

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 11, 2010



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Navy Veteran Nicholas Beltrante started Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability as a response to the way the Fairfax Police Department refused to share basic information after one of their officers shot and killed an unarmed driver on Richmond Highway.

'Abuse of Discretion'

Police agencies and elected officials in Northern Virginia fail to exercise judgment on transparency.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When 19-year-old Kossi Djossou was murdered at the bakery where he worked, the Djossou family didn't know where to turn for answers. Members of the extended family learned the news from a cousin who worked in the Del Ray bakery where the murder took place — a manager came into the bakery where Kossi Djossou worked as a packer and shot him with a revolver. The snowstorm that blew into town following the murder preceded an information blackout from the Alexandria Police Department. "How can something happen to your son, and you're never going to know the facts?" asked Geoffrey Josseau several months after the murder. "I can't explain to the people back home what happened."

Under Virginia law, victims of crime and their families are at the mercy of police agencies who have discretion to deny documents. As a result, Geoffrey Djossou had to return to Togo for memorial services and explain a difficult truth. North-

ern Virginia police agencies have made a practice out of exercising their authority to deny information unilaterally. For relatives of Kossi Djossou, that meant not knowing the fate of their departed loved one. One of those family members was an aunt of the slain teenager who works as a nanny for a prestigious law firm in downtown Washington. Hogan Lovells took the case pro bono and submitted a Freedom of Information Act request. As it does in all cases, the Alexandria Police Department denied access to the documents.

"There should be a presumption in favor of releasing the documents."

**— Jeffrey Dion,
director, National Center for
Victims of Crime**

To be honest, I thought it was some kind of joke," said Martin Price, an attorney for Hogan Lovells. "It's just hard to believe you can have a victim's family completely left in the dark."

VICTIMS OF CRIME in Virginia suffer from a loophole in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that allows police agencies to routinely deny basic documents that are available in every other state. Although the commonwealth is sometimes ironically listed as being a model of transparency, Virginia

the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that allows police agencies to routinely deny basic documents that are available in every other state. Although the commonwealth is sometimes ironically listed as being a model of transparency, Virginia

SEE VICTIMS' FAMILIES, PAGE 20

BRAC's Benefit: A New Hospital

Fort Belvoir Hospital scheduled to open in spring of 2011.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE GAZETTE

The following article is one of a series of reports on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's (BRAC) actions in Northern Virginia.

For the Army Medical Command, the new hospitals at Fort Belvoir and Bethesda, Md. come as a chance to correct many difficulties that resulted in the scandal unearthed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; possibly the worst black eye in recent military medical history.

In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted to close Walter Reed in Washington, D.C. and divide its duties by 2011 between a new hospital to be built at Fort Belvoir in Virginia and another

in Maryland combined with the Bethesda Naval Hospital to form the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The 113-acre Walter Reed Hospital had been built in 1909 and had treated thousands after World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It was named after Walter Reed, an Army doctor who discovered a way to prevent yellow fever.

Two years after the BRAC decision, the Washington Post published an exposé of conditions at Walter Reed and the failure to properly treat thousands of soldiers wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. Though the Post articles centered on the dilapidated conditions at Walter Reed and failure to

SEE FORT BELVOIR, PAGE 22

PACK Seeks Interim Off-Leash Dog Park

Group criticizes delay as master plan is requested.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

The Executive Committee of the Park Authority Board, in consultation with Mount Vernon Park Authority Commissioner Gilbert S. McCutcheon, recently decided not to include the Westgrove Park in its annual work plan for this fiscal year. Informed of this decision,

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland called on the Park Authority to develop a master plan for Westgrove Park.

PACK organization President Steven Nixon described the master plan recommendation as "a positive step which sadly could take a lifetime in dog years to complete. We believe the Park Author

SEE DOG PARK, PAGE 4

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PEOPLE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Kehne Moeller and Kaitlyn Espava take in the vices.



Banana crêpe pie is just waiting for the next serving to be cut on the dessert table.



Co-owner of the Neighborhood Restaurant Group Michael Babin addresses the gathering with his vision of the sustainable farm on the site of Woodlawn Plantation.

The Vices That Made Virginia

A celebration of bourbon, oysters and cigars.

There are still people in Virginia who enjoy the vices that made Virginia — and Saturday afternoon, Nov. 6, more than 450 of them showed up at Woodlawn Plantation to celebrate and contribute to a new project.

Woodlawn Plantation through the National Trust of Historic Preservation has partnered with the Neighborhood Restaurant Group's Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture Foundation. The foundation is preparing to break ground in the upper four quadrant formal garden that will be a self supported and environmentally friendly farm using best sustainable farming methods. Michael Babin, the Neighbor-

hood Restaurant Group co-owner was in attendance to discuss the farming project.

The feast included local chefs, farmers, winemakers, brewers, distillers and purveyors of the finest regional food and drink. Bob Morris made custom hand-rolled cigars. Chefs included Kyle Bailey of Birch & Barley, Tony Chittum of Vermillion, Nathan Anda of Red Apron Butchery, Barry Koslow of Tallula, Steve Mannino of Rustico, Will Artley of Evening Star Cafe, Andrew Buzolich of Star Catering and Pastry Chef Tiffany MacIsaac.

And the menu included: oysters on the half shell, fried oysters, roasted oysters, deviled oysters, pig roast, beer-braised bison short ribs, cider-glazed duck, pork

jowls, brunswick stew, virginia ham carbonara, bacon and corn spoon bread, oven-roasted roots, regional artisanal cheeses, brûléed pears, and old fashioned pies, crumbles, cobblers & buckles.

George Washington's ward, Eleanor "Nelly" Custis, and her husband Lawrence Lewis received the 2,000 acre Woodlawn plantation from Washington as a wedding gift in 1799. Here they entertained friends, visitors and dignitaries such as the Marquis de Lafayette with freshly harvested food prepared according to Custis and Washington Family recipes and traditional spirits distilled on the farm.

Today Woodlawn is owned and operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a private, nonprofit membership organization.



Stu Ellis takes out another pot to be refilled with chowder.



Bob Morris, an Iraq War veteran, turned to rolling cigars after his last tour on the advice of his wife to find a hobby.



Del. David Bulova, state Sen. Toddy Puller, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Stephanie Meeks, Director of Woodlawn Plantation and the Pope Leighey House Laurie Ossman, Gadsby's Tavern Museum Director Gretchen Bulova and Deputy Director of Woodlawn and the Pope Leighey House Susan Hellman.



Vermillion chef Tony Chittum prepares another specialty for the event patrons.

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NEWS

Group Seeks Interim Dog Park

FROM PAGE 1

ity is justified in granting us interim use of the park given this is the highest unmet need in the park system, costs little to nothing, and does not prejudice an outcome in any future Westgrove Park master plan. We encourage concerned citizens to visit our website at www.westgrovepack.com."

In the past Dyke Marsh President Glenda Booth has stated her objection to establishing an off-leash dog park at Westgrove Park. Dyke Marsh is adjacent to and east of the Westgrove Park property. In addition, River Towers residents have objected to an off-leash dog park.

In a letter to the Gazette published Nov. 4, Stratford Landing resident Jay Spiegel criticized the Park Authority's decision not to designate on an interim basis the Westgrove Park as an off-leash dog park. In his letter, he also called on Hyland to remove the Mount Vernon commissioner because he has not attended any Park Authority full board meetings so far this year.

Hyland said, "Criticism of Gil McCutcheon because he has not been in attendance on the Park Authority Board and pushing for an interim off leash dog park at Westgrove Park is coming from those who don't understand how the Park Authority operates, how valuable Gil McCutcheon is to the community, and how his lack of attendance at the board meetings made no difference in the decision by the executive committee of the board to not include an off leash dog park in this fiscal year's annual work plan.

"Gil McCutcheon has been instrumental in marshaling support for many different Mount Vernon park acquisitions, negotiating favorable deals for Mount Vernon on too numerous to recall land acquisitions, and has been very important to the county-wide effort to bring our parks management into the modern era.

"Gil has been and continues to be a low-key but effective member of the board and enjoys the re-

spect of all who have come in contact with him. We all owe a debt of gratitude for his many years of loyalty and reliability, and 18 years of volunteer service on the board. He and his wife's recent health problems are of great sadness to me and those who know them. Because of his dedication at the beginning of this year when his health problems kept him from attending the board meetings he came to me and volunteered to resign and I refused to accept his resignation. He has continued to keep in close touch with the Park Authority Board members and staff, and continues to advise me."

Park Authority spokeswoman Judith Pederson said, "The decision by the executive committee of the board to not include an off leash dog park at Westgrove Park in the annual work plan was made after consulting with Gil McCutcheon. His lack of presence in attending the full board, although it would have certainly been welcomed, would not have changed the decision of the executive committee regarding Westgrove park. As for an interim off leash dog park designation, that is not something the Park Authority generally does. We have a deliberative process, which includes a public comment meeting, the development of a draft master plan and additional opportunity for public comments before any decisions are made by the Park Authority on any park. Supervisor Hyland has recently asked us to master plan the Westgrove Park and we will reconsider doing so given the availability of resources."

Chairman of the Park Authority Board, William G. Bouie, said, "We all respect and revere Gil McCutcheon on the board. His presence is felt on the board and among the staff. It is not unusual this year during his illness that we are in touch with him multiple times each week on a whole range of issues. If there is a big issue before the board, Gil's views are made known to us, and we listen to him carefully. He is on top of the issues affecting the Mount Vernon District parks and we include him in all of our deliberations affecting his District."



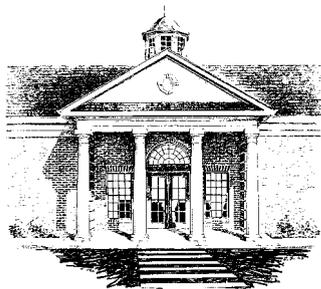
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Profile

GILBERT S. MCCUTCHEON

- ❖ Fairfax County resident since 1953
- ❖ Married to Frances McCutcheon
- ❖ Mount Vernon commissioner on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board: 1992 to the present; vice chairman of the board, 2000-2005.

Hometown: Alton, Illinois

Education: Studied engineering, Virginia Military Institute; Received a degree in public administration, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; studied personnel administration and labor relations, Columbia University, New York.

Employment: Collective Bargaining Agent, State of New Jersey; Commission for Conciliation, U.S. Department of Labor; Federal Mediation and Concilia-



Other Volunteer Service: Member, and president, Governing Board, Frying Pan Park for a decade; Market Master, Mount Vernon's Farmers Market; former president, Marlan Forest Citizens Association; among other volunteer appointments.

Awards: Distinguished Volunteer Service Award from the Virginia Recreation & Parks Society; recipient of the Lawrence V. Fowler Award, presented by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

tion Service, where he was instrumental in passage of the landmark Labor-Management Relations Act. Retired from the Federal government in 1982, after 40 years of public service.

Park Authority Accomplishments:

Acquisition and planning of the Laurel Hill property; key player in the design of the parkland formerly a part of the D.C. Correctional facility; led efforts to craft complex agreements allowing for the use of revenue bonds for project financing between the Fairfax County Public Schools, the Board of Supervisors, and the Park Authority that created senior housing units, and advanced the construction of a new high school and allowed development of Laurel Hills Golf Club; negotiated the acquisition of Lamond Community Park and assured that the home on the site was preserved; presided over the renovations of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center; at Grist Mill park guided the development of a new concert series and a off-leash dog park, among other Park Authority accomplishments elsewhere in the county.

