Twice a week, the Old Geysers take over the ice at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center. Bob Moran moves the puck behind the goal. Alex Eng is tending while Bruce Dauer, Dave Dain, John Kashishian and Fred Kellogg move into position.

More photos: Page 5
Dance Harkens Back to Another Era

Big band sounds of Mount Vernon Swing Band not just for seniors.

By Sandy Levitz Lunner
The Gazette

The below-freezing weather did little to keep fans of the Third Friday Swing Dance away from the Hollin Hall Senior Center last weekend. They knew it wouldn’t take long to heat up once they started to Lindy, Cha Cha, Waltz and Tango.

“Everybody has a great time,” said Janice Pickering of Mount Vernon. She’s on staff two days a week at the Senior Center working with the visually impaired. On Third Fridays, though, she goes a little glam and helps out with the Swing Dance.

“They’re not just seniors,” said Pickering. “This is open to the community, and we get all ages. It’s a fun, inexpensive night out.”

Doris and Steve Halleman of Woodbridge have been demonstrating their dance moves at Third Friday Swing Dances for about a year and a half. They say they’ve met a lot of people and made friends.

“This is a great band,” Doris Halleman said. “They play a lot of different songs every week, a nice variety. And, of course, the price is right,” she added with a smile.

Four-year old Mikayla Bartos entertained herself, and others, with her graceful freestyle dancing when she wasn’t twirling with her great grandmother Jackie Sherman.

“Mikayla comes here all the time with her great-grandparents,” her mother Monica Bartos said. “She likes to listen to all the different instruments in the band.” It was the first time at the Swing Dance for mom.

The welcoming atmosphere warmed even those who relaxed on the sidelines preferring to listen rather than dance to the classic big band sounds of the Mount Vernon Swing Band.

CONDUCTOR Owen Hammett calls it a labor of love for his all-volunteer band. The Mount Vernon Swing Band, now in its 33rd year, plays Third Friday Swing Dances for about a year and a half.

Details

WHAT: Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band
WHEN: Third Friday of every month except for February, October or December. 7:30-9:30 p.m.
WHERE: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Mount Vernon, 703-765-4573.
ADMISSION: $4, includes two hours of dancing, beverages and snacks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$549,900</td>
<td>Rarely available 2 level town house style condo in prime location. Inviting floor plan with soaring ceilings, wood floors &amp; gas fireplace.</td>
<td>814 N. Columbus Street 703-626-9207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$810,000</td>
<td>Three level, 3 bedroom home with garage close to the river, Trader Joe’s &amp; Metro.</td>
<td>342 North Pitt Street 703-828-2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>One of the lowest-priced single family homes in all of 22315. Warm wood fires, plantation shutters &amp; recessed lighting.</td>
<td>7009 Wexford Place Joni Leons 703-209-7277 / Gray Leons 703-209-7678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$349,000</td>
<td>Delightful 2 level, 3 BR, 1.5 BA w/ attached back yard. Updated baths &amp; gleaming hardwood floors. New or newer kitchen appliances.</td>
<td>Ingalls Avenue Julie Hall 703-786-3634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$594,500</td>
<td>Amazing 3,500 SF, 4 level Townhome backing to the green area w/3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, family rm, office, hardwood floors, deck, garage &amp; plenty of storage.</td>
<td>5204 Cottingham Place Nancy Williams 703-908-6959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$554,000</td>
<td>Totally up-to-date 3-level Townhome w/hardwood floors on all levels. Kitchen w/cherry cabs, granite counters &amp; SS black appliances.</td>
<td>41 Arell Court Mary Smith 703-626-9207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$620,000</td>
<td>Expansive bungalow on Hlts level double lot on Johnson's Hill w/BR &amp; 2.5 BA. Panoramic view! Addition includes fam rm, 1st flr master suite &amp; expanded kitchen. Minutes to Shirlington &amp; D.C.</td>
<td>3004 19th Street, S Sue Feinthel 703-819-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex./Rosemont</td>
<td>$679,000</td>
<td>Updated &amp; expanded Cape Cod w/3 bedrooms &amp; 2 1/2 baths. Kitchen w/breakfast bar and SS appliances opens to family rm. Front porch, large corner lot and easy parking.</td>
<td>100 Maple St. E. Christine Garner 703-587-4855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex./Del Ray</td>
<td>$589,900</td>
<td>Expanded w/level addition! Updated w/4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, front porch, family rm, screened back porch &amp; deck. Master suite w/bathtub. Finished LL w/rec rm, office &amp; full bath.</td>
<td>211 Howell Avenue, E Christine Garner 703-587-4855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex./Old Town</td>
<td>$1,499,000</td>
<td>Circa 1800 detached home on double lot w/deep garden, brick patio &amp; 2-story carriage house. Upper level w/3 BR including master w/private BA, High ceilings w/office &amp; LL w/workspace &amp; storage.</td>
<td>41 Arell Court Mary Smith 703-626-9207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlingion</td>
<td>$550,000</td>
<td>Beautiful garage TH in Quaker Village. This 3 BR, 3.5 BA home boasts 2 FPs &amp; kit w/sitting rm. WDw mdls throughout this spacious home. Stone patio &amp; nice deck backing to tree line from main level LR.</td>
<td>211 Howell Avenue, E Christine Garner 703-587-4855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$374,000</td>
<td>Totally up-to-date 3-level Townhome w/hardwood floors on all levels. Kitchen w/cherry cabs, granite countertops &amp; SS black appliances.</td>
<td>1370 Wilton Crest Court Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$379,000</td>
<td>One of the lowest-priced single family homes in all of 22315. Warm wood fires, plantation shutters &amp; recessed lighting. Four BR plus 2 BA, Fam rm w/powdered stov. A deck for cookouts next spring.</td>
<td>7009 Wexford Place Joni Leons 703-209-7277 / Gray Leons 703-209-7678</td>
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Visit Us at Weichert.com for a full Listing of New Properties
Old Geyser International

Twice a week, the Old Geyser International, the team roster carries 20 to 25 players ranging in age from 40+ to mid 80’s.

Tom Heckman, Bob Reischauer, Milan Skarka, Frank Goodyear, Garrett Burke and Alex Eng make up the yellow team in Sunday night’s competition.

Team scorekeeper Earle Smith started playing with the team in 1979 when the rink was built. Smith recalls that he was the youngest player on the team at the time.

Milan Skarka, John Connor, Ray Poupore, Max Drauchun and Jay Bottleson.

Bruce Dauer stretches out before the match begins. Behind Dauer is Dave Dain.

