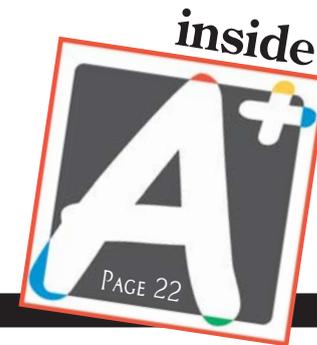


Mount Vernon Gazette



MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 20, 2011

Kings No Crossing **New Wal-Mart clogs southbound traffic, turning southbound Route One into one-lane road.**



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Back-ups on the left-turn lane at the new Wal-Mart at Kings Crossing clogs southbound Route One traffic.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

For many Mount Vernon residents, the gridlock created by the new Wal-Mart at Kings Crossing serves as more than a bitter reminder of a lost opportunity for mixed-use retail. It's a daily grind of traffic nightmares and bumper-to-bumper delay, with the southbound left turn lane spilling into Richmond Highway and clogging the left lane for hours at a time — essentially turning Route One into a one-lane road headed toward Fort Belvoir.

"This is a classic example of what can go wrong with by-right development," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. "If the county had been able to force a traffic analysis, we could have been able to require the developer

to make infrastructure improvements."

But no rezoning was needed, so no public hearings were conducted. As a result, county officials were unable to force improvements to the roads so they could handle the massive influx of traffic to and from the big-box behemoth. That means the existing left-turn lane, which can accommodate only six cars, is the only infrastructure available to handle the thousands of new daily trips and out of the Wal-Mart.

"Our officers have observed that traffic from the left turn lane does back up into the left lane of Route One," said Lt. Mike Wall of the Mount Vernon District Station. "Having cars stopped in traffic can be dangerous, but I wouldn't say it's anything out of the ordinary

SEE CLOGGING, PAGE 3

Church Opens Arms To Mosque-less Muslims

Criticism arises for allowing Muslims to pray in church.

BY BRIAN CAIN
THE GAZETTE

Members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the Islamic Center on Route 1 held a dialogue amid criticism of Christians allowing Muslims to use their churches as a place of worship.

In 2010, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Perry, lead pastor at Aldersgate, and church leaders agreed to allow members of the Islamic Center, which is under construction, to worship at Aldersgate. That drew criticism from inside and outside the church concerning the appropriateness of the decision.

Criticism from outside the church began when the magazine Christianity Today ran an article concerning the church's decision. The magazine learned about the decision from a post on the Jesus Creed blog. The blog post included a sermon by Jason Micheli, a pastor at Aldersgate, which helped explain the reasoning behind allowing Muslims to worship in the church. Jason B. Hood, the author of the Christianity Today article, argued that Aldersgate appealed "to the love required of Christians as an authoritative guide for their decision-making." Hood ques

SEE ALDERSGATE, PAGE 3

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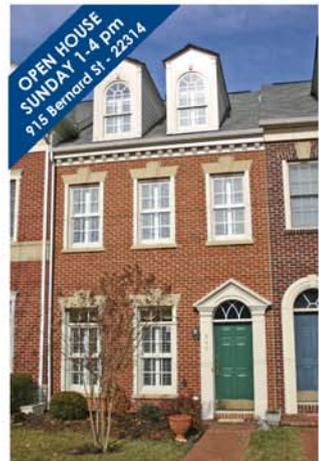
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Rosemary Burzynski, Denise Moore, Stephanie Menson, Jhaylen White and Henry Edwards pot the Philodendrons for Carpenter Shelter.



Burgundy Farm Diversity Coordinator Lashawn Sells talks with Dr. Robert Stanton.

Day of Service at Burgundy Farm

Robert G. Stanton was the special guest, along with Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, at Burgundy Farm's Day of Service celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stanton is deputy assistant secretary of policy, management and budget for the U.S. Department of Interior. Stanton was the first African American to be the director of the National Park Service after he was nominated by former President Bill Clinton.

Euille is a native and life-long resident of Alexandria and was the first African American elected to the position of mayor in the city's history.

The students of Burgundy Farm invited the students of Alexandria City elementary school, Jefferson Houston to join them in the Day of Service.

Activities included: planters for Carpenters Shelter, New baby welcome kits for Healthy Families Alexandria, decorating cookies and making trail mix bags for Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, literacy games and books on tape for Wright to Read, Martin Luther King Service Quilt, singing songs and chants, making cleaning supply baskets for residents leaving shelters and moving into homes, houseplants for Hopkins House, computer games for Freerice.com, knitting hats for the children in the NICU, dental hygiene kits for Alexandria Child and Family Network, writing letters to service members abroad, first aid kits for Alexandria Child and Family Network, adopt-me dog bandanas for the Alexandria Animal Shelter, money management program for "The Kid's Marketplace" and "The Reality Store", making wild bird

feeders to take home and creating Valentine's cards for the residents of Carpenter's Shelter.

Event donors included: Michael Manuel of Alexandria Long & Foster Realtors, The Casagrande Family, The Crowne Plaza (Old Town Alexandria), Giant Food (Kingstowne, Edsall Road, Telegraph Road and Richmond Hwy.), Hampton Inn (Alexandria), Hilton Mark Center (Alexandria), Holiday Inn Express (Richmond Hwy.), The Kocher Family, Dr. Eddie Longman and Dr. Wanda Goldhush (Alexandria Old Town Dental), Loza Dental Health & Wellness (Great Falls), Papa John's (Huntington), Primo's Family Restaurant, Holly Sloan and Colby Smith, Springhill Suites (Richmond Hwy.) and Lisa Vohra and Elevation Burger.

Arterial Clogging

FROM PAGE 1

for the driving public."

Drivers on Richmond Highway have long struggled with gridlock and inadequate infrastructure, although many Route One drivers say the situation at Kings Crossing is an extreme example. Complaints began within the first hours of operation as drivers sat in traffic on Richmond Highway, sending state officials scrambling for some kind of solution. The Virginia Department of Transportation, which has jurisdiction over the road, ended up extending the green light longer in an effort to keep people moving in an out of the facility.

But that solution had its own drawback — slowing northbound traffic. And it only served to mitigate the problem rather than solve it. That means drivers will continue to be stuck in the daily gridlock created by Wal-Mart until the VDOT can find the resources to add a new left turn lane or make the current turn lane longer — a scenario that would require significant re-engineering of the intersection.

"The problem is that there's no money," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "And there's not going to be any money until the state does something to address the transportation funding crisis."

In recent months, some have argued that Tysons Corner has sucked all the oxygen out of the air in Fairfax County, diverting time and attention away from Richmond Highway. Others disagree that the corridor has been neglected, pointing toward improvements such as pedestrian countdown clocks, the creation of a development corporation and millions of dollars to fund reams of studies to name a few. That traffic along the corridor is now set to spiral out of control next when the Department of Defense moves thousands of employees to Fort Belvoir. "We've been somewhat ignored," said state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) last summer. "I want us to get our fair share."

ELECTED LEADERS disagree with each other over how to spread the blame for problems along the Route One corridor. McKay and others say VDOT is the problem because it has systematically underfunded infrastructure improvements for years, leaving Route One unprepared for the daily slog of drivers. But Surovell and others say Fairfax County should be doing more by suggesting projects to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Somewhere in the middle of the struggle are drivers of Mount Vernon, who must live in a world where their commute grows longer every day and development is choking the life out of a major thoroughfare.

"Richmond Highway, unfortunately, gets the tagline 'the armpit of Fairfax County,'" said Kahan Dhillon, chairman of the strategic planning committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. "It's time to change that. I don't think we can continue with the status quo."

Christians, Muslims Host Dialogue at Aldersgate

FROM PAGE 1

tioned, "Does the facilitation of false worship violate the love command?"

According to Perry, criticism from inside the church dealt with two primary concerns. The first concern questioned whether the church was surrendering the faith in an effort to be popular or politically correct. The second concern questioned whether Islam condones abuse towards women, and if so, wouldn't that make the church complicit in the behavior. Perry did say that although some members have voiced concerns, many members do agree with the decision.

Sheik Yusuf Estes may have alleviated some of the concerns of those in attendance when he explained the Koran does not condone abuse towards women. Estes explained the Koran teaches that men are required to protect women and those who find

a license for abuse in the Koran are misguided and do not understand it.

During an interview after the dialogue had concluded, Perry used the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer criticism concerning surrendering the faith. In the New Testament parable, the Samaritan who helps the Jew does so even though during that time they would normally despise each other. Perry said the Samaritan never asked the Jew what his creed was, and even though he had a different creed, Jesus still used him as an example.

"At the core of the Gospel, the core of the message of Jesus is the welcoming of a stranger. Practicing a compassionate response to the needs of another is essential to being faithful," Perry said. "It isn't that you surrender your creed by having a dialogue with somebody who is different than you. It's a way to strengthen your faith, be-

cause you find out what you really do believe."

Perry referred to the danger of violence between religious groups as another reason for closer ties with the Muslim community.

"Somebody has to start building bridges between those groups before violence has a chance to set up," Perry said. "This is an attempt to do that."

During the one hour 15 minute dialogue, members of the Muslim community took the opportunity to explain their basic set of beliefs. They highlighted a number of similarities between Islam and Christianity and talked briefly about assimilation into American society. It was the first meeting of the two groups since members of the Islamic Center started praying at Aldersgate four months ago, but Kevin Creyts, spokesman for the Islamic Center, said it would not be the last.

Visit the World at Hollin Meadows Multicultural Fair

Students to present variety of performances.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

This weekend, one doesn't have to leave Mount Vernon to travel around the world. On Saturday, Jan. 22, visitors can stop by Hollin Meadows Elementary School and experience a Filipino Dance Performance; a Tae Kwon Do Presentation; music and dance performances from Japan; a Colonial American dance performance and much more.

Hollin Meadows is holding their Annual Multicultural Fair from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the event is open to the public.

Trish Fineran, fifth-grade teacher, did the write-up as the publicity chairperson and coordinated communications. She said, "Other teachers coordinate and the entire community participates; children perform, families cook and bring in food to sample and things to exhibit, they participate in dances with their children. A committee of teachers plan, coordinate, set-up and takedown, recruit and coordinate teacher and student volunteers (some graduates) organize and staff the crafts table, storytelling, and assist as needed."



Students perform in last year's multicultural fair

The fair committee is headed by Donna Beaver-Young, assistant principal, and the art teachers (Angela Williams, Judy Bromberg, music (Ashton Streavig, Holly Vesilind), and physical education teachers (Todd Paxton, Steve Kauffman, and Ann Jopke). They have all been working with the children since October to prepare them for the performances. Kris Griswold is the exhibits chairperson for the first time this year and Emily Crawford is the volunteer

chair person. Sailaja Gunda has been coordinating special guest performances.

"With such a wonderful culturally-diverse community to celebrate, the events include an exhibit hall filled with opportunities to see, taste, touch, listen and create," said Fineran. "Families share their customs through food, clothing, music, photos, collections, games and much more. The event is a feast for the palate and the senses.