BULLETIN BOARD

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audition: info@ZemerChai.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 11

Political Discussion. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Ayse Zarakol, assistant professor of politics, Washington and Lee University, will present "After Defeat: How the East Learned to Live with the West (Case Studies from Turkey, Japan, and Russia)." At the Virginia Tech Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince Street, Room 305. Contact Ralph

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20



Jay McConville announces the beginning of the race.



Jessie and Judah Ridlington are ready to go.

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

‘Get Your Rear in Gear’ at Fort Hunt Commemorating the memory of Tony Snow.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

More than two years ago, Tony Snow, former White House Press Secretary, lost his battle with colon cancer. That same year, Jay McConville, Tony’s close friend and neighbor, initiated the first “Get Your Rear in Gear” event in Alexandria.

McConville had learned about this event from Tony’s sister, Jenny, who lives near Philadelphia. She was actively involved and planning an event in her

area that attracted over 1,600 people in its first year. The “Get Your Rear in Gear” race series will run 40 races this year. They raise money for prevention, research and awareness. Their mission is to ensure that all citizens have adequate information and access to screening for colorectal cancer.

This past weekend, McConville coordinated the second annual “Get Your Rear in Gear — Alexandria,” and said, “I don’t have the final financials yet, but I know we had well over 600 registered, (511

SEE COMMEMORATING, PAGE 7

Announcing Burke & Herbert Bank’s Fourth Annual

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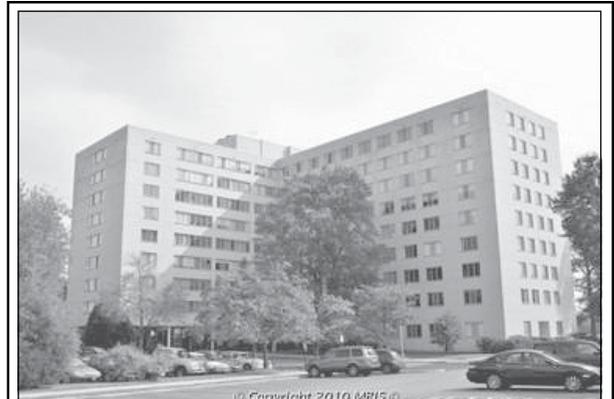
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Commemorating Memory of Tony Snow

FROM PAGE 5

finishers with a time) and somewhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in raised funds. We are so happy that the event turned out as well as it did. The proceeds from this year's race will go to the Colorectal Cancer Coalition (<http://fightcolorectalcancer.org>).

Along with the traditional 5K Run and Walk, "Get Your Rear in Gear – Alexandria" featured "Tony Snow's Mile for a Miracle."

"We added the 'Tony Snow Mile for a Miracle' to honor Tony and his work for that mission, to remember all he meant to us, and to celebrate his life and the lives of those who struggle with this disease," said McConville.

Snow's widow, Jill Snow, said, "The race was wonderful. It was for everyone. We've all been affected by cancer in one way or another. It was good to see so many people there walking with their families ... some remembering someone they've lost, or just walking for the cause.

"Our family is constantly touched by friends that keep doing the work in Tony's memory. The friends that grab the kids for a barbeque or a trip to a football game. The ones that remember us for a Sunday dinner. The friends that work hard to organize and run events like this past Saturday. They've all been amazing.

"Tony would be so grateful to everyone who has helped watch out for his kids now that he's gone. He was always positive and energized by people and, truly, just by life. He was the king of finding joy. I try and keep that with me every day. We've been



PHOTO BY CALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Katelyn McConville, Kelsey and Andrew O'Hern prepare to run.

lucky and I hope everyone who has lost someone, will find the same comfort we have. Again, this past Saturday was for everyone."

Race sponsors included: PerformTech <http://www.performtech.com/pt/index.htm>; Safeway (www.safeway.com); The Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association (www.fhyaa.org); Chandler/May, Inc. (www.chandlermay.com); AeroMech Engineering, Inc. (www.aeromech.com); and Dunkin' Donuts (www.dunkindonuts.com)

They are already planning next year's race; it will be held on either Nov. 5, 2011 or Nov. 12, 2011.

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

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OBITUARIES

Lt. Col. John F. 'Jack' McDonnell (USAF-RET)

John F. Jack' McDonnell, father of Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and a long-time Alexandria resident, died Nov. 2 at Burke Health and Rehabilitation Center following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 94.



Jack was born in Peabody, Mass., on April 15, 1916, the oldest of four children and the son of Irish immigrants. A member of "The Greatest Generation," he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps shortly

before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"His military service influenced us all greatly," said the governor at the Nov. 7 memorial service at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria. "He raised us to always honor and respect our country and those who serve."

During World War II, Jack served in Thurleigh, England with the 306th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. He would serve 23 years on active duty in the Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1964. He went on to a second career with the U.S. Naval Investigative Service.



Lt. Col. John F. 'Jack' McDonnell (USAF-RET) with his son, Gov. Bob McDonnell.

Jack married Emma Meiller of Bryan, Texas on April 8, 1951 at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Together they had five children, the governor being the eldest. In 1955, the McDonnell family moved to the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria. Four years later, Jack was assigned to Wiesbaden Air Force Base in West Germany. After a three-year tour overseas, the McDonnell family returned to Alexandria, where they would remain. The family lived in a house on Wagon Wheel Road, where the governor grew up. The elder McDonnell still owned the home at the time of his death.

A strong believer in education, he completed his master's degree in education from the University of Maryland after leaving the military. He stressed to his children the importance of obtaining a good education and all his children graduated from college.

Jack McDonnell participated in many activities throughout his life, including teach-

ing Sunday school at Good Shepard Catholic Church, coaching Little League baseball, and serving as a member of the Governor's Board of Visitors of Mount Vernon.

Jack McDonnell was a lifelong Notre Dame and Boston Red Sox fan. His wife preceded him in death in 1994. Survivors include his five children: Gov. Bob McDonnell, Eileen Reinaman of Stafford, Nancy Naisawald of Lynchburg, Maureen Uncapher of Chesapeake, Air Force Col. Kenneth McDonnell, a physician stationed in Lakenheath, England, and 15 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Demaine Funeral Home Nov. 7. McDonnell will be buried alongside his wife and son at Arlington National Cemetery at 9 a.m. Jan. 27, 2011.

"He was an inspiration to so many people," said Col. McDonnell. "He was an incredible father and is deeply missed."

In lieu of flowers, friends may contribute to the Emma and Jack McDonnell Memorial Scholarship Fund at Mount Vernon, P.O. Box 110, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

Rose Ellen Larrabee

Rose Ellen Elliott Larrabee died Nov. 2, 2010 at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Orly Reiner Larrabee and her parents, William Harrison Elliott and Anna Laura Dyke Elliott. She was one of 12 children all of

whom have preceded her in death.

Rose was born in Rockwood, Tenn. She had one child, Edith Louise Phillippi of Alexandria, married to LCDR Frederick Eugene Phillippi, Jr. USN, Retired and three grandchildren: Linda Louise Lindsay, Laura Lynn Main married to Major



John Avril Main, and Lt.Col. David Michael Phillippi, USMC who is married to Kathryn Ann Sayre Phillippi. She had seven great grandchildren: Tiffany Rose Robinson Lindsay, Ashleigh Lynn Main, Kelly Elizabeth Main, Sarah Nicole Main, Savanna Lynn Lindsay, Autumn Elizabeth Phillippi, and Dylan Wyatt Phillippi.

Rose was an operator for Western Union during World War II and later a book-keeper for them. She and her daughter accompanied her husband to the Island of Rhodes, Greece for his three-year tour of duty in the Coast Guard. Failing Health had her living in Manor Care Nursing Center in Alexandria.

Her viewing and memorial service will be Saturday, Nov. 13 starting at 2 p.m. at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington Street, Alexandria followed by a reception at her daughter's home.

Her burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery Thursday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m.



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Alexandria, Virginia

Carmen Colon Hyland Scholarship Fund Formed

Hyland and daughter raise money to benefit children in need at Bryant Early Learning Center.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

On the 10th anniversary of the death of his wife, Carmen, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland and his daughter Gigi Hyland, announced the creation of the Carmen Colon Hyland Scholarship Fund (CCHSF).

This new program refocuses the emphasis of their former charitable "Carmen's Kids" fund. It will shift the purpose of the fund from providing after-school care while contributing a portion of the fees required to enroll children in the developmental child care program offered at the Bryant Early Learning Center. Gigi Hyland and her husband Chris Revere are committed to matching contributions received.

Elizabeth McNally, United Community Ministries representative, said, "UCM's BEL Center is grateful for the immense generosity of the Hyland family and the establishment of the Carmen Colon Scholarship Fund. The fund will allow Carmen's passion for educa-

tion to continue by dedicating much-needed funds to bridge the gap between the true cost of a high-quality child development program such as BEL and the reimbursement provided through Fairfax County's Office for Children subsidies. When more families are able to access affordable care for their children, they are able to remain employed and are much closer to transforming their own lives and those of their children."

Surrounded by the BEL children who will benefit by his wife's legacy, Hyland said, "If alive today, my sweetheart's smile for helping improve the lives and futures of

these beautiful children would be endless. For her, their future is our children's."

Surrounded by Bryant Early Learning Center Child Care students are, from left, Remedios Narvaez, lead teacher; JoAnn Higgs, BEL director; Sabra Shirazi, assistant teacher; Supervisor Gerry Hyland; Gigi Hyland; Cynthia Hull, executive director, UCM, and, sitting, Ardella Clear, volunteer.



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Poem

Excerpt of July 4, 1970 poem:
"Free and Brave Old Spirits -
Are you listening today to the loud
and booming noises of America?
We struggle through our progress and
countless modern complications
To remember simple truths which
were our first foundation"
— Carmen Colon Hyland © 1970

Profile

Carmen Colon Hyland

Place of Birth:
Puerto Rico

Education:
B.A., Political Science, University of Miami;
Georgetown Law School, J.D.

Philosophy and values: "She was a keen believer in the rule of law and the individual freedoms that our Constitution protects. She was equally passionate about education."

Occupation: Partner, with Gerry Hyland in their private law practice. Also, taught English as a Second Language (ESL).