Tom Heckman, Bob Reischauer, Bob Moran, Dave Dain, Jack Lyons, Ray Poupore, Stan Thomas, Bruce Dauer, Milan Skarka, Frank Goodyear, Garrett Burke and Alex Eng make up the yellow team in Sunday night’s competition.
Great Wines That Cost Almost Nothing

By Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler

Large stainless steel tanks, not expensive, under the direction of winemaker Tito but the main one is that the fruit for these wines? There are lot of reasons, of course, like Concha y Toro make such inexpensive at your local neighborhood store. Suggested retail prices under $10 a bottle, ported on Concha y Toro’s line of entry level. We reported the results of that Papa, to taste through almost the full range Concha y Toro’s chief winemaker, Marcelo Concha y Toro produces a series called Xplorador; Doña Paula’s series is called Los Cardos.

Concha y Toro Xplorador

Last year in Santiago we sat down with Concha y Toro’s chief winemaker, Marcelo Papa, to taste through almost the full range of wines. We reported the results of that tasting in The Wines of Chile on www.wineriewiew.com. However, we never reported on Concha y Toro’s line of entry level wines, Xplorador. Xplorador wines have suggested retail prices under $10 a bottle, which usually translates into something less at your local neighborhood store.

Now, you ask, can a respectable winery like Concha y Toro make such inexpensive wines? There are lot of reasons, of course, but the main one is that the fruit for these wines is sourced mainly from Chile’s Central Valley where the yields are high. Then, under the direction of winemaker Tito Urzúa, that fruit is fermented and aged in large stainless steel tanks, not expensive, small French oak barriques. Don’t kid yourself. This process isn’t going to produce Chateau Margaux. But you can get perfectly good, drinkable wines.

Nothing complicated, not particularly nuanced, just pure, plain good fruit. This makes them easy drinking, either as an aperitif or with a meal. The Xplorador 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon is a fruit forward Cabernet Sauvignon showing mostly red plum and berry fruit on the nose with just a hint of brambles and earth. It’s a straightforward, uncomplicated wine, but it’s also surprisingly tasty, balanced and easy to drink. The Xplorador 2009 Merlot is a wine that definitely needs to be drunk with food. It has nice red plum fruit on the nose and palate, but it also has a green herbal note that can nicely complement the right kind of food (think brushel sprouts, asparagus, and other vegetarian fare). The Xplorador 2010 Malbec shows cherry and raspberry aromas and vibrant fruit on the palate. It’s quite delicious, albeit lighter than the typical Malbec coming out of Ar- gentina.

Dona Paula Los Cardos

Doña Paula was established in 1997 by Chilean entrepreneur Ricardo Claro of the Claro Group with the purchase of 40+ year old Malbec and Chardonnay vineyards in Luján de Cuyo. The estate now consists of 1,878 acres of vineyards in the Tupungato and Luján de Cuyo regions. David Bonomi is chief winemaker, and Edgardo Del Popolo is viticulturalist.

Los Cardos is Doña Paula’s entry level wines which sell for $10-12. The fruit for most of the wines comes from the Finca El Alto in Ugarreta (Luján de Cuyo) and the high altitude (1100 m) Finca Los Cerezos in Valle de Uco, the zone closest to the Andes and therefore the coldest and best suited for early-ripening varietals, especially Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Doña Paula 2010 Los Cardos Sauvignon Blanc shows good varietal character with an opulent style. It has an effusively fragrant nose of grapefruit and nettles and a citrus, pear and herbal palate of very good intensity. This is a very good wine and an excellent value.

Doña Paula 2009 Los Cardos Chardonnay is in the ripe, New World style with a nose of smoke, ripe citrus, and honeydew. It’s ripe on the attack with good integration of fruit and oak and shows good acidity on the finish.

Fresh plum and blackberry waft from the glass of the dark ruby purple Doña Paula 2009 Los Cardos Malbec. There’s a sweet, tangy attack of blackberry fruit with notes of underbrush, tar and earth and good purity of fruit on the finish with firm, ripe tannins. This wine offers everything, and at a very reasonable price.
year, performs concerts year-round at numerous venues throughout Northern Virginia and the Greater Washington Metropolitan area.

“This is our 13th year playing here,” Hammett said. “We split the gate with the Senior Center. That gives us some money to buy an arrangement for our library, but no one gets paid.”

As a Big Band, the Mount Vernon Swing Band has a full saxophone ensemble of two alto saxes, a baritone sax, four trumpets, four trombones, and a rhythm section of keyboard, drums, bass and banjo. The style of music is called Swing and the most popular songs are from the first half of the 20th century.

“When I took over as conductor,” Hammett said, “I expanded the library and our visibility in the community.” While he says the band can play some requests, with more than 580 songs in their library and 180 in the book they play from, they might not have the music or an arrangement for a specific request.

But that didn’t appear to be an issue for anyone last Friday night.

Reed Martinko and his mother Eve came from Springfield to support and enjoy their neighbor and friend Tony Jordan on the baritone sax.

“The band is great, the singing’s great, the music’s great,” Eve Martinko said. “It’s almost like going back in time.”

AT $4 FOR ADMISSION, the swing dance is meant to be accessible. In addition getting the band free of charge, the Senior Center finds a sponsor to provide beverages and snacks.

Capital Hospice of Alexandria was the sponsor last week. Joy Nguyen, community outreach coordinator, explained that Capital Hospice works closely with the Senior Center and appreciates the opportunity to help sponsor Third Fridays where people can get information for family, friends or themselves in a less structured atmosphere.

While Nguyen could be seen talking to folks on a pretty regular basis, the focus was decidedly on the dance floor.

First-timer Mary McGrail of Alexandria heard about the Third Friday Swing Dance through her ski group, the Capital Golden Skiers, which put a notice about the event in its newsletter.

“The orchestra’s so good,” McGrail said. “There should be more people here enjoying it. And where else can you get a band, dancing and something to eat for $4?”
Chamber Names New Board

U.S. Chamber representative gives update on free enterprise.

By Gale Curcio
The Gazette

After William Walton gave the update on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Strategy for New American Jobs, he thought that he was done.

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Meeting that was held at the Mount Vernon Inn was already running behind and it was getting late.

After showing a short video and explaining the U.S. Chamber’s position on issues, Walton shared his personal suggestions for improving free enterprise: repeal health care reform; lower the tax rate in Virginia; terminate corporate bailouts; simplify and streamline the tax code; initiate Loser Pays Tort Reform; make it easier to start a new business; repeal the Sarbanes-Oxley Act; create incentives to keep foreign-born entrepreneurs in the United States; eliminate the teaching certificate laws; eliminate corporate income tax, and reform the regulatory process.

However, after spending a half hour giving this overview on the Chamber’s strategy, people had questions. One person wanted to know how it was called a bi-partisan initiative when all the comments seemed particularly partisan. Walton responded that “the Chamber is not happy with the Obama administration.”

Dan Sanders, owner of Four Sales, wanted to know where the social responsibility was, but Walton had no response. Tom Curcio was concerned that the Chamber supported the Loser Pays Tort Reform initiative, saying that it would “close the courtroom door to those who needed it.”

