook page or send an e-mail to brucemalkin1@gmail.com.
Sports

First-Year Majors Coach Opens with Rival

Barry Wells leads the Majors against West Potomac.

A new member is about to be introduced to the Mount Vernon-West Potomac rivalry.

First-year Mount Vernon head football coach Barry Wells will face cross-town rival West Potomac in his debut at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 2 at MVHS. Wells, who replaced Tom Glynn, faces the task of leading his team as a busi-ness, including a 42-3 loss to West Potomac in the opener, and hasn’t beaten the rival Wolverines since 2006.

“A win Thursday night puts this program on a trajectory that a lot of people weren’t even ex-pecting,” Wells said. “What it’s going to mean from a confidence standpoint, you can’t put a price tag on. If these kids come out of the gate and they win that one against their cross-town rival, then I’m going to find out what kind of team I have.”

Who is Barry Wells and what kind of team does he have? Wells, 50, is in the consult-ing business and has been a football coach since 1988, with stints as an assistant in Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He is a first-time head coach. He considers himself a defensive-minded coach, but his du-ties will include calling offensive plays dur-ing his inaugural season with the Majors. He takes over a program that won state championships in 1983 and totaled nine vic-tories as recently as 2008, but was outscored 365-129 during last year’s winless cam-paign.

“We’re not trying to necessarily build a tradition,” Wells said, “we’re trying to re-store a tradition.”

What kind of a coach is Wells?

“He runs the team as a busi-ness,” senior line-backer and tight end Julien Randolph said. “We all come to practice expect-ing new stuff ev-ery day. We’re more organized and the atmosphere is more positive. We all had our heads down, thinking what our team was going to be like this year. Af-ter we started establishing a new team, making better plays in scrimmages, we fig-ured out we actually have a good team.”

“We’re hungry for this win; not just because it’s West Potomac, because we haven’t won a game in over a year.” — Mount Vernon senior Steve Funk

West Potomac's Daryl Copeland out-jumps a Mount Vernon defender during last season's 42-3 win over the Majors.

OFFENSIVELY, Mount Vernon operated out of the I-formation during an Aug. 20 scrimmage against Woodbridge, but Wells said the Majors will run multiple formations during the season. Sophomore Robert Decardi-Nelson (5 feet 10, 175 pounds) will start at quarterback for the Majors, with senior Tre Cooke (5-9, 219) backing him up.

“We’re looking at the longevity of the pro-gram,” Wells said. “Robert has all the tools. He’s a little young. Some of the things that we’re asking him to do, quite frankly, he’s not had to do be-fore: reading coverages, read-ing defenses, tak-ing his time, making sure his mechanics are where they need to be. He’s a work in progress, but he’s a kid that has the tools.

“If he can hang on and show some progress each week, he could end up being a three-year starter.”

At running back, senior Emmanuel Tackle (5-8, 152) and junior Sadig Odyedele (5-6, 156) will split carries. In the passing game, junior Michael Lewis (6-1, 189) has emerged as one of the team’s top receiving threats.

On the offensive line, Wells said senior left tackle Logan Beougher (5-10, 219) is the best of a group looking to improve.

“To have five kids with [Beougher’s] dis-position and size and strength would make a world of a difference,” Wells said. “He’s kind of an anchor. He’s a guy I know we can go behind if we need to.”

Defensively, Mount Vernon will run the 4-3, led by Beougher at defensive end, Cooke at middle linebacker and senior Deandre Wooten (5-6, 145) at cornerback. Wells said he wants to approach the sea-son in a realistic fashion, setting his mini-mum win goal at five.

“Anything less than .500 is going to be an extreme disappointment for me,” Wells said. “Only because I know the work that the kids put in, I know the talent that we have, and if the kids can just get to a point where they’re confident in what they’re doing, we could sneak up on some people.”

STANDING in the Majors’ way during the opener is West Potomac. The Wolverines lost eight of their next nine games after thump-ing Mount Vernon to start the 2009 season and will have to replace their starting quar-terback and four members of their offen-sive line. Still, senior left guard Dan Carriker (6-2, 300), a Division I prospect and the lone returning starter from the O-line said he likes the team’s chances.