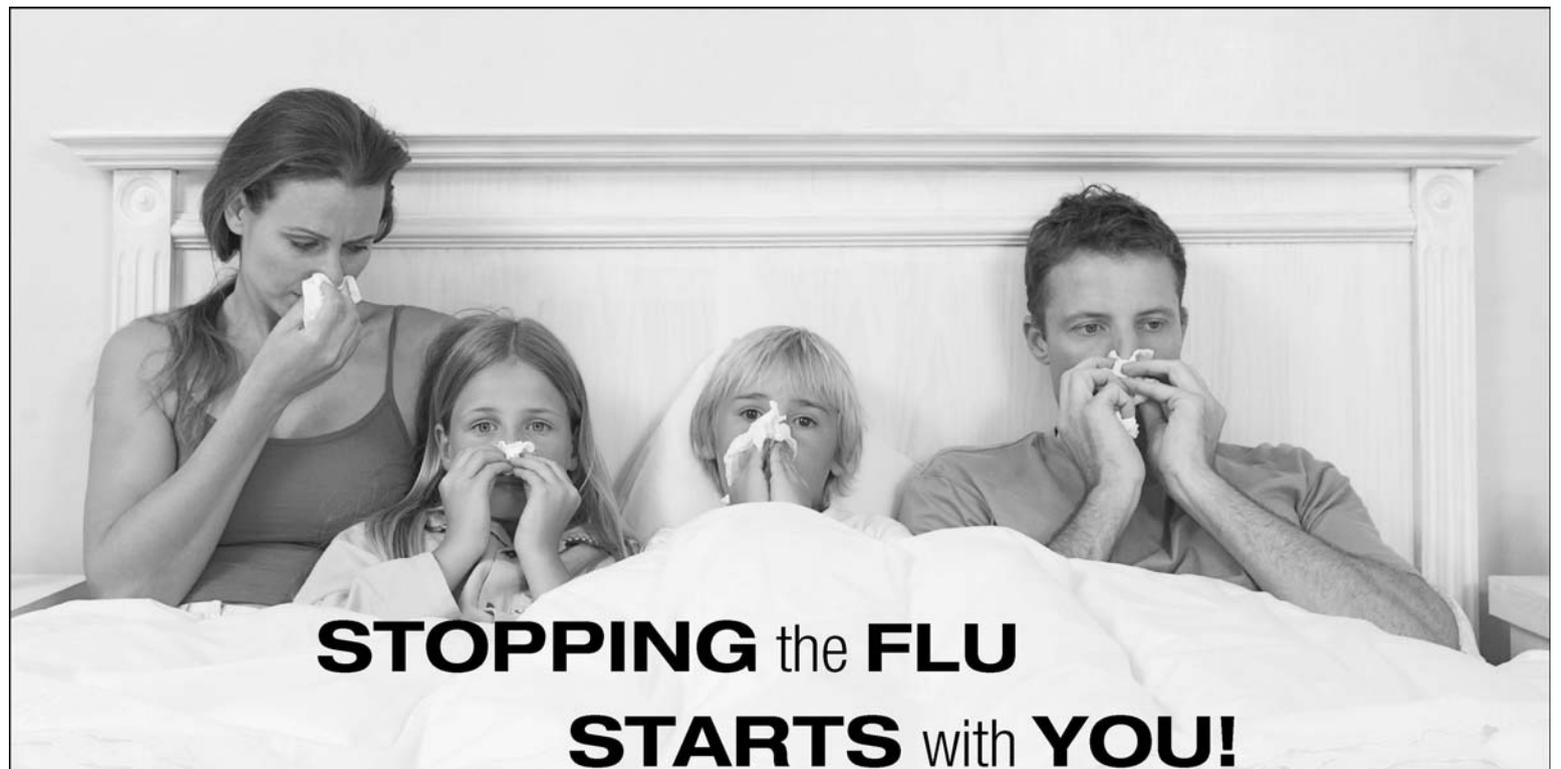
Interests and hobbies: Art, reading, language arts, Elizabethan history, cooking, poetry, birding, music.

"She was proficient in languages and loved to engage in intellectual debate on issues ranging from current events to religion. Being with her family was how she truly loved to spend her time ... She was happiest when she could be near the ocean ... She also wrote beautiful poetry."

— Gerry Hyland and daughter Gigi



Carmen Colon Hyland



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OPINION

Honoring on Veterans Day

Saluting military service, remembering those who died in Iraq, Afghanistan.

On Veterans Day, we remember all of those who have served in the military; there are 24 million veterans in the United States. More than 1 million members of the U.S. military have now served in the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While Memorial Day is set aside to remember those who died in military service, and Veterans Day is honoring all of those who have served in the military, we use both occasions each year to remember some of the names of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. George Mason University has been on the forefront of implementing the GI Bill for veterans locally. Steps to provide better, faster and more responsive health care, including mental health care are underway.

MORE THAN 4,400 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and more than 1,300 have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 40,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 170 U.S. military service personnel from Virginia have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including more than a dozen in 2009 and 2010.

Here are the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness. If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

A local loss, Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25 of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries caused by an attack on his unit with an improvised explosive device. Park had joined the army less than a year earlier in August 2009. He is survived by his mother, In Sook Park, father, Do Hyun Park, and sister Irene Park, all of Fairfax Station.

In Afghanistan, Pfc. Tramaine J. Billingsley, 20, of Portsmouth died Oct. 14, 2010; Staff Sgt. Jaime C. Newman, 27, of Richmond died Sept. 17, 2010; 1st Lt. Todd W. Weaver, 26, of Hampton, died Sept. 9, 2010; Lance Cpl. Cody S. Childers, 19, of Chesapeake died Aug. 20, 2010; Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5; 1st Sgt. Eddie Turner, 41, of Fort Belvoir, died June 22, 2010. Pfc. Alvaro R. Regalado Sessarego, 37, of Virginia Beach, died May 30 at Brooke Army Medical Center in Houston, after being injured in Iraq on April 18. On May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010.

EDITORIAL

2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan. Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption. Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat in Iraq in October 2005. Dillon Jutras's younger brother, Hunter Drake Jutras, has helped us remember by submitting artwork of his brother to the Burke Children's Connection. Last December, Hunter wrote: "My drawing of my brother Dillon who was a Ranger in the U.S. Army. He deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was killed in action on Oct. 29, 2005. I miss him very much."

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington. Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R) as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds. Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org). Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities. Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle. Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds received

during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. Airman 1st Class Lee Bernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb. Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006. United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School. Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria. U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11. Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006. Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, on Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq a few days earlier. Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq. 1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhruz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan. Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecker, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM.

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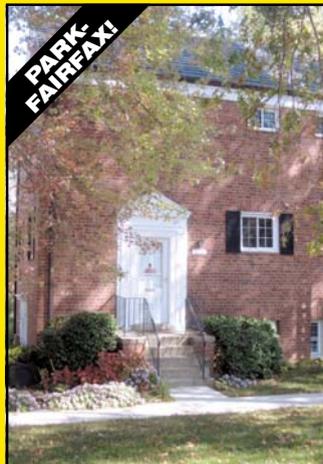
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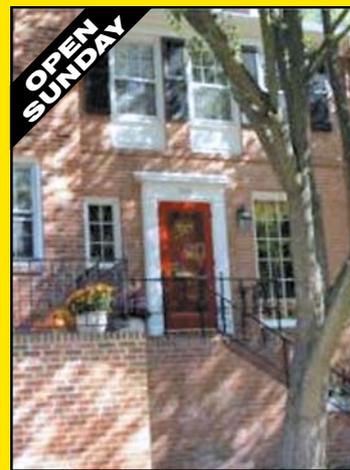
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LETTERS

Remember Veterans

To the Editor:

As we pause to salute our brave men and women who served and are now serving in our nation's military services on this Veterans Day, let's pledge to support our troops and remember our veterans.

Show your support for our nation, our troops and our veterans by flying your United States flag on Veterans Day and all patriotic holidays. Encourage others to fly our country's most sacred symbol.

When you voted last week, it was our veterans who made it possible and helped protect our right to vote.

You may be familiar with the origin of Veterans Day. The cease fire that ended World War I went into effect at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918. Shortly thereafter, it was suggested that we remember the troops killed in action with two minutes of silence each year, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Since then Veterans Day has been expanded to include living Americans as well. Now 92 years later, that tradition continues.

To show appreciation for their service, employers should give preference to veterans for job opportunities. Employers should help veterans who are desperately looking for work.

As a 17-year-old high school student, I enlisted in the service of my country during World War II. I took pride in the fact that I was able to serve my country in those perilous times. As a World War II veteran I received an education under the G.I. Bill and job preference when I applied for a career in public law enforcement.

Granted, it can be easy to lose sight of the service and suffering of America's veterans and forget the ultimate sacrifice some were



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAEFT/THE GAZETTE

Snapshot 5:59 p.m., Nov. 6: George Washington Parkway just beyond Vernon View Drive.

willing to pay. Let this be a day to remember.

Nicholas R. Beltrante
World War II Veteran,
U.S. Navy

No More Citations

To the Editor:

I am responding to the letter from H. Jay Spiegel concerning the off-leash dog park proposed by citizens for the Westgrove pumping station. The only thing that needs to happen to make this off-leash

park a reality is for Animal Control to stop issuing citations and just leave us alone. The users of the park have managed to provide water and clean-up bags, and I have picked up a full trash bag of debris from the small creek while enjoying the park. There are no real issues with parking. Don't make any upgrades if they can't be afforded; just stop issuing citations.

Jan Vaughan
Buddy, Sadie and
Digger Vaughan
Mount Vernon

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 24



Is your home ready for winter?

Make sure your home is ready to withstand everything winter will throw at it. We are now scheduling work for this fall. Call us today for a free estimate!

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JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN

6309
Barrister Pl
\$649,900
Elegant Townhome
Olde Belle Haven Towne
Prestigious Belle Haven on the Green's large model. Prime location across from the grounds of Belle Haven C.C. Stately townhome abounds w/old world charm and modern efficiency. Special features include 3 finished levels and spacious walled garden, gourmet kit and more. Exceptionally attractive price for this gorgeous community. Just minutes to Old Town. OPEN SUN 11/14, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Belle Haven Rd; L-Barrister Pl.

OPEN SUN

1702
Cool Spring Dr
\$569,000
New Home Features- Re-Sale Price!
Unique Opportunity! Total renovation in popular Ft. Hunt area. 4BR, 2.5BA home has been stripped to bare walls by leading custom builder. Everything is brand new: chef's kitchen with custom 42" cabinets, granite counters, luxury baths, gorgeous hdwd flrs, upgraded trim detail. Feels like new home at half the price! OPEN SUN, 11/14, 1-4. S GW Pkwy; R-Collingwood; L- Fort Hunt; R-Cool Spring.

JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN

9335
Brambly Ln
\$649,900
Totally Remodeled- Gorgeous Setting!
Renovated throughout! Spacious home featuring large room sizes and bright, open floor plan. Upscale new kit w/granite, SS, gas cooktop and light wood cabinets. Other updates include: baths, gleaming hdwd flrs, replacement windows, elegant trim detail and extensive recessed lighting. Expansive windows capitalize on beauty of fabulous setting. OPEN SUN 11/14, 1-4. GW Pky S, Past Estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd; R-Robertson Blvd. L-Brambly Ln.

1804
JAMESTOWN RD
Alexandria
\$ 435,000
Stunning renovated rambler on 1/4 acre in Hollin Hall Village! Awesome kitchen with top-of-the-line stainless appliances, granite counters & custom cabinetry. Gorgeous hardwoods. California closets. Minutes to Wayneswood Elementary, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Pentagon, & DC.

Brad Kintz 703.519.6644

NEW PRICE!

7501 TOLL CT
Alexandria
\$ 629,000
HOUSE BEAUTIFUL!
3 lvl center-hall brick colonial-Expanded/renovated kit w/ Palladian window overlooking priv fenced bkdy-deck, brick patio-sep DR, FR w/frpl, Mstr BR/BA/dressing rm - updated BA - Full bsmt w/lg fin rec rm & storage/utility rm.