Walton told Curcio that he was wrong. Steve Hunt of the Mount Vernon Voice asked what Walton thought about General See U.S. Chamber. Page 18

Neighbor Against Neighbor

Olde Belle Haven Towne Owners Association battles owners for right to fine.

By Michael Lee Pope
The Gazette

Maria Farran suspects it was the Barack Obama sign that started the conflict that’s now dragged on for years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in a case that could have consequences for homeowners associations throughout Virginia.

Olde Belle Haven Towne Owners Association has strict rules prohibiting signs that are larger than one foot by one foot. So the Farrans took a standard Obama placard and cut it in half, installed two signs in their front yard.

“I sent the board an e-mail explaining that neither our ‘Oba’ nor our ‘ma’ sings were in violation of the stated covenants,” said Farran, a government lawyer. “They didn’t get the joke.”

Now, more than two years later, nobody is laughing. A month after Obama’s inauguration, the Olde Belle Haven Towne Owners Association adopted a resolution empowering the board of directors to enforce restrictions by levying fines. The Farrans say they specifically chose Olde Belle Haven because the homeowners association didn’t have the ability to levy fines, and they decided to challenge the authority of the board to create a power that wasn’t in the founding documents of the association. So they hired attorney Scott Surovell, who has since been elected to the Virginia House of Delegates replacing Del. Kris Amundson (D-44).

“Fines are a significant step that would be unprecedented in the history of the association,” Surovell wrote to association president Gerald Jeanes in an April 17, 2009 letter. “The board has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the association in a manner that minimizes legal expense to the owners and overall exposure to the association, and the Farrans are alarmed by the board’s recent aggressive behavior.”

The way the Farrans and Surovell read the covenants, it would require a supermajority vote of the owners to create a resolution adopting a new set of fines. But no such vote was ever taken. As a result, Surovell asked the board to repeal the resolution creating the ability to levy fines. But the board was not about to yield. Instead, it hired the services of MeritorTrigiani, which defended the ability of the association to levy fines under the Virginia Property Owners’ Association Act.

“The board action is designed and intended to preserve and enhance the value of property within Olde Belhaven Towne,” wrote attorney Pia Trigiani. “There is no punitive intent by the board; these actions have been taken in good faith and with the goal of attaining com See Neighbor. Page 18

Fugitive Hamilton Is Back in Fairfax County Jail

Former coach accused of sexually molesting boys had fled U.S.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Gazette

John E. Hamilton’s day in court has been a long time coming; but now, it looks as if it’s finally on the horizon. Hamilton, 39, fled the country before a scheduled, October 2009 court date to answer to charges that he allegedly sexually molested three boys, ages 3, 8, and 11, when he was their baseball coach in the Fort Hunt area.

Authorities apprehended him in Poland, last summer, but he wasn’t officially extradited back to the U.S. until last week. He returned to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, last Thursday night, Jan. 20, and is being held without bond to guaran-
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Old Town
$779,000
816 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Chris Upham 203-359-1388

Old Town
$925,000
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Twenty-eight hundred square feet brick end townhome which can be used residentially, commercially, or a combination thereof! Two offstreet parking spaces and located only three blocks to King Street Metro.
Donnan C. Wintemute 703-518-6156

The Bearings South
$198,500
922 S. Washington St #108, Alexandria, VA 22314
Charming Renovation! Conveniently located with renovated efficiency, decor colors, cherry hardwoods, granite counters & crown molding. Large walk-in closet with organizers and Murphy bed in living area.
Carol Hooks 703-309-4199

Mount Vernon
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5101 Burke Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309
Design & Build Your Dream Home with Boucher Building. 1.29 acres and 183 feet of waterfront on the highest point in the neighborhood. 5 bedrooms and 3 baths on 4 levels. Close to metro, highway and bus. Don’t miss this one!
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158

Plymouth Haven
$1,550,000
839 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA
Just Listed! 3 years young! This 6500 sq ft home on 1/2 acre features an open floor plan, front & back porches, 5+ bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, and chef’s kitchen.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158

Parker Gray
$344,900
310 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Queen Anne Gem. Charming, 700 square feet end unit. Queen Anne historic townhome blocks to King Street and 2 Metros. Gorgeous brickel backyard with pergola and offstreet parking.
Eileen Maroushek 703-507-2350

The Eclipse
$438,500
3650 Glebe Road South #240, Arlington, VA 22202
Sophisticated and Luxurious! Perfectly maintained and shows like a model: 2 bedroom & 2 bath condo. Fabulous Crystal City location with many upgrades. Close to metro, highway and bus. Don’t miss this one!
Linda Well 703-518-6165

Old Town
$550,000
112 North Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697

Porto Vecchio
$668,000
1250 S. Washington St #224, Alexandria, VA 22314
Open Sunday, January 30, 1-4pm. Porto Vecchio condo with river view from every window. This 1,882 sq ft, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo features balcony, in-unit washer/dryer, fireplace, walk-in closet, extra storage and garage parking.
Denise Davis 313-332-8331

Derin Glen
$665,000
6257 Sible Place, Alexandria, VA 22310
You’ll be amazed at the size of this condo! 3,974 sq ft colonial. Great kitchen with granite, island, breakfast room, 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car garage, beautiful hardwood floors & tons of windows. Super location.
Yvonne Cooley 703-973-1340

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Christian Duty
To the Editor:
I commend the Rev. Dr. Dennis Perry and the Rev. Jason Micheli of Aldersgate United Methodist Church for extending a hand of friendship and opening the doors of their church to our Islamic brothers and sisters in their time of need. The heart of the Christian Gospel is that God extends “unconditional” love to all creation, no exceptions! None of us are worthy of God’s love. Yet God’s grace is extended to us all. It is not earned. It is freely offered.

In response to the criticism quoted in the Gazette from Christianity Today author, Jason Hool, who charges Aldersgate United Methodist Church with violating the love command by facilitating false worship, I say this: Dr. Perry and Rev. Micheli are standing firmly in the tradition of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. To paraphrase Wesley, “the duty of a Christian is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves; to love every person as we love our own soul; to love all humanity because God is the creator of all flesh. Just because someone is not personally known to us is not a barrier to our love; nor do we retaliate if our love is met with hatred, for the Christian loves their enemies and “even the enemies of God”, including the evil and unthankful. And if we are not in a position to do good to them that hate us, we will continue to pray unceasingly for them even if they spurn our love and persecute us” (Wesley’s sermon, “The Character of a Methodist”).

Christians and Muslims do have differences of faith but that doesn’t make us enemies. Nor do you have to believe as a Muslim to extend a hand of friendship to a Muslim. In fact we have more in common than not. I agree with Dr. Perry that it is important to start building bridges with our Islamic brothers and sisters. If fear of Muslims is behind the criticism of the isolated UMC’s hospitality let me remind you that the isolated Islamic terrorist is no more representative of the Islamic faith than the isolated Christian terrorist (who kills abortion doctors) is representative of the Christian faith.