“I feel like we have more talent,” Carriker said, and “a lot more discipline than in the past few years that I’ve been on the team.”

The main reason behind the team’s im-proved discipline, Carriker said, is an infu-sion of assistant coaches. Five new assis-tant coaches joined the Wolverines this year, giving them a varsity/JV staff of 14. Head coach Eric Henderson said he’s noticed a difference.

“I think we’re more focused,” Henderson said. “Our practices have been much sharper. It’s been a pleasant change. We brought in some new coaches; more posi-tion group coaches. Last year we had a smaller staff, this year we have a lot of good guys that work hard at it and it’s rubbing off on the kids.”

Leading West Potomac’s no-huddle spread offense is senior quarterback Nik Dimitritjevic (6-3, 210), who saw time last year when starter Collin Mathewson went down with an injury. The Wolverines’ top receiving threats are seniors Daryl Copeland (5-8, 160) and Jalen Dawson (5-9, 170). Junior Brandon Johnson (5-10, 170) will see most of the carries at running back.

Along with Carriker on the offensive line will be sophomore left tackle Hunter Den-nis (6-3, 300), junior center Tommy Friederich (5-10, 240), junior right guard Aygenym Agyei-Boateng (6-0, 210) and se-nior right tackle Jesse Fico (5-6, 260).

Defensively, West Potomac runs multiple fronts. Senior end Dustin Hess (6-1, 210), senior nose guard Antonio Fitzgerald (6-2, 270) and senior three-technique tackle Alvaro Guzman (5-8, 210) solidify the de-fensive line. Henderson said Guzman is pound for pound the strongest player on the team.

Junior Kofi Adom (5-10, 190) is the team’s middle linebacker, senior Sonpon Doe (6-2, 210) is the strong side linebacker. Henderson said he expects a breakout sea-son from Doe, who missed his junior year due to shoulder surgery.

In the secondary, Henderson is high on junior cornerback Tyrone Jenkins (5-10, 170). “As far as talent goes,” Henderson said, “I think he’s a can’t-miss DI kind of kid.”

Senior Denzel Hatch (5-9, 160) is the other corner, and juniors Tamaric Wilson (5-9, 170) and Ryan Atiken (5-9, 160) are the safeties.

Each team would like to start the 2010 season with a win over its rival. The Ma-jors, however, are looking for their first win of any kind since 2008.

“A win for us would mean a lot,” Mount Vernon senior lineman Steve Funk said. “Not only that, but it would give us bragging rights. We’re hungry for this win; not just because it’s West Potomac, because we haven’t won a game in over a year.”
The Mount Vernon field hockey team lost to Lee 3-1 in the Majors’ season opener on Aug. 30. Mount Vernon hosts Thomas Jefferson at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 1.

Area Agencies Sponsor Senior Olympics
Since 1982, Northern Virginia Departments of Parks and Recreation and Area Agencies on Aging have been sponsoring the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Since that time, participation has increased to more than 600 senior athletes competing in more than 25 indoor and outdoor events ranging from sports to card games to line dancing to board games.

MV Field Hockey Beats WP
The Mount Vernon field hockey team defeated West Potomac 1-0 in overtime on Aug. 26. Mount Vernon, which needed back with a 0-0 tie over Falls Church on Aug. 30, travels to face Patriot District opponent Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 1.

MV Volleyball Opens with Loss
The Mount Vernon volleyball team lost to Lee 3-1 in the Majors’ season opener on Aug. 30. Mount Vernon hosts Thomas Jefferson at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 1.

WP Volleyball To Host W-L
The West Potomac volleyball team will host Washington-Lee for its season opener at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 1. WP Volleyball opens with loss.

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1801 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria VA, 22302
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Girls Volleyball Program
The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities’ Sports Section is now accepting registrations for the Girls Volleyball program for ages 9 - 14. League age is determined by the age of the participant as of Dec. 31, 2010.