"Another not-to-miss happening are the

Performance Schedule

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 11:35 - 11:45 | Drum Circle and Chorus |
| 11:50 - 12 | Sixth grade Music and Dance Performances (Philippines) |
| 12:05-12:10 | Kindergarten Dance Performance (Caribbean Islands) |
| 12:15- 12:25 | Tae Kwon Do Presentation |
| 12:30 -12:40 | First grade Music and Dance Performances (Japan) |
| 12:45 - 12:55 | Second Grade Music and Dance Performances (Native American) |
| 1:00-1:10 | Boy Scout Troop 118 (USA) |
| 1:15- 1:25 | Third Grade Music and Dance Performances (New Zealand) |
| 1:30 - 1:40 | Ms. Gunda's Dancers (India) |
| 1:45 - 1:55 | Fourth Grade Dance Performance (Colonial America) |
| 2 - 2:10 | Fifth Grade Dance Performance (Brazil) |
| 2:15- 2:25 | Dances for All: Cupid Shuffle, Cha Cha Slide |

student performances (each grade level), complemented by special invited guests. Come learn about many cultures, taste the food, enjoy some singing, dancing, and instrument playing."

Each grade level will be performing in the gym. Some will be singing, some dancing, and some playing hand-made instruments.

The Multicultural Fair will be held at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2410 Nordok Place, on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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



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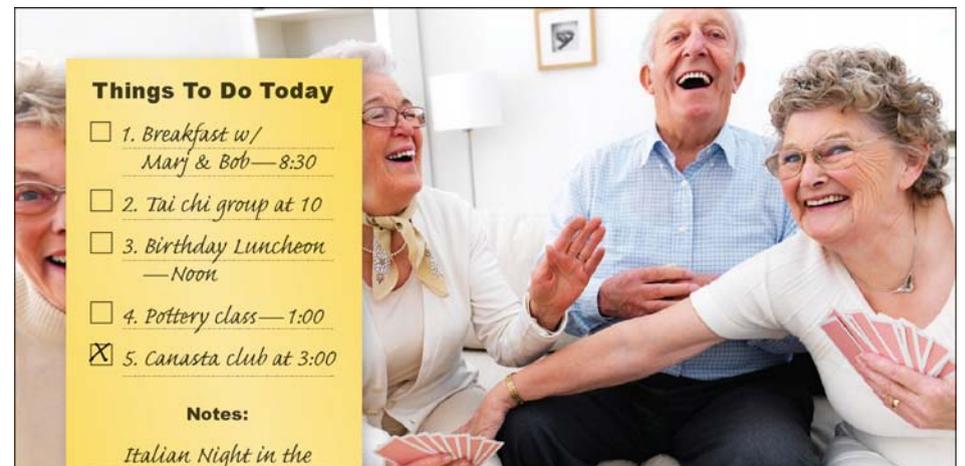
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- 5. Canasta club at 3:00

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OBITUARIES

Mark Richard Allen

Mark Richard Allen, 63, died Jan. 14, 2011, in the arms of his wife at his home in Alexandria after a year-long battle with neuroendocrine cancer. He had lived in Alexandria for 32 years.

Mr. Allen was born Dec. 27, 1947, in Philadelphia, Pa., to David Hector and Ruth Isabel (Chilton) Allen. At the age of seven, the family moved to Wildwood, N.J., where he graduated from high school in 1965.

He attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, from 1965 to 1968. After being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968, he received Medical Corpsman training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, then was stationed at the Ft. Dix Military Hospital in New Jersey until his Honorable Discharge in 1971. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Allen then moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he attended the University of Michigan from 1972 to 1974, earning a B.S. degree in Natural Resources. While there, he was employed at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. After graduation, he was employed as a Park Ranger in the State of Michigan Park System. Between 1975 to 1977 he worked for the City of Des Moines, Iowa, Department of Urban Forestry. He then moved to Charles County, Md., where he was employed by Southern Tree Service until late 1979. From September 1979 to October 1989 he was employed at George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate, first as Assistant Supervisor of Gardens and Grounds, and later as Supervisor. He lived on the estate and served in the estate's in-house fire and medical aid departments. His two children, by his first marriage to Linda Lee Anderson (which ended in divorce in 1989), were the last children born on the estate. While at Mt. Vernon, he was in charge not only of the maintenance of the estate's grounds and gardens, but also the livestock. He gave many tours of the estate's wooded areas to local schoolchildren, sharing his vast knowledge of flora and fauna.

After leaving Mt. Vernon, Mr. Allen became the Arborist/Horticulturist for the Town of Vienna, in which capacity he worked until his retirement in August 2010. Mayor M. Jane Seeman declared April 22, 2010, as "Mark Allen Day" in Vienna in recognition of his years of service in Vienna's Department of Parks and Recreation, during which time he cataloged all the trees in Vienna, created many new flower beds, planted countless trees, and shared his knowledge with garden clubs and residents.

While he and his wife Juanita lived in Old Town Alexandria at the Robert E. Lee Camp Confederate Veterans Home from 1990 to 1995, he spent many hours maintaining the historic building and its gardens, and assisted his wife in surveying Confederate graves in Alexandria. He also placed memorial wreaths on the Confederate statue on Washington and Prince Streets for many years.

Mr. Allen was an avid birder and naturalist. He wrote detailed journals from 1977 until the time of his death, outlining his observations of birds and other wildlife, trees, flowers, and



wetlands – from his backyard to the many parks and wilderness areas he visited in the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, Canada, Panama, France, Italy, and Spain. His bird list totaled 717.

Mr. Allen was a voracious reader and frequent user of the Sherwood Hall Library. Throughout his life, he was a deep and introspective thinker, exhibiting great integrity, high morals, unfailing fairness, a keen intellect, a strong work ethic, and an iron will.

The funeral service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 (visitation at 6 p.m.) at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Burial will follow on Jan. 22 at Cold Spring Presbyterian Cemetery in Cape May County, N.J. Arrangements by Jefferson Funeral Chapel of Alexandria.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Elisabeth (Wright) Allen, son Aaron David Allen of Annapolis, Md., daughter Emily Lynn (Allen) Goodman of Fairfax, granddaughter Avery Lynn Allen of Annapolis, and brother Bruce David Allen of Del Haven, N.J. His family and friends were honored to have such a fine man in their lives and he will be greatly missed.

Barbara Crann

Barbara (Bobbie) Crann, 89, died Jan. 4 at Spring Hills Assisted Living in Alexandria.

She was born in Evanston, Ill., where she attended Northwestern University School of Speech, before joining the Navy in WWII. She served as a WAVE recruiter for two years, and in 1945 married Lawrence Crann. They moved to the Mount Vernon area in 1949 where they lived for the next 62 years.

Barbara was active in the Mount Vernon/Alexandria community throughout her life. In the 1950's and 60's, she organized and directed a neighborhood children's theater each summer. She was active in PTA and Girl Scouting before joining the staff of the Alexandria YWCA as the Program and Youth Director, a position she held for 10 years. She then served as director of Camp Tappawingo in Manassas, a summer camp for special needs children and adults.

She was a member of the Alexandria Chapter of the National League of American Pen Women, serving two terms as president and one as chaplain. She was a member of First Christian Church of Alexandria, serving at various times as a deacon, elder, and choir member. Until the age of 88, she co-facilitated the "Serious Thinkers" Sunday School class, a class for mentally challenged adults. She was also active at St. James Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon, attending a weekly Bible study and singing in the choir.

She is survived by her husband, Larry, of 65 years, three daughters — Wendy Newcomer of Richmond, Va., Laurie Kitchin of King George, Va., and Chris Bramante of Bethesda, Md., seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at First Christian Church, Alexandria, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12.



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OPINION

Transportation Plan without Substance

Say no to liquor plan, a giveaway to big business.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

It's a major component of consumer protection and something we try to teach our children.

So consider this quote from Gov. Bob McDonnell on his latest plan for transportation funding:

"I'm asking all of you to support a plan that pumps billions into roads, creates tens of thousands of new jobs, adds no new debt, starts work now, and doesn't raise taxes."

Lots of money, no debt, no taxes. Not likely.

In fact, the governor's plan would take existing revenue that is paying for existing costs, like public safety and education, and forcing reallocation to transportation.

The so-called privatization of the liquor business would cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue that is currently being used for core state services, services that

have already been cut to the bone. The one-time infusion of up to \$400 million (literally not enough money to pay for a single new interchange on a highway) does not make up for the loss of revenue annually. Or the harm of possibly tripling the number of liquor stores in the state.

EDITORIALS

Who would benefit? Very large retailers who would get almost all of the licenses to sell liquor.

Fixing the transportation debacle in Virginia will require new revenue. Gov. McDonnell is more interested in saying that he cut the size of government and turned more business over to the private sector than a meaningful fix for transportation. Right now, his proposal is to take the insufficient amount of money being spent on education, public safety and the safety net and spend it on roads instead.

The result will be irreparable harm and not nearly enough money to improve roads and transit.

Our legislators in the Virginia General Assembly should just say no.

Judge the governor's proposal for yourself, read it at www.governor.virginia.gov/News under Jan. 14.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Dogs and Cats, Parrots and Pigs, Spiders and Snakes

It's time to take some photos of your family and your favorite animals and send them in to the Connection for our Feb. 2 Pet Connection.

Write a paragraph or two about how you acquired your pet or what's special about your pet or what you've learned from your pet, have your children draw a picture, take some photos and email in by next week.

Send _____ to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Big Box Store

To the Editor:

While all of us are concerned about the increasing traffic on Rt. 1, there are seven reasons why we should support Costco's request to build on the old Multiplex site when it comes before the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

First, Costco sells quality products at very affordable prices, something that my family appreciates very much.

Second, Costco runs a very competitive pharmacy that was particularly helpful to my mother-in-law when she lived with us.

Third, Costco understands that they can not have a successful business if it is difficult driving to their location. I understand from Supervisor McKay's office Costco is committed to paying for turn lanes to mitigate traffic problems on Rt. 1 and adjoining streets.

Fourth, instead of traveling a half hour to the Newington Costco, it will only take us seven minutes

to travel there when they open off Rt 1.

Fifth, their new store will create 250 new jobs in our community. A friend, who works at the Costco at Potomac Mall, says they have competitive salaries and great benefits. Dramatically reduced commute times will also be a real benefit to those in our community who will work there.

Sixth, the best way to insure we have affordable housing in our community is to insure there are high paying jobs in our commu-

nity. Costco is a good step in that direction.

And finally, for over 40 years Fairfax County has prospered better than almost any other county in the U.S. because we understood that encouraging the growth of businesses in our communities resulted in good incomes, quality schools and services. For too long, the Rt. 1 community has forgotten this. Proposed projects have been subject to prolonged debate and even threats of opposition. By supporting Costco we say to new businesses we want their services and welcome them in our community.

Will we still have traffic problems? Yes we will. But let's focus on resolving the traffic problems, not debating and limiting our opportunity for growth and prosperity.

Thomas W. Russell
Alexandria

Fiscal Moderate?

To the Editor:

Congressman [Gerry E.] Connolly referred to himself during his 2010 re-election campaign as a "fiscal moderate." But, does that representation match his voting record on spending since taking office in 2009? You decide.

According to Mega Vote published by Congress.org., Congress

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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A Connection Newspaper



Honoring King Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club (MVKC) members Joanne and Bruce Malkin join Sacramento Neighborhood Center (SNC) staff and TeenSpace students at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 17. The center commemorated the holiday with a special leadership program and a community brunch. The MVKC is a supporter of the work of the center especially in creating a safe and healthy environment for the community's teenagers in TeenSpace. For more information on MVKC service activities in the Mount Vernon area, see www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org.

Attacking U. S. 1 Gridlock

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)



Returning from my first week in Richmond for the 2011 session of the General Assembly, I talked with several U.S. 1 business owners. With the possible opening of Costco adding 5,000 new vehicles per day, on top of the new Kings Crossing Wal-Mart, thousands of new jobs coming to Fort Belvoir and continued growth, everyone had the same question — when will U.S. 1 be widened?