The Apostle John writes: “We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” (1 John 4:19-21)

Thank you Dr. Perry and Rev. Micheli for extending the hand of God.

Rev. Keary Kincannon
Pastor, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church

Visioning Progress
To the Editor:
As a member of the Land Use Committee of Mount Vernon’s Visioning Task Force, I attended the latest meeting of the entire Task Force on Jan. 20. Prior to the meeting, each committee report was circulated to everyone and opportunities were given to comment upon the five most important issues raised by each committee. I want to commend Supervisor Hyland for creating the Visioning Task Force. Its committees were carefully chosen and include many fresh faces not normally seen at MVCCA and South County Federations meetings. The leaders of the committees were chosen so that these umbrella organizations did not dominate the proceedings.

The Task Force will present a report to Supervisor Hyland’s Town Meeting on Feb. 5, and I understand it will be finalized after public comments are received. Based upon my review of the various committee reports, I anticipate the final report will provide a significant blueprint for the Mount Vernon District over the ensuing several decades.

While the Land Use Committee Report was being finalized, I proposed that the following goal be included:

“We must improve the advisory role of community umbrella organizations by more closely scrutinizing the extents of the neighborhood and citizenry they claim to represent and ensuring that positions they take in their advisory capacity are representative of the mainstream of community thought rather than the personal views of those who serve on their Committees and Boards.”

Members of the Land Use Committee opined that perhaps this was more a “process” issue rather than a land use issue. I tend to agree and am hopeful that in the preamble to the entire report, separate and apart from the individual committee reports, a statement such as that which I suggested as set forth above will be included. It is important that umbrella organizations be more representative of mainstream community thought on the important issues we confront.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Opinion No More Delays
To the Editor:
As a result of many questionable actions perpetrated by members of the Fairfax County Police Department and the recent revelations by a group of its police officers who have unveiled documented evidence of (possible) corrupt conduct within their department, it now appears there may be a need for an external investigation of the FCPO at this time. This would coincide with the ongoing present investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice regarding the recent fatal shooting of an unarmed citizen by a FCPO officer.

Records have disclosed that since 2005, nine people have been killed in Fairfax County police-involved shootings and an additional 12 people have been wounded. One of these shootings is currently being investigated by the FBI. As a result of these police shootings, Fairfax County has paid millions of taxpayer dollars to settle for act of misconduct or negligence committed by Fairfax County police officers. These dollars could have been better spent for much needed county programs. As an 83-year-old World War 2 veteran and a senior citizen...
Officer Amanda R. Perry. Officer Perry is survived by her husband, a 33-year-old Fairfax County kindergarten teacher’s assistant who was killed in an auto accident, a 37-year-old optometrist who was shot and killed by Officer David Ziants, while stopped at a traffic light after reportedly stealing flowers from a roadside stand. Without provocation, Officer Ziants was reported firing a shot through the left rear window of Master’s auto, killing him instantly. Even though FCPD General Orders are specific, “Deadly Force shall not be employed to apprehend a fleeing misdemeanant,” the officer was cleared by his department and the Commonwealth’s Attorney of any impropriety. Officer Ziants remains a member of the FCPD.

In what may be called an egregious act by the FCPD, David Alan Masters, an unarmed former U.S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran was shot and killed by Officer David Ziants, while stopped at a traffic light after reportedly stealing flowers from a roadside stand. Without provocation, Officer Ziants was reported firing a shot through the left rear window of Master’s auto, killing him instantly. Even though FCPD General Orders are specific, “Deadly Force shall not be employed to apprehend a fleeing misdemeanant,” the officer was cleared by his department and the Commonwealth’s Attorney of any impropriety. Officer Ziants remains a member of the FCPD.

This case, in order to avoid a court trial, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors agreed to settle out of court in Jan. 2010 the amount of $1.5 million of taxpayer monies to the family of McIntosh.

In what may be called an egregious act by the FCPD, David Alan Masters, an unarmed former U.S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran was shot and killed by Officer David Ziants, while stopped at a traffic light after reportedly stealing flowers from a roadside stand. Without provocation, Officer Ziants was reported firing a shot through the left rear window of Master’s auto, killing him instantly. Even though FCPD General Orders are specific, “Deadly Force shall not be employed to apprehend a fleeing misdemeanant,” the officer was cleared by his department and the Commonwealth’s Attorney of any impropriety. Officer Ziants remains a member of the FCPD.

[Opinion]

My First Job in Professional Theater

To the Editor:

In a matter of 24 hours, my life changed from one of eighth-grade middle school actor to a serious thespian as “Tintagiles” in the professional production of Belgium Nobel prize playwright’s Maurice Maeterlinck’s “Death of Tintagiles” with Ambassador Theater. Having acted for two years at Mark Twain Middle School in Alexandria, and this past fall as “Charlie” in Willy Wonka at Mount Vernon Children’s Theater, was no preparation for the audition process and lengthy and serious rehearsals led by Director David Willinger, a Maeterlinck expert.

The audition was crazy. I had contacted Lilia Slavova, a theater director and teacher that I met last year at an improvisation class at Synetic Theater. I told her that I wanted to take lessons and get more serious about acting. She proceeded to tell me about an audition being held the next day. Tomorrow? Yes! That is when I scrambled to learn a monologue with my middle school teacher, Sara Lebowitz, that day and the next, the day of the audition. Professional actors should always have several monologues already written for situations like this, a valuable lesson learned!

I arrived at the audition where a new theater company, Ambassador Theater, was looking for a young boy to play a part, with all professional actors. Hanna Bondarewska, the founder of the theater instructed me to do the monologue on videotape to be sent to New York. New York, I thought wow, this is big! I controlled my nerves and delivered my monologue. Then, I read lines from the play with the founder of Ambassador. My mom was able to watch secretly in the adjacent room. I got the part. Rehearsals started in January and were 3-5 times per week. What impressed me most at the first meeting was that we didn’t jump in to learn lines or “block” the play. Instead, we spent hours talking about who the playwright was, what the Symbolist movement was, how he was ahead of his time and in some ways how truly depressing the play is. After all, I as “Tintagiles” die in The Death of Tintagiles.

This play is one of two plays featured under the title of “Under the Shadow of Wings – Plays of Mystery. The other play featured is from India called Karna and Kunti by Rabindranath Tagore. These plays are produced in partnership with the Embassy of India and Embassy of Belgium. The plays are recommended for ages 10 years and over and will be held from Jan. 25 – Feb. 12 at Mead Theater Lab at Flashpoint in Washington, D.C. More information is available at www.aticc.org.

