

# Mount Vernon Gazette



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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE



James T. Meier, principal at Waynewood Elementary School, greets students as they start their first day of school.

## Back to School for Students

Summer may not be technically over — but it is.

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

While summer is not officially over until Sept. 22, those lazy, hazy days of summer are mere memories as carpools, homework and teacher conferences begin once again.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superin-

tendent Jack D. Dale did a whirlwind tour Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, as he visited six schools. After visiting Madison High School in Vienna and Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, he stopped at Sandburg Middle School in Alexandria.

Dale was traveling with Director Cluster IV Deborah Tyler; Asst. Superintendent Cluster IV Scott Brabrand, and Fairfax County School Board Chair Kathy Smith. The group met with Sandburg Principal Terrence Yarborough and visited several classes.

The first stop was Davida McCray's seventh-grade science class where the students were settling in for their first day. A brief stop at the main gym showed a couple of groups of eighth graders meeting with the P.E. teachers — the seventh graders meet in the auxiliary gym. Yarborough said that all the classes viewed the video that he put together introducing himself and explaining the rules and expectations for the students. He said that they plan to do a series of announcements introducing the administrators.



Crossing guards help younger students cross the street to Waynewood Elementary School.

SEE BACK TO SCHOOL.  
PAGE 14

## Still No Details

Ten months later, police have yet to explain what happened to David Masters.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

It's been 10 months since a Fairfax County Police officer shot and killed an unarmed man on Richmond Highway, a case that's called into question the transparency of the department and put a spotlight on the ability of the department to withhold information from the public. Even now, almost a year later, the department has yet to release the video footage of the shooting recorded from the dashboard camera of the officers cruiser. The public has yet to learn the name of the officer who shot and killed David Masters, a mentally ill man who was suspected of stealing flowers.

"Fairfax County is becoming a police state," said Nicholas Beltrante, who formed the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability as a result of the Fairfax County Police Department's refusal to share information about the case. "There have been many documented instances of abuse of power and arrogance of power."

Again and again, the department has declined to share information about the case. The video footage and officer's name were denied after Connection Newspapers made a Freedom of Information Act request for them. Then they were denied again when the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability filed a separate Freedom of Information Act request. Police officials in Fairfax say departments across the country struggle with how much information they release about officers who shoot to kill.

"There have been some departments who have, in the past, released officers' names and have now gone back to not releasing the

SEE IN PURSUIT, PAGE 15

## How To Help Families Cope with Economy

The Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health Advisory Board will sponsor a round table discussion on Sept. 15, from 7-9 p.m., at the South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, room 221, to discuss: "Strategies for Improving Services to Students and Families Facing Socio-Economic Pressures Adversely Affecting their Mental Health & School Performance."

The panel discussion is open to the public and free. Invited panel-

ists are: State Sen. Toddy Puller, facilitator; Jack Dale: superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools; Jim Gillespie, Fairfax County Family Services program manager; Cathleen Lewandowski, chair, Department of Social Work, George Mason University, and Kahan Dhillon, member, Virginia Board of Juvenile Justice.

For more information e-mail: Ann-Louise Lainge Bailey at laingebailey@earthlink.net.

— GERALD A. FILL

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**Mary Sellman 703-864-9223**



**Alex/Grist Mill Woods \$899,000**

Stunning estate home with over 4,000 sqft of living space in prestigious Grist Mill Woods neighborhood. Spacious & open floors plan full of upgrades. Backyard with beautiful pool, extraordinary views. A true oasis right in your own backyard. Hrdwd flrs, enormous kitchen. Won't last!

**Claudia Kim 202-236-9639**



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Owned by George Washington in 1797. Detached home - block off King Street. Charming details, old wood floors, built in cabinets. Sunny garden & patio. Four fireplaces. Rare master bdrm for this age home. Attic storage & den in LL. Only 4 blocks to river. Amazing opportunity!

**Val Klotz 703-303-9744**



**Baileys Crossroads \$139,900**

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**Alex/Cameron Parke \$489,000**

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**Alexandria VA 22315**



# Training Against Multi-Threats

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

To ensure that first responders are prepared for a variety of incidents, the Fairfax County SWAT team has been conducting special training exercises since the spring for Fairfax County Police and other nearby jurisdictions to address situations with multiple threats — more than one shooter.

On Aug. 20, the media was invited to observe a training session at the SWAT training center in Chantilly. Participants included members of the U.S. Marshals, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Harrisonburg Police Department.



Officers from the Mount Vernon District Station Neighborhood Patrol Unit are trying to identify where the “shooter” in the parking lot is located. They have already been through this training, but were asked to come back to be an additional team during the exercise.



This scenario has two “shooters” and two injured civilians — including one conscious man making quite a ruckus.



In this scenario, there are two sets of criminals, and the 20 class members are to split up to deal with the two situations. One team is to rescue an officer down in a police cruiser while under fire, while the other team is to enter a building and attempt to find the criminals. Blanks were used during this exercise.



This is the “live fire shoot house.” The walls of this facility are 1/2” thick steel plates. During some exercises, officers train with live ammunition in their weapons to add realism to their training scenarios. There is a catwalk above the training rooms — that enables instructors, and in this case, the media to observe. Hanging in the lower right corner is a “mock” improvised explosive device (IED). Students are trained to be aware of potential dangers in the building. After the exercise is over, all participants are debriefed and instructors discuss things they observed during the exercise.

## THIS WEEK IN MOUNT VERNON

### Restaurant Night To Benefit UCM

Noodles & Company will donate 25 percent from the sale of customers’ meals on Tuesday, Sept. 14, between 5 – 9 p.m., to United Community Ministries (UCM). The restaurant is hosting this event to support UCM and raise awareness of its programs. UCM provides both emer-

gency and long-term services to individuals and families in need in the community. To participate, when there, tell the server that you are there to help UCM. Noodles & Company is located at 7702 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Its phone is 703-713-2128.

### Fire Damages Two-Story House

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Friday, Sept. 3, at approximately 1:15 a.m., in the Woodlawn area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 8604 Woodlawn Court. Firefighters encountered fire coming from the roof and the second floor of the two-story

home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes. The home was vacant at the time of the fire. One firefighter was transported to the Washington Hospital Burn Center for non-life threatening injuries. Damage is estimated at \$80,000. The fire is under investigation.

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**Alexandria \$1,089,000**  
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*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Alexandria \$445,000**  
 Lovely 3 bedrm, 3 bath home w/2 finished levels and attached garage! Gleaming hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, updated baths and kitchen, 2 bonus rooms, new windows and large fenced yard w/deck! Blocks to library and farmers market!  
 7908 Bayberry Drive  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Alexandria \$790,000**  
 Fantastic opportunity! Upgraded to the nine's! Beautiful 4 level townhouse w/cherry cabinets, hardwood flrs., granite and 3 outside living areas. Garage & parking for 2 cars. Walk to metro, Old Town, Whole Foods.  
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**Alex/Old Town \$524,900**  
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**Alex/Old Town \$544,900**  
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**Alexandria \$599,000**  
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*Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964*



**Alex/Rosemont \$1,349,000**  
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COURTESY PHOTO

Classics & Country Home Décor & Gifts owner Andrea Ploutis with daughter Stavroulla Kokkinis.

# Classics & Country Expands

Blending the new with the old.

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

Twenty-five years ago, Andrea Ploutis opened a small grocery store on Richmond Highway. There wasn't much around, but Ploutis wanted to open a business and had faith that this was the right place to be.

It wasn't long before a customer suggested that she should start selling gifts and home décor. Thus, Classics & Country Décor & Gifts was created. It has been an icon on Richmond Highway ever since, selling holiday and gift items year-round and home décor with a touch of Americana.

The description on their website states: "We are

located just minutes away from Historic Mount Vernon Estate near our nation's capital. We first opened our doors 25 years ago with a goal to offer our customers home decor that will give them a feeling of warmth and coziness. We traveled across the country in search of these simple treasures. Now we have made available, to our customers, items that evoke housewarming memories such as the smell of baked apple pie in grandma's kitchen. We believe our products will help you enjoy happiness, warmth, and peace right in your own home."

Ploutis had three daughters, but Stavroulla Kokkinis was the most involved in the business, and said, "I've been involved since I was four years old."

Kokkinis and her mother now co-own Classics & Country Home Décor & Gifts. Fast forward to January, 2010, when they opened their Old Town, Alexandria location at 217 King Street.

"It was a dream for me and my mom to open a store in Old Town, Alexandria," said Kokkinis. "We are so excited."

While this new store also carries holiday items year-round, they have changed their products to update the needs of their customers.

"People are trying to stretch their dollars and look for things that are multi-functional," said Kokkinis. "Tourists want smaller items and people like anything to make them smile."

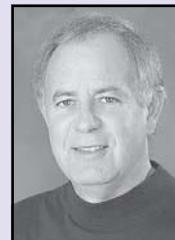
Things to make one smile are funny books and comical signs. There is a large selection of jewelry and small knick-knack items that tourists can easily pack in their



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

At Classics & Country, it is Christmas all year round.

SEE BLENDING, PAGE 6



**Rex Reiley**  
**RE/MAX Allegiance**  
**703-768-7730**  
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$559,900**  
**3112 Battersea Lane**  
Beautifully remodeled 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in popular Riverside Estates. Updates include: totally remodeled kit w/granite counters, baths, new carpet in family rm & basement. Interior freshly painted, refinished hwd floors on main & upper levels. New HVAC & water heater, extensive landscaping. Great location! 6 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Hunting Metro and Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport & 35 to Pentagon/D.C.



**Alex/Bucknell Manor \$338,500**  
**6932 Vanderbilt Drive**  
Stunning & meticulously cared-for 2-level Cape Cod loaded w/updates: kitchen, both baths, double pane replacement windows & washer & dryer on upper level. Roof in '03, siding in '04 & A/C in '07. Lg gorgeous bkwd w/newer privacy fence. Mins to shopping & Huntington Metro, 25 mins to Ft. Belvoir.



**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 hwd 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./Riverside Estates \$514,900**  
**3113 Battersea Lane**  
Spectacular Colonial on a great lot backing to woods. Large Yorkshire model w/2-car garage. Numerous updates thru-out to include kit w/granite counters & bump out, windows, roof, siding, furnace, gas fpl. Finished basement plus large hot tub overlooking beautiful & serene back yard. Being SOLD "As-Is" at a great price! Close to Ft. Belvoir, 5 mins to Reagan National Airport, 30 mins to D.C. & Pentagon.



**Alex./Wessynton \$639,900**  
**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 3 BR, 2 BA 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 hwd 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/Mt. Vernon \$349,900**  
**7737 Schellhorn Road**  
One Level Living in this lovely detached home on over one half acre on a unique street with many new homes - for under \$400k!! Close to library, hospital, GW Parkway, Potomac River, Huntington Metro. Brick exterior, freshly painted interior, vaulted ceiling, parquet wood floors. Wood burning fireplace in family room. Double pane windows, skylights. Sold "As Is" - estate sale - but HI welcome.

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## BUSINESS



The second floor of the King Street location has a wide selection of baby items.

PHOTOS BY  
GALE CURCIO/  
THE GAZETTE

## Blending the New with the Old

FROM PAGE 5

bags. Tourists also like the fact that the King Street location stays open late; Kokkinis said that they sometime have people in the store at midnight during the weekend. She recently married and she and her husband live nearby; he helps out with the store as well.

Switchflops are an example of a multi-functional item. Shoppers purchase one pair of flip-flops and then purchase interchangeable colorful straps so that they have unlimited choices with minimal effort. Another example is the line of Trollbeads bracelets, necklaces and charms. And then there's the Mag'nabilities – necklaces with interchangeable magnetic pendants.

While these items can be found in other specialty stores, Classics & Country has just as many of those uncommon items – things that you won't find in other stores. Shop-

pers who used to frequent Unique on King Street were glad to find fun and whimsical items at Classics & Country.

Ploutis does most of the purchasing while Kokkinis does the decorating and marketing. They both attended the Atlanta Gift Show where they found all kinds of new and exciting items.

"We're a good team," said Kokkinis.

The Richmond Highway location has more traditional items, including an extensive line of the Dept. 56 Collection. While these holiday items are still very popular, Kokkinis said that people aren't collecting as much.

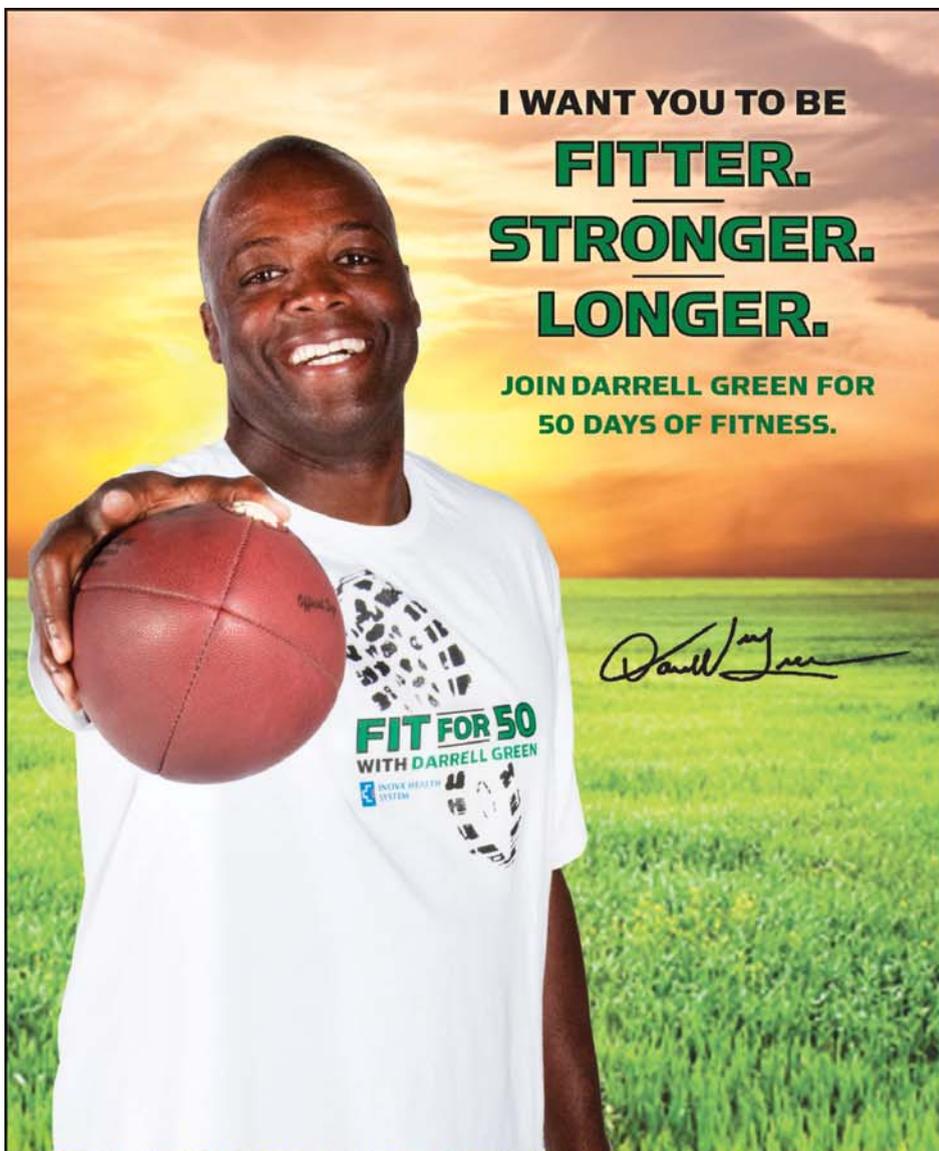
Kokkinis said that Halloween is becoming a much bigger holiday with shoppers buying all kinds of decorations. Fourth of July is pretty popular as well.