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840

JUST LISTED!

5306 CHIEFTAIN CIR
Alexandria 22312
\$ 439,900
Garage townhouse w/3BR, 2.5BA - Inside Beltway - Super location for easy commuting - Shows beautifully & bathed in light - Open style kitchen w/access to deck - Large master bedroom w/ luxury bath - Fireplace Great closets - Don't Miss It! For appt. call...

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

OPEN SUN NEW PRICE

6315
Princeton Dr
\$749,900
Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!
PRICE REDUCTION!
Move in ready! Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan featuring kit with SS & granite, family room, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, fin LL & oversized 2 car gar. 'Close In' location with 2 tiered deck & seasonal river views. OPEN SUN 11/14, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Belle Haven Rd; L-Fort Hunt; R-Swan Terr; L-Bluehill; R-Princeton.

NEW PRICE

3427
Ramsgate Terr
\$525,000
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 kitchen, custom hardwood floors, thermal windows, main level master bedroom, 3 new baths and finished lower level. New home luxury at re-sale price. Unique opportunity!

NEW PRICE

7115
Colgate Dr
\$695,000
Updated and Expanded!
\$ 60,000 PRICE REDUCTION! 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!

1215 POWHATAN ST
Old Town
\$ 564,000
This beautiful brick end TH is in absolute move-in condition. It's freshly painted from top to bottom-inside/out & kit is redone w/all new appl, granite, cabinets & tile flr. New roof, triple pane windows & a great patio with lovely landscaping. Minutes from public trans., restaurants & shops.

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

5904 MT EAGLE DR #906
Montebello \$ 399,000
Dramatic views from every window in this 2BR, 2BA condo. Highlights: HWs, renovated kitchen, enclosed glass balcony & 1 garage space convey.

ALEXANDRIA CITY
Malvern Hill \$ 949,900
All brick Colonial on large, level lot w/ 4BR, 2.5BA. Formal living/dining rms, eat-in kit, family rm, laundry rm & LL rec rm, 3 frpls, & deep backyard w/ patio. Sold as-is.

921 CAMERON ST
Old Town / Alex \$ 1,090,000
Multifamily. Renovated 2BR, 2BA unit on upper level. Lower level w/3 office spaces, 2 half Bas & workroom. Separate rental apartment included. RM zone.

Dayna Blumel Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

CONTRACT

1204
Hillside Terr
\$675,000
Stunning Home-Great Price!
Unique opportunity-fabulous home in pristine condition with gorgeous lot in premier setting on quiet street in prime Braddock Heights location. Features include: bright, open floor plan, brick exterior, 3BAs, hdwd flrs, oversized gar. and Pella replacement windows. Stunning updated kit w/granite, SS and cherry cabinets. Two tiered deck and patio. Large fenced yard.

CONTRACT

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!

CONTRACT

8709
Gateshead Rd
\$559,000
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 kitchen-family room, 4BR, including private suite. Fin walk-out lower level. Updated kitchen with granite countertops and custom cabinetry. Other features include covered parking for 2 & screened porch overlooking parkland.

1900
COURTLAND RD
Alex / Mt Vernon
\$ 449,900
Sparkling with fresh paint & just refinished hardwood. Updated kitchen with granite counters. New high efficiency Carrier HVAC. Screened porch opens to terraced yard w/large flat grassy area halfway up the hill. 2 car garage, 3BR, 3 full BA. Wayneswood Elementary School.

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

703 ARCH HALL LN
Old Town / Alexandria
\$ 849,000
Wonderfully appointed, light, bright 4BR / 3.5BA immaculately maintained TH! Spacious gourmet kitchen w/center island, brand new carpet, deck, brick patio. 3,000+ sq ft. Just minutes to Old Town, National Airport, Del Ray, Potomac Yards & less than 1 mile to the Braddock Metro!

Laura Blederman 202.309.1350

6465 BRICK HEARTH CT
Alexandria
\$ 349,900
STORYBOOK PERFECT INSIDE AND OUT. Enchanting Garden! 2 Master Suites, one with a balcony and one with a sitting room. Lower level has sep entrance & full bath for use as another bedroom. LR has fireplace, DR has big bay window. Big laundry rm with storage area. Close to Metro, on busline, walk to many shops.

June Sherwood 703.346.3029

NEW PRICE

9316
Allwood Dr
\$499,500
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.

9316 Heather Glen Dr \$650,000
Price Slashed! Large Colonial!
The most house for the money in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's. Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price accordingly!

New Home-Creekside Location!
8826 Camden St \$874,900
Unique opportunity-Brand new custom home by Wakefield on stunning large tract spanning both sides of creek in prestigious Stratford Landing. Fabulous floor plan loaded with upgrades! Call for details!

6719 GOVERNORS POND CIR
Alexandria / \$ 549,900
WONDERFUL 3 level TH w/3BR, 3.5BA & 2 garage spaces. Lower level is light, bright. Open floor plan has wood floors, warm gas fireplace on main level. Large master suite w/cathedral ceilings, w-in closet, spacious BA w/double vanities, sep shower/tub. Mins to Hunting-ton Metro & Old Town.

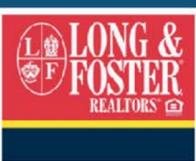
June Sherwood 703.346.3029

2329 CREEK DR
Alexandria / South
\$ 995,000
WATERFRONT.
Launch your boat from the 80' dock & cruise the Potomac in minutes. Hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen & baths, 3-4BR & 3BA, indoor pool, & sauna.

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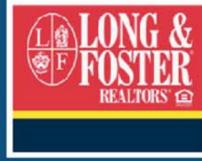
7816 FRANCES DR
Alexandria / South
\$ 419,000
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
Original owner is parting w/well loved home. Custom built on over 3/4 acre level treed lot. Could be updated & expanded. Hardwood. Family rm (25 x 15) w/masonry fireplace. Deck, screened porch, carport. As is sale.

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



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www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

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703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



PEOPLE

Quilters Show Off Their Handiwork and Raise Money

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

When the Mount Vernon Chapter of Quilters Unlimited started more than 20 years ago, they had 12 members. Now, they have 85 members and meet every week for quilting bees, a monthly program, and show and tell.

This past week, they held their annual fund raising event at the Hollin Hall Senior Center to support its educational projects.

Completed quilts, wall hangings, table covers, fabric, quilting projects and gift items were sold at silent, live, and other Auctions, as well as at a fixed-price table. The event also featured a popular bake sale.

A group of quilters gathered to bid on beautifully crafted quilts made by their members. The first one, made by Bert Garino, was titled "Mount Vernon Memories" and sold for \$185. Bidding continued rapidly on other handmade items.

"I like the people — they are the friendliest and very supportive," said longtime member Mary Stauss. "The more talented they are, the more sharing they are."

In addition to the camaraderie and the creative aspect, Stauss pointed out all the outreach projects that the group does. They have made 258 baby quilts for shelters and donated a quilt for the wall of the hospital where they treat abused children. They display quilts at the local libraries and introduce children to quilting. The group is currently working on making 100 backpacks for a local hospital.

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

More

Mt. Vernon Chapter of Quilters Unlimited meet at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Join them on the second Tuesday, 12:30 for business/show and tell; the fourth Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. for monthly program; and quilting bees on the first and third Tuesdays, 12:30-2 p.m. Visit their blog at www.mvquilters.blogspot.com. For more information, contact mvqupresident@gmail.com.



This quilt "Mount Vernon Memories," made by Bert Garino, went for \$185.



Members bid on quilts during the live auction.



Even the Mount Vernon Chapter of Quilters Unlimited's sign, right, is quilted.



These quilts were part of a live auction.



Other items were available in a silent auction.

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

'Rashomon' Christens Venue

Three-performer play fits its new intimate space.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The match is back! The match, that is, between venue and production for the local community theater company Port City Playhouse, which opened its first production in its new digs last weekend with the second show of its 33rd season, "Rashomon."

"Rashomon" is just the kind of play that fits Port City's aesthetic. It is intimate, small in scale but intriguing in content. It would have been lost on the large stage in the cavernous hall at the Nanny J. Lee Center where Port City has been performing ever since it lost its earlier small and intimate space at T.C. Williams High School.

In the new venue, it feels at home, nestled in a welcoming environment where the strengths of the quiet little play can be appreciated. It is a multi-purpose room called The Lab at Convergence Creative Community, a space provided by the community support arm of The Church at Convergence at the intersection of Crestwood Drive and North Quaker Lane,

The play, "Rashomon" by Kay and Michael Kanin, ran on Broadway in the late 1950s. It is an adaptation for the stage of two short stories by Japanese author Ryunosuke Akutagawa. They are the same two stories that were adapted for the screen in the famous film by Akira Kurosawa.

As in the stories and the movie, the stage version is an examination of one event through the eyes of the various people involved. The event? The rape of a woman and the murder of her husband. The tellers? The rapist/murderer, the woman, the murdered husband speaking through a medium and others whose lives are affected.

Diane Linton Sams plays most of the female parts: the wife, a wigmaker and a Shaman. Like her male counterparts, James McDaniel and David James, she makes no effort to seem particularly Japanese or even particularly Asian. Instead, a touch of

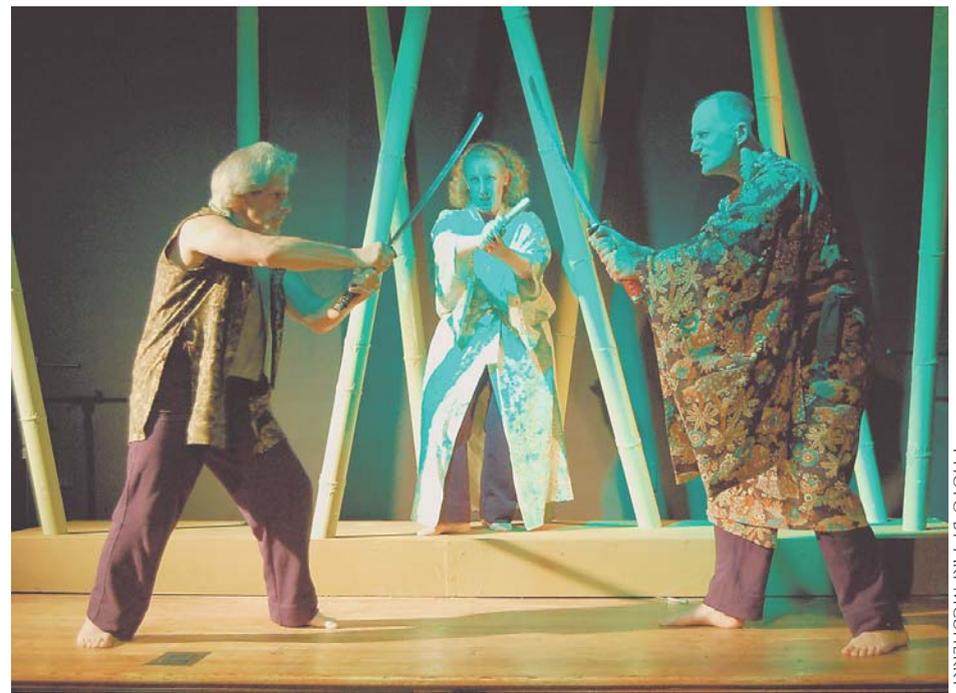


PHOTO BY ARI MCSHERRY

David James, Diane Linton Sams, and James McDaniel star in "Rashomon."