[Letters to the Editor]

From Page 10

zen, I am well aware of funding needed to help our county’s elderly and veterans. Our schools are desperately in need of additional funding. Public safety, roads and transportation can use additional funding and the list goes on and on.

to cite a few incidents that have cost you the taxpayer, your tax money was the “accidental” shooting death of unarm Dr. Salvatore J. Culosi, a 37-year-old optometrist who was shot and killed by SWAT Officer Deval V. Bullock on Jan. 26, 2006 for allegedly participating in sports gambling. In this case, the civil suit against Fairfax County was scheduled for trial on Tuesday, Jan. 18 in federal court.

Several days before the trial, the county agreed to dismiss Fairfax County Chief David M. Rohrer and the police actions. Other civil lawsuits are expected to be filed in the near future. Enough is enough …. This must end.

In what may be called an egregious act by the FCPD, David Alan Masters, an unarmed former U.S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran was shot and killed by Officer David Ziants, while stopped at a traffic light after reportedly stealing flowers from a roadside stand. Without provocation, Officer Ziants was reported firing a shot through the left rear window of Master’s auto, killing him instantly. Even though FCPD General Orders are specific, “Deadly Force shall not be employed to apprehend a fleeing misdemeanant,” the officer was cleared by his department and the Commonwealth’s Attorney of any impropriety. Officer Ziants remains a member of the FCPD.

I had the opportunity to speak to the families of these three victims who continue to grieve over the
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Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Mass Schedule
Saturday Evening
5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (in Spanish)

Weekdays
7:30 am; 8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 Noon
Mass (in Spanish) 7:00 am; 9:00 am; 11:00 am; 12:00 Noon
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Children’s Book Library of the Ways
Mass (9:00 am) Spanish (6:30 pm)

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703-548-7551

Miss Mona’s Ladies Take Gunston Stage

Moretti directs “Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.”

By Brad Hathaway
The Connection

There has always been a big difference between the gaiety of the first act and the somberness of the second (or at least the second half of the second act) of the musical “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas” which Dominion Stage is presenting at the Gunston Arts Center through Jan. 29. Director David M. Moretti’s approach to the musical even emphasizes that difference. His treatment of the darker, more sentimental parts at the end brings the piece to life for the first time with emotional performances by Amy Basha as Miss Mona, the madam who doesn’t like being called a madam, and Chris Gillespie as the sheriff forced by political pressures to put her and her “ladies” out of business.

Things start out chipper enough with rousing chorus numbers like “A 1/2 Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place,” “Texas Has a Whorehouse In It!” and “The Aggie Song” as well as the soul number “Twenty Four Hours of Lovin’” that Rikki Howie belts out. Basha’s early number “Girl You’re A Woman” is the first touch of sentimentality as Miss Mona gives some advice to help a young recruit to the business make the transition to her new life. Script writers Larry L. King and Peter Masterson avoided letting the audience ponder this song that tells a young girl that her entry into prostitution is “her lucky day” by quick cutting to the farcical, over-the-top storyline of a television exposure program hosted by a scandal-mongering self-promoter played with a touch of manic energy by Michael Hasmir.

The second act opens with another farcical subplot in the form of a single high-energy comic song, “The Sidestep.” The number is a mock press conference in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation in which.

Basha topS it all off with a solo spot number, “Bus from Amarillo” as reality closes in on the venerable whorehouse that has operated since the days of Teddy Roosevelt and the Spanish American War and earned the nickname “Chicken Ranch” during the great depression when the customers couldn’t pay cash but could bring a chicken in payment. Through these final four songs, the characters transform from musical comedy stick figures to flesh-and-blood people who struggled to make a living and formed emotional connections. Moretti lets the emotional content of the material resonate.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He welcomes feedback from those he writes about and those he writes for. He can be reached at brad.hathaway@verizon.net.

Where and When
The Dominion Stage production of “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas” plays in Theatre One of the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, through Jan. 29. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15. Call 571-377-4697 or log on to www.dominionstage.org.

LTA earns WATCH award nods.

The razzle-dazzle production of “Chicago” propelled the Little Theatre of Alexandria to 15 nominations as the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors announced the nominees for the 2010 WATCH Awards Jan. 16 at the Birchmere Music Hall.

Last year’s production of the Kander and Ebb musical earned 10 nominations, including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical for both Bethany Blakey and Jordan Hougham for their performances as Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart.

“We had an incredible cast and crew for that production,” said Eddie Page, one of the producers for the show. “It’s exciting to see so many nominations both for “Chicago” and for LTA.”

Andy Izquierdo was nominated as Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical for his role as Billy Flynn while Jon Keeling got the nod in the Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical category for his performance as Amos Hart.

LTA’s production of the Noel Coward play “Nude With Violin” received four nominations while Oscar Wilde’s “Lady Windermere’s Fan” received three.

Adding to the LTA tally was the award-winning team of Ken and Patti Crowley, who were nominated for Outstanding Light Design in a Musical for “Chicago” and Outstanding Light Design in a Play for “Play It Again, Sam.”

LTA Nominations

“Chicago”
❖ Outstanding Choreography, Amy Casar
❖ Outstanding Direction of a Musical, Susan Devine
❖ Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical, Jon Keeling as “Amos Hart”
❖ Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical, Andy Izquierdo as “Billy Flynn”
❖ Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical, Bethany Blakey as “Velma Kelly”
❖ Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical, Jordan Hougham as “Roxie Hart”
❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Musical, Ken & Patti Crowley
❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Play, Paul Norman
❖ Outstanding Musical
❖ Outstanding Properties in a Play, Betty Dolan & Leslie Reed
❖ Outstanding Set Design in a Musical, Dolan & Leslie Reed
❖ “Lady Windermere’s Fan”
❖ Outstanding Costume Design in a Play, Katheryn Doob & Chris Macary
❖ Outstanding Hair Design in a Play, Paul Morson
❖ “Nude With Violin”
❖ Outstanding Properties in a Play, Phillip Campbell & Patty Greksouk
❖ Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play, Russell Wyland
❖ Outstanding Set Painting in a Play, Buffy Mehling
❖ “Play It Again, Sam”
❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Play, Ken & Patti Crowley

— JEANNE THEISMANN
NOW THROUGH MARCH 16
Shakespeare Shenanigans!
Wednesday 11 a.m. Free. 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 Sanders at bardplay@aol.com or call the Little Theatre at 703-683-5778, ext. 2.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27
World Short Story Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Free. Discussing the last three short stories from Art of the Short Story, Gioia ed. (808.31 Art). Call Mark Schwartz, at 703-746-1770, for the selections and more info on the group. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, 22304, 703-746-1794.

Winter Woody Plant ID Lecture. 7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Rivers presents a lecture on how to identify trees and shrubs by studying the barebones of plant branching structure, bark, buds and leaf scars. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-662-5173.