Sports Briefs
The leagues is limited to a maximum of 100 registrations.

1. For more information, call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or go on the recreation department’s Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

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Youth Coaches Needed
The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach flag football, basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball. Criminal history background checks are required. Interested persons should call the youth sports office at 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov or tamika.coloman@alexandriava.gov.

The 2010 NVSO competition will take place Sept. 18-29 at more than 10 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Events include track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, pickleball, raquetball, golf, miniature golf, bowling, Wii bowling, eight-ball pool, men’s basketball, men’s and women’s basketball free throw, frisbee throw, shuffleboard, bunco, chess, scrabble, cribbage, duplicate bridge, softball hit and throw, line dancing and yo-yo tricks. New in 2010 are bocce and fencing.

Running Club on Sundays
The Mount Vernon Milers running club meets at 8 a.m. on Sundays. The group usually meets along the Potomac River, but the exact location is listed in an e-mail sent every Sunday evening for the coming week. Distances vary but runners can expect between four and eight miles.

To join the Mount Vernon Milers, send Lee Britton an e-mail at lbritton7@yahoo.com to be put on the e-mail list.

Lil’Titans Youth Flag Football
The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities’ Sports Section is now accepting registrations for the Lil’Titans Youth flag football program. This developmental program is for participants ages 5 - 6. League age is determined by the age of the participant as of Oct. 1, 2010.

Teams are formed by recreation districts. Registration fee is $50. All participants must be resident of the City of Alexandria. Games will be held on Saturday afternoons in September and October.

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News

Hamilton Apprehended

The Justice Department and Fairfax county police are currently in the process of obtaining his extradition to the U.S. in order to stand trial in Fairfax District Court for his alleged offenses.

Ray Morrogh, Commonwealth Attorney, Fairfax County, reacting to Hamilton’s recent arrest in Poland, said, “I promised a mother last year that we would bring him back here to stand trial and we are. His failure to appear and his fleeing to Europe will mean he will be charged with additional new violations. Nevertheless, we are ready to go to trial. I want to thank the U.S. Justice Department and Interpol for helping us to find him.”

The U.S. Marshals Service is working with Fairfax county police to extradite him from Poland. U.S. Marshals Chief Inspector Billy Sorukas said that the extradition process includes “confirming his identity, and obtaining agreement from the Polish government that the charges are applicable and appropriate for extradition to the U.S.” At this time Sorukas could not predict how quickly he would be brought back to the U.S. since the Polish government must first agree to release him into U.S. custody.

Hamilton, the target of a global search involving Interpol, has been the subject of the TV program, America’s Most Wanted (AMW). Last year, after one of the AMW programs featured Hamilton, a TV viewer came forward to say he had recognized him in Frankfurt, Germany. Fairfax County police credit AMW Interpol, and the Justice Department with assisting in finding him.

AMW employee Cheri Nolan, a mother of three children who knew John Hamilton when he coached in the Fort Hunt Youth League, said, “The world is a safer place for children now that he is in custody.”

AMW news correspondent Angeline Hartmann said, “We could not be more relieved to know he is finally in custody. We saw him as a coward not willing to face what he has coming to him and own up to what he has done to countless children. Of all the fugitives I have researched and reported on for this TV program, Hamilton is one person who makes my blood boil.”

Chronology

June, 2009 Hamilton confesses to sexual assaults on numerous children; is charged with aggravated sexual battery and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child under his supervision

October, 2009: Hamilton fails to appear in court to enter a guilty plea to charges; flees the U.S. to Europe

America’s Most Wanted (AMW) television viewer recognizes him from the publicity of a recent AMW photos report last seeing him in Frankfurt, Germany

August, 2010 Hamilton detained at the Polish-Czech border in an attempt to enter Poland

Present: U.S. Department of Justice and Fairfax County Police are preparing papers to seek Hamilton’s extradition to the U.S. to stand trial in Fairfax District Court.

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SPRINGFIELD  $315,000
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