Brooklyn flippantry seeps into her performance, giving the proceedings a universality that works well.

McDaniel is the husband as well as a priest, a government functionary of some sort and even, briefly, a mother, while James is the rapist/murderer and others. James shows more emotion as his characters are more active and open while McDaniel is more restrained as his are more controlled and reserved. The contrast works nicely and the differences between the various versions of events makes clear the point both Akutagawa and Kurosawa were making, that there is no single truth and that we all bend our view to accommodate our interests.

Director and set designer Howard Vincent Kurtz is making his Port City Playhouse debut with the production. He seems to have understood the unique potential of the company for the smaller scale production of plays that offer a close look at human reactions. His design features nine stalks of bamboo at the back of an otherwise bare stage. Two musicians, Randy Sena and Jung Weil, sit on the sides to punctuate events with the often delicate sound of traditional Japa-

Where & When

The Port City Playhouse production of "Rashomon" plays at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, through Nov. 21. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$16 - \$18. Call 703-838-2880 or log on to www.telgo.com/pcp/.

nese instruments. Weil's drumming with her fingers provides a sonic environment for key scenes that is particularly effective.

Kurtz brought in Maxie Morales to choreograph the struggle and it pays dividends as the actors move through the combat with a sure sense of confidence.

"Rashomon" continues through Nov. 21 and will be followed by two more plays this season in the new space. In March Frank Pasqualino directs the provocatively titled "No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs" and in May Bruce Follmer tackles Anthony Horowitz's mind-bending drama "Mindgame."



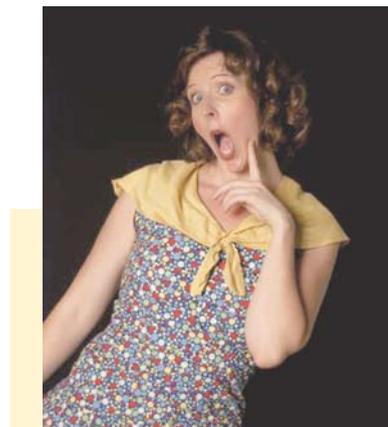
NOV. 18 THROUGH DEC. 19

A Broadway Christmas Carol. Created by Kathy Feininger, the story of the classic Dickens' tale with uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50 (students \$25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria.



NOW THROUGH NOV. 14

"A Fox on the Fairway." Single tickets are \$50 to \$76 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Show times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Signature Theater in Arlington. Visit www.signature-theatre.org.



NOW THROUGH NOV. 27

"One Night With Fanny Brice." Show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be ordered online at www.americancentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555. At the Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent Street, Arlington.

THEATER

NOW THROUGH NOV. 21

"Rashomon." Adapted by Fay and Michael Kanin, Rashomon is a classical Japanese story of a crime as seen from the differing perspectives of the people who were there. Presented by Port City Playhouse. Tickets are \$18/general; \$16/seniors and students; \$14/groups of 10-plus. Performances on Friday, Nov. 5; Saturday, Nov. 6; Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13 and 19-20; Tuesday, Nov. 16; and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 21. The Friday, Saturday and Tuesday shows begin at 8 p.m., and the Sunday matinees begin at 3 p.m. At the Lab at Convergence, 1819 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria (corner of Crestwood Drive and Quaker Lane). For tickets, call 703-838-2880 or visit www.PortCityPlayhouse.com.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 13

"The Visit." Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17 to \$20. Directed by William D. Parker; produced by Heather Franklin and Mary Ayala-Bush. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-0496 or www.thelittletheatre.com.

NOV. 12 THROUGH 21

"Roald Dahls Willy Wonka." Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre. Show times are Nov. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 14 and 21 at 3 p.m. Forty-eight teens and children have been rehearsing with a seasoned team of directors, led by Elena Velasco and Catherine Manley. Scout Night is Saturday, Nov. 13. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MVCCT.org. Call 703-360-0686 to make a reservation.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 26

"Walter Cronkite Is Dead." Written and Directed by Joe Calarco. Tickets are \$50 to \$76 and are

available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Show times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. There are no performances on Thursday, Nov. 25. There is an added performance Friday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. At Signature Theater.

DEC. 7 THROUGH FEB. 13, 2011

"Sunset Boulevard." Show times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are now on sale. Tickets range in price from \$59 - \$85 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. At Signature Theater in Arlington.

The 2010-2011 American Century Theater season is a year-long adventure encountering spacemen, demons, lovers, ambitious actresses, and vaudeville memories. The schedule:

- ♦ Jan. 14-Feb. 12, 2011 — "Beyond the Horizon" by Eugene O'Neill
- ♦ April 8-May 7, 2011 — "Stage Door" by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

ENTERTAINMENT

NOV. 17, 22 AND DEC. 1

Free Group Vocal Lessons. Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, invites you to attend four free group vocal lessons conducted by Ozzi Mask, Master Director of Potomac Harmony. Lessons will be held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10, 17, 22 and Dec. 1. At the Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-764-3896. Visit www.potomacharmony.org

THURSDAY/NOV. 11

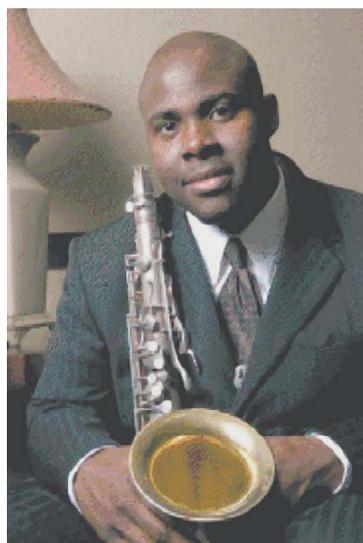
Bringing Native Plants and Wildlife into the Managed Landscape. 7:30 p.m. Cliff Fairweather, a naturalist for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, will give a presentation on creating wildlife habitats at home. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

Veterans Day Program. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate the African American men and women who fought for our country. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Hear Veterans' War Stories. 2 to 3 p.m. The Fountains at Washington House welcomes the public to meet resident veterans at its retirement community and hear their stories. At 5100 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-845-5000.

Veterans Day Open House. 2 to 6 p.m. Features complimentary food, discounted select beverages, and access both to the historic Gadsby's Court Yard and to Post 24's historic building. At American Legion Post 24, at 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Visit www.valegionpost24.org or call (after 4 p.m. weekdays); call 703-683-5564

"Chicken Soup for the Caregivers Soul." 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$25



SUNDAY/NOV. 14

Jazz Musician Vaughn Ambrose. 4 p.m. Donation is \$15. At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Parking is available in the church's lot and on the street. Call 703-549-1334.

includes breakfast, lunch, materials, and a certificate of attendance. Features LeAnn Thieman, co-author of 10 Chicken Soup books, including "Chicken Soup for the Caregiver's Soul." At the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Register online or call 703-324-7839, TTY 711.

Margot MacDonald Performs. 7 p.m. Part of Second Thursday Music series. Tickets are \$10. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org or www.myspace.com/margotmacdonald.



NOV. 12 THROUGH 21

"Roald Dahls Willy Wonka." Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre. Show times are Nov. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 14 and 21 at 3 p.m. Forty-eight teens and children have been rehearsing with a seasoned team of directors, led by Elena Velasco and Catherine Manley. Scout Night is Saturday, Nov. 13. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MVCCT.org. Call 703-360-0686 to make a reservation.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

"Rashomon." Port City Playhouse presents an adaptation of the classical Japanese drama about a crime told from the different perspectives of the people involved. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 12, 13, 19 and 20; Tues., Nov. 16; Sun., Nov. 14 and 21. Friday, Saturday and Tuesday shows at 8 p.m.; Sunday shows at 3 p.m. The LAB Studio Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-

838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.com. \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students.

Dough Ornament Making Session. 10 a.m. Bring your lunch and join in an animated artifact processing of a different sort! Duties include mixing, rolling, and cutting out artifact-shaped dough ornaments. The ornaments will be decorated during the Dec. 4 Ornament Decorating Workshop. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, third floor, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio #327. Call Ruth Reeder at 703-746-4399 or email ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov.

Evening of Music. 8 p.m. Free. Saxophone Quartet and Saxophone Solo presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Player Series. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil

NOV. 12-13

Hermitage Holiday Bazaar. Friday 2:30 to 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to noon. Handcrafted items, homemade jams and jellies, baked goods, jewelry, furniture. Proceeds benefit the residents. Call Jean and Guy Summers, 703-569-4857. At the Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3800.

Jewelry Show. 10:30 a.m. Erica Courtney, "Green" jewelry designer, will make appearance at Mystique Jewelers in Old Town. By using recycled gold and platinum medals and gem stones that are ethically mined, Erica is able to create glamorous

jewelry in the most "green" way possible. At 211 The Strand Waterfront, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-836-1401. Visit www.mystiquejewelers.com.

NOV. 12-24

Gingerbread Creation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier creates a five-foot gingerbread replica of George Washington's home. Visitors can watch as he constructs the masterpiece. In the Vaughan Lobby, near the Shops at Mount Vernon. Cost is \$15/adult; \$7/child to enter the estate. Visit MountVernon.org

NOV. 12-20

"Junie Moon." 7:30 p.m. Dates are Nov. 12, 13, 19, 20. Presented by the Drama Department at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street in Alexandria. Tickets are \$8/adults and \$6/students, staff, and seniors. The play is directed by Jessica Muse and Samuel Jones is the production's Student Stage manager. Cast members include Elaine Bledsoe as Junie Moon; Zachary Frank, Ben Ribler, Guiliana Mortimer, Alexander Eichner, Roger Yawson, Sarah Paez, Kirby Porterfield, Henry Knotts, Lily Carlisle-Reske, George Alberts, Alexander Eichner, Avi Littky, Lil Wynne, Jackie Tilley, Andrew Dewhurst and Leia Moran round out the cast.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Top of the Town Walk Around. 8 a.m. to noon. Join Mayor William D. Euille's "Get Healthy Alexandria" initiative. Activities after the walk include awards and raffles. The event is free and open to everyone. Visit www.healthieralexandria.org/healthylifestyles. At the Masonic

SEE PAGE 19

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

Memorial Temple, 101 Callahan Drive.

Fall Fun Day. 1-4 p.m. Fall photos with pet, temporary fur painting for dogs, WHS adoptable dogs, Yappy hour and more. Suggested donation \$15. At Barkley Square Gourmet Dog Bakery & Boutique, 2006 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Huge Flea Market. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also includes a Craft Fair and Bake Sale to raise funds for the ANGP. A fund-raiser for the All-Night Graduation Party. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria.

MVHS Cares 5K Turkey Trot/Wellness Walk. Registration 7:30 a.m.; Race starts at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$35/general; \$25/student or teacher. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. Call 703-619-3100.

Volunteer Appreciation Party. 6 to 8 p.m. Awards ceremony at 7 p.m. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. RSVP by Nov. 5 at 703-746-4399 or Archaeology@Alexandriava.gov.