FEB. 4, 5, 11, 12

SUNDAY, JAN. 30
Presidential Salon with James Madison. 3 to 4:30 p.m. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Reservations are recommended and admission is $15 per person and $10 per high school/college student. Visit www.gadsbytavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

Capitol Steps Perform. 5 p.m. Benefit show for United Community Ministries. Reserved seating is $70, unreserved seating is $40. For tickets, call 703-705-8702 or www.ucmapicosteps.eventbrite.com. At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8529 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1
National Chamber Players. 7:30 p.m. Four with guest artist Rhiyan 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. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Reservations are required and admittance is $12 per person or $30 for the series. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Cost: $120. Email bardsplay@aol.com or call 703-963-5713.

FEB. 3 TO MARCH 31
Eighteenth-Century Dance Classes. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is $30/series or $12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby’s Tavern Museum’s historic ballroom. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbytavern.org.

SEE FUN, PAGE 17
Winter Fin Notes from the Producer

By Carolyn Griffin
Producing Artistic Director, MetroStage

It has become a tradition at MetroStage. Every January we open a season featuring a mar-velous cast, telling an amazing story, featuring and celebrating African American artists from our collective history. And did I mention the incred-ible music and gifted musicians on our stage? This season is no exception. Miss Ethel Waters, one of the most acclaimed blues, jazz and gos-pel singers, is being featured in the play entitled “His Eye is on the Spar-row,” her favorite gospel song and the title of her autobiography.

WATERS LED an extraordinary life, born at the turn of the century to a 13-year-old mother, living under impoverished conditions, and traveling the vaudeville circuit, performing at the Cot-ton Club in Harlem and, at one point, becoming the highest paid performer on Broadway. She was one of the most influential jazz and blues singers of her time and an artist earning great acclaim on Broad-way, film and television. She was nominated for an Emmy, an Academy Award, received a Drama Critics Award, and introduced some of the most famous songs of the era: “Stormy Weather” by Harold Arlen and “’S补偿 Time” by Irving Berlin.

MetroStage favorite Bernardine Mitchell returns to our stage as Ethel Waters. Our patrons know Miss Mitchell from her Award-winning portrayal in “Mahalia” and also her role in “Three Sistahs.” She lives in Atlanta but considers Alexandria and MetroStage her sec-ond home. William Knowles will accompany her on the piano. Knowles is also well known to MetroStage audiences, most recently, as composer and conduc-tor for “Cool Papa’s Party,” for which he won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Music Direction.

In addition, we will be introducing to our stage Mary Millben, an Alexandria actor who will be playing Ethel Waters in select performances. Miss Millben has an impressive resume, having appeared at Arena Stage in “Crowns” and “So-phisticated Ladies” with Maurice Hines (another fa-vorite here at MetroStage), and has also performed at the White House, the 2008 Kennedy Center Honors, the XLIII Super Bowl, the Congressional Black Caucus, and Obama’s Lincoln Memorial inaugural con-cert. She is another excep-tional talent we are pleased to introduce to our audi-ences.

The stories and history of the African American artist in the first half of the 20th century are part of our mis-sion here at MetroStage. In past seasons we have featured Alberta Hunter, Bricktop, Mabel Mercer, Pearl Bailey, Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington, to name a few. First and foremost, the music and their journeys are important for future generations to un-derstand and appreciate, and the entertainment value from the stage is unsurpassed. We believe it is im-portant to share this work, entertain our audiences, and honor the ground-breaking artists whose stories we are telling and whose music we are singing.

Bernardine Mitchell returns to the stage as Ethel Waters.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 20
“His Eye is on the Sparrow.” A portrait of the trailblazing jazz singer Ethel Waters. Performances are Jan. 26-March 20, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are $45-$50 (students $25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org.

GROUPS/INFO 703-548-9044. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria. Fully accessible, free parking. Also Pay What You Can performance is Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. Box office opens one hour before the show. $10 minimum requested.

OFTENTIMES WE will have three generations in our audience: a grandmother who grew up with these artists and their music, a daughter who had always heard the stories and a grandchild who will have the opportunity to be introduced to the era and the music. In fact, my 9-year-old granddaughter, Annalise, still sings “Baby It’s Cold Outside” from our “Pearl Bailey ... By Request,” and had an opportunity to interview Miss Mitchell when she was here playing “Mahalia” for a school report. Theatre is to entertain, enlighten and enrich. These stories, these artists, and the actors on our stage accomplish all of the above, and we are proud to present this work on our stage during our celebration of Black History Month and beyond.

SUNDAY/FEB. 6
Marine Chamber Orchestra. 2 p.m. New Horizons. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9
Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is $6. DJ Dance Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick’s Nighthich, 642 South Picket St., Alexandria.

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.lee-fendallhouse.org.

FEB. 12-20
“A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Performances are Feb. 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Feb. 15 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/Respighi 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. For tickets, visit www.alexsym.org. Call 703-548-0885.
U.S. Chamber Representative Speaks on Free Enterprise

From Page 8
Motors producing the car of the year, given the fact that Walton criticized the bail-outs. Walton’s response was that General Motors would have reorganized without the bail-out.

Because of the hour, Chamber president Tim Sargeant terminated the questions and moved on to announce the new Board of Directors. Sabrina Campbell, Occasionally Cake; Steve Hunt, Mount Vernon Voice; George Ksenics, Belvoir Federal Credit Union; Sean O’Connell, PBHG, Certified Public Accountants; and Tracey Wood, Inkwell Duck, will serve on the board for the 2011-2014 term.

Also on the ballot were: Rachel Carter, Coldwell Banker Realtors; Carmen Pierro, Alexandria Quality Inn Mount Vernon; Diane Moery, Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science and Math Education; Ana Pilato, Pillar Systems; and Dr. Audrey Prestonsoto, Leadership Compass LLC.

Carter sponsored the dinner, and said, “I have enjoyed my relationships with the Chamber.”

New members were introduced, including Patrick Cooney, The Federal Group and Woodlawn Little League; Brendon Dibella, Bernstein Global Wealth Management; Cedric Leighton, Cedric Leighton Associates; Diane Moery, Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science and Math Education; and Earl Reed, Doctors Express.

Officer Michael Mittiga spoke about the Police Unity Tour that will be held in May. He said that there is a great need for donations to fund the equipment and other items for the tour. He also announced that a fundraiser will be held at Moore Cadillac on March 12. For more information, email info@policeunitytour.com.

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is located at 6911 Richmond Highway, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22306. Contact them at 703-360-6925 or Info@MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org.

Gail Cucio is an independent writer and public relations consultant in Mount Vernon.

Fairfax County Police Department Officer Michael Mittiga and his wife explained how the Police Unity Tour in May supports the National Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial Fund.