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

There are plenty of home décor items at the Richmond Highway location.



The original location of Classics & Country on Richmond Highway.



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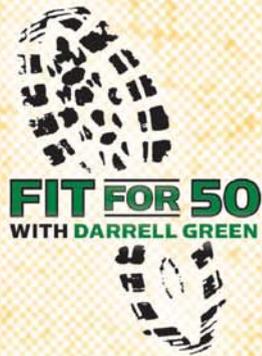
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## BUSINESS

# Creating a Neighborhood Shop

BY SANDY SLIPPEN  
THE GAZETTE

**I**nitial Impressions, a gift shop specializing in personalized gift items via embroidery and engraving, recently opened in the Hollin Hall shopping center at 7918 Fort Hunt Road. They are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and can be reached at 703-768-0010. **Q&A**

Initial Impressions owner Leslie Carney answers a few questions about the store:

### Could you describe the types of items and gifts that Initial Impressions specializes in?

Gifts that can be personalized in some fashion by way of embroidery, engraving and jewelry stamping. Baby gifts, a lot of linens, soft travel bags, purses, lunch bags, glassware (wine glasses, water glasses), cutting boards, picture frames, photo albums. A few pet things, handmade collars, leashes, little scarves with cute things embroidered on them like "been there, chewed that."

### What made you decide to open a store like this?

Raising five kids has kept me very busy, but now two are gone, three are pretty self-sufficient, so I was looking for something else



Leslie J. Carney, owner of Initial Impressions

to occupy my time. This is something I've thought I wanted to do since I was a kid, so I decided to go for it. I knew the dentist that used to be in this space was my dentist and he was leaving, and I knew I wanted to be close to home so I could do still do family stuff.

### Is this a family-run business?

It's mostly run by me, but my kids do work here, mostly the two daughters that are still at home.

### Are there any notable advantages to your location in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center?

Speaking with customers, and

I feel the same way living around here, it's nice to be able to go somewhere to get a gift you don't have to travel to Route 1 or Tysons Corner or on the beltway somewhere, it's just nice to have a neighborhood place.

### Above all, what are you hoping to offer customers with this store that they might have difficulty getting elsewhere?

One of the things I love the most is creating a special gift for a special occasion: a first birthday, communion, a baptism, a wedding. I really enjoy that part of this store, helping to make someone's family occasion more special.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

### 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](mailto:sarah@computer.core.org) or call 703-931-7346 ext. 102 for more information.

([www.computercore.org](http://www.computercore.org))

**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](mailto:Jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Harmony Heritage Singers.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If a senior choral singer, the Barbershop Chorus, Mt. Vernon Chapter is looking for a few good singers. The group rehearses twice a month on Wednesdays or Fridays at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

### Local BUSINESSES Support the COMMUNITY

- \$60,000 donated for local high school scholarships
- Thousands of dollars given to local charities
- Commercial taxes support schools and public services

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# OPINION

## Readiness, Preparation for Emergencies

Back to school a good time to check on backups, supplies, record-keeping.

There are some basic rules of self protection that sometimes escape us.

I got a reminder a few weeks ago of a few simple things: Always lock the car. Don't leave valuables in the car.

I always lock my car, but the one night I forgot (distracted at a key moment) was the night every open car in my neighborhood was rifled and stripped of anything potentially valuable. While overall, the losses were in the thousands of dollars, my losses were small, an antique iPod and a battered camera made up most of the loss.

The next lesson was from the detective who dutifully followed up on the police report filed online. Stolen items are recovered all the time, and returned to their owners if their owners knew and reported the serial number of the stolen item. His recommendation was to record every new item purchased, especially electronics, including serial number, price, make, model, date and place of purchase, and to store that list by either uploading it as a "Google Document" or attaching it to an email. That way even if the computer you used to make the list is stolen or your house burned down, you would have a record for police and insurance.

September might be hurricane preparedness month, but it was August that left so many of us in the Washington area without power for days, on two different occasions. Last winter's blizzards reminded us that you can be without power and without an easy route to leave

your home at the same time. Both experiences argue for some home safety checks.

Can you find the flashlights in the dark? Do you have what you need to hunker down at home for a few days? Do you have a plan to gather all the members of your family, or how to contact each other, in case of an emergency? If you put together an emergency kit, has it been updated lately? See the attached list, plus [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), for good, basic information.

Don't forget your pets in your emergency planning. Whether you were to decide to stay put in an emergency or change locations, you need to make plans in advance for your pets. Do you have enough food, pet carriers, etc.? Some emergency shelters will now accept pets, and the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) recently took delivery of eight regional animal shelter trailers for pets in times of disaster, each with the capacity to set up a shelter for up to 200 pets. (These appear destined for Maryland and D.C.) This comes from the experiences after Katrina and other disasters when it became apparent that many people would not evacuate without their pets.

The recent meltdown of Virginia's networks can also serve as a reminder to the rest of us: Have you backed up your computers this week? Are your critical documents backed up in multiple places, including offsite? The governor is correct to call for an investigation. With an

### Emergency Supplies

#### THE BASICS

- ❖ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ❖ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ❖ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both (some versions will also charge your cell phone)
- ❖ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ❖ First aid kit
- ❖ Whistle to signal for help
- ❖ Dust masks, to help filter contaminated air
- ❖ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ❖ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ❖ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ❖ Local maps
- ❖ Cell phone with chargers

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ Prescription medications and glasses
- ❖ Infant formula and diapers
- ❖ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ❖ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ❖ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ❖ See [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more.

investment of billions of dollars, the commonwealth's systems should be better protected from a crash. But after a crash, there should be a much faster response time. But don't let this happen to you, mind your backups.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Speaking For MVCCA?

To the Editor:

Last week, the co-chairs of the MVCCA submitted a rebuttal to my earlier letters — theirs was replete with false statements. In their letter concerning the MVCCA Bylaws, they stated: "We take these by-laws seriously." No they don't — submission of their letter violates those Bylaws! Under the MVCCA Bylaws, the co-chairs have no authority to speak for the MVCCA without, at minimum, a vote of the MVCCA Board at a publicly noticed meeting. Since the co-chairs' letter responds in part to my letter published on Aug. 19, 2010 and there were no MVCCA meetings publicly noticed in August (see July 2010 MVCCA Record), the co-chairs had no authority to send in the letter. To these co-chairs, the MVCCA Bylaws are a mere inconvenience to be obeyed only when it suits them.

In their letter, the MVCCA co-

chairs dispute my contention that current E&R Chair Elizabeth Martin serves in violation of the MVCCA Bylaws. They concede that my contention would be true "if, in fact, sitting on the FCWB [Fairfax County Wetlands Board] would qualify as a 'policy-making position in Fairfax County.'" They investigated this charge nine months ago, and found it "to be of no merit." A search of the Fairfax County website reveals that the FCWB is, in fact, a policy-making Board of Fairfax County. In a Resolution found at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/environment/wetlands/mitigation\\_compensation\\_policy\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/environment/wetlands/mitigation_compensation_policy_adopted.pdf) note the following:

"At a regular meeting of the Wetlands Board for the County of Fairfax, Virginia ('the Wetlands Board'), on March 30, 2005, the Wetlands Board adopted a Tidal Wetlands Mitigation and Compensation Policy ..."

Next, at the link [ronment/finallivingshoreline.pdf "The Fairfax County Wetlands Board has adopted the following policies for considering applications for permits ..."](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/envi-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The FCWB is a policy-making Board of Fairfax County.

The co-chairs would have readers believe that the MVCCA "in fact, represents 'an overwhelming percentage of residents' of the Mount Vernon District." The results of a Freedom of Information Act request I made of Supervisor Hyland's office show that there are 224 community associations in the Mount Vernon District. The MVCCA represents about 60 of them. Case closed.

In an attempt to explain away the low attendance figures at MVCCA meetings, the co-chairs rationalize that the figures from May, June, and July were low because "summer attendance is always low ...". Leaving aside that May is not in the summer and all of the June committee meetings I reported on occurred prior to June 20 (the summer solstice), their

argument still lacks credibility. They argue that attendance increases "with the significance of the issues affecting the community" and go on to state that "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." Concerning the MVCCA debate about the County budget and taxation, only six people attended the MVCCA's Budget and Finance Committee meeting in March 2010 when they debated a Resolution later enacted by the MVCCA (at a Council meeting attended by 23 members) advocating raising everyone's taxes during a deep recession rather than proposing responsible County budget cuts. Attendance at their Council meetings has remained steady throughout 2010. For January-July, the attendance figures were 27, 23, 23, 27, 27, 23 and 21 respectively. The MVCCA Council meeting is

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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

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## OPINION

# Improving Our Justice System with Technology

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



There have been several articles around the state addressing a Virginia Attorney General's opinion I requested that concluded that under current law, court clerks can install, use, and charge for electronic recording systems to record court proceedings. This decision could affect many people, so I would like to clarify what it is all about and its implications.

I have practiced law in Fairfax County for 15 years and go to court nearly every day, but most people rarely think about the court system until they are called for jury duty, are the victim of a crime, get a speeding ticket, or are injured. Fairfax County's General District Court processed over 285,000 traffic citations in 2009 so the odds of ending up there sooner or later are pretty good for many people.

Most people believe that an accurate record of court proceedings is necessary, an important element of a fair judicial system, and most probably assume that Virginia has a system in place to provide an accurate record of proceedings. This is true in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and the United States District Courts, but not Virginia.

Suppose you get a ticket for running into someone in an intersection. You go to General District Court because you think you were incorrectly charged. During trial, the other driver testifies that you had a stop sign and you are convicted. Afterwards, you go to the intersection and discover that there is no stop sign. You can appeal your case for a new trial in Circuit Court, but you have no way to clearly confront the other driver with their false statement, which was given under oath and in court, because no one hired a court reporter to record the trial.

In a court proceeding, creating and preserving the record — what is spoken by everyone and introduced in evidence in court — is critical. Dozens of appeals are dismissed every year because the record was not preserved or clear. People also testify a little more “carefully” when being recorded and judges are more diligent in their rulings. Everyone is more likely to get the right result in court because the record is clear and not based on what different people thought they heard.

Today, if you want to have a complete record in a Virginia case, you must hire a court reporter that costs between \$350 and \$500 per day at your own expense. This often does not make sense in shorter hearings, such as trials for traffic tickets or hearings on motions. For litigants who cannot even afford attorneys, court reporters are often not considered at all, even when you might have a child's future at stake.

During my campaign, I proposed authorizing electronic recording of court proceedings as part of a specific government effi-

ciency proposal. After speaking with Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk John Frey last fall, I introduced legislation to accomplish this that was killed in a House of Delegates' subcommittee on a party-line vote.

The Attorney General's opinion basically validates my legislation by making it unnecessary, and gives Virginia's court clerks the green light to begin installing recording systems, once they have funding without further approval from the General Assembly. Ultimately, recording court proceedings will improve the administration of justice in Virginia, provide greater assurance of an accurate court record, improve access to justice for people of limited means, make our justice system more efficient and save Virginians millions of dollars.

I am also assembling my legislative agenda for the 2011 Session. My constituents are the source of some of my best bills so please send me an email at [DelSSurovell@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelSSurovell@house.virginia.gov) if you have any ideas for legislation. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your delegate.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

typically attended by fewer than half its members.

The MVCCA co-chairs claim that my letter attempted to “distort public opinion of the MVCCA” through an “unwarranted bashing of the recent MVCCA gala.” While conceding that the event lost money, they give excuses concerning “the worst economic times in this country's history” and “the unavailability of Gerry Hyland to attend.” On the former point, wouldn't it have been appropriate for the MVCCA to take into account the “worst economic times in this country's history” when enacting their budget Resolution?

Concerning Supervisor Hyland's “unavailability” to attend the MVCCA gala, in fact, the MVCCA promoted the event and sold tickets based upon the representation that Supervisor Hyland would be attending. In this regard, reference is made to the April 2010 MVCCA Record:

“First, we had an auction with our Mount

Vernon District Supervisor, then we had dancing with our Mount Vernon District Supervisor; and last year, we had - Kisses for our Mount Vernon District Supervisor. So, for this year, we have an exciting and rare opportunity for you that includes our Mount Vernon District Supervisor. Stay tuned ...” [http://www.mvcca.org/record/record\\_2010-04.pdf](http://www.mvcca.org/record/record_2010-04.pdf)

This brings us to what the co-chairs characterize as “another baseless attempt to discredit the MVCCA,” namely, my earlier comments that the MVCCA irresponsibly wasted the time of County Staff and therefore our tax money in propounding nominations to the Comprehensive Plan that would require transportation studies the MVCCA could not afford to fund. In rebuttal, the co-chairs state:

“... the MVCCA has ... successfully explored various means to enable a non-profit citizens group to participate in the CP process without fronting the substantial cost.”

The MVCCA did succeed in convincing the Virginia legislature to amend State law to

waive the \$1,000 filing fee for non-profits like the MVCCA but would still have to pay the \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the Traffic Study.

Thus, as should be quite clear by now, the allegations I have made about the MVCCA in earlier letters to the Gazette are absolutely true in every respect. Nothing in last week's letter from the MVCCA co-chairs has rebutted anything I have said about the MVCCA in letters written throughout the course of this year.

In an effort to “kill” the messenger and therefore destroy the message, the MVCCA co-chairs asked readers of the Gazette 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.”