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

Toast to Hope. 6 to 9 p.m. Fundraiser for SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), annual celebration of children. Tickets are \$75. Wine tastings, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, a Silent Auction. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-820-9001 or visit www.scanva.org.

"The Principal Story" Film. 4:30 p.m. Tresa Dunbar is a principal at Chicago's Nash Elementary, where 98% of students come from low-income families. In Springfield, Illinois, Kerry Purcell has led Harvard Park Elementary, a school with similar demographics, for six years. This free screening is part of Movies with a Mission, a series of films about the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

NOV. 13-14

Tea with Martha Washington. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Experience history with the First Lady as she discusses 18th-century tea customs as well as clothing and dancing of the period. Party attire is requested and tickets are \$25 per person or \$20 each for groups of 6 or more. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum at 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.



SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Tom Cunningham Orchestra CD Release Party. 8 to 11 p.m. \$20 admission includes a CD. Celebrate the release of its 2010 CD recording 'Swingin' & Singin.' At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-8899 or visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.



PHOTO BY LINDA J WHITE

Pictured are Leysa Melnychenko, Connor Chilton, Javier Zelaya and Teagan Wilson at the magical woods on the outskirts of Athens.

NOV. 18-20

"Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream." Performed by West Potomac High School in The Kogelman Theatre on Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional show at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 20. Directed by Colin O'Grady; tickets are \$8. Call 703-718-2500. West Potomac High School is at 6500 Quander Rd. Alexandria.

SUNDAY/NOV. 14

Chocolate Indulgence. 1 to 4 p.m. Raffle begins between 3-3:30 p.m. Sip and shop for chic jewelry, fashion, beauty and lifestyle products without the hassle of mall crowds and receive personalized attention to your needs. Featuring chocolate fountains, chocolate martini's, and chocolate treats everywhere. At the new Springhill Suites in Alexandria. To register, visit <http://theultimatechocolate.eventbrite.com>

"Magical Tour of Choral Music." 4 p.m. Norman Scribner and the Choral Arts Society chorus guide audiences through a musical and narrative journey of the history of choral music in their 2010-2011 season opener, Choral Music 101: A Guided Tour through Norman's Choral Playlist. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25-\$55. Call 202-785-9727 or visit www.choralarts.org.

Art of Bookmaking. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. With Stacy Rausch. Cost is \$45/DRA members; \$55/nonmembers. All materials will be provided. At the Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Stacy Rausch at SRausch@artthead.com

MONDAY/NOV. 15

Kathy Harty Gray Dance Performance. 7:30 p.m. Free. Celebrates Internationals Education Week.

Features dance interpretations from India, Ireland, South Africa, Argentina, Haiti, France, Italy, USA and more. In the Tyler Building Auditorium of NOVA Alexandria Campus. Visit www.khgdt.org.

Recycle & Receive Event. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Recycle a gently used ornament and receive a free gift from The Christmas Attic. Donated/recycled ornaments will be given to a charity to help less fortunate families and assisted living centers decorate for the holidays. At The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St., Alexandria. Website: <http://www.christmasattic.com/>

Bra Appeal Recycling/Donation Drive. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Full Cup, a European Bra Fitting Salon, will host a "Bra Appeal Recycling/Donation Drive," in recognition of National America Recycles Day, part of the Keep America Beautiful Campaign. http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ard_homepage. At The Full Cup, 218 N Lee St # 206, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/NOV. 16

Notes of a Native Son. 7 p.m. Guest speaker Dr. Keith Clark, professor of literature: African American men's literature, 20th-century African American literature at GMU. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-3645.

National Memory Screening Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alzheimers Foundation. At Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Auditorium, Alexandria. Call 703-707-3800.

Master Gardener Open House. 6:30 to 8 p.m. For gardeners in Alexandria interested in the Master Gardener Training Class in January, 2011. Hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Classes will begin Jan. 11, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 15th at the Fairlington Community Center in Arlington. For more information and an enrollment form, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington VA 22206, 703-228-6414; e-mail: ex013mg@vt.edu

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 17

History of Woodlawn Plantation. 9:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon Antique Club at Hollin Hall Senior Center will host a presentation on the History of Woodlawn Plantation to include plantation beginnings, family life and the civil war. Ann Herbert, a longtime Woodlawn docent, will be the speaker. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. The group will discuss "Hadji Murad" by Leo Tolstoy. Duncan Book Discussion Group meeting at the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call Ruth Hailu at 703-746-1705, x3.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. With the band, Scott Ramming and the Crawstickers. At Nick's Nightclub, 641 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

Learn About Insects. 7:30 p.m. Free. Hands-on arthropod workshop using preserved specimens from the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Presented by the Friends of Dyke Marsh. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitors' Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-2525.

FRIDAY/NOV. 19

Evening of Music for Violin. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

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Victims' Families Seek Information from Police

FROM PAGE 1

has the least transparent system in the country for releasing police documents. For victims and their families, the opaque nature of police power in Virginia creates problems that often linger in the aftermath of brutal crimes.

"There should be a presumption in favor of releasing the documents," said Jeffrey Dion, director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. "Other states release much more information without any detrimental effect on law enforcement or investigation, so we know that it can be done."

Police officials could theoretically begin releasing information they have kept hidden for decades. But that does not appear to be happening anytime soon. Consider how the Fairfax County Police Department has denied requests for information in the shooting of a man with mental illness named David Masters.

A press release issued on Jan. 27, 2010 suggested that Masters disregarded police lights and sirens in the minutes before the fatal shot was fired. But the police department denied a request for public inspection of the actual reports, leaving family members in the dark about what happened that day. With the anniversary of the shooting approaching, the police have yet to share the footage taken from the dashboard camera or even identify the name of the officer who fired the fatal shot.

"He was a Green Beret in Vietnam," said Nicholas Beltrante, a Navy veteran who formed the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability in response to the Masters shooting. "He didn't get killed in Vietnam, but he was killed under questionable circumstances here in Fairfax County."

Gale Masters has yet to learn the identity of the Fairfax officer who killed her ex-husband. She still does not have possession of the truck he was driving or the cell phone he was using the day he was killed at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road; the police have retained them. In the year since the shooting took place, she says he has lived in a kind of limbo — not knowing what really happened and questioning why the department has denied multiple Freedom of Information Act requests for documents in the case.

"I just thought they would tell me everything," said Gale Masters, fighting back tears. "What can I say?"

ARLINGTON COUNTY is similarly opaque, but its culture of silence extends to the public sphere. Police officials declined a request to be interviewed about their use of discretion. On the campaign trail this



The Gold Crust Baker in Del Ray was the scene of a shooting that left an immigrant family from Togo wondering why the Alexandria Police Department denied documents requested in a Freedom of Information Act request.

year, incumbent County Board member Chris Zimmerman refused to answer questions about the lack of transparency in an agency he is supposed to oversee. Unlike Alexandria and Fairfax, Arlington leaders won't even answer questions about their lack of transparency. In the courtroom, prosecutors use the shadowy nature of police behavior as a weapon, say defense attorneys and others.

"I call it trial by ambush," said Arlington lawyer Peter Greenspun. "That applies to the simplest crime or the most severe."

Greenspun recalled a recent case when his defendant was facing a capital murder verdict and prosecutors would not share basic details in the case. On the first day of trial, Greenspun said, he had no witness statements and he didn't know who was going to be called to testify. The way Virginia law works, the same law allows police agencies to keep victims and their families in the dark also keeps those who are accused of crimes from seeing documents in their own case. And it's all legal under the power of discretion given to police agencies under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the associated powers of discovery.

"It's an abuse of discretion," said Greenspun. "Anytime there's a blanket rule, that's by definition an abuse of discretion."

VIRGINIA'S FREEDOM of Information Act dates to the late 1960s, a time when most states were crafting some kind of public records law. Unlike other states, Virginia chose to craft a provision that shielded criminal records from public view. But the lack of transparency in Virginia isn't neces-

sarily a good thing for cops and prosecutors. According to law enforcement officials in states that share garden-variety police documents, the release of information is beneficial to public safety.

"I think it's made us better agencies," said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "We proceed knowing that our work product is going to be reviewed by the press or the public or the people who are actually involved in the cases."

Bailey said he could not recall one instance in his career when a victim or a witness was reluctant to come forward for fear their information would be part of the public record. Yet this is the reasoning prosecutors and police say is behind their decision to exercise their discretion to keep anyone from seeing documents outlining their day-to-day actions. The way the Virginia Freedom of Information Act is written, police agencies don't need to give a reason why they choose to withhold information. And leaders here in Northern Virginia know they can get away with keeping secrets for any reason or for no reason at all.

"I don't think we have to justify it," said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook. "A lot of things can be said about transparency, that doesn't make it effective."

Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel is among the most vocal opponents of increasing transparency. When a Roanoke legislator introduced a bill that could have increased availability of police documents, the city's elected prosecutor traveled to Richmond to speak against the effort. Sengel said that releasing documents could possibly discourage witnesses and

victims from coming forward, adding that it would be a staffing burden to have government employees responding to public-information requests.

"It's designed to address a problem that doesn't really exist," said Sengel about the bill, which was later killed by a subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council. "And it would create a situation that's much worse than we already have today."

THE CASE of Kossi Djossou illustrates the problems with the current system. Because a relative of the Togo clan worked as a nanny for a lawyer at Hogan Lovells, the law firm got involved pro bono. But even the high-power Washington lawyers were stymied by the same law that keeps the public and the press from knowing how police officials are acting on their behalf. Two months after the murder, lawyers filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the incident report. The request was denied. Attorney Wesley Carrington said he couldn't understand how police and prosecutors were defending their lack of transparency by citing a concern for victims and witnesses.

"In our case, that's running directly counter to the policy," he said.

With the resources of Hogan Lovells at their back, the Djossou family pressed on. Lawyers filed an appeal to the denial for information. Within a matter of days, the attorneys were contacted by a deputy city attorney who offered what the police would not. The issue never went before a judge in the Alexandria Circuit Court because the deputy city attorney handed over the entire case file — hundreds of pages of documents, four CDs of data and about 20 reports from responding officers.

"Leaving it to the Police Department wasn't a satisfactory outcome," said Price, the Hogan Lovells lawyer representing the Djossou family pro bono. "We weren't going to let this drop."

Price said the Djossou family predicament illustrated a flaw in the system. The family of a murder victim was denied information when the Alexandria Police Department had discretion to deny it. But when that discretion was challenged outside the public-safety community, city officials allowed the documents to be released. That meant that the city was exercising the discretion police officials have a blanket policy of refusing, but only for those who are lucky to have the resources to launch a legal challenge in Alexandria Circuit Court.

"When the police department fails to exercise any discretion," said Price, "that's an abuse of discretion."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Buehler, 703-706-8104, or ralphbu@vt.edu.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Women's Health Expo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Norah O'Donnell, MSNBC

correspondent and co-author of "Baby Love: Healthy, Easy, Delicious Meals for Your Baby and Toddler," will demonstrate recipes from the cookbook she co-authored with her husband Chef Geoff Tracy. At Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria. To register for this event, call 703-750-8800, or visit

www.inova.org/events.