The bottom line is not for a while, but [state] Sen. Toddy Puller and I are doing everything we can in Richmond to jumpstart the process.

Here is a primer. U.S. 1 is part of the National Highway System (NHS) but is maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Fairfax County's long-term plan for U.S. 1 calls for U.S. 1 to incorporate some kind of transit into its next design — either a Yellow Line Metro extension, light rail, or bus rapid transit.

Before any kind of highway design can be requested, the center of U.S. 1 or “centerline” must be established and approved by both the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA will not approve a centerline contemplating transit until a transit study has addressed the economic and engineering feasibility of the transit options contemplated by the proposed centerline to ensure that transit is not a waste of money for the particular area.

In 1994, then-Delegate Puller pushed through legislation authorizing VDOT to complete a centerline study from Alexandria to Fredericksburg. That study was completed in 2009, but it did not adopt a U.S. 1 centerline from Woodlawn to Alexandria because no one would commit the funding for the necessary transit study.

The transit study is the first step to fixing U.S. 1. After the transit study is complete, an environmental impact study must be funded and completed. Once that is completed, funding must be identified for engineering and constructing the road. VDOT has a six-year and 12-year plan for road im-

provements. U.S. 1 is currently on neither. In addition, the cost of Metro or light rail is so high that extraordinary funding sources will be necessary.

Obtaining the funding for the U.S. 1 transit study is my number one priority this session. A few weeks ago, I gave a rush hour driving tour of U.S. 1 to the new VDOT Administrator for the

Northern Virginia and a representative from Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT). Last November, I wrote to Virginia's Transportation Secretary urging support for the U.S. 1 transit study when the McDonnell Administration identified \$1 billion to spend on transportation due to policy changes they called an “audit.” Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova also asked the Governor to prioritize funding for the U.S. 1 transit study.

Senator Puller and I have also contacted the Secretary of Transportation and the Director of DRPT in the last week and requested their support for funding the study. I also spoke with Governor McDonnell on the first day of the session and he assured me that he especially understood the need given his familiarity with Mount Vernon and he promised to look into it. I also spent 30 minutes with the Governor's Economic Development Team this past Monday. Senator Puller has introduced a new study resolution I cosponsored and we are both sponsoring budget amendments to allocate the funding to achieve it. Though the budget is tight, funds may be available.

Please complete my 2011 survey at www.scottsurovell.org/survey, and visit my blog, The Dixie Pig, at scottsurovell.blogspot.com, for more frequent updates. You can also comment on legislation, set up a meeting or request a Capitol tour at www.scottsurovell.org.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m., Senator Puller and I will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306 to hear your views, suggestions and questions. I hope to see you there.

Good government requires your involvement so please be in touch so I can best represent you in the General Assembly. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.



At the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, on Dec 20, 2010, Benita Wilson is with the children she cared for as infants. (Top row): Benita Wilson with (bottom row, from left:) Lara Miller, 8, Courtney Smith, 7, Dana Wendy, 8, Abby Smith, 9, and Simon Miller, 11.

An Inspiring Trip to India

To the Editor:

I am writing to share a great story about a Mt. Vernon resident who made a promise years ago to some children that came to fruition this past December. Benita Wilson runs a daycare from her home near Mt. Vernon High School. I met her eight years ago when I placed my 4-month-old daughter in her care. Over the years, we became great friends and my daughter and some of the other little girls at Benita's daycare grew to love all of her colorful sari's and Indian delicacies she'd cook up from time to time. Benita couldn't believe they liked her spicy food and would say, “One day I am going to take you to India and show you my country!”

Time passed, my daughter went on to elementary school, along with the other children she'd grown up with at Benita's, but her promise was always in the back of my mind. Our families remained close and one day over dinner last January, I asked her, “Are you still serious about taking the girls to India?” At which she gave an emphatic, “Of course!” So, on Dec. 16, 2010, three

families boarded a plane to India with Benita leading the way. I could see the children soaking up the Indian culture like sponges. They rode elephants up to mighty forts and ascended dunes in the desert atop friendly camels.

When Christmas came, it didn't matter that there wasn't a pile of presents waiting for them. They were just eager to go out and explore a new land and find adventure within it. They grew accustomed to hearing the Muslim call to prayer through the city minarets and enjoyed learning about all the Hindu deities and visiting some of their ornate temples. They delighted in the fact that many Indians wanted them in their pictures. What better way to inspire diplomacy than to live it yourself. Now, when my daughter greets a friend, she brings her hands together, bends and simply says, “Namaste,” the customary Indian greeting. It was a trip of a lifetime and one in which the children will most surely never forget.

Carla Wendy
Alexandria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

man Connolly voted for the following trillions of dollars in spending and voted to increase the debt limit to \$14.1 trillion and increase of about \$3 trillion since taking office in 2009. Following are some of his votes:

- ❖ \$787 billion stimulus bill
- ❖ \$410 billion FY 2009 government budget
- ❖ \$3.5 trillion FY 2010 government budget

- ❖ \$234 billion Medicare physician payment reform
 - ❖ \$446.8 billion FY 2010 omnibus appropriation bill
 - ❖ \$48 billion science project
 - ❖ \$1.9 trillion for continuing resolution to fund the government
 - ❖ Extend tax cuts for two years and unemployment benefits for 13 months (no estimate)
 - ❖ 5 percent reduction in congressional expenses (no estimate provided).
- You can get details about these spending

and other measures by going to the web page Congress.org.

I encourage you to sign up to receive the Mega Votes that provide votes on key issues by your congressman and U.S. senators. Mega Votes are issued by congressional district.

You can follow your congressman's and U.S. senators' voting record without hardly any effort and make informed comments to them as you desire.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Digging into Dog Area

To the Editor:

In my letter last week, I explained that all Westgrove PACK seeks is for the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to pass a resolution as authorized by Fairfax Code Section 41.1-2-4 that would permit dog owners, on an interim basis, to exercise their dogs off-leash at

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

Virginia's ABC System Doesn't Need To Be 'Fixed'

BY LINDA T. "TODDY"
PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



As the 2011 General Assembly begins to examine Gov. Bob McDonnell's latest proposal to privatize Virginia's Alcoholic Beverage Control operation, it's worth remembering that JLARC, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, found that the Governor's first plan on the subject was undermined by faulty arithmetic and unrealistic assumptions. I believe that we as lawmakers have a responsibility to ensure that this latest plan receives serious scrutiny.

The architecture of the latest ABC privatization plan is based on a report from the consulting firm the Governor hired: Public Financial Management, Inc. (PFM), a company with deep experience working with the Commonwealth.

And I must give some credit to PFM for being straightforward when it points out that the new ABC privatization plan is, indeed, based on numerous assumptions. (In fact, the words "assumption" and "assumed" appear no fewer than a dozen times in just the Executive Summary of PFM's report of January 10, 2011.)

Addressing the Administration's prediction that the auction of 1,000 new retail liquor licenses to private interests would generate \$300 million, PFM notes, "there is significant risk associated with this estimate, which we believe to be in the range of \$100 million high or low."

And, regarding the Administration's prediction that there would be no significant change in retail prices for consumers of spirits in Virginia, PFM reports, "there are an infinite number of possible price variations that could result from privatization. On any given day, in any given store, on any given

item, the price could be significantly higher or lower than it is today."

Here's my point: even the consultants hired by the McDonnell Administration essentially agree that privatizing Virginia's successful and very profitable ABC system is a gamble.

ABC has worked well for Virginians for nearly 80 years. The system makes a wide variety of products available in clean, reasonably-located and safe stores statewide.

The operation is transparent and free of the corruption that has plagued other states.

And ABC has been profitable. In good times and bad, ABC generates badly-needed revenue for critical state services, including public education, law enforcement and mental health.

In an uncertain economy and with budgets still under great stress, why would we want to risk a fruitful and effective operation?

Virginia's decision to get into the business of controlling and selling spirits was no ac-

cident. After Prohibition, the General Assembly carefully and deliberately created an ABC system that helps to fund vital public services and safeguards Virginia's quality of life, and those are "core functions" of state government.

The ABC has won numerous awards and is completely self-supporting. If ABC privatization occurs, many State employees working there will lose their jobs. The State would have to compensate displaced employees for severance and unemployment benefits, estimated to cost about \$36 million.

As the old adage puts it so well, when something's not broken, it doesn't need to be fixed. Virginia's ABC is not broken and doesn't need to be fixed.

Puller is chair of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services. Gov. Robert McDonnell's bill on ABC Privatization is to come before this committee in the Virginia Senate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

Westgrove Park without fear of being arrested or ticketed by County Animal Control officers. In my letter, I distinguished an Off-Leash Dog Park (OLDP) in which a master planning process has been undertaken from an Off-Leash Dog Area (OLDA) which may simply be created by a resolution of the FCPA under Section 41.1-2-4.

I'm aware of a conversation the MVCCA's Environment & Recreation (E&R) committee chairman had with a senior staff person at the FCPA in which several issues pertinent to the OLDA proposal were discussed. After conducting some research, I spoke with the very same FCPA staff person on Jan. 14. During the conversation, she agreed that several points must be further examined which may advance the question of whether an OLDA could be established at Westgrove Park as an interim use. In this regard, I note the following:

1. The E&R Chair reported that the FCPA staff person said an OLDP is the same thing as an OLDA. During my conversation, the staff person said she was previously unaware of Section 41.1-2-4 and asked me to send it to her (which I did). She indicated that there appeared to be no impediment to the FCPA Board passing a resolution pursuant to Section 41.1-2-4 and that, in fact, while the master planning process is preferred by the FCPA, it is not mandatory.

2. The E&R Chair reported that the FCPA staff person described use of 4" of "stone dust" as "required." In a brief search of the County website, I found an example of a dog park using grass as the ground surface. See: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gmp/masongmpframe.htm> for the Mason District Park. At that link, I refer to section VC. which says "The preferred ground cover for Off-Leash Dog Areas is grass (turf)." I brought this example to the attention of the staff person and she indicated the FCPA is concerned that grass will be worn out and

damaged by dogs at Westgrove Park. I explained that dogs have been exercised there for several years with no visible damage. I suggested that perhaps the FCPA could establish the OLDA on an interim basis using the existing grass and monitor it for grass wear. She suggested that once the new Mount Vernon FCPA representative is in place, Westgrove PACK should request such a solution.

3. The E&R Chair reported that the staff person had said interim uses "are not routinely granted" and that she was only aware of two such examples, a radio-controlled airplane park in Sully District and the bus parking one in Dranesville. I searched the County website and quickly found 11 examples of interim use agreements. I brought this to the attention of the staff person and she quickly acknowledged that FCPA routinely enters into interim agreements for recreational use of County school properties. Some but not all of the examples I found fit this category. My point was confirmed - the FCPA routinely employs interim agreements in fulfilling its mission on behalf of taxpayers. It can also do so regarding the OLDA proposal at Westgrove Park. I sent the staff person the links I found.

4. Concerning locating an OLDA in land that includes a Resource Protection Area (RPA), the E&R Chair reported that the staff person indicated FCPA guidelines "prohibit dog parks in the RPAs because the C-Bay ordinance allows only passive recreational uses in the RPA" and dog parks are active uses. The 22 acre Westgrove Park property does include an RPA but it is located only on two edges of the area used by Westgrove PACK members to exercise their dogs. FCPA already allows dogs in Westgrove Park on-leash and if the RPA raises an issue concerning off-leash activities, it can easily be solved through use of signage and perhaps fences to eliminate any RPA impact.