The truth is that I was appointed chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee in December of 2006, was ratified by the MVCCA Council, and served until my voluntary resignation on June 14, 2007. In May 2007, after withstanding a series of verbal attacks at the hands of an individual in my community, I sued him. Although I sued him in his individual capacity, he was also president of the civic association in my community which was a member of the MVCCA. An MVCCA co-chair told me that I had to either drop my lawsuit or resign my position as P&Z chairman. I informed him that being forced to choose between protecting one's good name and serving in the MVCCA was no choice at all, and I voluntarily tendered my resignation. Although the lawsuit did not result in a judgment against my neighbor, it did serve its purpose. He stopped his offensive actions. Sub

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

sequent to my MVCCA service, I've served by appointment of Supervisor Hyland on the APR Task Force for BRAC, the Residential Compatibility Task Force and am currently a vice-chairman of the Land Use Committee of the Mount Vernon Visioning Task Force. The co-chairs' disparagement of me by falsely claiming that (1) my MVCCA service had been "terminated" and (2) that the reason was a "conflict of interest," in an attempt to discredit the truthful message I have been conveying to our community this year reflects poorly on the MVCCA. Perhaps the co-chairs should apologize.

For submitting a letter to a publication without authorization and for disparaging a citizen in an attempt to discredit his truthful writings about the MVCCA, the co-chairs should tender their resignations.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Restoring Dyke Marsh

To the Editor:

The Friends of Dyke Marsh appreciate Jay Spiegel's interest in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve [Letters, Sept. 2-8, 2010]. The preserve is a locally and nationally significant wetland complex that the U.S. Congress honored last year by passing bills to "recognize the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as a unique and precious ecosystem" and to express "the need to continue to conserve, protect and restore this fragile habitat ...." Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner and Congressmen Jim Moran and Gerry Connolly led that effort.

On the restoration of the marsh, some additional information may be helpful:

\* The National Park Service is preparing options. I do not know what the National Park Service will propose. Until we see the NPS plan, we do not know what kind of fill would be used, how much, where it will be placed or how it will be contained. We should not pre-judge a plan we have not seen. I do not know how Mr. Spiegel can produce calculations or reach conclusions on a plan that he presumably has not seen.

\* NPS is using a science-based process. Wetlands restoration is a specialized science, not just a matter of filling in holes. Restoration can be multi-faceted. For example, one aspect of restoration could be to address the explosion of invasive plants in Dyke Marsh, plants that can outcompete native plants.

\* NPS is drawing on the expertise of a wide range of qualified scientists and other experts. The National Park Service has reached a scientific conclusion that restoration is both feasible and desirable.

\* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others have ample experience in wetlands restoration, including several projects on the Anacostia River, without any "environmental disasters."

\* Restoration "should re-establish insofar as possible the ecological integrity of degraded aquatic ecosystems ... the structure, composition and natural processes of

its biotic communities and physical environment," says the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

\* There is no question that there are many unmet needs along the George Washington Parkway, including stabilizing the eroding shoreline, planting more native plants, controlling invasives and stopping poachers. NPS would no doubt welcome more funding and volunteer help.

\* Mr. Spiegel mentions my role as chair of the Fairfax County Wetlands Board. The Wetlands Board administers the state law, Title 28.2, the purpose of which is as follows: "... in order to protect the public interest, promote the public health, safety and the economic general welfare of the Commonwealth, and to protect public and private property, wildlife, marine fisheries and the natural environment, it is declared to be the public policy of this Commonwealth to preserve the wetlands, and to prevent their despoliation and destruction and to accommodate necessary economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation."

If Mr. Spiegel does not support that law, he should seek changes in the law.

\* All Wetlands Board permitting decisions are made in a public hearing with public notice, following guidelines of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. In those hearings or by writing and e-mailing, people have ample opportunity to express their views. I hope Mr. Spiegel and others will.

Over 70 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's wetlands and almost half of Virginia's wetlands are gone. Wetlands once lined substantial portions of the Potomac River shoreline.

Wetlands are one of nature's most dynamic ecosystems. They perform valuable ecological functions, such as filtering pollutants, providing nurseries for fish and acting as "sponges" that absorb floodwaters.

Fairfax County residents have always given strong support to their parks and the nation has been a world leader in preserving special places by creating national parks. Northern Virginians are lucky to have what's left of what former U. S. Sen. John Warner has called, "a magnificent little oasis."

**Glenda C. Booth**  
President, Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Alexandria

## Criticism Has Its Benefits

To the Editor:

Upon reading the response from the MVCCA Co-Chairs printed in the Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010 Gazette, we are concerned that the co-chairs felt the need to craft a lengthy defense of their position on stated issues and then launch a personal attack on a citizen who did not agree with them. The letter seems to be more of an action to suppress any criticism and a blatant attempt to discredit anyone who criticizes. That approach tends to discourage participation by anyone but those who agree. That certainly is neither the purpose of nor the intent of community associations.



## To the Spy Museum

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club sponsored a bus trip for 50 children and their staff escorts from the Sacramento and Creekside Neighborhood Centers to the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 13. For more information on how to help the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club help others, go to [www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org](http://www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org) or to its Facebook page or send a message to [brucemalkin1@gmail.com](mailto:brucemalkin1@gmail.com).

Having lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years, we believe that there is no better place to build a home, raise a family, and operate a business. All of us including the alleged "Criticizer," the co-chairs, and Supervisor [Gerald] Hyland would like to help make our community a better place to live and work.

Organizations at times get complacent or arrogant. Someone who is not afraid to complain or challenge provides a check and balance to the leadership which benefits the organization as well as the community.

We had a situation where a long-time MVCCA chair developed a personal bias against us or our project. We spent hours answering questions in several of the committee meetings and left with no opposing votes. Although we had followed MVCCA due process and had no visible opposition, the committee chairman with no notice to us was able to revoke our approved resolution and cause extensive, expensive delays on our approval from the Planning Commission.

Such behavior is not in the spirit or purpose of a community association. Even

though a number of my neighbors attended our appeal hearing for support, they were not allowed to speak by, as it happens, one of the co-chairs who sign last week's letter who was also a co-chair at the time. Fortunately the people on the MVCCA Committee listened, were fair, and voted 100 percent to reinstate the resolution of support.

This unfortunate incident in our opinion occurred because the MVCCA rubber stamped a trusted long-time member without checking facts. It is critical that someone inside or outside of the MCVVA be free to challenge the accountability of the organization.

The MVCCA, the co-chair, and especially the community should be thankful that someone cares enough to serve in that function. If you don't like what the "Complainer" has to say, engage him in your process and give serious consideration to making changes that need to be made.

Thank you for your hard work. We all care.

**Scott and Phyllis Crabtree**

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. The schedule can be found at [hhsingers.org](http://hhsingers.org) or by calling: James Coulter, membership V.P. at 703-957-4597 or 703-615-4141 (cell) or by e-mail [jnrcoulter@comcast.net](mailto:jnrcoulter@comcast.net).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

**Potomac Leaders Forum Reception.** 7:30 p.m. reception will give those interested in the class an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum and meet former class members. At the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, 6911 Richmond Highway, Suite 320, Alexandria.

**Newsmaker Biz Lunch.** "Seven New Tax Breaks for Business Owners" will discuss opportunities in the HIRE Act and health care reform legislation from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Sean O'Connell, CPA/PFS with BPGH LLP will speak. \$25 per person, which includes lunch. Call 703-360-6925 or register at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org)

### SEPT. 10-11

**AARP Virginia and Ruritan** are calling upon communities to help supply Virginia's food banks during a statewide community food drive on Sept. 10-11. The list of drop-off sites is available at [www.CreateTheGood.org/hunger](http://www.CreateTheGood.org/hunger).

- ❖ Friday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon to United Community Ministries, 7511 Fordson Road.
- ❖ Saturday, Sept. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. to ALIVE!, First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St.
- ❖ Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to New Hope Housing, 3516 Lockheed Boulevard.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 15

**Mental Health Discussion.** 7 to 9 p.m. The Fifth Round Table sponsored by the Gartlan Center (formerly Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health) Advisory Board. The discussion will focus on improvement plans for students and families living in the Mount Vernon area and who are facing socio-economic pressures that adversely affect their mental health and their school performance. At South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Room 221. E-mail

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Beautiful 4 BR, 4.5 bath home in Burgandy Manor! Newly remodeled inside and out, this home features gourmet kitchen, cherry hw floors, gorgeous two story family room and lots of light! Amazing value. Schedule a viewing today!

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



**Just Listed**

**6309 Olde Towne Court**  
\$625,000 | Virginia Charm

This three bedroom home features solid construction, lovely hardwood floors, enlarged kitchen, two fireplaces, formal living/dining, large family and large fenced patio/garden area with storage barn.

Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813



**Just Listed!**

**6503 Blue Wing Drive**  
\$1,338,731 | Belle Haven Estates

Custom stone front colonial with every upgrade. Bright and open floor plan with elegant details features six bedrooms, 5.5 baths, three finished levels, gourmet kitchen, lower level recreation room with kitchenette and media room.

Yvonne S. Croft | 703.973.1540



**Just Listed!**

**6257 Sibel Place**  
\$665,000 | Derin Glen

Gorgeous, large colonial with six bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2-car garage, hardwood flooring, open floor plan, granite kitchen with island, tons of beautiful Palladian windows overlooking the private backyard and deck, great location!

Yvonne S. Croft | 703.973.1540



**Open House Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!**

**5663 Governors Pond Circle**  
\$598,000 | Alexandria

From Beltway: Telegraph S- R on Franconia-R Governors Pond Circle. Pristine perfection! Carr built TH w 4BR + 3.5 ba, 2 car garage <1 mile to Metro! Double deck backing to trees! 3 finished levels.

Liz Bucuvalas | 703.626.8400



**Just Listed! Open Sunday, 1-4!**

**671 South Columbus Street**  
\$442,000 | Arch Hall / Old Town Alexandria

Don't miss this charming 2 BR, 1 Bath unit convenient to everything Old Town has to offer. Great space with lots of updates and terrific storage. Wood burning fireplace and hardwoods throughout. Lovely outside patio, off street parking.

Linda Wolf | 703.856.2133

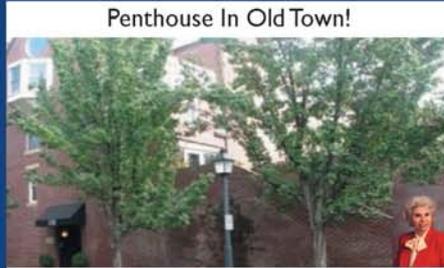


**Updated 1846 Brick End Rowhome!**

**218 North Fairfax Street**  
\$949,900 | Old Town Alexandria

Beautifully updated 1846 Brick End Rowhouse w/ spacious Kitchen boasting s/s appliances & brick-wall fpl. 2BR+Library/Office/Guest Room. Wine Cellar. Rear Garden. Off-Street Parking!

Jolee Rubini | 703.548.0697



**Penthouse In Old Town!**

**125 North Lee Street**  
\$570,000 | Old Town Alexandria

Stunning Penthouse with soaring 20' vaulted ceilings and views of Alex, Potomac River & The Capitol. Just 1 street from Potomac, 1/2 block from shops & restaurants on King Street!

Jolee Rubini | 703.548.0697



**Move-In, Expand, Renovate or Build!**

**5411 11th Road**  
\$599,000 | Arlington (22205)

Move-in, Expand, Renovate or Build. Charming, spacious two bedroom one level home with large family room, sun room, private patio, lovely corner lot, close to metro.

Ed Pagett | 703.518.6161



**Open House Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!**

**6621 Wakefield Drive, Unit 812**  
\$174,900 | River Towers

**New Price!!**

This freshly painted, light and bright home has a sought-after view of the marsh! One bedroom, one bathroom condo is move-in ready. Parquet floors, neutral decor, great location! Ample free parking and more.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



**Just Listed!**

**617 North West Street**  
\$599,900 | Old Town Alexandria

Steps to Metro, expansive space that includes 3 finished levels, plus a loft above the master bedroom, updated, off-street parking and totally move-in ready. Two beds plus loft and 2.5 baths; new zoned HVAC, Brazilian cherry floors and more.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



**Just Listed!**

**513 Queen Street**  
\$1,499,000 | Old Town Alexandria

Perfect fusion of old world charm and modern elegance. Amazing back yard with lush gardens, ponds and off-street parking completes this one-of-a-kind historic property in the heart of Old Town. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



**Rare Riverfront Rental!**

**883 Andalusia Drive**  
\$4,000 / Month | Alexandria (Riverfront)

Charming cottage with two fireplaces, 3 bedrooms / 2 1/2 baths located off East Boulevard right on the banks of the Potomac River. Enjoy fabulous river views from home, deck or large brick patio.

Cindie Fish | 703.201.4451



**New Listing!**

**7401 Northrop Drive**  
\$299,000 | Alexandria (22306)

Three bedroom, 1.5 bath two level Rambler with New A/C, appliances, beautiful hardwood floors and neutral decor makes this move in ready.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



For All Of Your Real Estate Needs Visit: [www.CBMove.com](http://www.CBMove.com)

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703.518.8300 Main Office

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# SIMPLY SELLING THE BEST OF ALEXANDRIA

**PHYLLIS PATTERSON**

Direct: 703.518.6158



## YOUR Alexandria Expert!

### Just Reduced! Stunning Colonial!



Updated Colonial w/ eatin kitchen featuring hardwood floors, sunny sitting room w/bay window, walkout to deck. Lg dining rm w/ chair & crown molding. Formal living rm w/ fireplace & builtins. Upp Lvl: lg master bedroom w/ private bath & walk-in closet, 2 lg bedrooms w/ builtins share updated bath. Lwr lvl rec room w/ office, full bath, cedar closet & tons of storage.  
~\$475,000 7012 Polins Court Alexandria, VA 22306

### Open Every Saturday & Sunday



BRAND NEW HOMES. Picture is of Lot #3 of the 11 lots of Glenwood Estates. Custom Designed Homes by Morris Construction. Walk-out basement! TONS of upgrades to choose from. Lot 3 Move-In Ready! Get in NOW to customize!! ~ Starting at \$799,000

Neely Ann Court Alexandria, VA 22310

### 1/2 Acre in Wellington!



STUNNING light-filled beauty on 1/2 acre! Mint condition! Open floor plan on cul-de-sac backing to trees. Sun rm, music rm, his & her offices! LL nanny suite. Large kitchen, island, & breakfast area overlooking deck. 5 bdrms/ 4.5

baths ~\$1,290,000

1203 Essex Manor Court Alexandria, VA 22308

### NEW PRICE in Wellington!



Two master bedrooms. One on main level and suite on upper level. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage, library, 3 frpls and cooks kitchen which opens to an expansive 2 story great room overlooking pool and private fenced backyard. Completely finish lower level. ~ \$949,000

7602 Ridgecrest Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

### Nantucket Estate in Plymouth Haven



Nantucket style home on private one acre w/ponds, mature trees and gardens. Large flowing comfortable rooms, high ceilings, wide hallways, hardwoods throughout, 4 frpls, dual staircases, farm table sized breakfast room, true cooks kitchen w/ comm. Appliances, island & fireplace. Music and entertainment rooms, private study, 2 car garage and oversized driveway in rear. A welcoming home!! ~ \$1,695,000