MONDAY/NOV. 15

Registration Opens. For Pet Photos with Santa; proceeds to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria; professional photography by Lee Anderson on Dec. 3-5, at the

Olde Towne School for Dogs; 703/836-7643.

TUESDAY/NOV. 16

National Memory Screening Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alzheimers Foundation. At the Hermitage Auditorium, 5000

Fairbanks Auditorium, Alexandria. Call 703-979-3800.

Lupus Support. 7 p.m. Free. The session is led by a trained professional who understands the challenges of lupus. At Beatley

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Wolverines Shine on Cloudy Day

West Potomac boys win regionals, girls take third.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Burke Lake Park was a cold, wet and muddy stage for the Nov. 4 Northern Region cross country championship meet. Sloppy conditions provided the area's top harriers a reason to groan and an excuse for failure. Meanwhile, West Potomac's Dale Lescher was having some fun, rubbing mud on the face of her head coach, Jenn Dietz.

The Wolverines figured every competitor had to deal with the weather. Why not embrace it?

"I know a lot of people went into this race thinking, 'Oh, man, this is gonna stink,'" Lescher said. "We love this weather. ... This is our kind of race."

West Potomac shined on a cloudy day with the boys winning the regional title and the girls finishing third. The boys scored 78 points, six better than second-place Lake Braddock. The girls scored 108 points, six behind second-place Thomas Jefferson and 37 behind meet winner Lake Braddock.

"You don't have to have any kind of specific strategy, you've just got to go in with the mindset that the weather's the same for everybody and the toughest person is going to come out on top," Dietz said. "I think they were excited for the conditions. It makes it real cross country. You can't worry about things like times, you've just got to go out there and compete for places."

No runner exemplified the toughness Dietz referred to better than junior Brady Corum. Standing 5 feet 3 and weighing less than 100 pounds, Corum placed seventh individually, recording the West Potomac boys' best time of 15 minutes, 44.7 seconds. Corum said he felt sick for parts of the last month, but came out determined to perform at regionals.

"Last year, coming in, we were just hop-



West Potomac's Benjamin Aleixo is trailed by teammate Brady Corum during the regional meet on Nov. 4 at Burke Lake Park. Corum placed ninth, Aleixo finished 15th and the Wolverines won the event.

ing we could get to states," said Corum, whose Wolverines placed third at last year's regional meet. "This year, [we came in] with a lot more confidence. It was always in the back of our minds in the beginning of the season. To come and actually do it, it feels really good. ...

"I'm a pretty small and scrappy guy. It definitely helps to be light [when running in the mud]. You can really thrive off the weather. The rain can really get you pumped up. The mud is fun to run through."

Corum's performance came one week after he placed 12th at the Patriot District meet.

"Brady is definitely a tough competitor," Dietz said. "He's had some big races and

he's kind of toughed it out when he's not feeling his best. He's just a very solid and sturdy kid. He kind of gets counted out sometimes because of his size, but he's definitely one of the top runners."

Benjamin Aleixo finished 15th for West Potomac with a time of 15:57.1. Mark Hanak finished 19th (16:09), Marc Lotterie was 24th (16:15.4) and Corey Rosenberg was 29th (16:18).

"Winning regionals is great for these boys," Dietz said. "They've worked really hard — some of them for four years. Brady Corum really stepped up and had a good race and I think that made all the difference in having someone break into the top 10."



Sarah Underwood and the West Potomac girls cross country team took third at regionals.

Sarah Underwood was the top finisher for the West Potomac girls, placing eighth with a time of 18:31.3. Lescher was 11th with a time of 18:36.71, Sophia Passacantando finished 26th (19:01.7), Colleen Boyle was 29th (19:05.6) and Samantha Miller finished 41st (19:29.5).

While the girls matched their third-place finish at last year's regional meet, Lescher put forth an individual best.

"This had been one of my goals since I started high school — I wanted to get all-region," Lescher said of her top-15 individual finish. "It was definitely great to finally reach that."

The state cross country meet is on Nov. 13 at Great Meadows.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MV's Rowell Competes At Regionals

Mount Vernon's Katja Rowell competed at the Northern Region cross country championship meet on Nov. 4 at Burke Lake Park, placing 51st with a time of 19 minutes, 42.4 seconds.

West Potomac Football Ends Season

The West Potomac football team lost to Annandale 41-31 on Nov. 5, dropping the Wolverines' record to 6-4 and ending their season.

Three 6-4 teams qualified for the regional playoffs — Westfield, Fairfax and Langley — but West Potomac and

rival T.C. Williams were left on the outside looking in with the same record. The Wolverines finished 5-2 in the Patriot District but dropped their final two games of the season.

MVHS 5K Moved to Nov. 20

The Mount Vernon High School 5K Turkey Trot and Wellness Walk will take place on Nov. 20 rain or shine. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the race starts at 8:30 a.m. General registration fee is \$35. Teachers or students with a valid ID card can participate for \$25. The race begins at the Rock entrance of MVHS. The race benefits the MVHS Cares Emergency Fund, to help provide education-related assistance and incentives for MVHS students.

Running Club on Sundays

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

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

Fort Hunt Rugby Meeting

The first organizational meeting for Fort Hunt boys-girls high school rugby will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Dec. 7 in the meeting room at Sherwood Hall Library. Additional information can be found at www.fhyaa.org/rugby or by calling 703-780-5859. Head coach is John Dacey.

Fort Belvoir Hospital Set To Open Spring 2011

FROM PAGE 1

support the wounded being treated there, stories in other publications, principally the webpage Salon.com found serious derelictions of medical care at other military hospitals across the country.

In the following weeks, President George W. Bush ordered a major investigation of the charges by former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Donna Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services under President Clinton. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates removed the Secretary of the Army over the scandal and fired several general officers that had commanded Walter Reed.

One of the explanations of how conditions at Walter Reed had so seriously deteriorated was that once BRAC ordered it closed, maintenance and patient care lagged.

The new \$807 million hospital at Fort Belvoir is 90 percent completed and is expected to open in the spring of 2011. It is located near the site of the old DeWitt Army Hospital, which was opened in 1957 and will be replaced by the new facility. Patients and visitors will reach the hospital from U.S. Route 1 by the gate nearest Mount Vernon.

Dr. Rick Repeta, the BRAC "integrator" at Fort Belvoir and an emergency room physician, said the hospital will take over a portion of the care now being afforded at Walter Reed. "BRAC was essentially to com-

bine four hospitals (including an Air Force hospital at Andrews Air Force Base) into two facilities," he said.

The two new hospitals will divide what Repeta calls the "beneficiary population, which is anybody eligible for care, a very significant population in the Washington area." He said this includes active duty service persons and their families and retirees and their families. The latest estimate, he said, is that that 450,000 beneficiaries live in the Washington region, about 250,000 of which may come to the new facility at Fort Belvoir.

WITH MORE than double the number of beneficiaries to treat, the new hospital is about twice the size of DeWitt, having 120 patient rooms instead of 45, and a staff of over 3,500 instead the current staff of 1,500. The Army has begun advertising for some medical specialties.

Repeta said the architects used an "evidence based health care design" to achieve what the Army thinks would be one of the most modern military or civilian hospitals in the world. A discovery, for instance, that light and openness is therapeutic has resulted in all patient rooms being on the outside with windows on the outdoors while service and laboratory facilities are on the inside. The hospital is divided into five nature themed sections — river, eagle, sunrise, oak and meadow and gardens and

"BRAC was essentially to combine four hospitals (including an Air Force hospital at Andrews Air Force Base) into two facilities."

— Dr. Rick Repeta

outside sitting areas abound. Half of the patient's rooms face east and half face west so that no room is denied sunlight.

The hospital will have 55 primary specialty clinics, a 10-bed intensive care unit, a 12-bed behavioral health inpatient unit, a cancer center, an emergency center and an operatic center with ten operating rooms. A substantial outpatient care unit has space for expansion. The facility includes two parking garages and an open air parking area with capacity for 3,500 cars.

The hospital is being built under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has ordered a range of "green" construction innovations. Water collection systems allow all the ground to be kept green by runoff from rain and a collection system to keep it from running into the river.

Repeta said the hospital is basically a community hospital, open "24/7."

Chuck Widener, public affairs officer at

DeWitt, said the new hospital has a helipad and emergency ambulance facilities. Several conditions like cancer and heart disease would be treated at Fort Belvoir that once had to go to Walter Reed, Repeta said.

After the Dole-Shalala investigation, the Army formed the Warrior Transition Brigade under a general officer to better organize care of wounded and injured soldiers across the country.

Travis Edwards, a public affairs officer for BRAC, said the Warrior Transition facility at Fort Belvoir Hospital will encompass four buildings including two barracks, an administrative headquarters and a family assistance building. The barracks, he said, can care for 288 soldiers.

The wounded warriors will have the full facilities of the hospital at their disposal for treatment, rehabilitation and care. One major criticism of Walter Reed in 2007 was the failure of the Army to help wounded service personnel "transition" to the next phase of their lives whether continued Army service or civilian life and an organized way to judge what level if disability they face.

Edwards said that a 138-member assistance unit at the WTU facility will help soldiers through this administrative tangle. As it is now planned, the most seriously wounded soldiers will go to Bethesda for care and Fort Belvoir will treat the rest, he said.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Library, Small Conference Meeting Room, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 202-349-1176 or 1-888-349-1167 or e-mail info@lupusdmv.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 17

MVCCA General Council Meeting. 8 p.m. This is a change of the normal meeting date. The agenda includes

two resolutions and the election of Officers for 2011. See web site for The Record. All MVCCA meetings are open to the public. At Walt Whitman Middle School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall. Visit www.mvcca.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Health Care Reform Talk. 12:30

p.m. Howard Houghton from VICAP (Virginia Insurance and Counseling Program) presents "Annual Part D Review, Health Care Reform and Medicare." At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact: Julie.ellis@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-765-4573. TTY 711.

Visiting Chef: Gluten Free Program. 1 p.m. Ann Fulkerson will

be presenting Gluten-Free recipes in recognition of "Gluten-Free Diet Awareness Month." At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Saturday/Nov. 20

Colonial Dames Meeting. 10 a.m. Meeting of the John Witt chapter, Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century. At Peace Lutheran Church,

6362 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria. Contact lanesmillchapter@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Black Friday. Reduced animal adoption fees for all animals with any black markings at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria; contact 703-746-4774.



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SPORTS

Major Turnaround

Mount Vernon in playoffs one year after winless season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Around this time last year, members of the Mount Vernon football program were cleaning out their lockers, having just completed a 0-10 season. The Majors were outscored 365-129 and punctuated their futility with a loss to previously winless Wakefield in the regular season finale.

Twelve months later, helmets and shoulder pads are now commonplace in the Mount Vernon locker room despite the regular season having ended. The Majors, led by first-year head coach Barry Wells, finished second in the National District and qualified for the regional playoffs. Mount Vernon, seeded No. 5 in Division 5 of the Northern Region, will travel to face No. 4 South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 12. The Seahawks finished 4-3 in the Liberty District.

Wells said the Majors haven't exhibited the type of excitement one would expect from a team that went from winless to the playoffs in one season. The coach is hoping the players' focused nature is a product of learning from mistakes — most notably a

sub-par performance, according to Wells, on Oct. 29 against Yorktown in a battle for the district title.