The E&R chair maintains that she has not

SEE LETTER, PAGE 11

Priorities for 2011

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



As we turn the page for the New Year, Fairfax County continues to face significant challenges. Our economy is on a slow road to recovery from the worst recession in decades. Residential and commercial property values are still too low, close to a thousand homeowners in Fairfax are still struggling with foreclosures and nearly 30,000 of our residents are unable to find work.

Despite these challenges, Fairfax County continues to be an exceptional place to live, work and play. We have taken advantage of some of the opportunities the economic downturn has presented. With the cost of construction at a record low, we have been able to realize long-term savings in our capital program for parks and schools. We have also made organizational changes and found efficiencies that have lowered the cost of providing services while keeping taxes affordable.

Work has begun on the County's budget for Fiscal Year 2012. As the effects of the Great Recession linger, we estimate a projected shortfall in our \$3.3 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 of about \$50 million. Giving employees raises "as usual" would increase this shortfall by \$107 million — \$33 million for County workers and \$74 million for School employees.

When our Board adopts the budget in April, we will be investing in our community's priorities. The budget we

adopt must be balanced and cannot include a deficit. As in past years, it is critical to have the community at the table with us as we consider funding decisions and I look forward to working with my colleagues and constituents through another community engagement process.

A number of things will happen in Fairfax County during 2011 in addition to adopting the budget — some Supervisor districts will change, 13,000 Defense employees will move to Ft. Belvoir, and state and local elections will take place.

In addition to these items, I will be working toward achieving several goals for the year ahead. These goals deal with growth and redevelopment, energy efficiency, and sustainability, economic development, and transportation.

Fairfax County's future is in redevelopment. As Fairfax County continues to grow, it is important that we get it right by encouraging growth where it can be supported by mass transit in compact, walkable mixed use developments. This will allow growth to happen in a way that protects the environment, our older stable neighborhoods and offers another life style choice that is desirable for our residents through all chapters of life.

Our vision for transforming Tysons is a model for future smart growth in Fairfax County. Look for development to advance during the next year (as a result of Comprehensive Plan changes in Tysons, Merrifield, Springfield and other

SEE PRIORITIES, PAGE 11



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LETTERS

**Get Involved
In School Budget**

To the Editor:

Recently, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale presented the School Board with his proposal for next year's budget. The proposed \$2.2 billion budget outlines programs and services for our growing and increasingly diverse student population. It also includes funds to give eligible employees a step increase and a market scale adjustment after two years without any increase in compensation.

Our population will grow by a projected 2,120 students next year. We project that in 2012, one in four students will be eligible for free and reduced-price meals, a federal indicator of poverty — making that the fastest growing segment of our population. We expect to see a 15 percent increase in the number of students whose first language is not English. There will be increased costs to comply with the mandated online testing requirement for all students taking the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.

We cannot meet the needs of our staff and students without ad-

equate resources. That is why Superintendent Dale has included in his proposal a request to the Board of Supervisors for an increase of 3 percent, or \$48.8 million, in the transfer of funds over the FY 2011 level. This reflects a realistic set of needs.

Difficult times require difficult choices. The Fairfax County School Board has shown great fiscal responsibility during tough economic times. In the past three years (FY 2009-FY2011), FCPS took reductions and cost avoidances totaling more than \$465 million and eliminated more than 1,400 positions.

It is time now to compensate our employees for their outstanding work that has kept FCPS a leader in student achievement. Additionally, our starting teacher salaries have declined over the last two years and we need to bring those salaries up so we can continue to attract the most qualified teachers to our classrooms and remain competitive with neighboring jurisdictions.

Now the School Board needs to hear from you as we consider the superintendent's proposal over the next few weeks, then move to adopt the advertised budget on Feb. 3. Here's what you can do to

get involved. First, learn more about the budget by visiting www.fcps.edu where you'll find extensive details on all aspects of the budget and the process. Second, sign up to speak at our public hearing on Jan. 24-25. Third, attend the School Board's Budget Forum to be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Falls Church High School.

We are a successful school system, and our success draws business to the area, making a major contribution to the economic engine of the community. Public education in Fairfax County is a source of pride and honor and should remain that way. We need the continued support and involvement of citizens to ensure that it does.

Kathy Smith, Chairman,
Fairfax County School Board

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

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Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)
Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
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- ST. ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...703-751-4666
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- WASHINGTON FARM UNITED METHODIST...703-780-4696
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OPINION

Priorities

FROM PAGE 8

redeveloping parts of the county) that will contribute to that vision.

In 2011, I will make encouraging innovation and collaboration for energy that is clean, efficient, sustainable, secure and reliable a priority. Energy efficiency is critical for industry to remain competitive in Fairfax County. It is also the right thing to do. In November I began plans for a Private Sector Energy Task Force that will work with our county staff and my office to identify strategies to realize progress toward meeting our energy goals.

In addition to clean energy, I will be working with our corporate neighbors in identifying and fostering the emergence of new industry sectors, such as personalized medicine and tourism. Together with our business community we can build a new economy in Fairfax County, and emerge from the Great Recession stronger than ever.

And lastly, improving mobility in Fairfax County that incorporates multi-modal options for our workers and residents will be a top priority for 2011. We must continue to plan for and invest in pedestrian and bike routes, light rail, Metro, and the VRE, and ensure they connect to offer efficient mobility options.

Fairfax County offers a great quality of life. The most important ingredient in making that happen is the positive engagement of our community. I extend my warmest wishes for the year ahead as we work together to realize its promise.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 8

yet taken a position one way or the other concerning Westgrove PACK's OLDA proposal. In this regard, I note that she has openly asked numerous pointed questions of Westgrove Park OLDA supporters. However, I wonder how many questions she has asked of OLDA opponents, what those questions were and what the responses were. It would be helpful to know.

The OLDA proposal of Westgrove PACK is reasonable and environmentally friendly. It will create a needed asset in our community. The FCPA should enact an appropriate resolution creating an interim OLDA at Westgrove Park as soon as possible.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



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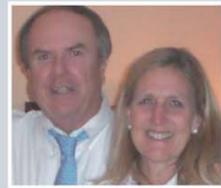
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4117 Robertson Blvd
\$719,000
Upgraded Throughout!
Owner just spent thousands on upgrades. All the work has been done for you. Move right in and enjoy! Classic colonial with 2 car side load garage. Elegant foyer, formal din rm w/built-ins, fam rm off kit leading to deck. Table space kit features stoneware counters. Lower level boasts rec. room, den, full bath & storage. Two FPs, 4BR, 3.5BA. Huge lot with mature trees and gardens. OPEN SUN 1/16, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson.



3805 Riverwood Rd
\$599,900
Super Value!
Remarkable Riverwood value! Rock bottom price on large home in premiere waterfront neighborhood where properties sell for significantly higher prices. Spacious home features 3 finished levels, large room sizes, 4BRs, 2 car side load garage, 3 masonry fireplaces, large exterior deck and more! Price reflects need for some updating. Unique opportunity to enter prestigious community at bargain price!



Just Completed!
8826 Camden St \$879,900
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! OPEN SUN 1/23 1-4. GW Pkwy S, R-Stratford Ln, L-Camden



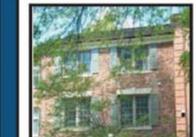
1116 ANESBURY LN
Collingwood / Alex
\$769,900
Awesome renovated & expanded 4BR/3BA home w/ oversized garage! Over \$400K in recent improvements designed by a leading area architect. Just blocks to Waynewood Elementary & GW Parkway jogging / bike trail! Minutes to Ft Belvoir, Old Town & DC!

Brad Kintz 703.519.6644



1250 S WASHINGTON ST
Porto Vecchio / Alex
\$1,199,000
SELDOM AVAILABLE 3BR WATERFRONT PENTHOUSE! Night lights are spectacular in this smashing 3BR PH! Stunning river & National Harbor vistas from ALL main rooms, almost 2,500 sf includes solarium, FP, high ceilings, Kit & more. BA recently remodeled. Extra storage & 2 garage spaces.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630



1807 S 24th ST
Arlington
\$734,00
Newer property with "Old Virginia" charm features 3,200 sq ft of gorgeous townhome in an excellent location just minutes to DC, Crystal City, Pentagon & the National Airport. Highlights include 4BR/3.5BA, hardwood floors, an elevator, marble foyer & much more!

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



7406 Rippon Rd
\$759,900
Mason Hill—Stunner!
No Stairs— This spectacular home offer luxurious living on one level! Rare, large rambler with 2836 sq ft. Custom home features exceptionally bright, open floorplan and large room sizes. Other features include: high ceilings, updated kitchen, 4BRs including private master suite overlooking wooded grounds. Oversized garage. Expansive glass walls and back patio on 2/3 acre grounds. A truly unique property. OPEN SUN 1/23, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, R-Morningside, R-Fort Hunt, L-Mason Hill, L-Rippon.



9316 Allwood Dr
\$489,500
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.



4408 Tarpon Ln
\$625,000
Yacht Haven-Near River!
Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.



2708 FARNSWORTH DR
Jefferson Manor/Alex
\$375,000
JUST LISTED 2BR/2BA Charming Duplex just 2 blocks to Huntington Metro. Updated kit & baths, new appliances, wood floors, finished lower level, sep Dining room. Leave the car at home & take Metro everywhere! Enjoy Duplex living for a condo price — no HOA fees or Condo dues! Off-street parking.

Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
6613 10th ST #B-2
Belle View / Alex
\$243,000
PERFECT NEIGHBORHOOD for living "green" & close to nature while staying close to work, Metro & shopping. Spacious 2nd fl condo is tucked into corner of tree-filled city. Beautifully updated w/hdwd flrs thru-out, built-in storage & lovely kit & BA details.

Call for more information:
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264



6733 W WAKEFIELD DR
#A-2 / Belle View
\$239,000
FABULOUS FIRST FLOOR CONDO - best location & quiet courtyard. Large 2BR, w/laundry & storage in building. Updated kit w/ extra cabinets & dishwasher. Updated bath. Dramatic DR. Wood flrs thru-out. Upgraded lighting & hardware. Mins to shops, Metro, Bway & GW Parkway.

Ellen Young 703.518.8769



4504 Neptune Dr
\$479,900
Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates
Great Potential! Large brick rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot near river in Yacht Haven Est. Many features include: maintenance free exterior. 4BRs on main level, including master with private bath, large room sizes, 2 FPs, hardwood floors, huge lower level family room w/fireplace plus storage area! Exceptional price provides opportunity to create your own masterpiece!



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!



7106 Colgate Dr
\$499,500
Hollin Glen-Super Value!
WOW!!! MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! OWNER WANTS IMMEDIATE SALE. Owners have priced to sell immediately! Spacious home in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many special features include: updated kitchen, 4 large BRs, 3BAs, hardwood floors, fin LL, 2 fireplaces, fenced in rear yard with two level deck. Move fast nothing like it at this price in prime 'close-in' market!



PRICE REDUCED!
4161 LEGATO RD
Fairfax / \$624,900
Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA town-home in Centerpointe. With 4 finished levels, this home features an open gourmet kit, master suite, two gas fireplaces, finished loft w/full bath, rooftop terrace, two-car garage and more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



1900 COURTLAND RD
Mt Vernon / Alex
\$549,900
MOVE IN ASAP to this move-in condition home in sought after Hollindale. Updated kit w/granite counter, w/wood floors, new high efficiency Carrier HVAC. Beautifully finished Hardwood. Screened porch. 2-car garage. 3BR/3 full BA. Waynewood ES.