8733 Plymouth Road Alexandria, VA 22308

### Charleston Style in Plymouth Haven



Inviting and refreshing southern style with front and back porches custom built and only 3 years young! 6700 finished sq feet on 1/2 lush acre. Dual staircases, modern open floor plan, easy entertaining flow, 6 BRs, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, wide wood floors, 3 fireplaces, chefs kitchen Exercise, music and game rooms, walk up attic, study. Steps from Ft. Hunt Park! ~ \$1,675,000

8839 Ft. Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

### Just Listed- Bring Your Boat!



Spectacular 1+ Acre lot on highest point in neighborhood with gorgeous views of Potomac River. Fabulous street with large custom built homes. Renovate or built on estate sized lot with 183 feet of waterfront!! A rare opportunity! ~\$1,299,000

5101/5103 Burke Drive Alexandria, VA 22309

### Reduced! Build Your Dream Home



8787 Sq Ft of land, 2 blocks from Potomac river. Walk to Mt Vernon bike trail & 20 minutes to DC. Call Phyllis for Home Plans! ~ \$269,000

Lot 42 Westfield Street Alexandria, VA 22308

### The Perfect Old Town Condo



For Sale or Rent! Bright & sunny end-unit condo. 2 lights to DC, 1 block to Potomac River & bike trail. Updated white kitchen and bath, pergo flooring, and wood burning fireplace. Storage unit, assigned parking, & pool! ~ \$269,000 or \$1450 month

1207 Pitt Street North #3A

### SOLD



7613 Woodridge Cr Alexandria, VA 22308

### SOLD



7902 Lee Avenue Alexandria, VA 22308

### Under Contract!



3114 Russell Road Alexandria, VA 22305

### Under Contract!



7820 Ridgecrest Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

### Brought in the Buyer



1401 Namassin Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

### Brought in the Buyer



1116 Allison St Alexandria, VA 22302

### SOLD



434 1/2 N Saint Asaph Alexandria, VA 22314

### SOLD



2213 Belle Haven Rd Alexandria, VA 22307

### Brought in the Buyers



8065 & 8059 Fairfax Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

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Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
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# SIMPLY SELLING THE BEST OF ALEXANDRIA



**JEANNE WARNER**

Direct: 703.980.9106

## Featured Listings

### Delightful Townhouse in Old Town— Open Sunday 1-4



Delightful 2BR,2BA brick townhouse featuring crown molding and chair rail, hardwood floors updated kitchen with granite counters, rec room with full bath on lower level with outside entrance to lovely private deck, stone patio and garden ~ \$539,000



912 South Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314

### The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horse-hair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could

be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~ \$2,250,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

### Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven- OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!



ELEGANT COLONIAL in Belle Haven overlooking the golf course. Gracious foyer, 9' ceilings, lovely moldings and architectural detail, gourmet chef's kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3 and one half baths, 2 fireplaces, spacious RR, 2 car tandem garage ~\$879,000

6034 Ft. Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22307

### Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven— OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Beautiful, light filled colonial perfect for elegant entertaining as well as comfortable family living. Offering a two story foyer, tall ceilings, gracious formal rooms, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces beautiful master suite with a vaulted ceiling, six bedrooms, five and one half baths, exceptional built-in bookshelves and cabinets, wonderful family room and recreation room with fireplaces, two private decks, and two car garage. ~\$1,795,090

1912 Glen Drive Alexandria, VA 22307

## The Best of Belle Haven



6202 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22307



Sophisticated Beaux Arts colonial with a guest house sited on a very private 1.4 acre lot across from Belle Haven Country Club. Offering ten foot ceilings, exquisite moldings and architectural detail, elegant formal rooms, inviting and comfortable family room, state of the art kitchen, light and airy garden room overlooking the large, private brick patio. ~ \$2,900,000

[www.JeanneWarner.net](http://www.JeanneWarner.net)

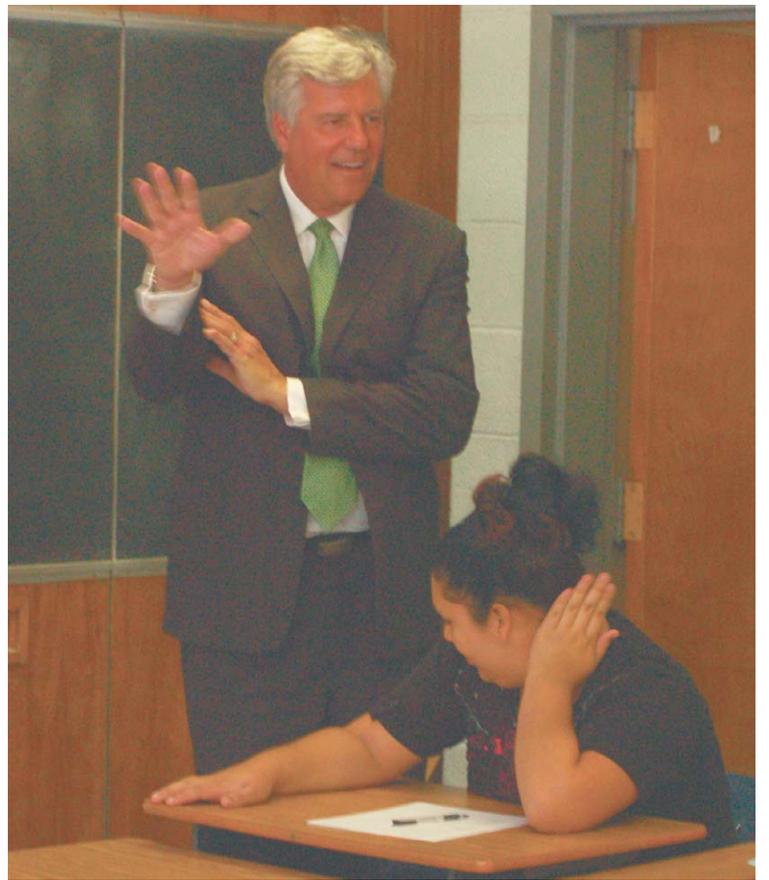
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# SCHOOLS



School Board Chair Kathy Smith; Superintendent Jack D. Dale; Asst. Superintendent Cluster IV Scott Brabrand; and Director Cluster IV Deborah Tyler meet with Principal Terrence Yarborough (middle) at Sandburg Middle School.



Superintendent of Schools Jack D. Dale interacts with one of the students at Sandburg Middle School.

## Back to School

FROM PAGE 1

“I want them to know who we are and what we expect.”

In Angela Carter’s eighth-grade math class that she team teaches with Selamawit Abed, she said that the students were adding in their heads instead of hand-held calculators.

“I want to make sure that the batteries don’t die,” she quipped.

The group traveled onto Kay McLean honors math class where they discussed whether they were one of four types — circle, box, triangle or ‘Z.’ The students enjoyed explaining the types to Dale and the other visitors. They also repeated the school motto: Respect, readiness and readiness.

For local graduate Jennifer Olson, it was her first day to teach an English 7 class with Argretta Scruggs. It was also the first day

on the job for Drew Campbell, seventh-grade English teacher and English Department Chair, who moved to Virginia from New York.

After his visit to Sandburg, Dale went on to tour Bucknell Elementary School, West Springfield Elementary School and Cedar Lane School. Dale mentioned that the three schools that he visited in Cluster IV (Hayfield, Sandburg and Bucknell) all have new principals — David Tremaine; Terrence Yarborough; and Tim Slayter, respectively.

School principals were front and center at the other schools. At Wayewood Elementary School, James T. Meier directed traffic and greeted many of the students by name.

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



Students in Drew Campbell’s seventh-grade English class.



Jennifer Olson enjoys her first official day on the job, teaching English 7 at Sandburg Middle School.



Angela Carter and Selamawit Abed team teach this eighth-grade math class at Sandburg Middle School.

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

## Guest Speaker

Cristina Schoendorf, director of Progreso Hispano on Mohawk Lane, was the guest speaker at the Sept. 1 dinner meeting of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. She explained the various programs she offers, including English as a Second Language, computer basic training, and preparation for taking the U.S. citizenship test. Her staff of four is supplemented by a dozen volunteers interested in community service. For more information about Progreso Hispano, call Schoendorf at 703-799-8830. For more information about commu-



**Cristina Schoendorf, director of Progreso Hispano, receives tokens of appreciation from Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club President Bruce Malkin after speaking to the club.**

nity service through Kiwanis, see [www.mtvernonkiwanis.org](http://www.mtvernonkiwanis.org) or send an e-mail to [brucemalkin1@gmail.com](mailto:brucemalkin1@gmail.com).

## In Pursuit of Shooting Information

FROM PAGE 1

names," said Mary Ann Jennings, spokeswoman for the Fairfax Police Department. "It's up to each department and the administration of the department how they want to handle these kinds of issues."

**IN FAIRFAX**, that means silence. Back in January, Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh announced that he would not bring charges against the officer. Even then, the department declined to identify the officer. When it became clear that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was conducting a review of the shooting as a potential civil-rights violation, Beltrante filed a Freedom of Information Act request to the FBI for the identity of the officer. Yet again, the information was denied.

"Release of this information could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings," explained the denial from the FBI.

Beltrante says the coalition plans to appeal the FBI's denial. Meanwhile, the group does not seem to be making much headway persuading the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations that the county needs a citizen review board. Last month, the Public Safety Committee met and considered the issue after an examination of official correspondence

and several articles published in the Mount Vernon Gazette. As they did on a previous occasion, members of the committee once again decided unanimously against taking a position.

"There isn't really a sense that anything needs to be done about this," said Dallas Shawkey, chairman of the Public Safety Committee. "We haven't seen anything out of the ordinary."

**EVENTS LEADING** up to the death of Masters, 52, began at a mowing and landscaping on Richmond Highway, where an employee alerted police that he had seen Masters pulling flowers from a planter outside his office. Police officials began pursuing the green

Chevrolet Blazer Masters was driving north along the highway. As usual, the street was clogged with traffic, and as a result the pursuit was not high-speed. But it was high-stakes, culminating in a deadly use of force near Fort Hunt Road. The department identified the officer who fired the deadly shot as a 26-year-old with six years on the force. Although the department has refused to identify him, officials confirmed this week that he is still with the department on administrative duty.

"His refusal to cooperate with the police department's internal investigation was in itself sufficient grounds for the department to dismiss him," said Beltrante.

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SIDEWALK SALE**

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THE GIFT STORE  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 2010  
9:00am - 6:00pm  
HOLLIN HALL SHOPPING CENTER  
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The exclusive private world to which you return. Rare tranquility and city proximity blend in this unique and private thirty-plus acre enclave adjacent to METRO in Fairfax County. Originally named 'Mount Eagle' it was owned by Lord Bryan Fairfax - an eighteenth century English nobleman turned colonial.



President George Washington's diary records that he paid his last social visit at the 'Mount Eagle' mansion. Today this historic site, ensconced amid convenient and notable neighbors, may serve as your aerie over the nation's capital.

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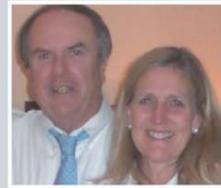
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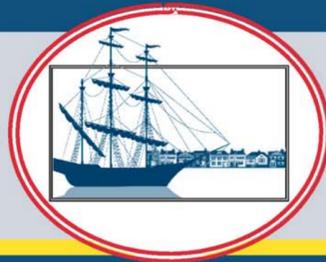
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#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009!



# LONG & FOSTER

ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT



Managing Brokers  
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

**OPEN SUN** **JUST LISTED**

8500 Crown Pl  
\$698,500  
**Waywood Opportunity!**  
Walk to Waywood School from this popular 5 level "Mayfield" model. Spacious home is in pristine condition and offers many special features including: sunroom, walk-up attic, hardwood flrs, eat-in kitchen, 2 FPs and 2 car garage. Price, location and features add up to an exceptional value! OPEN SUN, 9/12, 1-4. From Old Town: S GW Pkwy; R-Collingwood; L-Fort Hunt; L-Croton; R-Crown.

**OPEN SUN** **JUST LISTED**

8709 Gateshead Rd  
\$579,500  
**Spacious Colonial-Gorgeous Setting!**  
Classic center hall colonial in uniquely beautiful setting. This exceptionally well maintained home is in "move-in" condition. Popular floor plan with open kit-family room, 4 BRs, including private suite. Fin. walk-out LL. Updated kit w/granite countertops and custom cabinetry. Other features include covered prkg for 2 & screened porch overlooking parkland. OPEN SUN, 9/12, 1-4. From Old Town: S GW Pkwy; past estate, R-Old Mill, R-Gateshead.

**OPEN SUN** **JUST LISTED**

3427 Ramsgate Terr  
\$539,000  
**Like New by Wakefield!**  
Total renovation by area's leading custom builder! This home was stripped to the shell and re-built to the highest standards. Many fabulous features typically found in builder's million dollar custom homes include: stunning gourmet kit, custom hdwd flrs, thermal windows, main level MBR and fin. LL. New home luxury at re-sale price. Unique opportunity! OPEN SUN, 9/12, 1-4. From Old Town: S GW Pkwy; Sharp R -235 N; R-Battersea; L-Wagon Wheel; L-Ramsgate Ter.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

7501 TOLL CT  
Alexandria  
\$649,000  
**A DREAM HOME!** 3lvl center-hall brick col-Expanded/renovated kit w/Palladian window overlooking priv fenced bkyd-deck, brick patio-sep DR, FR w/frpl, Mstr BR/BA/dressing rm - updated BA - Full bsmt w/lg finished rec rm & storage/utility rm - Love it!

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

1250 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST  
Alex / Porto Vecchio  
\$715,000  
**NEW LISTING!** This 2BR/library residence sparkles! Open floor plan, perfect for entertaining, has distinct contemporary flair, walls of windows & a large terrace. Many recent updates, wide garage space & pretty water vista.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630

8809 NALLS RD  
Alexandria  
\$799,000  
**LOTS OF SPACE!**  
Formal LR/DR rm, main lvl den/library, FR, gourmet kit w/breakfast rm. UL offers 4BR, 3FBA, large master w/sit room, his/her closets, lux BA w/sep vanities. LL has media rm, large w/o rec rm, full BA & 5th BR. Other features include hardwoods, overhead lighting, tray & vaulted ceilings, 2 car garage.

Randy Bender 703.906.1749

**OPEN SUN** **NEW PRICE**

6515 Princeton Dr  
\$795,000  
**Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!**  
Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial features open kitchen with SS and granite, large room sizes, 3 fin lvls, 4BRs & 2 car garage. Formal living and dining rooms, family room off breakfast area. Prime "close-in" location. Two tiered deck and seasonal river views. OPEN SUN, 9/12, 1-4. From Old Town: S GW Pkwy; R-Belle Haven; L-Fort Hunt; R-Swan Terr; L-Bluebill; R-Princeton.