"I almost think the kids are in shock," Wells said. "Our kids are pretty much keeping it all in focus. I haven't figured out what that is just yet. ... I'm hoping what they're doing is guarding against another letdown."

Mount Vernon finished the regular season 5-5. After a pair of lopsided losses to non-district foes West Potomac and T.C. Williams, the Majors bounced back to win five of their next eight, including a 5-2 mark in the National District. Mount Vernon was 4-1 in the district when it faced 5-0 Yorktown on Oct. 29 in what equated to the district championship game. The Majors lost 28-14, but bounced back the following week with a season-high point total during a 41-21 win over Wakefield. Junior running back Dennis Mensah rushed for a school record 288 yards and four touchdowns against the Warriors.

Mount Vernon has relied on its ground game for most of the season, operating primarily out of the I-formation, but the Majors took another step in establishing their offensive identity in recent weeks. After having success against Edison, coaches

shifted 6-foot-3, 256-pound tackle Logan Beougher to fullback full time to lead the way for Mount Vernon's tailback trio of Mensah, Emmanuel Tackie and Sadiq Oyedele. The Majors' primary play is the iso, where the fullback takes on a defender and leads the tailback through a hole.

Mensah's big day has Wells feeling good about Mount Vernon's offense heading into the playoffs.

"We won a lot of close games and we really needed to get the offense on track and be able to put up some points," Wells said. "It's fun to watch Logan and Mensah running that iso play. That's pretty much who we are. We're going to line up and we're going to run iso and we're going to run it until someone stops it. ..."

"We are a totally different ball club. We ran the ball for 200 yards against Edison before we moved [Beougher] to fullback.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon running back Dennis Mensah, seen earlier this season, rushed for 288 yards and four touchdowns in the Majors' regular season finale against Wakefield on Nov. 5.

Since then, our rushing game is just totally different. Most linebackers do not want to meet him in the hole. He comes in there with bad intentions. ... Either you're going to step in there and man up or he's going" to run them over.

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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Mount Vernon Gazette turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: gazette@connectionnews-papers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 1, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Mount Vernon Gazette



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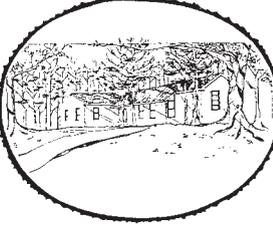
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

Unfortunate Juxtaposition

To the Editor:

Re: the Mount Vernon Gazette for Nov. 4, 2010

On page 13, there is a column entitled "Crime," which lists crimes committed in the Mount Vernon area.

At the bottom of that same column, there is another section called "School Notes" which lists honored Virginia Tech students.

This seems to be an unfortunate juxtaposition of subjects — placing student honorees in the same column with criminals.

Perhaps a better, and perhaps more highlighted place could be found for lists of honored students.

Frederick (Bart) Hewitt
Alexandria

Will Miss Village Wharf

To the Editor:

The last weekend of October marked the closing of the Village Wharf Restaurant on Fort Hunt Road. The Wharf was one of the first restaurants my wife and I visited when we moved into the area in the early 1990s. Over the years we have welcomed visitors

with dinner there, participated in fundraising there to raise money for cancer research and our schools. It was a great place to drop in and watch sports or talk about current events. The one thing you could always rely upon when you went there was that you would be welcomed as a friend. Over the years we developed a very close relationship with many of the patrons and the wonderful people that worked there. When the Wharf closed its doors, we lost a part of our local community. Our thoughts go out to those who lost their jobs when the doors closed because you are part of our community too.

Neil and Dorothy Worden

Dog Park Long Overdue

To the Editor:

I write to follow up on my letter sent last week concerning the proposed off-leash dog walking park at the site of the Westgrove Sewage Pumping Station. I am a dog lover and a dog owner. While I support the desire of proponents to create that park, even if initially on an interim basis, for myself, I would never use such a park. As such, my support is not out of personal interest but, rather, out of a desire to do the right thing in support of a significantly sized group that, in my view, is being ill-treated by the local political machinations.

Behind the scenes, in communications I have seen, opposition has been communicated to Supervisor Hyland by the President of the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM) as well as to the proponents by the Chairman of the MVCCA's Environment & Recreation Committee. The opposition alleges potential concerns regarding wetlands at the proposed site as well with regard to potential downstream damage that could be caused by dog feces. Neither of these concerns holds any water.

There are no wetlands at the specific location where the enclosed area would be provided. Concerning dog feces, responsible dog owners clean up after their pets. The few irresponsible dog owners may be fined. No one mentions the fact that no one is cleaning up after the numerous deer, foxes, raccoons, squirrels, waterfowl and perhaps coyotes that frequent the site. One proponent related to me that, after one visit, she

had to shampoo her dog after it rolled in human feces, perhaps "deposited" by one of the homeless people known to sleep in the site. The few incidents of irresponsible dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets would only add a miniscule amount of fecal matter as compared to that which is left by the wild animals that live and hunt at the site.

There is no legitimate excuse for any further delays. Former Del. Kris Amundson said it best on a Facebook blog: "This has been under discussion since I was the president of the Westgrove Citizens Association. Which was just shortly after the earth cooled. Time to decide and move on." Let's get going and provide our interested citizens with an off-leash dog walking park at Westgrove. Right now.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

The Mount Vernon Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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102 Instruction

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

To gather input for a Project Plan and Environmental Assessment on Equestrian Facility Replacement, Equestrian Activities and Site Improvements at the Meadowood Recreation Area on Mason Neck in Fairfax County

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States Lower Potomac Field Station and the Office of Fairfax County Supervisor Jerry Hyland are holding a public meeting to gather input on:

- Plans to replace the 34 year old 46 stall barn/arena building in the administrative compound at the Meadowood Recreation Area;
- Public use and equestrian activities at the site.

The purpose of the project is to replace this structure with a facility that will provide for better public access to the Meadowood Recreation Area, provide for improved opportunities for the general public to participate in equestrian activities, and have less watershed impact. The project is scheduled for completion by September 30, 2011.

At this meeting, the Bureau of Land Management will provide information on it's proposed action, discuss alternatives, and seek comments from the public on how to best manage and use these federal recreation facilities.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be held on Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in the cafeteria of South County High School 8501 Silverbrook Rd. Lorton, VA 22079

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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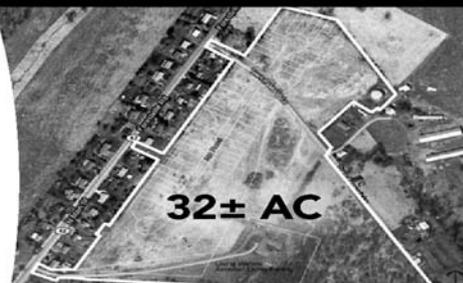
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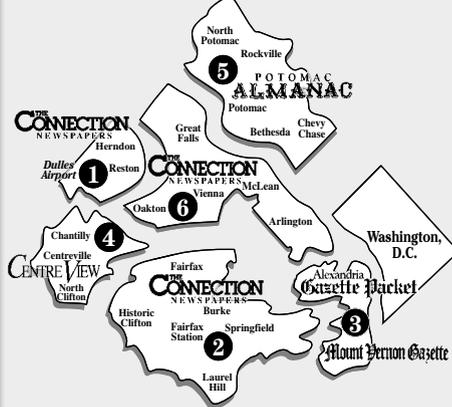
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Classic Fairfield Rambler put in pristine condition inside and out for new owner. Easy one-level living, updated with newer appliances, new paint and new carpet. Aggressively priced to sell. **Directions: Route 1 to Russell Road west, Left Lawrence, left Ashboro.**

CALL EMMA TUERK 703-360-4179



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ALEXANDRIA SOUTH ALL-BRICK RAMBLER \$349,500

Enjoy one-level living in this nicely maintained Rambler with a full basement. Many updates have been done including replaced windows, HVAC and more. Hardwood floors thruout. Large deck off dining room overlooks fenced rear yard.

CALL ELODIA HOWARD 703-203-1544



ALEXANDRIA SOUTH LIGHT-FILLED TOWN HOUSE \$309,900

Nicely presented on lot backing to trees. Master bedroom features skylight and vaulted ceiling. Finished lower level with full bath. Two assigned parking spaces. **Directions: From Alex, south on Rt 1, Right South Kings Hwy, right Brick Hearth, left to 6537.**

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NEWS



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

From left: Peter and Ellen Boer, hosts; Potomac Riverkeeper officers: Robin Broder, vice president; Ed Merrifield, president and riverkeeper; Pat Munoz and Stan Oaks, board members.

Report Polluters

Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. updates residents on river pollution.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

The Wellington Civic Association, which includes numerous homes situated on or near the Potomac River in the Mount Vernon district, invited the Potomac Riverkeeper organization to meet and brief residents on Sunday, Nov. 7, on the status of pollution prevention and control in the river and how they can get involved in reducing pollution in the river.

Ed Merrifield, PRK president and a Potomac riverkeeper since 2003, told the attendees: "One of our main goals is to enforce the federal Clean Water Act ... which means we represent everyone in the Potomac watershed ... protecting the source of your water is a way of protecting yourself. We hold these gatherings to let the community members know what the issues are and how they can get involved."

Details

Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization incorporated in 2000 whose mission is to stop pollution and restore clean water in the Potomac Watershed through enforcement and community engagement.

Scope of Interests: 15,000 sq. miles of the Potomac Watershed. Maintains one riverkeeper on the Potomac River and one riverkeeper on the Shenandoah River.

Primary Enforcement Mechanism: Federal Clean Water Act; a citizen provision of the federal law gives citizens standing to sue a polluter. PRK utilizes five law clinics from Washington area universities to do research and represent the Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. in enforcement actions.

Recent Enforcement Action: Filed a notice of intent to sue a contractor responsible for the 495 HOT lanes construction who was allowing sediment to dump into the Accotink Creek, an impaired tributary of the Potomac river. The notice of intent to sue caused the State of Virginia to step in and en-

The Potomac Riverkeeper representatives pointed out that over 4 million people in the Potomac watershed derive their drinking water from the Potomac River.

Robin Broder, vice president of Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc., said, "Major pollutants of our river are nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Most of our work involves stopping these pollutants from getting into our waters. Major pollution sources are agriculture and stormwater runoff in urban and suburban areas.

"One example of our citizen advocacy and vigilance is to make certain a facility such as a waste water treatment plant or power plant which discharges pollution into the river are in compliance with the requirements of the permit to do that. We help enforce permits and also try to make them stronger."

Other examples cited were taking legal action to force Clean Water Act compliance, and public disclosure of polluting behavior.

ter into an agreement with the contractor to institute erosion and sediment controls.

Recent Public Advocacy Action: On Nov. 8, Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc., called on Gov. Robert McDonnell to "get serious about Virginia's growing list of polluted waters ... Virginia's waters are saturated with dead-zone causing pollutants ... and they are only getting worse." The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality earlier this year added 1,400 miles of rivers and streams and 2,500 acres of lakes to its list of polluted waters, according to the Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc.

Number of Members: 2, 500 members

Number of Volunteer Riverwatchers: 300

How Citizens Can Report Pollution Violations on the Potomac:

Call: 301-POTOMAC

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keeper@potomacriverkeeper.org
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