Ruth Gulrard 703.609.3343



5904 MT EAGLE DR
#906
Montebello
\$375,000
Dramatic views from every window in this 2BR, 2BA condo! Highlights: hardwoods, renovated baths, updated kitchen, enclosed glass balcony, great building amenities & more! 1 garage space conveys.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



SOLD!
6515 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.



SOLD!
8531 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$475,000
Huge House- Little Price!
Spacious 5 bedroom home in pristine condition! Many new features include large room sizes, recently remodeled baths, kitchen w/cherry cabs and corian counters, fresh paint, new carpet, new windows and siding, 2 car garage, patio and more! Deck overlooking beautiful backyard.



9110 Congressional Ct
\$725,000
Mt. Vernon's Finest!
One of Mt. Vernon area's most imposing homes. Stately columned front and exceptionally large lot with custom pool creates true 'estate' feel to this special property. Features include: large room sizes, 3 finished levels, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 3.5 baths, masonry fireplace and large garage. Gorgeous setting on fenced lot in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac just off parkway.



PRICE REDUCED!
2302 VICTORY DR
Huntington / Alex
\$276,900
1 blk to METRO RAIL! Enjoy the convenience of this well cared for 3-1/2 duplex - 2BR, 2BA - hdwds on 2 lvl - completely redone kit - bright LL. Nice deck & sizeable backyard. Many updates - Don't delay!

**Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Julia Lutz 703.795.0789**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
1911 JAMESTOWN RD
Alex / \$450,000
This home is ready for you! 3BR, 1BA in Hollin Hall Village. Beautifully finished hardwood, wood fireplace, fenced backyard. Unfinished basement plumbed for bath - and too many more upgrades to list!
www.susanmovesyou.com

Susan Houghton / Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



5306 CHIEFTAIN CIR
Alexandria 22312
\$439,900
LOCATION—LOCATION! Super convenient to both DC & Ft Belvoir * Townhouse w/2-3BR/ 2.5BA & a garage * Shows beautifully * Bathed in light * Open style kitchen w/ access to deck * Luxury master bath * Den w/fireplace * Great closet space * Community pool. For an appointment please call ...

Annellse Smith 703.505.2533

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Alex South/Stratford Landing \$559,900



Beautiful split level! Freshly painted and wood floors refinished. Four spacious bedrooms, extra-large master suite with walk-in closet, full bath and sliding glass doors to private deck. Gorgeous level back yard which can be enjoyed while sitting on the huge brick patio. Conveniently located near the G.W. Parkway. *Dir.: G.W. Pkwy. S, R Stratford La., L Camden St., R Wittington Blvd., L Yardley Dr. to 8705.*



703-360-6300

Tom Pleimling

www.talk2tom.com

HOME SALES

In December 2010, 156 homes sold between \$2,500,000-\$55,000 in the Mount Vernon area.

This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,500,000-\$370,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

| Address | BR | FB | HB | Postal | City .. | Sold Price .. | Type | Lot | AC | Subdivision |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|--------|------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| 6202 FORT HUNT RD | 4 | 3 | 2 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$2,500,000 | Detached | 1.40 | ..... | BELLE HAVEN |
| 8733AND 8737 PLYMOUTH RD ... | 6 | 4 | 2 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$1,600,000 | Detached | 0.96 | ..... | PLYMOUTH HAVEN |
| 2210 WINDSOR RD | 5 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$1,497,125 | Detached | 0.28 | ..... | BELLE HAVEN |
| 9056 TOWER HOUSE PL | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$1,050,000 | Detached | 0.29 | ... | RIVERVIEW AT MOUNT VERNON |
| 8059 FAIRFAX RD | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$995,860 | Detached | 0.16 | ..... | HOLLIN HALL |
| 9493 LYNNHALL PL | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$935,000 | Detached | 0.38 | ..... | OXFORD |
| 6202 HILL VALE PL | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$820,000 | Detached | 0.24 | ..... | BELLE HAVEN |
| 3618 OLD VERNON CT | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$810,000 | Detached | 0.48 | ..... | PETTITS LANDING |
| 7115 COLGATE DR | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$689,500 | Detached | 0.25 | ..... | HOLLIN GLEN |
| 8719 HIGHGATE RD | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$680,000 | Detached | 0.46 | ..... | STRATFORD LANDING |
| 1900 SWORD LN | 4 | 2 | 2 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$652,500 | Detached | 0.21 | ... | STRATFORD ON THE POTOMAC |
| 7118 DEVONSHIRE RD | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$645,000 | Detached | 0.48 | ..... | WHITE OAKS |
| 9335 BRAMBLY LN | 3 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$643,000 | Detached | 0.80 | ..... | MT VERNON GROVE |
| 1808 HACKAMORE LN | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$620,000 | Detached | 0.24 | ..... | RIVERSIDE GARDENS |
| 8710 CAMDEN ST | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$595,000 | Detached | 0.27 | ..... | STRATFORD LANDING |
| 6311 OLDE TOWNE CT | 3 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$555,000 | Townhouse | 0.08 | ..... | OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE |
| 8704 WATERFORD RD | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$555,000 | Detached | 0.24 | ..... | STRATFORD LANDING |
| 7705 ELBA RD | 4 | 2 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$545,000 | Detached | 0.33 | ..... | HOLLIN HILLS |
| 4003 SULGRAVE DR | 3 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$530,000 | Detached | 0.72 | ..... | SULGRAVE MANOR |
| 1904 SWORD LN | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$520,000 | Detached | 0.20 | ... | STRATFORD ON THE POTOMAC |
| 8709 GATESHEAD RD | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$520,000 | Detached | 0.35 | ..... | MT VERNON MANOR |
| 2081 HARDBOWER WAY | 3 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$499,990 | Townhouse | 0.03 | ..... | HUNTINGTON RESERVE |
| 3427 RAMSGATE TER | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$485,000 | Detached | 0.27 | ..... | RIVERSIDE TERRACE |
| 8232 CENTRAL AVE | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$470,000 | Detached | 0.09 | ..... | VERNON HEIGHTS |
| 5117 POLE RD | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$470,000 | Detached | 0.50 | ..... | WOODLAWN ACRES |
| 4102 SULGRAVE DR | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$469,000 | Detached | 0.50 | ..... | SULGRAVE MANOR |
| 2608 CULPEPER RD | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$459,000 | Detached | 0.67 | ..... | STRATFORD LANDING |
| 2403 SHERWOOD HALL LN | 5 | 2 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$450,000 | Detached | 0.29 | ..... | SHERWOOD FOREST |
| 5901 MOUNT EAGLE DR #1108 ... | 3 | 2 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$445,000 | Hi-Rise 9+ Floors | ..... | ..... | MONTEBELLO |
| 8827 CAMFIELD DR | 4 | 2 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$445,000 | Detached | 0.28 | ..... | POTOMAC VALLEY |
| 7908 BAYBERRY DR | 3 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$439,000 | Detached | 0.24 | ..... | SHERWOOD HALL |
| 3305 BATTERSEA LN | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$432,000 | Detached | 0.34 | ..... | RIVERSIDE ESTATES |
| 7024 COVENTRY RD | 3 | 2 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$430,000 | Detached | 0.39 | ..... | WHITE OAKS |
| 3744 MARY EVELYN WAY | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$420,000 | Townhouse | 0.06 | ..... | VERNON HEIGHTS |
| 8015 BAINBRIDGE RD | 3 | 1 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$410,000 | Detached | 0.26 | ..... | HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE |
| 3748 MARY EVELYN WAY | 5 | 4 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$410,000 | Townhouse | 0.05 | ..... | VERNON HEIGHTS |
| 5836 BERKSHIRE CT | 3 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$407,000 | Townhouse | 0.08 | ..... | BERKSHIRE EAST |
| 5948 BERKSHIRE CT | 3 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$400,000 | Townhouse | 0.04 | ..... | BERKSHIRE EAST |
| 4515 LANTERN PL | 5 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$395,000 | Detached | 0.28 | ..... | STONEBROOKE |
| 3734 MARY EVELYN WAY | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$394,500 | Townhouse | 0.05 | ..... | VERNON HEIGHTS |
| 3408 BLUE MALLARD LNDG ... | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$392,500 | Townhouse | 0.03 | ... | GROVE AT HUNTER MEADOWS |
| 2824 FRANKLIN ST | 4 | 3 | 0 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$390,000 | Detached | 0.59 | ..... | FAIRVIEW |
| 3311 BEECHCLIFF DR | 3 | 2 | 2 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$389,900 | Townhouse | 0.06 | ..... | HOLLY ACRES |
| 2783 CARTER FARM CT | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | ALEXANDRIA | \$388,000 | Townhouse | 0.06 | ... | HUNTINGTON AT MT VERNON |
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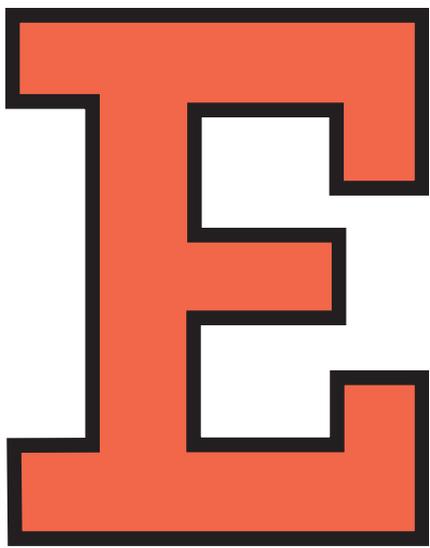
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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Restaurant Week Is January 21-30

Alexandria Restaurant Week is back, Jan. 21-30. More than 60 restaurants throughout the city will feature a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. Fine dining establishments and casual neighborhood favorites are offering special menus to tempt the palate and please the pocketbook with offers available exclusively during this twice-a-year event. Restaurant Week menus and online reservations are available now on VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

During this winter event diners can indulge in some of the latest food trends. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients are central to the menus of Bastille in Old Town and Food Matters in the Cameron Station neighborhood. The handcrafted, artisanal experience of Cheesetique in Del Ray and Grape + Bean in Old Town keeps regulars coming back for more. Alexandria's new gourmet pizza scene is piping hot during Restaurant Week with menus from Pizzeria Paradiso, RedRocks Pizza Napoletana, Pizzeria Venti, and Pizzaiolo Cafe & Bar.

Unique menus and offers include Pizzeria Paradiso's special winter-inspired pizza with roasted duck and aged Dutch Gouda paired with two hand-selected seasonal draft beers. Tempo is offering a bottle of house wine for only \$10 with the purchase of two meals from the Restaurant Week menu. Geranio's menu includes four courses for \$35, while La Tasca's \$35 per person deal includes unlimited tapas and choice of one dessert per guest. A \$35 Old Town food tour is offered by the Alexandria-based DC Metro Food Tours, which includes a three-course progressive meal at two favorite restaurants and a historic walking tour of Old Town.

Food lovers can feast their eyes on a participants at VisitAlexandriaVA.com. The list includes OpenTable Diner's Choice Winners La Bergerie, A la Lucia, Delia's Mediterranean Grill & Brick Oven Pizza, Warehouse Bar & Grill, and The Wharf, while Hank's Oyster Bar, Columbia Firehouse, and Sam Phao Thai enjoy popular ratings on Yelp.com.