**OPEN SUN**

7406 Rippon Rd  
\$759,900  
**Mason Hill - Stunner!**  
No Stairs - This spectacular home offer luxurious living on 1 level! Rare, large ramblar with 2836 sq ft. Custom home features exceptionally bright, open floorplan and large room sizes. Other features include: high ceilings, updated kit, 4BRs including private master suite overlooking wooded grounds. Expansive glass walls & back patio. A truly unique property! OPEN SUN, 9/12, 1-4. From Old Town: S GW Pkwy; R-Morningside; R-Fort Hunt; L-Mason hill; R-Rippon.

**JUST LISTED**

7115 Colgate Dr  
\$795,000  
**Updated and Expanded!**  
Expanded colonial in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many fabulous features include: exceptionally large room sizes, first floor family room, updated custom kitchen and baths, finished lower level and expanded master suite with luxury bath and cavernous walk-in closets. Stunning custom sunroom overlooks gorgeous pool and grounds. Uniquely fabulous home.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

6918 COLUMBIA DR 22307 / Alex  
\$489,000  
**What a gem!** Nothing to do but move in. Totally redone. All new kitchen w/ stainless appl., new cabinets, granite, tile floor, 2 new baths, new el wiring & copper plumbing, hardwood floors, detached garage w/studio or office. "Do not miss out on this one!"

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

501 SLATERS LN #324  
Marina Towers  
\$324,900  
**BACK ON THE MARKET!** 2BR, 2FBA,W/D, balcony, gas cooking, granite counters, stainless appliances, covered parking, sunset views. Full service building right on the river with lovely pool, fitness center, convenience store, 24-hr security desk, Bar-B-Que, dog park, community garden, car wash area.

Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359

**JUST LISTED!**

1900 COURTLAND RD  
Alex / Mt Vernon  
\$549,900  
**Sparkling w/fresh paint & refinished hardwoods!**  
Updated eat-in kitchen w/granite counters. Replacement double pane windows. Screened porch leads to magical backyard with level grassy area halfway up the hill. 2-car garage. 3BR, 2.5BA (updated).

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

**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.

**JUST LISTED**

3618 Old Vernon Court  
\$859,900  
**Stately Colonial-Prime Location!**  
**Stately COLONIAL-PRIME LOCATION!** Exciting new listing, classic colonial with updated modern floor plan. High ceilings, 3 finished levels, bright, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite. **THIS HOME HAS IT ALL!** Fabulous location at the end of quiet cul-de-sac with gorgeous level, fenced yard with irrigation system. Nothing like it on the market at this price!

**NEW PRICE**

7106 Colgate Dr  
\$535,000  
**Hollin Glen-Super Value!**  
**MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! OWNER WANTS IMMEDIATE SALE.** Owners moving to Germany and have priced to sell immediately! Spacious home in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many special features include: updated kitchen, 4 large BRs, 3 BAs, hardwood floors, Fin. Lower level, 2 Fireplaces, fenced in rear yard w/two level deck. Move fast nothing like it at this price in prime "close-in" market!

www.WaywoodRealtors.com  
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

8510 CYRUS PL  
Waywood  
\$714,900  
**Immaculate "Mayfield model w/sunroom addition in tip-top shape. Sun-filled & charming 4 finished floors. Multi-level deck, planters & 2 sheds. Tons of updates, newer appliances/systems/windows. Large attic for storage or future addition. 4BR, 2.5BA, 2 fireplaces and 5 levels.**

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6112 HOLLY TREE DR  
Alex / \$ 625,000  
**IMPECCABLE STYLE & COMFORT** surround you in this 3/4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath Colonial in highly desirable Wilton Woods. Updated contemporary kit, fin walk-out lower level w/bonus room, rec room & half bath, garage parking, private lot on no thru street & more. Minutes to BW, Metro, Pentagon & Ft. Belvoir.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

8422 CROWLEY PL  
Waywood  
\$739,900  
**Unique, one-of-a-kind, rebuilt 3 level "Redford" model ramblar w/entire new floor addition & front porch. Open floor plan of 3,600+sqft living space, 2 Master suites w/ sitting room, 2BR main lvl, 1BR guest suite on lower lvl, 3.5BA. Rec & family rooms. Lower lvl fireplace. Sunfilled. Skylights. And more...!**

www.WaywoodRealtors.com  
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

**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!

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.

**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.

6989 EARLSTON DRIVE  
Kingstowne  
\$439,500  
**PRICE REDUCED!** 4BR, 3.5BA, 1-car garage, 2 master suites, vaulted ceiling, crown moldings, 1 fireplace, 42" kitchen cabinets, deck and patio. Within minutes to Springfield METRO and Van Dorn METRO, Kingstowne center and so much more. "Beats ALL comps!"

Desiree Gilman 203.981.6037

529 E BELLEFONTE \$459,900  
Renovated 2BR, 1BA 3 level TH in Del Ray. Features include kitchen with granite, hardwood, renovated bath, fully finished basement and more.

619 S PITT ST \$998,000  
Expanded/renovated OT historic home in the SE quadrant. Highlights: 3BR/3.5BA, HVV, granite, luxury mstr suite, 3 gas FP, sep gar w/priv BR/BA.

11831 LARRY RD \$489,500  
GREAT NEW PRICE IN FAIRFAX! 3BR, 2BA on .5 acre lot, 2,000+ sq ft on main level, eat-in kitchen, large deck, 2-car garage.

**ALL 3 Homes OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

Dayna Blumel Kerry Adams 703.597.2252



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## NEWS

# Center Receives Major Facelift

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

For over the past half century, the Hollin Hall Shopping Center (HHSC) complex has been leasing space to businesses serving the residents of Fort Hunt and the surrounding Mt. Vernon district communities. The HHSC complex is located on Fort Hunt Road at the intersection, north and south, of Shenandoah road. Now, according to Doug McPherson, president, Hollin Hall LLC, after years of planning and approximately two years of construction the management is nearing the completion of a major renovation to the Center complex.

“We are nearing completion of upgrades to the Center which began over two years ago,” said McPherson. “Renovations to the Center north of Shenandoah road were completed first and have received many kind compliments from the patrons.

“Renovations to the Center south of Shenandoah road are ongoing and include the completed addition of a new partially covered ‘Arcade’ with planters and seating areas adjacent to the Hairvisions Hair Salon and BB & T Bank. About to begin is a reconfiguration of the façade for those stores parallel to Shenandoah road with better access, the addi-



**Façade renovation of Hollin Hall Shopping center, north section.**

tion of planters, and eventually an outdoor dining area.

“Throughout the Center complex, north and south, we have augmented the wrought iron column decorations with brick and stone detailing; existing handrails have been replaced; and we have added extensive over-canopy decorative metal grillwork with all new signage and lighting. Also, the under-canopy areas have been re-lighted and, throughout the Center, modern, energy efficient windows have replaced their 50-year-old predecessors.”

## Summer Reading Program Concludes

BY JOEY JACHOWSKI  
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County public libraries are concluding one of their busiest times of the year and their yearly highlight: the summer reading program.

This year the library program ran from June 21-Sept. 4. Over the summer the program required children in pre-school to sixth grade to read 15 books while teens read eight.

“We’re hoping that kids will read during the summertime for pleasure, because lots of times children don’t have time during the school year to pick up a book that they want to read,” said Fairfax County public library programming coordinator Katie Strotman, “We’re also hoping that they keep their reading skills up.”

Strotman has been organizing the summer reading program in Fairfax County for 12 years now and is responsible for creating the coupon booklets as incentives.

“When I started, when the kids finished their reading they got a pencil or maybe some laces for their shoes or an eraser,” said Strotman, “And I’m the one

who started the coupon booklet, where I went out to area businesses and asked them to donate something for the kids.”

According to Strotman, every year making the coupon booklet is a big project requiring donating businesses to support 25,000 coupons, so the whole booklet-making process starts in February. Meanwhile, at the branch level, individual libraries

worked continuously for the summer reading program.

“Kathy Noonan, our youth services manager, and our children’s staff work very hard all year,” said Sherwood Regional Library branch manager Denise Morgan, “They read the youth services staff book selections all year long, they make special labels.”

One big difference for libraries this year was the opportunity to sign up for the program through

the library’s website.

“We have had several parents tell us how the kids would type in their book titles,” said Morgan, “In a community like this one where the kids watch Mom and Dad play with the computer, this is something they can do. It’s a lot of fun.”

From 2005 to 2009, involvement in the program has increased from 43,000 to 49,000 individuals.

**“We’re hoping that kids will read during the summertime for pleasure, because lots of times children don’t have time during the school year to pick up a book that they want to read.”**

**— Katie Strotman, Fairfax County public library programming coordinator**



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## 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.

♦ **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. Mayor Bill Euille will also participate.

♦ **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 ACKC 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 and techniques for capturing the essence of any scene.

# Alexandria Festival of the Arts



An artist will be demonstrating in the Alexandria Art Experience.

Alexandria's premier art affair returns for its 8th anniversary Sept. 11 - 12, 2010. For two days King Street from Washington Street to the waterfront is transformed into an outdoor art gallery with original fine artwork by 226 artists from 30 states and 20 countries. Festival-goers will be treated to paintings, life size sculptures, photography, glass, wood, jewelry, collage and ceramics with prices ranging from \$25 hand-designed earrings to \$20,000 metal sculptures. New this year, the "Alexandria Art Experience" joins the festival on Saturday.

Alexandria artists are among the troupe of national and international artists presenting work at this highly anticipated fine art show; including Torpedo Factory artists Matthew Johnston and David Cochran as well as local favorites Pat Palermino, Martha Brumbaugh, and Jane Andrie Gillette. Admission to the festival is free and open to the public.

### New "Alexandria Art Experience"

Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located next to Market Square on the corner of North Fairfax Street and King Street. On Saturday, The Art League and the Torpedo Factory Art Center present the "Alexandria Art Experience," a special new local village at the Festival of the Arts. Through activities, an artist demonstration, and a fun ceramics fundraiser these tents will share the enriching experience of the arts community in Alexandria.

### ♦ Hands-On Activities

The Art League will present a hands-on silhouette-style portrait activity for kids and adults in the morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by a plein-air painting demonstration from 2 to 4 p.m., and a sketch book activity throughout the afternoon.

### ♦ Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser

From 12 to 4 p.m. the Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser supporting The Art League Ceramics Department presents a delicious way to support the arts. \$15 includes the selection of a unique handmade ceramic bowl created by the talented artists of The Art League's Ceramics Department and a bowl of artisan ice cream from ACKC Cocoa Bar of



The Alexandria Festival for the Arts is this weekend, Sept. 11-12.



Visitors attend last year's Alexandria Festival of the Arts on King Street.

Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood. Participants in the Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser may enter a free drawing to win an Art League gift certificate.

### ♦ Create Your Own Button Art

The Torpedo Factory Art Center will hand out components for a button badge that can be designed collage-style. Participants will take their badge components to the Torpedo Factory on the waterfront to collect a variety of colorful bits and create their own piece of flair. The Torpedo Factory activity goes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and coincides with their annual event Art Activated, held at the Art Center from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

### ♦ Visitors can Win an Artful Getaway

Visitors from around the corner or around the world can enter to win an Artful Getaway to Alexandria! Alexandria was voted Third Best Arts Destination Among Mid-Size Cities by AmericanStyle magazine readers, and this giveaway will award five winners a fun, free way to experience this accolade first-hand.

Five prize packages include overnight stays at top Alexandria hotels, gift certificates and experiences from the Torpedo Factory Art Center and The Art League, and gift certificates for dinners at local restaurants. Art lovers can enter online at VisitAlexandriaVA.com, or entry can be made in person during the Art Festival at the information booth near

Market Square or at the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King Street.

### ♦ Additional Art Festival Events:

Art Activated at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

Saturday ONLY, Sept. 11, 2010  
12 noon to 4 p.m.

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
www.TorpedoFactory.org; 703-838-4565

Step inside from the street fair and let your creative side play at this 4th annual event. Artists will demonstrate pottery on the wheel, painting, sculpture and much more. Try your hand at screen printing, bubble gum painting, pottery on the wheel and the popular champagne cork chairs workshop. Target Gallery partners with SPARK to present a Spoken Word event and don't miss a hip hop fusion performance by DCypher Dance. The SnackShak by Bittersweet will offer a Torpedo Factory inspired cupcake creation and other goodies available for purchase.

### ♦ Children in the Churchyard

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12, 2010 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314. Call 703-549-1450

Historic Christ Church presents family friendly activities, rest area and moon bounce.

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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

**Second Thursday Art Night.** 6-9 p.m. Free. Artist Talk with David H. Wells at 8 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery. From 6:30-8 p.m., The Art League Gallery hosts the reception for the All-Media Membership Show and Michele Rea's solo show, Vantage Point. From 6-8 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](http://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, leaving from the Alexandria dock. All breeds are welcome. Wine, beer, soda, snacks, doggie treats and a souvenir photo. Register at: <http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com/cruise.htm>. Meet at Pat Troy's Irish Pub, 111 N Pitt St. from 5-7 p.m. for a Pre-Yappy Hour on their back patio. Afterwards, there is a "Cocker Parade" down to the dock at the bottom of King Street/Cameron Street behind the Torpedo Factory.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 10

**Composting Seminar.** 1:30 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.

**Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening.** 9 a.m. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes. At the Manchester Lakes Senior Apartments, 7131 Silverlake Blvd., Alexandria. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of Barrett Branch Library. At 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1703.

**Remembrance Ceremony for 9/11.** Noon. At the George Washington Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Contact Robert Rodriguez, 703-746-4184.

**Civil War Living History.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Reenactors from the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Co. D, at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**"Blacks Without Borders" Film Screening.** 4:30 p.m. Free. Part of "Movies with a Mission." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703-746-4356.

**Art Activated.** Noon to 4 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 SnackShak by Bittersweet and special performances by DCypher, 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](http://www.torpedofactory.org); 703-



## SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

**Historic Fashion Show.** 3 to 5 p.m. \$10/adults; \$5/children. Living history interpreters will model clothing from the later half of the 18th-century and the beginnings of the 19th-century while historic fashion experts explain the changes in fashion during that period. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org).

838-4565.

## 17th Annual Leukemia Cup

**Regatta.** Begins at 10 a.m. The largest race on the Potomac River. One-Design, PHRF and model yachts are welcome to participate. Spectator boats will be available to the public for a closer view of the races for \$10 per person. Guests may purchase tickets for the post-race celebration, at \$10 per person. Event participants 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 Loree Lipstein, Sr. Campaign Manager, at 703-399-2957, or visit [www.leukemicup.org/nca](http://www.leukemicup.org/nca).