Supporting UCM
Sheehy Honda presented United Community Ministries (UCM) with a financial donation on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Above: Christine Fiske, UCM volunteer and community relations coordinator accepts a donation from Sheehy Honda’s Melissa Manning, customer relations manager.

UCM Partners with Mamma’s Kitchen
When residents eat at Mamma’s Kitchen on Tuesday, Feb. 8, any time during the day, 10 percent of the sale from the meal will be donated to United Community Ministries (UCM). The restaurant is hosting this event to support UCM and raise awareness of its programs. UCM provides both emergency and long-term services to individuals and families in need in the community. Those who go should tell their server that they are there to help UCM. Mamma’s Kitchen is located at 7601 Fordson Road.

William L. Walton of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce introduced the “Campaign for Free Enterprise.”

Hammer Back in County Jail
From Page 8
He was finally arrested by the Polish Border Guard as he tried crossing into the Czech Republic. Fairfax County police, the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Department of Justice then began the process of having Hamilton extradited back to the U.S.

Now, some five months later, he’s once again on American soil and behind bars. This time, though, he’s being denied bond. Hamilton is scheduled to begin a jury trial, March 29, in Circuit Court.

Neighbor Against Neighbor
From Page 8
pliance and are consistent with practices and procedures of homeowners associations across Virginia.”

THE TWO SIDES could not come to an agreement, so the matter ended up in Fairfax County Circuit Court. In the summer of 2009, the Farrans filed a formal complaint seeking an injunction prohibiting the association from enforcing the penalties resolution. The two sides hashed it out in court, and the judge agreed with the Farrans that the resolution granting authority to levy fines was adopted in contravention to the articles of incorporation. A separate judge later awarded the couple $41,300 in legal expenses.

“My clients feel it was retribution. It’s not consistent with the existing standard rules and practices.”
— attorney Scott Surovell

According to financial disclosures made by the association to homeowners in Old Belle Haven Towne, the legal fees have now exceeded tens of thousands of dollars. Meanwhile, the association has denied a request by the Farrans to build a deck. That dispute, which was part of the original complaint that was dropped, could become the basis for a future suit, according to Surovell.

“My clients feel it was retribution,” said Surovell. “It’s not consistent with the existing standard rules and practices.”

Homeowners associations often become mired in power struggles and neighborhood politics. But this struggle has the potential to become a significant precedent for every association in the commonwealth. If the court agrees with the Farrans, it would establish a limit to their ability to collect fines. Yet if the Old Belle Haven Towne Owners Association is able to persuade a Fairfax judge to overturn the August ruling, it could have ripple effects for similar groups across Virginia.
Mount Vernon Grapplers 6-1 at District Duals

During a weekend when Mount Vernon head wrestling coach Anthony McDuffie collected his 200th career dual meet victory, the Majors proved themselves a contender for the National District title. Mount Vernon finished 6-1, good for second place behind undefeated Edison during the National District Duals on Friday and Saturday at Hayfield Secondary School. Edison has won three of the last four district championships.

While Mount Vernon appears primed for team success at the district level, McDuffie said several of the Majors have a shot to succeed at the state level. “I’m trying to get somebody here at Mount Vernon to believe in himself,” said McDuffie, in his fifth year with the Majors. “You always get those old guys that come back who won it in 1964 and the gym is dedicated to them and there’s an award dedicated to them and you meet them and they’re still kicking. They’ll [say], ‘When are you going to get another one? When is someone going to do it?”

The leaders of this year’s team are senior Trey McClure (152 pounds), junior Dusty Floyd (171) and sophomore Eriq Dahlum (103). Each member of the trio has nearly 40 victories and less than 5 losses. “McClure and Floyd are the engine,” McDuffie said. “Dahlum is now joining them.”

Floyd won a 130-pound district championship as a freshman and wrestled at 140 as a sophomore. During the last two years, Floyd has worked to put on weight and said he enjoys wrestling at 171. “It hasn’t been too much of a problem,” Floyd said. “One hundred-forty was a much more competitive weight class. I’ve had more success at 171. I just lifted [weights] a lot with my dad this offseason and it’s been going well.”

— Jon Roetman

Voorhees Shines During Robinson Gymnastics Meet

West Potomac sophomore Marien Voorhees finished second in the all-around competition with 34.5 points during a Jan. 20 gymnastics meet at Robinson Secondary School, less than half a point behind first-place Tia Eberline of Edison. West Potomac finished third in the team competition with 119.625 points.

Voorhees finished second on the bars with an 8.8 and tied for third on the floor with an 8.75. She posted an 8.35 on the vault and an 8.6 on the beam. “This is the best meet she’s had all year,” head coach Pete Novgrod said. “[She] was consistent. She had [an] 8.6 or above in the three events.”

Novgrod has worked with Voorhees in club gymnastics since she was 7. “She’s got talent, definitely,” the coach said. “She’s accomplished what she has and we only practice three days a week. Most of the girls practice five days a week in club. She’s come a long way for just practicing three days.”

Amanda Trenchard posted a score of 29.9 in the all-around, including an 8.05 on the vault. Novgrod said Nicole Marinello has performed well this season but missed the Jan. 20 meet due to illness.

Robinson won the team competition with a score of 130.825. Lake Braddock finished second at 127.3, followed by West Potomac, Edison (118.45), Thomas Jefferson (113.2), Lee (103.525) and Annandale (77.875).

— Jon Roetman

West Potomac sophomore Marien Voorhees placed second in the all-around during a Jan. 20 gymnastics meet at Robinson Secondary School.

Sports Briefs

West Potomac Wrestling Loses to Annandale

The West Potomac wrestling team recently lost a dual meet against Annandale 50-21. Cole Beeby (145 pounds), William Rupp (152), and Nick Africano (160) each won by pin for West Potomac and Suliman Atwater (189) won by decision.

Ft. Hunt Softball Registration Open

Registration for spring softball, for girls ages 6-18, is available. Prior to registering a child for a Fort Hunt Spring sport, review the spring 2011 season information for the sport. See the “softball” link at the top of the fhyya.org Web site for information on the softball program. Register online at fhyya.org. For questions about the spring softball season, contact: Glen at fhuntsoftball@yahoo.com or Ilene at 703-660-6338.

Fort Hunt Little League Registration Open

Fort Hunt Little League offers co-ed T-ball (age 4-6) and baseball (age 6-16) programs for kids living in the Fort Hunt area (see http://fhyya.org/Baseball/maps/index_E.html for our geographic boundary restrictions). Age is determined by your child’s age as of April 30, 2011. FHLL is an all-volunteer organization and always in need of umpires (no experience required) and coaches. If interested in the umpire program, contact the chief umpire, Don Essex, at: Edlands@hotmail.com or 703-966-9205. If interested in coaching, contact the coach/training coordinator, Scott Burt, at: sburt@techpainting.com or 703-684-7702. Visit the Web site and register online at: http://fhyya.org/Baseball/index_E.html. For more information, contact our Registrar, Kristin Yohannan Moore, at: KYohannan@mofo.com or 703-862-6499.
From Streamlining Paperwork to Fighting for U.S. 1

COMMENTARY

four cases. My legislation will reduce paperwork, litigation expenses, taxpayer expenses, and just makes common sense.