3 Local Theaters Draw 38 Nods

Nine shows vie for Washington Area Theatre Community Honors.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Nominations for the annual Washington Area Theatre Community Honors, known as the WATCH awards, were announced Sunday evening at the Birchmere in Alexandria. Thirty-one community theater companies in Virginia, Washington and Maryland participate in the program, and work at 24 of them was nominated this year. This included work at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, the Arlington Players and Dominion Stage with a total of 38 nominations for work on nine shows, five of which were musicals.

Leading the list with 16 nominations for work in three shows was the Little Theatre of Alexandria where the musical "Chicago" drew 10 nominations including outstanding musical, direction of a musical (Susan Devine), music direction (Paul Nasto), choreography (Amy Carson), and properties design (Betty Dolan and Leslie Reed). Husband and wife team Ken and Patti Crowley drew one of their three nominations for outstanding light design for "Chicago." They were also nominated for the play "Play It Again, Sam" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria and "Frankenstein" at the Prince William Little Theatre.

The cast of "Chicago" was honored with four nominations. Andy Izquierdo drew one of his two nominations as outstanding lead actor in a musical as sleazy defense lawyer Billy Flynn. Both of "Chicago's" two "scintillating sinners," Bethany Blakey and Jordan Hougham, were nominated for outstanding lead actress in a musical, and John Keeling was nominated for featured actor in a musical for his work as the always ignored Amos Hart.

Also nominated for work at LTA were Kathy Dodson and Chris Macey for costume design and Paul Morton for hair design for "Lady Windermere's Fan," and Phillip Campbell and Patty Greksouk for properties, Russell Wyland for set decoration and Buffy Mechling for set painting, all for the play "Nude With Violin."

Two Arlington Companies had work on a total of five shows recognized with some 22 nominations between them. The Arlington Players' musicals "The Producers," with eight nominations, and "Cabaret,"



Andy Izquierdo, as "Billy Flynn" in the Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Chicago," one of two roles that earned him nominations for the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical award in this year's round of Washington Area Theatre Community Honors.

with six, had multiple design nominations, and "The Producers" is in the running for outstanding musical. Andy Izquierdo will be competing with himself as he was nominated in the same category, outstanding lead actor in a musical, for both "Cabaret" at the Arlington Players and for "Chicago" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Other "Cabaret" nominees included choreographer Jeremy A. McShan, sound designer Keith Bell, set designer Dave Means, set construction chief Amanda Acker and hair designer J. Arthur Rodger. "The Producers" drew an outstanding featured actress nomination for Anne Marie Pinto who played the seductive secretary Ulla, and Mark Hidalgo was nominated for his cameo the Lead Stormtrooper. Other nominations for "The Producers" went to choreographer John Monnett, costume designer Barbara Esquibel, makeup designer Xandra Weaver, set painter Jared Davis and the construction

crew of Peter Finkel and Bill Wisniewski.

Michael Kharfen was nominated for the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play award for his starring role as the composer Antonio Salieri who was driven mad by the genius of Mozart in the Arlington Players' "Amadeus."

Two of Dominion Stage's musicals this year had seven nominations between them. Jeffrey S. Auerbach was nominated for his lighting designs for both "Altar Boyz" and "Reefer Madness" and, in partnership with David Moretti, for outstanding special effects for the later. Tom Flatt, who was frankly hysterical as The Lecturer in "Reefer Madness," was nominated as lead actor in a musical and nominations also went to choreographer Catherine Oh, costume designer Jacquin Pierce Allen and set painter Jared Davis, who was also nominated for his painting for The Arlington Players "The Producers."

The winners will be announced at a gala banquet on March 6 at the Birchmere.

Old Town Boutique Clearance Sale Is Feb. 5

The region's most anticipated bargain shopping event is coming back to Alexandria on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Fine boutiques from Virginia and Washington will come together under one roof for their annual, one-day clearance sale.

"This is a once-a-year chance to find great boutique fashions, jewelry, and home goods at prices up to 70 percent off retail," said sale organizer Elizabeth Todd.

The annual event started in 2005 and has attracted a large and loyal following to the George Washington Masonic Memorial's

banquet hall near the King Street Metro Station.

"We have people who drive from far away every year just for this sale," said Todd, whose women's shoe and accessories store, The Shoe Hive, is one of the annual participants along with Treat, Red Barn Mercantile, Apple Seed Maternity & Baby, Hysteria, and Periwinkle.

More recent additions to the sale include La Cuisine, a purveyor of kitchen accessories, upscale consigner Diva, children's clothier Pink & Brown, and children's linen boutique Finnian's Moon.

Jewelry and accessories will be popular

items at this year's sale, with sellers including Fornash, Top It Off, Queen Bee Designs, Lawrence Miller & Company, Stanton Gallery, and Andrea Ambrosia.

The sale opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m., although eager shoppers have been known to line up long before the doors open. The location at the Masonic Memorial affords quantities of both inside waiting area and on-site parking. It's accessible by Metro's Blue and Yellow lines — on Callahan Street across from Alexandria's Union Station.

For more information on the sale, log onto OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com.

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THEATER

A Spirited ‘Oliver’ Opens At the Little Theatre

Adults Baker and Rohm sparkle along with youngsters.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
 THE GAZETTE

Every good production of Lionel Bart’s musical version of Dickens’ “Oliver Twist” amazes once again as a series of light-hearted, high-spirited English music-hall style songs make a bright and even frothy evening out of a tale of murder, child abuse, theft and the mistreatment of orphan children. The Little Theatre of Alexandria has just opened a very good production and once again, audiences are leaving the theater with a smile on their faces and lively tunes on their lips after the misogynist Bill Sykes has killed the lovely Nancy causing the pick-pocket king Fagan to retire from his life-long practice of exploiting orphans in the slums of London. Go figure!

Of course, it helps that the role of Fagan, that felon with a heart of gold to match his love of gems and precious

metals, is in the capable hands of Mike Baker, Jr. who seems at every moment to be having the time of his life playing comic bits with his one-dozen young followers and singing out “(You’ve Got To) Pick A Pocket or Two,” “Be Back Soon” and that classic comic routine “Reviewing the Situation.”

The co-starring adult role, that of the barmaid unfortunately in love with a murderous thug, is played nicely and sung gloriously by Maureen Rohm in her first Little Theatre musical. While she helps contribute to the music-hall gayety in the second act opener “Oom-Pah-Pah,” it is the two times she takes the show away from frivolity to deliver the torch song “As Long As He Needs Me” that impress the most. The first time she belts out the song, sitting alone in a circle of light provided by designers Ken and Patti Crowley, is a highlight. The second time, a reprise sung standing against the proscenium in a tighter spotlight, is even more affecting.

Sixth-grader James Woods is both cute and charming in the title role of the penniless young orphan who turns out to be the scion of a wealthy family after all, and seventh-grader Ben Cherington ads zip in his move-

ments as the older member of Fagan’s gang, living up to his character’s moniker “The Artful Dodger.”

Some of the smaller supporting roles get notable performances. Will Monahan is particularly good as the elderly gentleman who turns out to be Oliver’s grandfather. Jeffrey Clarke and Mary Ayala-Bush throw themselves into the high comedy roles of the operators of the orphanage and Paul Caffrey presents an evil presence as the murderous Bill Sykes.

Director Roland Branford Gomez has assembled a cast of no fewer than 19 adults and 14 youngsters (from age about 7 to mid-teens) and then given each all the direction needed so that every one of them knows exactly what they are expected to do each moment they are on stage. This is often a failing of large community

theater productions, which are marred by moments of distraction as one or more cast member stands obviously self conscious on the stage waiting awkwardly for his or her next cue. No such distractions interrupt the

concentration on the story and songs in this show.

What is more, Gomez directs each scene with a zip that is often missing from community theatre musicals. He keeps the focus on the unfolding story while matching the spoken scenes to the pace of the songs so that there is a flow that isn’t even interrupted by the multiple location changes required by Bart’s 12 scene script. Part of the credit for that must go to set designers Erin Cumbo and John Downing.

Music Director Mark V. Deal gets each cast member to sing out with gusto even when they lack the ability to hit each note on key. There’s such a feeling of commitment in each solo and such power in the ensemble numbers that all of the songs — from the opening “Food Glorious Food” to the finale’s reprise of “Consider Yourself (One of Us)” fill the hall and carry the audience along. A well-designed and operated sound system amplifies some of the voices without drawing attention to itself while sound designer David Correia helps with scene changes by providing atmospheric sound effects establishing the new location even before the lights come up. A 13-member orchestra is hidden from view but provides solid support and some nicely executed figures.

Where & When:

“Oliver” continues through Feb. 5 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17 - \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

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NOW THROUGH MARCH 16

Shakespeare Shenanigans! Wednesdays 11:30-1 p.m. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Old Town. Geared for the older adult, participants will discuss, read, and perform scenes from Shakespeare. Non actors welcome. Email Heather Sanderson at bardsplay@aol.com or call the Little Theatre at 703-683-5778, ext. 2.

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

Floral Designs for Entertaining. 10 a.m. Free. Presentation by Marianne Raub, of Helen Olivia Florist, Alexandria, on creating floral designs for entertaining in your home. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Waynewood. Fellowship Hall of Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Forth Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4245.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Great Books Discussion Group Meeting on "Hekabe," a play by Euripides. At the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Contact Bill Scouton at 703-931-3559.

"Measure for Measure." 7:30 p.m. Free. Performed by the American Shakespeare Center. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org or call 703-933-4135.

FRIDAY/JAN. 21

Swing Dance. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Mount Vernon. Cost is \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Premiere Concert - The Modern Dance Society of T.C. Williams. 7 p.m. Free. At the T.C. Williams auditorium, 3330 King Street, Alexandria.

JAN. 21 TO JAN. 30

Alexandria Restaurant Week. 60 restaurants offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. The event features fresh food trends, neighborhood finds, and



SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Irish Singers Aoife Clancy and Robbie O'Connell. 8 p.m. An evening of music that ranges from traditional Irish songs to ballads and contemporary folk. Tickets are \$22 advance, \$25 door. Reservations can be made at www.sunspotpro.com or by calling 800-404-9049. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.



SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Civil War Ball. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire either in civilian or military. In preparation for the ball, Civil War-era dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 13, 20, and 27. Dance instruction will include the waltz, polka, Virginia reel, and more! Classes are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-838-4242. Online tickets are available under "Shop" at www.gadsbystavern.org. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria.

OpenTable Diner's Choice Winners. Participating restaurants include Bastille, La Bergerie, Cheesetique, Pizzeria Paradiso, Tempo, A la Lucia, Columbia Firehouse, Hank's Oyster Bar, Delia's Mediterranean Grill & Brick Oven Pizza and more. 703-746-3301. Menus and online reservations on VisitAlexandriaVA.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Speak Up for a Child. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session. At the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. If you would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children, call 703-273-3526, x22 or email ekosarin@casafairfax.org for more information.

Youth Art Symposium. 2 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Explore different forms of visual and performing arts including dancing, stepping, drama, drawing, painting and candy making. Presented by - The Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact Celena Noel at celenanoel@gmail.com

Pinewood Derby Workshop. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Old Town Hardware will be holding its third-annual Pinewood Derby Workshop. Cub Scouts are invited to bring their Pinewood Derby cars to the store to have craftsman Jesse Cathell rough cut their designs. Scouts are required to have the car design traced on their cars. There will be sanders and hand tools available for the Scouts to perform additional work on their cars.