## SEPT. 11-12

### Alexandria Festival of the Arts.

Free. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alexandria's premier art affair returns for its 8th anniversary with the nation's top established artists as well as new and emerging talent. Includes paintings, life size sculptures, photography, glass, wood, jewelry, collage and ceramics with prices ranging from \$25 hand-designed earrings to \$20,000 metal sculptures. In Old Town on King Street from Washington down to the Potomac River at the Torpedo Factory; 480 King street, Alexandria. Visit [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 12

**Pet Adoptions.** 1 to 4 p.m. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation will be starting bimonthly pet adoptions at the PetSmart in Hybla Valley Shopping Center. All animals are spayed or neutered and are up-to-date on vaccinations. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

**Christmas Cantata.** 6 p.m. Free. Presented by Gracias Choir. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at NOVA Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-822-3026.

**Alexandria Citizen's Band** (Classical, Show Medleys, American Classics). 3 to 4 p.m. Free outdoor concert at Historic Collingwood Estate, off the GW Memorial Parkway, 8301 East Boulevard Drive. Contact the Collingwood Library and Museum at 703-765-1652 or [www.collingwoodlibrary.com](http://www.collingwoodlibrary.com).

**Church Picnic.** Heritage Presbyterian Church's Christian Education Kick-Off and Annual Picnic. Register for adult, youth and children's Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. and after services,

enjoy an international selection of foods, live music, a moonbounce and face painting. Bring a dish to share. Heritage is located at 8503 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-360-9546.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 13

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. Weekly open playtime with a new craft activity each week. For toddlers (walkers through 36 months). Runs weekly through Monday, Nov. 15. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A five-visit pass costs \$30, never expires, and includes up to three people. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 14

**Alexandria Singers Auditions.** 7 p.m. Washington D.C.'s premiere adult pops chorus will hold auditions on Tuesdays, Sept. 14, 21 and 28. At the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss Street, Alexandria. Contact [audition@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:audition@alexandriasingers.com) to book an audition. Visit [www.alexandriasingers.com](http://www.alexandriasingers.com).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 15

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

**Italian Wine Tasting.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tastings are led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar and tickets are \$25 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact 703-548-1789. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

**Gourmet Tasting and Boutique Style Wedding Fair.** 5-8 p.m. The event features a gourmet tasting prepared by R&R catering and exhibits by Alfred Angelo Bridal Shop, Alexandria Pastry Shop, Floral Specialties, All Seasons Floral Preservation, Jan Davis Entertainment and Events, Tisara Photography, Prime Transportation and Perfect Honeymoons. At Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. For reservation information, see [www.rrcatering.com](http://www.rrcatering.com) under the tastings tab or call 703-451-2798.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

**Silent Auction to Benefit Alexandria's Breast Cancer Surgical Fund.** Hosted by Women Mean Business, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Alexandria Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 625 First St. All funds raised will benefit Alexandria's Breast Cancer Surgical Fund, which will pay for breast cancer surgery for uninsured women who do not have the means to pay for it. Women Mean Business is seeking donations for the silent auction and accepting RSVPs for the event. Visit [www.womenmeanbusiness.info](http://www.womenmeanbusiness.info).

**Jim Stephanson and John Previti.** 7-9 p.m. Free. Guitarist Jim Stephanson and bassist John Previti will treat visitors to an evening of blues, swing, and jazz inspired tunes. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

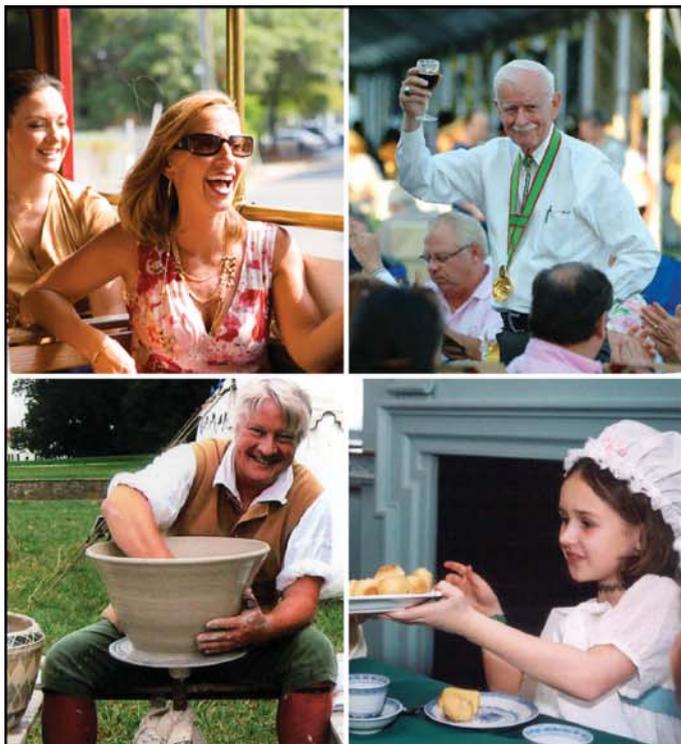
## FRIDAY/SEPT. 17

**Swing Dancing.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$4. With the Mount Vernon Swing Band. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

**Red Molly in Concert.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$20/door; children under 14 with an adult half price. For reservations, go to [www.sunspotpro.com](http://www.sunspotpro.com) or call 800-404-9049. At The Lyceum, 201 S.

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Sept. 9: **Second Thursday Art Night at the Torpedo Factory Art Center**

Sept. 11: **Art Activated at the Torpedo Factory Art Center**

Sept. 11&12: **Alexandria Festival of the Arts**

Sept. 18&19: **The Colonial Market & Fair at Mount Vernon**

Sept. 25: **69th Annual Tour of Historic Homes**

Oct. 1-3: **Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour**

Oct. 2: **Art on the Avenue in Del Ray**

Oct. 9: **Alexandria Arts Safari at the Torpedo Factory Art Center**

Oct. 9-17: **Alexandria's Boutique Week**



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Washington St., Alexandria.

**Jazz Supper Under The Stars.** 5:30 to 7 p.m. Jazz by Al Williams III and Friends. BBQ by Mango Mike's Caribbean Restaurant. Sponsored by the Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBPA) and the King Street Gardens Park Foundation. Tickets are \$25/advance; \$30/door. At King Street Gardens Park, at Diagonal Road and King Street. Call 703-683-0333.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

**Community Yard Sale.** 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees). In the parking lot of Anthony Lane Elementary School, 7137 Beulah Street, Alexandria. Cost for sellers is \$15/space. Seller setup from 6-7 a.m. Visit [www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org) or call 703-866-1717.

**Piano Recital.** 7:30 p.m. The Friends of Music of St. Luke's Episcopal Church will present virtuoso pianist Edvinas Minkstimas in recital. His program will include romantic music by Chopin, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Liszt and Piazzola. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students. At 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342.

**St. Luke's Craft and Family Fun Fair.** 10 a.m. to noon. Some 50 vendors will sell crafts, jewelry, soaps, photos and more. Food, face painting and pony rides from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Luke's, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call Tracey Navratil at 703-417-9219.

**Sketching Session.** 6 p.m. to midnight. Free. Sketching with a live model from 7 to 9 p.m. Musical

performance starts at 8 p.m. Complimentary special show cocktail by Mie N Yu Restaurant. At Art Whino Gallery, 173 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md.

**Hawaiian Luau.** 4 to 9 p.m. Authentic food, music and entertainment featuring Halau Ho'omau I ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i. Advance purchase tickets are \$35 for Adults (over age 13); \$20 for children 6-12. Children age five and under are free. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for children the day of the event. The luau, a church fundraiser, is open to the public. At Hope United Church of Christ, 6130 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-960-8772.

**Alexandria Story Festival.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. For families of students in preK- grade 4. Local authors Sharon Hickey, Tamatha Hollingsworth, and Captain Brandon Barnett will read in tents to small groups and lead children in activities related to art, recycling, and exercise. More authors will be reading aloud:

10:15 a.m. Sandy Pugh  
10:40 a.m. Lezlie Evans  
11:10 a.m. Nick Bruel  
12:15 p.m. Melissa Thomson  
12:40 p.m. Christylez Bacon  
At Hooray For Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King Street, Alexandria.

## SEPT. 18-19

**Market Marketplace.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mount Vernon's Colonial Market & Fair features Colonial-attired artisans demonstrating 18th-century crafts and selling traditional wares such as baskets, woodcarvings, tin and ironwork, leatherworkings, weavings, paper-cuttings, furniture, and more. The event also features 18th-century music, fire-eating, sword-swallowing, puppet and magic shows, plus food for



Char McCargo Bah

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

**Genealogist Workshop.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Char McCargo Bah will conduct a workshop and lecture showing how she successfully traced descendants of people buried at Freedmen's Cemetery and how these techniques can be applied to any family research. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. To register, call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

sale onsite. The Colonial Market & Fair at Mount Vernon is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; children ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

**Harmonia Concert.** 3 p.m. \$20 donation suggested; students free.

Featuring top soloists from Ukraine and Slovakia and with roots in Hungary and Croatia, this multi-cultural ensemble includes violin, accordion, vocals, folk flutes (sopilka) and the 125-string cimbalom (played by Alexander Fedoriouk, a cimbalom supreme). Reception following the concert to meet the artists. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Contact 703-241-1817.

**Vance Gilbert.** 7 p.m. Contemporary folk/Americana artist with special guest Beggars Ride, in a concert and pre-show performance workshop. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org).

**Lesson Zero** (New Adult Contemporary Indie Rock/Blues). 3 to 4 p.m. Free outdoor concert at Historic Collingwood Estate, off the GW Memorial Parkway, 8301 East Boulevard Drive. Contact the Collingwood Library and Museum at 703-765-1652 or [www.collingwoodlibrary.com](http://www.collingwoodlibrary.com).

**Teddy Bear Picnic.** 1 to 3 p.m. Children ages 7 to 11 should bring their favorite teddy bear or stuffed toy to Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, where they will play traditional Victorian era games. Cost is \$10/child; parents admitted free. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

**Grieving Seminar.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Loss of Loved Ones to Sudden Tragedy (LLOST) Foundation's "Grieving - Handle with Care" Seminar Series presents, "Men - the Forgotten Griever." The presentation, hosted by Wendy Maiwurn, LCSW, Capital Hospice, will be based on the book, "Men and Grief" by Carol Staudacher from New Harbinger Publications. At Fort Ward Park in Alexandria. Visit [www.LLOST.org](http://www.LLOST.org).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 21

**Mount Vernon Genealogical Society.** 1 p.m. Free. The meeting will feature a presentation by Laura G. Prescott entitled "Using Footnote.com." Meets in Room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, in Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or [haroldm@erols.com](mailto:haroldm@erols.com).

**Meet Author.** 7 p.m. Meet Bernice McFadden, author of "Glorious," the story of Easter Venetta Bartlett, a fictional Harlem Renaissance writer whose tumultuous path to success, ruin, and revival offers a candid portrait of the American experience in all its beauty and cruelty. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free; Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or call 703-765-3645.

**Alexandria Singers Auditions.** 7 p.m. Washington D.C.'s premiere adult pops chorus will hold auditions on Tuesdays, Sept. 21 and 28. At the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss Street, Alexandria. Contact [audition@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:audition@alexandriasingers.com) to book an audition. Visit [www.alexandriasingers.com](http://www.alexandriasingers.com).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 22

**Author Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. Rawn James Jr. will discuss "Sailing East for Western Shores: The Strange Legal Strategy that Defeated Segregation," based on his new book, Root and Branch: Charles Hamiltons Houston, Thurgood Marshall and the Struggle to End Segregation. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria.



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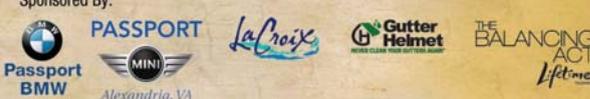
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**COMMUNITY**

**Scavenger Hunt in Old Town  
Boutique District Sept. 17-19**

**S**erious shoppers are gearing up for the signature event of the fall season in Northern Virginia — the third annual Scavenger Hunt in the Old Town Boutique District.

The Old Town Boutique District, a cooperative association of 28 Alexandria boutiques, is giving away more than \$5,000 from participating merchants during its Third Annual Scavenger Hunt, Sept. 17 to 19.

“If you’re serious about shopping, there’s no better place in the region than walkable Old Town Alexandria,” said Elizabeth Todd, owner of The Shoe Hive. “This is a fun way to see all that Old Town’s boutiques have to offer.”

Participants are eligible to win a \$2,800 grand prize shopping spree by obtaining a “passport” and getting it stamped at all 28 stores between Friday, Sept. 17 and Sunday, Sept. 19. No purchase is necessary. Twenty-eight second place winners, drawn at random, receive a \$100 gift certificate from one of the participating merchants.

Subscribers to Boutique Buzz, the Boutique District’s e-mail newsletter, will receive Scavenger Hunt passports in their e-mail inbox. Passports can also be downloaded from the Boutique District’s web site,

[www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/scavengerhunt](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/scavengerhunt).

During the Scavenger Hunt, every shopper will receive free gifts they can use to build their own gift bags. Each store will offer free items, while supplies last, that scavenger hunters can pick up and add to their collections. They can collect as many or as few items as they want, but only one per store per customer.

No purchase is necessary to receive the free gifts, but shoppers must show a Scavenger Hunt Passport to be stamped.

“We thought this would be a fun way to encourage shoppers to visit more independent Alexandria shops and boutiques,” said Amy Rutherford, owner of Red Barn Mercantile. “They can get free gifts from the merchants of their choice, or if they really want to win big, they could visit every store and take their chance at winning the grand prize.”

“We have a lot of wonderful shops and boutiques right here in Old Town; you don’t have to drive out to Tysons Corner or the outlet malls to find great deals on quality merchandise. And when you shop locally you are also supporting the Alexandria community because more money stays here in our local economy.”

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# THEATER

## Coward's Comedy Well Staged

Little Theatre of Alexandria mounts 1956 play.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

Noel Coward's comedy of manners ridiculing the world of modern art may be titled "Nude with Violin," but neither nude nor violin distracts from the solid performances of an ensemble delivering Coward's wit with style. The result is a solid evening of light comedy at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

The text has its delights but is not packed with big laugh lines that can be stacked one on top of the other to build a sense of hilarity. Instead, there are individual comments, rejoinders and asides that draw more chuckles and smiles than bursts of laughter. The play is more notable for its sense of style than its high comedy, and director Howard Vincent Kurtz is always a fine choice to head any production of a stylish piece.

The play presents the events following the funeral of a famous modern artist when his estranged family gathers with hopes of hearing just what fortunes may come their way with the reading of the will. They learn with deep dismay that not only has the artist died without a will, he died without a fortune.

What is more, he has left a letter admitting that he never painted any of the works on which his fame is based. Not his first significant success, "Portrait of Marjorie," in which no one can detect the slightest hint of a portrait, nor the primitive colorful nudes of his "Jamaican Period."