SUNDAY/JAN. 23

First Communion Open House. 1 to 5 p.m. Browse a large in-stock selection of dresses, suits, shoes, accessories and gifts. At Monday's Child, 218 N. Lee St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-3505.

Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool Open House. 1 - 3 p.m. Great opportunity to meet the teachers, other parents, tour the grounds, play on the playground. Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool, 7719 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://tauxemont.org>.

JAN. 23 TO MARCH 27

Brit Wit! Sundays 5-7 p.m. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Old Town. Fans of British humor with a longing to perform the Dead Parrot sketch

from Monty Python's Flying Circus will explore the unique style of British comedy in this class which is bound to tickle your fancy! Class size is limited to 12 and will conclude with an end session performance for family and friends. (British dialects optional!) To register, call the business office at 703-683-5778, ext. 2.

TUESDAY/JAN. 25

Fiber Artist Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Free. Northern Virginia's Diane Herbert will visit Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited to present a lecture entitled "And Somehow I Ended up as a Fiber Artist."

MVQU meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact: MVQUPresident@gmail.com.

"Oliver" Benefit Performance. 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital, with proceeds to benefit the hospital's Surgical Services. Tickets are \$25, \$45, and \$65 and include Desserts at intermission. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-9485.

Computer Lab Open House. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet class instructors including our "One-on-One" Volunteer, learn about the class curriculum, find out about upcoming classes, check out the web page and FaceBook page! At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Auditions. 6:45 p.m. The Alexandria Singers, the area's premier pops chorus, are holding auditions for all voice parts. At the Lincolnia Center, 4710 N Chambliss St., Alexandria. Email audition@alexandriasingers.com to arrange an audition, and visit alexandriasingers.com or call 703-941-SING (7464).

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

"9500 Liberty" Film. 6:30 p.m. Free. Showing of the documentary film about illegal immigration with special guest, film producer Eric Byler, who will host a discussion after the film. AT VCU's Northern Virginia School of Social Work, 6295 Edsall Road, Suite 210, Alexandria.

Nutrition Talk. 6 to 8 p.m. With health expert Trish Fortune, the founder and president of Extraordinary You. At The Full Cup, 218 N. Lee St. #206, Alexandria. Space is limited. RSVP to lindsey@thefullcup.com.

Pope-Leighey House Lecture Series. 7 to 9 p.m. "William Thornton and the Creation of the American Architecture." This talk will examine the designs of Dr. William Thornton (1759-1828) and some of the themes in his architecture, along with a comparison to the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Pope-Leighey House. Admission is \$25. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Respond to 703-780-4000 extension 26321 or woodlawnRSVP@nthp.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 1

National Chamber Players. 7:30 p.m. Free. With guest artist Rohan de Silva. At Pendleton Hall, Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org or call 703-933-4135.

"The Enduring Legacy of the

Harlem Renaissance." 1 p.m. Free. Art, poetry, music and key figures from this period. Hosted by the Hollin Hall Senior Center. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact Lee Maguire at 703-765-4573.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

Baseball Talk. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Friends of Duncan Library will host a talk by Michael Green and Roger Launius to introduce their book Charlie Finley: The Outrageous Story of Baseball's Super Showman. As sports fans, they run a website (charliefinleybook.com) and have written a book about Charlie Finley, the colorful figure who bought the Kansas City Athletics 50 years ago and as owner-manager helped transform major-league baseball. At The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. DJ Dance Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

FEB. 4, 5, 11, 12

"The Elixir of Love." 8 p.m. Opera presented by the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington. Conducted by Christopher J. Redden-Liotta; directed by Jennifer Randall; sung in Italian, with English supertitles. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 571-403-0814 or www.repertoryoperadc.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 5

Country Western Dance. 7:30 p.m. line dancing; 8:30-11 p.m. dancing. Scotty and Lynne Inman will teach an advanced beginner West Coast Swing lesson at 8 p.m. Includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallow Road, Falls Church. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

Chilean Wine Tasting. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronco St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

FEB. 12-20

"A Midsummer Night's Dream." Performances are Feb. 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Feb. 13 and 20 at 3 p.m. Presented by Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Countertenor Thomas Fallon. 8 p.m. Mozart/Rossini arias and Dvorak. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra welcomes Thomas Fallon for evening of vocal selections. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexsym.org. Call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/FEB. 13

Seeds of Independence Program. 2 p.m. Oral History Film Premiere: Segregation & Civil Rights: Mason Neck, Black & White, 1950-1970. Talk by Juan Williams, Civil Rights scholar and author, journalist and commentator for FOX News. Suggested donation: \$9/adults; \$8/seniors. At Gunston Hall Visitors' Center, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Call 703-550-9220.

Valentine Tea. 1 p.m. Cost is \$30/person. Tea and tour of Woodlawn. Tea, finger sandwiches, breads, and desserts with harp music played by Chris Van Dyke. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26333. Visit woodlawn1805.org.



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PEOPLE



MVCCT board member Laura Marshall greets the children arriving for auditions on Monday evening.



Jerry Gidner waits with his daughters Reiss and Sadie for the line-up call for the 8 - 18 year olds Annie auditions.



West Potomac student Hilary Canary.

Auditioning For 'Annie!'

The hallway outside the auditorium of Carl Sandburg Middle School on Monday, Jan. 10, was a flurry of motion as students and their parents arrived for the first night of auditions in Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's upcoming production of "Annie!" Performances will be held at the Carl Sandburg Middle School at 8428 Fort Hunt Road on March 25, 26, 27 and April 2 and 3.

For more information visit www.mvcct.org

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Bob and April Krenke wait with Grace for the auditorium doors to open.



Maya Brettell looks over a music score while waiting.



Ellen Webster waits with her daughter Linaea.

Local Drummer Joins Alexandria Pipes and Drums

Band plays prominent role in annual community events.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Sallie Hutcheson was thrilled when she learned about the City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums (CAPD) band. A member of the band for the past two years, she said, "I first saw the band at the 2008 Scottish Christmas Walk and was totally impressed with the look, sound and size of the group ... and that they practiced in Old Town ... only minutes from my home in Mount Vernon.

"I played in a fife and drum corps growing up in Williamsburg, and pipe band drumming is very similar, so I was able to get up to speed fairly quickly. It also helped that two of the band's drummers are former members of the Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps so we talk the same drumming language."

Sponsored by the City of Alexandria, CAPD plays a prominent role in the city's parades, festivals and benefit events throughout the year. The band appears



Sallie Hutcheson plays the drum with the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums during last year's Scottish Walk Parade.

regularly during the summer months at Old Town Alexandria's Market Square and on special occasions at the Carlyle House.

CAPD welcomes recruits at all levels of experience. Admission to the band as a playing member depends on practice attendance and skills evaluation by the band's instructors. Band practices are held each Thursday from 7-10 p.m. at the Durant Center, located at 1605 Cameron Street in Alexandria.

Homer Babcock said, "I have been with the band since the beginning in 1972. Louis Robert, an Old Town business man, and Peg Sinclair, head of the Alexandria Tourist Board, were instrumental in getting city sponsorship for the band. They saw it as an added tourist attraction, which is appropriate because the city was founded by Scots.

"In the early days the band numbered around 12 to 15 members, but membership has fluctuated over the years. Today's band is by far the largest ever. This is largely due to the efforts of the pipe major, John Sprague, who stays busy teaching bagpipes. There has also been increased public awareness of bagpipes due to their ever more frequent use at funerals, particularly for police and firemen, as after the 9/11 disaster."

CAPD has performed at many prestigious venues in the Washington D.C. region. They performed at the White House for the President of the United States at a Virginia gubernatorial inauguration and at the

President's Cup golf tournament opening ceremonies in 2001 and 2005.

In addition to ceremonial appearances, CAPD maintains a busy competition schedule, appearing from spring to fall at EUSPBA-sanctioned highland games. The band currently competes in Grade 4 and has consistently placed among the top bands in the Mid Atlantic Region. Competition participation is encouraged but not required of members.

Uniforms and equipment are provided to members at no charge with the understanding that band property must be properly cared for and maintained.

Hutcheson added, "In the drum section we also have music majors, former drum and bugle and marching band members, and a CAPD pipe major who's recently taken up the snare drum (and loves it). In short, we've got lots of musical experience.

"The drum section is now the largest it's been in years with six snare drums, four tenors and one bass drummer. And this past year, in addition to learning new drum music and marching routines, the drum section has added bugling to its skill set, at the encouragement of the pipe major, John Sprague."

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

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West Potomac Receives Funding for Study Hall

Redskins, community donate money to help student-athletes.

West Potomac High School will soon begin a new academic program called "Stepping It Up." The program is funded through private community donations and matching funds provided by the Washington Redskins. The total amount of the grant is \$19,000 and the money will be used to fund a comprehensive after-school study hall program designed to bolster student-athletes' academic skills and habits and character development, including service learning.

The program is run by Athlife, a nonprofit organization partnering with the Redskins in the choosing of suitable schools, oversight of the program at the school level and expanding the program into other schools within the Redskins fan area. The Redskins call this initiative "Coaches in the Classroom" and West Potomac is one of five high schools to receive this funding and assistance.

"The first thing is raising the grade-point average of the kids," West Potomac head football coach Eric Henderson said on Tues-



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

Wolverines head football coach Eric Henderson spoke highly of the effort West Potomac High School is putting forth to help its student athletes.

day. "As we're finding this year, some of our star players have marginal grades and that's just not getting [an athlete into] today's NCAA. They're raising the requirements in Division II, where kids who have a marginal GPA and marginal SAT scores gravitate toward."

The program will run from 2:30-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The first part of the program will track the academic progress of 60 at-risk athletes at West Potomac. Tracking will include teacher-parent coordination and communication, organizing the student-athlete for success and establishing good habits that can enable and



The football team and other West Potomac athletic programs have the chance to benefit from a comprehensive study hall program made possible, in part, by the Washington Redskins.

empower West Potomac student-athletes into college and beyond.

The second part of the program incorporates lesson modules designed by the coordinator of the program, Dr. Earnest Fingers. Fingers received a master's and doctorate

degrees from Michigan State University. He's also worked with other non-profits related to the field.

"Every coach says that we worry about grades," Henderson said. "I think we've taken it about five or six steps further."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon Girls Extend Win Streak to 5

The Mount Vernon girls basketball team defeated Stuart 75-7 on Jan. 12 and Hayfield 58-34 on Jan. 14 to improve to 11-2, including a 6-0 mark in the National District. The Majors have won five games in a row.

Against Stuart, Tiffany Webster led Mount Vernon to a lopsided win with 23 points. Chanel Shannon and Elizabeth Owusuwaa both scored 14 points and Owusuwaa grabbed 15 rebounds.

Against Hayfield, Kelly Loftus led the way with 17 points while Webster added 10.

Mount Vernon will host Washington-Lee on Jan. 21.

Mount Vernon Boys Lose

The Mount Vernon boys basketball team lost to Hayfield 65-52 on Jan. 14, dropping its record to 7-5, including 4-2 in the National District.

The Majors defeated Stuart 50-38 on Jan. 12. Shayne Michael Murrell led the way for Mount Vernon with 12 points.

West Potomac To Host Breast Cancer Awareness Night

The West Potomac boys basketball team will host Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 for Breast Cancer Awareness night to raise money and awareness for the fight against breast cancer. The Wolverines are looking for volunteers to help set up set up the gym for the evening. Contact coach David

Houston at 703-718-2619 for more information.