The letter is in the hands of the deceased's long-time valet and companion, a role that was originated by Sir John Gielgud in London and which Coward himself portrayed when the play was staged on Broadway. Here John Barclay Burns turns his stiff upper lip to the delivery of drolleries such as his rejoinder to a character who says "I believe life is for the living, don't you?" It is with a devastating undertone of disdain that he replies: "Its difficult to know what else one could do with it."

The family's hope of making any future earnings

out of the paintings he left behind depend on their ability to keep this posthumous confession secret, and thus, they are at the mercy of one surrogate painter after another who emerges to blackmail them while revealing the story behind their participation in the fraud. These include a former stripper masquerading as a Russian princess (the striking Megan Murphy), a coarse American with her silent gigolo by her side portrayed with panache by Diane Linton Sams and Geoffrey Brand, and an imposing practitioner of a new religious trend "Immersion." The "immersionist" it is given memorable moments on stage in the debut performance by DeJeanette Horne.

The members of the family are at the core of the ensemble, however, and Kurtz has assembled a cast for these roles and directed them so well that each is a distinct personality. The role of the widow gets the least of Coward's gifts for character definition, but Gayle Nichols-Grimes' performance makes the most of what there is. It is to her credit that she reaches a level that contributes to the sense of ensemble balance. Elizabeth Keith, on the other hand, takes full advantage of Coward's description of her role of the artist's daughter as having "a style of her own and a sense of humor which perhaps she inherited from her father."

Adding to the sense of assurance the ensemble presents is Michael Fisher as perhaps the greatest victim of the fraud, the art dealer who handled the collection over the years. He, too, delivers precisely what Coward's script calls for: "dapper, shrewd enough although his manner is inclined to be pompous and didactic on occasion."

"Nude with Violin" may not be Coward's finest hour, but in the hands of Kurtz' crew it delivers a few fine hours for a fall evening.

### Where & When:

"Nude with Violin" plays through Sept. 25 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17 - \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

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## HISTORY

# Huntley Meadows: Rescued by Community

Residents saved county's largest park from government highway plans.

BY JULIAN WHITMAN  
TJHSST

**H**untley Meadows Park (HMP) is Fairfax County's largest nature reserve. It is located in the Lee District of Fairfax County, in an area called Hybla Valley.

Since its creation as a nature reserve, it has been threatened by development and construction plans. The local and state governments were interested in building a highway to reduce traffic congestion for commuters, even though a section of the project could jeopardize the health of the park and its wildlife.

What started as an effort by residents to keep a road away from their house, a case of "Not in My Backyard," eventually grew into a community-wide effort to prevent environmental destruction. After 15 years, citizen interest, environmental concerns and appeals to the federal government overwhelmed and halted the local government and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) plans to build a four-lane highway.

George Mason originally owned the land that became HMP. Thomson Francis, (1828-97) one of his descendants, built the historic Huntley House in 1825. During the Civil War, the 3rd Michigan Infantry camped at Huntley. During the Civil War, the park changed hands and in 1871, it was subdivided into many parcels. The land was used primarily for wheat and dairy farming until 1929, when entrepreneur Henry Woodhouse bought the parcels with the intention of building "George Washington Air Junction" as Washington's transatlantic commercial airport, intended primarily for zeppelins. No airship is ever recorded to have flown from it, and Woodhouse eventually lost the land as a result of debt and lawsuits.

The land was then leased back to dairy farmers. The federal government bought it for \$60,000 in 1941. The Bureau of Public Roads used it to test road surfaces from 1943 to 1953. During the 1950s, the U.S. Army used the area as an air defense station, and in 1958, the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory used it for a classified radio antenna project.

**IN 1975**, the Interior Department sold 1,261 acres of Huntley land to Fairfax County for \$1 through the White House-sponsored "Legacy of Parks" program. The Veterans Administration requested the land for use as a national military cemetery, but withdrew its request due to local interest in turning the land into a park. Original developmental plans for the park called for



Sunlight shines through leaves at Huntley Meadows Park.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

a nature center, an observation tower, stables, two equestrian show rings, a cross-country horse course and riding trails.

After two years of planning, surveys and studies, the master plan for the park was issued, featuring an environmental center, a maintenance yard, nature trails, two observation platforms and hiking and biking trails. Public hearings were held and input acquired from various citizen associations in the area, and these inputs were listed in the Preliminary Master Plan Report. Most of the requests sought to keep the park in a natural state with a few paths, although there were requests and petitions for and against other recreational facilities.

At this same time, Douglas S. Mackall III owned a large parcel of land adjacent to the park. In 1978, Mackall wanted to rezone his property to allow denser residential development, so he could build townhouses and closely spaced single-family homes, not allowed by zoning laws in force at that time. The citizens in the nearby Vantage subdivision protested the proposed construction, especially on any potential parkland near their homes. Mackall proposed a compromise: he would give about 60 percent of his land to add to HMP in exchange for approval of rezoning to allow him to build 102 units of single family homes and townhouses. The compromise was approved, and the land was divided.

Joseph Alexander, the Lee District Supervisor at the time, called the rezoning "the most unique we've come across" and said that the county's main objective was to gain land for the park. Today, the developed half of the parcel is the Deer Run housing community.

Soon after the park was dedicated, a new issue arose. A proposal was submitted to extend Lockheed Boulevard directly through the park, in order to connect U.S. Route 1 (Richmond Highway) with Telegraph Road, South Van Dorn Street and

Franconia Road, as part of a larger state-sponsored Springfield Bypass project. The connector, intended to relieve traffic, had been on the planning board agenda for about 15 years, but its exact route was still in question. In February 1979, residents of Lee District told Alexander that they'd rather have the road cut further into the park than come closer to their homes. An earlier proposal to move the road into the park had been vetoed by park officials — evidence of a potential rift between citizen and official opinion. But Alexander attempted a compromise, saying "Relocation is what everyone is interested in."

**A new project, called the Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project, involves plans to build an earthen dam and small pools in the park, and to perform other wetland management and restoration.**

**IN MARCH 1979**, the Virginia Highway and Transportation Commission tentatively approved plans for the Van Dorn Street-Lockheed connector, despite protests from local residents. It was estimated that 20,000-33,000 vehicles would use it daily by the year 2000, which would have made it one of the most used roads in the county. The road plans were supported by residents in traffic-clogged southern Fairfax and other political supporters, but opposed strongly by local residents who did not want the park damaged or the value of land near their homes to be decreased.

Critics of the road plan, conservationists and residents, then pointed out that no envi-

ronmental study had been done. They claimed any study would highlight the environmental destruction to the nature reserve that the road would bring. Residents were likely motivated as well by the possibility that the study could prevent the construction near their homes, keeping the road out of their neighborhoods. A federal law stated that an environmental impact study was required for projects involving federal funds, but because this section of the project was planned to use only state funds, the study was not legally required, although federal approval was indeed required.

Government officials tried to avoid an environmental impact study, because as the citizen's association likely understood, the study would significantly delay or jeopardize plans for the connector. The chairman of the County Affairs Committee of the New Hybla Valley Citizen's Association said that Hybla Valley is located in a "hot pocket," meaning that the wind would not carry away air pollution. Increased traffic in the area could therefore be dangerous not only to the health of the forest, but also to that of the area residents. The highway commissioner denied that the state wanted to avoid a study, claiming that their main concern was "time limitations."

Numerous public hearings were held to discuss different proposals. Residents and conservationists questioned the necessity of the road and argued that the road would increase air and noise pollution and bring pressures for more development. The Northern Virginia Conservation Council stated that the park was originally given to the county as a "forest management park and a wetland stream valley management area."

Use of park property for a highway would violate the purpose for which the property was donated. In April 1979, in response to the many heated community meetings, Alexander created a special task force to make recommendations about the road plans. The committee was comprised of two members from each civic association of Hybla Valley: Virginia Hills, Stoneybrook, Vantage, Hayfield, Groveton, Rose Hill and Wickford-Wellfleet.

In response to the pressure exerted by the community, it was decided in June 1979 that an environmental impact statement, more detailed than an assessment, would be made on the road, because it was part of the Springfield Bypass project, which used federal funds. The Virginia Highway officials continued to insist that no review was necessary because the connector itself would be built without federal funds.

The state prepared a brief report named "Environmental Considerations," which concluded that the road would "enhance the use of the park for recreational purposes and provide a scenic view for motorists." Alexander believed that even if an environmental assessment was made, it would con-

SEE SAVING COUNTY, PAGE 25

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# HISTORY

## Saving County's Largest Park

FROM PAGE 24

clude that the only possible route for the road would go through the park and that the best route would be along the park's northern edge, nearby the homes of many Vantage subdivision residents.

The larger area community was split on the issue. Some petitioned against the road and many lobbied for it, to reduce traffic, with provision that there be a sufficient buffer of distance and a sound wall. Most residents assumed the road would be a small two-lane road and were unaware of plans to connect it to the busy four-lane Springfield Bypass. Environmentalist residents asserted that alternate routes avoiding the park had yet to be explored.

Finally, by a vote of 16-2 at 1:30 a.m. on June 8, 1979, the task force endorsed the connector road, with 16 pages of modifications and conditions for the road, including a 25 mph speed limit and crosswalks for school children. At that point, the road was expected to be completed in 1981, after the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Highway Department had approved the plan.

**THEN, IN JULY 1979**, a Virginia state air pollution expert warned that the proposed \$15.2 million, 3.9 mile road could bring serious air pollution to the park and community. The State Air Pollution Control Board meteorologist added that residents were wise to demand a study, which he suspected would reveal the harmfulness of the proposed road. The area is a natural place for ozone and carbon monoxide to accumulate in warm weather. Road proponents, including Alexander, were critical of the meteorologist's warnings, noting that the opinion was first solicited by a citizen who opposed the highway. Alexander said that construction would not begin until the federal government was satisfied that any harm the road would bring would be slight.

Alexander, now planning his campaign for reelection, began to work with the Department of Highways to develop plans for an alternate route for the Springfield Bypass, a Route 1/Interstate 395 extension across Fort Belvoir, Telegraph Road and Beulah Street that would continue through Reston. The Lockheed-Van Dorn connector would still be built, but would not become the major road it was originally planned to be because it would not receive traffic from the Springfield Bypass. But the alternate route had its issues as well: negotiations with the Army would be needed to allow the route to pass through Fort Belvoir, and Reston residents opposed further splitting their community, already disrupted by the recently constructed Dulles Airport road.

Delays to the comparatively small Van Dorn Street-Lockheed connector were anticipated to increase the cost of the overall Springfield Bypass by up to \$300,000. Federal regulations require a highway to link to another highway in order to qualify for federal funds. The alternate route would move the bypass away from the connector, and without a link to the connector, the bypass road would not link to another highway. Without ground broken on the connector, the bypass might not qualify for federal funds and might be cancelled.

The county was gearing up for construction by July 1983. The environmental impact study results turned up no significant evidence that the proposed highway would severely harm the park. The next step was to obtain federal approval for the road plans, which could entail further delay. Getting approval from the General Services Administration (GSA) would be especially difficult, as the county was planning to use the land for purposes other than that for

which it was originally donated. Furthermore, the environmentalists and concerned residents were not ready to give up. Norma Hoffman, president of Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley (CASH, established 1975) prompted her group to restart the offensive to save the park from the destruction they believed would occur. The group began planning and gathering information in opposition to the construction plans.

The preliminary survey work to design the road, now renamed the Lockheed Boulevard Connector Road, was started in March 1986, spurring environmentalists to lobby the federal government to halt the project. CASH asked the U.S. Department of the Interior to stop the road on basis of insufficient information and requested an in-depth, impartial environmental study. Hoffman was able to involve the Interior Department because the land was donated with the condition that it be used only as parkland. In light of findings commissioned by CASH, the National Park Service agreed to review its endorsement of the project. County officials continued to insist that the county's assessment was adequate, and no further study was needed. But, because of Hoffman's involvement of the Department of the Interior, Huntley Meadows Park had caught the eye of government agencies and officials and a federally commissioned environmental study began.

The results of the report came out in August 1987, and revealed that construction of the Lockheed Boulevard Connector Road would cause irreparable damage to the park. CASH recommended that the county either develop an alternate route for the project, or abandon it altogether. Supervisor Alexander noted their goals, and commented that "they're using their environmental experts to poke holes in the study because they don't want the road built, period. It doesn't make a difference what we do as far as they're concerned." He also conceded that the revised study was "complete and responsive and it should protect Huntley Meadows Park. Protecting and preserving the park is first on my list of priorities."

**FINALLY, IN 1990** the National Park Service made a decision to bar the construction of the connector road. CASH had finally won, and left the county with few options to relieve traffic in the area. Alexander said the county still had about \$8 million earmarked for the road, which could possibly be used to ease traffic congestion. The National Park Service mentioned that the signs of stress from recent urban development and the risk of irreversible damage made the project too risky. After a 15-year long battle, HMP had been saved from the threat of the road and preserved for future generations.

Today the park thrives, although recently, the resident beavers that maintained the wetlands moved upstream to more dense forests. A new project, called the Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project, involves plans to build an earthen dam and small pools in the park, and to perform other wetland management and restoration. It is currently underway and is expected to return water to the slowly drying marsh area where the park's boardwalk and observation tower are located. The community remains involved through organizations that work to preserve the park's wildlife. Citizens in the area continue to enjoy nature observation and education, with noisy commuter roads away in the distance.

*Julian Whitman is an Alexandria resident and frequent visitor to Huntley Meadows Park. He is currently a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.*



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#### Telegraph Road (Route 611) Improvements Fairfax County Design Public Hearing

Thursday, September 23, 2010, 5 – 8 p.m.  
Hayfield Secondary School  
7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22315

**Find out** about proposed improvements to Telegraph Road between South Van Dorn Street and South Kings Highway in Fairfax County. The proposed project includes constructing additional turn lanes, on-road bike lanes, sidewalk and a shared-use path, among other improvements.

The proposed project is not federal-aid, thus the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is not applicable. Through on-site inspection and coordination with state and local resource agencies, VDOT has determined this project will not have significant environmental impacts. An Environmental Overview document has been prepared and will be available at the hearing. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be available at the hearing.

**Review** the proposed project plans at the public hearing or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office located at 14685 Avion Parkway in Chantilly, 703-383-2429 or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Property impact information, relocation assistance policies and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above address and will be available at the public hearing.

**Give your written or oral comments** at the hearing or submit them by **October 4, 2010** to Mr. Khalid Gandhi, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly, VA 20151. You may also e-mail comments to [Meeting\\_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov). Please reference "Telegraph Road Improvements" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-383-2341 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0611-029-891, P101, R201, C501, D604 UPC: 96509

## SCHOOLS

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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 West Potomac High School Fine Arts Department** students will be visiting community members Saturday, Sept. 11, to raise money for the band, orchestra, guitar, piano, chorus and theatre programs at West Potomac. The Fine Arts Department depends on community support to pay for instruments, costumes, uniforms, equipments and travel costs, which are not funded by the county's school budget. Students will leave a "TAG" with each household showing the performance and football schedules for 2010-11. Contributions can be mailed to WPBPO, West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22308.

**Linda McCargo of Alexandria** made the dean's list at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., for the fall semester. She is studying German and International Studies.

**Jennifer Lynn Marienau of Alexandria** was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Marienau is a graduate of Roswell High School in Roswell, GA, and is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

The following local students have graduated from Excelsior College:

- ❖ **Elizabeth M. Gause of Alexandria** has earned a(n) Associate in Science.
- ❖ **Mary De La Luz Gibson of Alexandria** has earned a(n) Bachelor of Science.
- ❖ **Kenneth Smith of Alexandria** has earned a(n) Bachelor of Science.

The following local residents are among the more than 700 new graduates of Marymount University who received diplomas at the University's 59th Commencement Ceremonies at D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, on May 10.

- ❖ **Blen Abdi of Alexandria** graduated with an M.S. in Nursing Education.
- ❖ **Carolyn Anderson of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Forensic Psychology.
- ❖ **Katherine Bailey of Alexandria** graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Studies.
- ❖ **Wanza Barnes of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Pastoral Counseling.
- ❖ **Olga Bonilla of Alexandria** graduated with a B.A. in Fashion Design.
- ❖ **Marianne Calogero of Alexandria** graduated with an M.Ed. in Professional Studies.
- ❖ **Kacy Canady of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Forensic Psychology.
- ❖ **Justinne Cano of Alexandria** graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Nursing.
- ❖ **Timmy Charles of Alexandria** graduated with a B.S. in Health Sciences.
- ❖ **Elizabeth Dickey of Alexandria** graduated with a B.S. in Health Sciences.
- ❖ **Ashley Domer of Alexandria** graduated with a B.S. in Biology.
- ❖ **Kristen Fyfe of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Pastoral and Spiritual Care.
- ❖ **Cynthia Germann of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in School Counseling.
- ❖ **Lakesha Henry of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Forensic Psychology.

chology.

- ❖ **Kristine Jacobs of Alexandria** graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Liberal Studies.
- ❖ **Lillian Kiwanuka of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Interior Design.
- ❖ **Stephanie Kundrotas of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Human Resource Management.
- ❖ **Aderline Li of Alexandria** graduated with a B.B.A. (Business Administration).
- ❖ **Henry Lindley of Alexandria** graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Studies.
- ❖ **Stephanie Marengo of Alexandria** graduated with an M.B.A.
- ❖ **Patricia Markle of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Humanities.
- ❖ **Renee McElrath of Alexandria** graduated with an M.A. in Legal Administration.
- ❖ **Jaime Moynihan of Alexandria** graduated with an M.S. in Nursing Education.
- ❖ **David Nolan of Alexandria** graduated with a B.A. in Politics.
- ❖ **Damata Payida of Alexandria** graduated with a B.S. in Nursing (2<sup>nd</sup> degree).
- ❖ **Emily Turnbull of Alexandria** graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Graphic Design.
- ❖ **Gisella Zelaya of Alexandria** graduated with a B.B.A. (Business Administration).

**Isatu Sesay of Alexandria** has earned Dean's List for Spring 2010 at Mountain State University. Sesay completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the spring semester with a minimum semester GPA of 3.5 to achieve this recognition.

Tulane University in New Orleans awarded degrees this month to 2,150 graduates, including the following local students:

- ❖ **Joanna Kauffmann of Alexandria** graduated from the Tulane University School of Liberal Arts with a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- ❖ **Kerry Kraft of Alexandria** graduated from the A. B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University with a Master of Business Administration degree.
- ❖ **Robin Baxley of Alexandria** graduated from the A. B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University with a Bachelor of Science, Management degree.
- ❖ **Caroline Spangler of Alexandria** graduated from the Tulane University Law School with a Juris Doctor degree.

**Justin Firaben of Alexandria** majored in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech. Firaben is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010.

Longwood University has selected 526 students to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2010 semester. Among those who earned an academic average of 3.5 to 3.99 were:

- ❖ **Amelia Christine Hollingsworth of Alexandria**

**Twenty-three Fairfax County high schools** have been designated among the most demanding public schools in the country and are featured in the 2010 Newsweek-Washington Post list of 1,622 top U.S. high schools, found at [www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com). The 1,622 schools represent the top 6 percent of high schools nationwide.

Woodson High School made the list of top 100 schools published in Newsweek, based on a formula devised by Washing-

ton Post education reporter Jay Mathews. Woodson was ranked 91st on the 2010 list.

Rankings for other Fairfax County Public Schools are: McLean High School, 101; Langley High School, 117; Centreville High School, 140; Madison High School, 143; Herndon High School, 152; Oakton High School, 157; Lake Braddock Secondary School, 172; Fairfax High School, 179; Marshall High School, 200; South Lakes High School, 216; Chantilly High School, 219; West Springfield High School, 274; South County Secondary School, 303; Robinson Secondary School, 325; Westfield High School, 346; Stuart High School, 432; Falls Church High School, 466; West Potomac High School, 523; Hayfield Secondary School, 539; Lee High School, 1,141; Annandale High School, 1,200; and Mount Vernon High School, 1,424.

Charleston Southern University **congratulates Andreas Willis of Alexandria** on being named to the Dean's List for spring semester 2010.

**Brittany Amerau of Alexandria** was presented a Bachelor of Science Degree in graduation ceremonies held at the United States Naval Academy on May 28, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

**Kristina Soisson Dahmann of Alexandria** graduated with degrees in Government and Legal Studies, History, from Bowdoin College on May 29.

The following local resident recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design:

- ❖ **Alexander Beckman Collins of Alexandria**, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration.

**Tamara Cristina Alcalde**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ignacio Alcalde of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Criminal Justice from Roanoke College. Alcalde is a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School.

The following local residents have been named to the spring semester Dean's list at Hofstra University:

- ❖ **Kateleen Bashkansky of Alexandria**

**Bryce W. Johnson of Alexandria** made the Scholastic Honor Roll Spring term at Oregon State University.

The following Virginia Tech students were among those honored at the university's spring commencement ceremony held May 14, 2010, in Lane Stadium.

- ❖ **Emily Mannel of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- ❖ **Luke Navarro of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in human nutrition, foods and exercise from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- ❖ **Kerry Biechman of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- ❖ **Kathleen Newbould of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in communication from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- ❖ **Ossana Wolff of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources conservation from the College of Natural Resources.
- ❖ **Deacons Aquino of Alexandria**

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 28

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# Wolverines Too Much for Improved Majors

West Potomac scores 55 points in battle of cross-town rivals.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Leading 21-7, West Potomac quarterback Nik Dimitrijevic looked to his right and fired a pass midway through the second quarter of the Wolverines' season opener against rival Mount Vernon. Majors defensive back Emmanuel Tackie, who earlier had been moved from safety to cornerback, read the play and broke in front of the intended receiver. Tackie intercepted the pass in front of the Mount Vernon bench and returned it 38 yards for a touchdown, sending the Majors and their coaches into a frenzy.

While Tackie's pick-six pulled the Majors within a touchdown, the play also gave the Mount Vernon football program a feeling that was foreign for most of the 2009 season.

Hope.

"We haven't felt like that in over a year," Mount Vernon senior lineman Logan Beougher said. "That was big."

Mount Vernon finished 0-10 in 2009 and was outscored 365-129, including a 42-3 loss to West Potomac in the season opener. Barry Wells replaced Tom Glynn as head coach and the Majors entered 2010 looking to rebuild a program that won a state championship in 1983, and totaled nine victories in a season as recently as 2008. Less than two full quarters into the process, Tackie had the Majors thinking they could win.



West Potomac receiver Daryl Copeland caught eight passes for 109 yards and two touchdowns in a win over Mount Vernon.



Mount Vernon quarterback Robert Decardi-Nelson threw for 176 yards and a touchdown against West Potomac.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

**BUT ONCE** Mount Vernon's emotional high wore off, West Potomac showed the Majors rebuilding projects don't happen overnight.

The Wolverines outscored the Majors 34-6 over the final two-and-a-half quarters en route to a 55-20 victory on Sept. 2 at MVHS. A 3-yard touchdown run by Brandon Johnson gave West Potomac a 28-14 halftime lead. On the second play of the third quarter, Rontrell Peyton intercepted a pass from

Mount Vernon quarterback Robert Decardi-Nelson and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown to blow the game open.

West Potomac head coach Eric Henderson said he told his players not to get down when Mount Vernon battled back from a 21-0 deficit to make the game interesting.

"It was 28-14 at that point and I just told the kids, 'Calm down, we'll get back into it, it's not a big deal,'" Henderson

said. "Then Rontrell Peyton gets one right [at the start of] the second half and I thought that set the tone for us. We needed that."

West Potomac's no-huddle spread offense was dominant at times, amassing 432 total yards. Dimitrijevic, a senior, completed 18 of 33 passes for 298 yards and three touchdowns. He was intercepted three times. Dimitrijevic saw time during his junior year, but enters his first season as the full-time starter.

"It puts a little bit more pressure [on you] because you're the guy," he said. "It's not like you're coming in with no expectations."

SEE WP. PAGE 28

**"Winning is an attitude and, quite frankly, this group of kids hasn't done much of it."**

— First-year Mount Vernon head football coach Barry Wells

## Mt. Vernon Country Club Wins Women's State Title

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

While the competition was top-notch, the results were, well, ho-hum. At least that's how the women golfers from Mount Vernon Country Club handled the 64th annual Virginia State Team Matches. The six-player team won the championship at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville on Aug. 31-Sept. 2, its third straight title and fifth since 2000.

Mount Vernon draws upon a solid population of women golfers at the club, and this year the team selected six experienced players — Katie Cox, Linda DiVall, Kim Franks, Joan Gardner, Shawn McCullough and Susan Podolsky. They won medalist honors in

the first round, which yielded the top seed on the championship flight. In the first of two match play rounds, Mount Vernon beat the host club, Farmington, and then dusted Portsmouth's Elizabeth Manor in the finals.

"All three of our teams were pretty evenly balanced," Gardner said afterward. "Because we play so much golf together, you develop chemistry, we know each other's games, and I think that helps."

Mount Vernon kept the same two-player, better-ball teams in each round — Podolsky-McCullough, DiVall-Franks, and Cox-Gardner.

All of the Mount Vernon players are professionals in their day jobs, which range from FBI special agent to engineer. Each juggles her vacation time to take off for golf tournaments.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mount Vernon Country Club won the 2010 Virginia women's state team championship on Sept. 2. From left: Susan Podolsky, Katie Cox, Shawn McCullough, Linda DiVall, Joan Gardner and Kim Franks.

# WP Scores 55 Points in Cross-Town Battle

FROM PAGE 27

I welcome the expectations. You get better from adversity.”

West Potomac receiver Jalen Dawson caught seven passes for 134 yards and Daryl Copeland finished with eight receptions for 109 yards and two touchdowns. Johnson carried 14 times for 106 yards and three scores.

While the numbers were impressive for West Potomac, the Wolverines know there's more work to be done. After West Potomac beat Mount Vernon by 39 to open the 2009 season, the Wolverines dropped eight of their next nine games to finish 2-8.

“Obviously, we're going to need more growth,” Henderson said. “This is not the end point for the season. This has got to build into something better than this. Nothing against Mount Vernon, I'm not saying that. Really, the issue is that this is more about ourselves and trying to improve as a team.”

**MEANWHILE, WELLS**, who started coaching in 1988 and had jobs as an assistant in Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey before landing his first head coaching job at Mount Vernon, said he expected better.

“I was so much more optimistic than the

score showed,” he said. “I felt like we had a game plan in place [and] when the kids were executing, we made the plays we thought we would make. Again, there's a culture change that has to take place that can't take place overnight. Winning is an attitude and, quite frankly, this group of kids hasn't done much of it. We've got a series of things to work through.”

Overcoming the losing culture, Wells said, goes beyond performance on the field.

“The [postgame] talk I gave the kids was pretty straight forward,” Wells said. “There were some things I just really did not like. I can't handle the walking off the field; I can't handle the head dragging. We're going to have adversity all year long; things are not going to go our way. The key to a good team is being able to shake that off.”

Decardi-Nelson, a sophomore who transitioned from lineman to quarterback as a freshman, completed 7 of 26 passes for 176 yards and one touchdown for the Majors. He also threw one interception. Wells spoke highly of the 5-foot-10, 175-pound passer's potential, but added the coaching staff will have a decision to make on how much to play the young signal caller.

“Robert, I think he's got the tools,” Wells said. “He's got a live arm. His youth comes shining through from time to time — he holds onto the ball instead of throwing it

away [and] he took some big sacks. He's kind of done that all summer long. Part of it is making the decision do we continue to try to groom him and take our lumps and then bring him along? We're going to continue to look at that. If we feel like he's starting to make progress, then we're going to stick with him and give him a shot.

“The one thing I don't want him to feel like is because he had a bad game that he's going to get yanked. We don't want him playing like he's got to look over his shoulder. We're not going to jump ship on him. We're going to continue to coach him.”

Mount Vernon running back Sadiq Odeyele carried six times for 18 yards and one touchdown. Wide receiver Dillon Alexander caught one pass for 89 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Zak Balde led Mount Vernon with seven tackles and Julien Randolph and Emmanuel Acheampong each had an interception for the Majors.

West Potomac hosts Westfield at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 10. Mount Vernon will travel to face T.C. Williams at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 11.

The Majors didn't get the win they were looking for in their opener, but they might have taken a step in the right direction.

“Instead of a goose egg, we had 20 on the board tonight,” Beougher said. “That's definitely saying something.”

FROM PAGE 26

**dria** received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science and Mechanics degree in engineering science and mechanics from the College of Engineering.

❖ **Nathan Chaisson of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

❖ **Kevin Golliday of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the College of Science.

❖ **Alexandra Pauls of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

❖ **Ryan Schuyler of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

❖ **Erica Soule of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

❖ **Laura Toole of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree cum laude in psychology from the College of Science.

❖ **Allison Burch of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

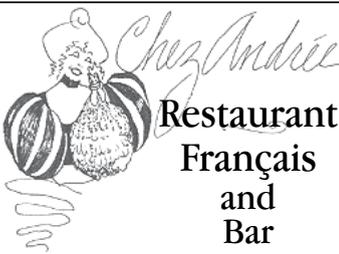
❖ **Andrew Huang of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in accounting and information systems from the Pamplin College of Business.

❖ **Khoa Nguyen of Alexandria** Nguyen received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the College of Engineering.

❖ **Gregory Peed of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the College of Engineering.

❖ **Synethia Toms of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

❖ **Adriana Gonzalez of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude in communication from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.



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## 21 Announcements

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