West Potomac Boys Basketball Loses

The West Potomac boys basketball team lost to Woodson 75-55 on Jan. 13, dropping the Wolverines' record to 9-4.

West Potomac Girls Win, Boys Lose

The West Potomac Wolverine girls swim and dive team improved its record to 4-2 with a decisive 232-77 victory over the T. C. Williams Titans on Jan. 14 at the George Washington Recreation Center. The Wolverine girls dominated the Titans, taking first in every event.

In a close contest, the Wolverine boys lost to the Titans 160-151 and their record dropped to 1-5 on the season. While the West Potomac boys took first in nine of the 12 events, it was the depth of T.C. Williams that made the difference, gaining valuable points with second-, third-, and fourth-place finishes.

The Wolverines host the West Springfield Spartans in the last meet of the regular season for both teams at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. It will be senior night for the Wolverines as they say goodbye to their 2011 graduates.

The girls had multiple winners of two individual events including junior Reanna Doña (200Y IM and 100 back), sophomore Hellen Moffitt (50Y free and 100Y free) and freshman Sara Bertram (200Y free and 100Y fly). Other individual event winners included Julia Carney (1M diving), Carolyn Murphy (500Y free) and Maddie Stevens (100Y breast). The girls also took first in the 200Y medley relay (Julia Bolger, Lydia Perkins, C. Murphy and Stevens),

200Y free relay (Doña, Maddy Bolger, Moffitt and Bertram) and the 400Y free relay (Doña, Bertram, M. Bolger and Moffitt). Bertam achieved two Northern Region championship qualifying times (200Y free: 1:59.73 and 100Y fly: 1:00.82) while Doña achieved a qualifying time in the 200Y IM (2:15.38) and Moffitt achieved a qualifying time in the 100Y Free (54.66). The girls also turned in a region qualifying time in the 200Y free relay (1:43.09). Other top-three individual finishers included Julia Bolger (third in the 100Y fly and second in the 100Y back), Maddy Bolger (second in the 50Y free and third in 100Y free), Maddie Stevens (third in the 200Y IM), Leigh Orleans (third in the 200Y free and second in the 500Y free), Carolyn Murphy (third in 100Y back), Karley Zdebski (third in the 50Y free), Kristen McCready (second in 1M diving), Hannah Gwartney (third in the 500 free), Lydia Perkins (second in 100Y breast) and Aileen Fagan (third in the 100Y breast).

Senior Mark Mattis and junior Trevor Jenne led the boys, both finishing with two individual victories. Mattis finished first in the 200Y free and 500Y free while Jenne earned victories in the 200Y IM and 100Y breast. Other Wolverine boys with first-place finishes included senior Nate Jones (100Y back) and junior Patrick Murphy (100Y fly). The boys also took first place in all three relays winning the 200Y medley relay (Evan Jenkins, Evan Rajadhyaksha, Jenne, Spencer Watkins), the 200Y Free Relay (Jack King, P. Murphy, Mattis, Jones) and the 400Y free relay (King, P. Murphy, Mattis, Jones). Mattis achieved a Northern Region championship qualifying time in his 200Y free with a time of 1:50.30. Other top-three finishes for the boys included King (second in 50Y free and third in 100Y free), Jones (second in 100Y free), Jenkins (third in the 100Y back) and the 200Y free "B" Relay (Max Leonard, Rajadhyaksha, Niko Knoblauch, Richard Cochran).

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 21

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SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 20

The Wolverines had a number of significant personal best efforts during the meet. Bertram dropped more than 2 seconds in her 200Y free, Cyrus Adams-Mardi dropped almost 6 seconds in his 200Y IM and over 6 seconds in his 500Y free, Stevens dropped 1 1/2 seconds in her 200Y IM, Kaelin Jackson dropped over 3 seconds in her 100Y fly, Jones dropped a 1 1/2 seconds in his 100Y back, Katherine Rausch dropped more than 1 second in her 100Y free, and Jenkins dropped almost 1 second in his 100Y back. Other best times included Cochran (200Y IM), Knoblauch (50Y free), Emily Hauptle (50Y free), P. Murphy (100Y fly), C. Murphy (500Y free) and Kristen McCready (1M diving).

GYFL All Star Football Returns

The Northern Virginia Fairfax County GYFL All Stars is organizing for a second year. Last year the GYFL NOVA All Stars went 4-2 in the inaugural GYFL season which included All Star teams of rising seventh- and eighth-graders from counties like Montgomery, Prince George's, Loudoun, Baltimore City, Washington, D.C. and southern Maryland.

The league looks to expand this year and include teams in Anne Arundel, Howard and other localities.

The Fairfax NOVA All Stars team were coached by Eric Henderson, head football coach at West Potomac High School and assistant coaches from West Potomac.

Many of the players from this team went on to play pivotal roles on their freshmen or junior varsity teams.

Some saw time on the varsity level as freshmen.

The purpose of the GYFL is to expose players to a higher brand of football prior to high school and expose players to all star formats found in sports such as AAU basketball and travel league baseball.

The GYFL has partnered with national vendors such as Underarmour and USA Football and the league is underwritten by several NFL players and other private interests. Prospective players must participate in a combine then pay a participation fee. Games will have interactive fan activities and will give every player a collegiate-like atmosphere.

Those interested in participating in the GYFL are encouraged to go to the Web site www.thegyfl.com <<http://www.thegyfl.com>> and sign up for a mandatory combine testing in March or April.

CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Jan. 14.

ROBBERY

A 43-year-old man was robbed at knifepoint in the 5800 block of Monticello Road around 12:36 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 7. The suspect was wearing khaki pants, a black shirt and a puffy, black jacket. The victim was not injured.

A man robbed an 18-year-old man as he was walking in the 8300 block of Richmond Highway around 7:40 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 1. The suspect was described as black, about 5 feet 9 inches tall, 175 pounds and in his early 20s, with a shaved head. He was wearing a red and black, leather

or fake leather jacket, jeans and white tennis shoes. The victim was not injured.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE/

ARREST

Police arrested a man for driving a stolen vehicle around 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8. An officer saw the suspect allegedly driving a stolen 1997 Honda Accord in the area of Lockheed Blvd. and Fordson Road. The driver, a 19-year-old male of the 2800 block of Joseph Makell Court in Alexandria, allegedly attempted to flee but was apprehended and charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle.



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Looking Ahead to Summer

Parents begin signing up their children for summer camp.

BY CRISTINA ABELLAN-MATAMOROS
THE GAZETTE

In spite of harsh winter winds, parents are shifting their focus to warmer months and looking for the perfect summer camps for their children.

“Late January is the time to start looking,” said Grace Becker from Northern Virginia, mother of a 10 year old and a 13 year old. “It can be a stressful process initially, but every year gets a little bit easier. For me, I didn’t have much of a choice because I needed the childcare, but every family is different.” At most summer camps, enrollment works on a first-come first-serve basis, causing some to fill up quickly.

To help guide parents in their search, the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted has compiled a summer camp guide, available for \$10. The guide focuses on “enrichment [and] academic camps,” according to Lara Bove of McLean, producer of the guide. “I try to get as much of an overview of the camps listed in the guide as I can.” Music, drama, and nature camps are also featured in the guide, providing “exposure for niche camps ... that won’t put a flashy ad in the Washington Post,” said Becker, who volunteers on the production of the guide.

“Parents are looking for different things,” Becker said. “There are working parents who are mostly looking for childcare for the summer, and then there are stay-at-home moms who look for more flexible camps [with] half-day sessions.”

The availability of extended care hours is a growing concern among working parents, according to several camp directors. Kate Summer, who runs the Katydid Kids summer camps in Frying Pan Park, Burke Lake Burke, Colvin Run Mill Park, and Lake Fairfax Park, said that she has “a lot of parents signing up for after care.” About 60 per cent of the parents who enroll their children in one of her sessions are working parents, according to Summer. The guide includes information about childcare for each listed camp.

Although specifics vary, most parents are looking for a safe, fun camp where their child will be actively engaged. “[I’m looking for] safety, fun, the typical things that parents want,” said Bove.

Clifton’s Elizabeth Schultz, mother of four, added, “I investigate for things that are fun. It’s great [for the youngsters] to have an outdoor experience, [to] exercise brain and body ... and [to] give me a break.”

But for many parents, money is also a concern when considering camps for their children. “Especially if you have three of four children, price is a biggie,” said Schultz.

However, some parents such as Tim Higgins of Great Falls, say that expensive enrichment camps can help flesh out a college application.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATYDID KIDS

Youngsters gather at one of the Katydid Kids summer camps.

More

Nancy Soschan, who runs a camp-advising program in Springfield called Summer Solutions, strongly agrees. “Wilderness adventure camps, academic enrichment camps, art camps are really great for teenagers,” she said. A representative of Wilderness Adventure, a sleepaway outdoor camp in Roanoke, claimed that such summer experiences give college applicants intriguing essay topics.

Soschan strongly recommends sleepaway camps to foster competence and indepen-

A sampling of county and community fun camps:
<http://www.katydidkids.com> which is the one that has the camps in Fairfax County Parks
<http://www.ticcamp.com/> located in McLean
http://www.levineschool.org/site/PageServer?pagename=classes_campgeneral located in Arlington
<http://www.theauburnschool.org/camp.cfm> in Herndon

dence. “Kids learn to be independent,” she said. “They learn ... sharing and communicating with others.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Jason D. Neithamer, Alexandria, son of Calvin and Susan Neithamer of Alexandria, and a 2008 graduate of St Stephens & St Agnes School, Alexandria, was named to the dean’s list at Bucknell University for the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year.

The newest members of the 2010

National Business Honor Society (NBHS) of Mt. Vernon High School have been named. Membership is based on academic achievement in business education, leadership skills, and leadership character development. New members are: **Mohammad Bilal; Noelle Casey; Mfonobong Emah; Tanisha Fields; Meron Gosaye; Omar Javed; Rashidat Omotosho; Tyler Schmidt; John Skudlerrek; Mark Vocal; Moneeb Waseem, and Britni White.**

Nine Mount Vernon High School marketing students represented the school at the Fairfax County DECA District competition in November. The

competition is divided up into “mini-districts” with four schools competing directly against each other in District 12: **Langley; Madison; Robinson, and Mount Vernon.** Four Mount Vernon students achieved second- or third-place in the following areas:

Principals of Business Management Daquan Lee — Third Place Overall. Daquan is a marketing and Cooperative Employment (Co-op) student who successfully used his workplace experiences during his role play. He will go on to compete at the DECA State Leadership Conference in March in Norfolk.

Isaac Ortiz — Second Place on the exam score;
Hotel and Lodging Marketing —

Jaeton Foxley — Second Place in Role Play;

Quick Service Restaurant Marketing — Kimberly Todd-Third Place in Role Play;

Congratulations to the students and to all of the MVHS district competitors: **Steeven Saquicilli; Eric Myhre; Alex Avery; Kevin Pyles, and John Tenorio.**

Elizabeth K. Vestal from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Vestal is majoring in Landscape Architecture and pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Alanna G. Stewart from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech and will attempt a Master of Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Matthew C. McCaskey from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech and will attempt a Master of Information Technology in the Interdisciplinary.

Erik R. Kramer from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Kramer is majoring in Architecture and pursuing a Master of Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

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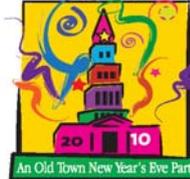
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