My second bill clarifies that Commonwealth’s Attorneys have the authority to prosecute first offense infractions involving refusal of mandatory breath or blood tests in Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) prosecutions. First offense Refusal is a civil infraction and the law does not clearly authorize the involvement of a Commonwealth’s Attorney. The Supreme Court of Virginia is presently considering a case that could jeopardize all such prosecutions in Virginia over the next year. My legislation would prevent that decision from preventing future prosecutions.

I presented three of my six budget amendments on Monday: (1) funds for the U.S. 1 Transit Study; (2) an amendment to help purchase a van for Mount Vernon At Home; and (3) funds for a small grant to Fairfax County to expand their “Senior Centers Without Walls” program. They will be considered by the House Appropriations Committee over the next two weeks.

My bill to correct the loophole that decriminalized passing school zones has received so far, the condition of the roads, how to address cuts in services such as education, transportation and health care. Raising teacher salaries is the number one suggestion for improving Mount Vernon’s schools. A large majority of respondents support Costco coming to U.S. 1 only if adequate transportation improvements are made. Extending the Yellow Line from Huntington to Fort Belvoir is the preferred mode of transit on U.S. 1 by far. I appreciate your feedback and I also hope it will help you learn more about the issues I am working on every day in Richmond.

This 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 a full room.

Please also 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.

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

OPINION

By Scott Surovell
State Delegate (D-44)

I n the General As-
sembly in Rich-
mond, we are in
Week #2 of the
General Assembly and
the legislative process is
moving at a furious pace.

I have introduced 15 bills and six budget amendments. In addition, several other delegates introduced bills on my behalf as well. Two of my bills have cleared committee and are set to move to the full House of Delegates and on to the Senate. One allows a parent in a juvenile Court to file one custody and visitation petition for each child, meaning separate custody and visitation for two-child family, a parent means full House of Delegates and on to the Senate. One allows a parent to move at a furious pace.

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**Church Administrator**
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church seeks a full-time administrator. Major responsibilities include managing church’s business, administrative and financial affairs, including supervision of custodial property, financial and administrative staff. Details at www.mvuc.org.

**Home Instead Senior Care**
Home Instead Senior Care is the world’s most trusted source of non-medical home care. We are currently hiring for Immediate Live-in for VA State Licensed CNA in the Springfield/FY/VaSaxes area. Must drive and have own insured vehicle, Salary, medical benefits, 401k and vacation bonus. If you do not drive but are a VA State Licensed CNA available for Live-in please call Amy Reynolds at 703-750-6644.

**Christ Church Docents**
Christ Church seeks paid and volunteer docents to welcome and inform visitors. Training provided. 4 hr shifts available and schedule flexibility is required. Respond in writing to Michelle Cox, Christ Church, 118 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314 or mccox@ccalex.org. We are unable to take phone calls.

**FREE TRAINING AND TUTORING**
Real Estate Classes Now Forming! Join our team and receive the best training, technology, and marketing as well as a full package of Real Estate services. We are committed to our agents so you can work hard for your clients and produce more business with higher earnings. Be Your Own Boss Today!! For more information call Maxine at 703-836-1464.

**George Washington’s Mount Vernon**
Learn a Trade at Mount Vernon
Now hiring part-time/temporal staff to work as Historic Trades Interpreters at George Washington’s Gristmill, Distillery, Pioneer Farm & Blacksmith Shop. Help Tell the story of George Washington the entrepreneur. Prior interpretive experience preferred. Please contact Steve Bashore, Manager of Historic Trades at 703-799-6805 or e-mail: ssbashore@mountvern.org.

**George Washington’s Great Job Opportunity!**
Work at Historic Mount Vernon Part-time Tour Guide positions Call or e-mail: Gail Cassidy 703-799-8610 gccassidy@mountvern.org

**Prudential Cornwallis REaltors**
Real Estate Classes Now Forming! Join our team and receive the best training, technology, and marketing as well as a full package of Real Estate services. We are committed to our agents so you can work hard for your clients and produce more business with higher earnings. Be Your Own Boss Today!! For more information call Maxine at 703-836-1464.

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• House Watching Service (Law Enforcement Officers)

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg

**Mount Vernon Gazette Classifieds**
Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden:
703-917-6400
Employment: 703-917-6464
E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com
Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Jan. 21

BURGLARY
Appliances appear to have been stolen from an unoccupied apartment in the 3900 block of Woodhuese Place some time between 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4 and Thursday, Jan. 13.

BURGLARY
A home in the 2900 block of Camellia Drive was burglarized Friday, Jan. 14 between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. An investigation determined jewelry, electronics and money were taken.

LARCENIES

5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace. Stereo stolen from vehicle.

8100 block of Carlyle Place. Cell phone stolen from residence.

2300 block of Huntington Ave. Beef jerky stolen from business.

5900 block of North Kings Highway. Tools stolen from vehicle.

7300 block of Richmond Highway. Two cases of beer stolen from business.

7300 block of Richmond Highway. Beer stolen from business.

7800 block of Richmond Highway. Donation box stolen from business.

8000 block of Richmond Highway. Frozen chicken nuggets stolen from business.

8600 block of Richmond Highway. Laundry detergent stolen from business.
Huge Sales Event On Now!
New Year, New Deals!

NEW 2010 COROLLA
$750 Cash Back
0.9% APR
Financing for up to 60 months

NEW 2010 PRIUS
$1000 Cash Back
0.9% APR
Financing for up to 60 months

NEW 2011 CAMRY
$1000 Cash Back
0.9% APR
Financing for up to 60 months

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7 year / 100,000 mile Roadside Assistance Plan
160 Point Quality Assurance Inspection
CARFAX Vehicle History Report
Certified customers are eligible for standard new car financing rates
**7729 Lee Avenue**
- Custom, Stone & Bead Board New England Cape on 2/3 Acre
- GW Parkway bike and walking trails just one block away
- Hardwood floors throughout • Approx. 4,000 Sq. Ft. under roof • Two Generous Master Suites – One on each Level
- New Main Level Master Bath • Large Formal Rooms to include

Dir: S on GW Pkwy from Old Town, R at Alexandria Ave, exit just after stone bridge, bear R onto West Blvd, L on Alexandria Ave, R on Lee Ave to home.

New Price..............................................$1,100,000

**25 Keith’s Lane**
- Alexandria/ Old Town—Dare to Compare
- The Very Best Location in Fords Landing
- Looks to Lovely City Park and Potomac River • Former

Model with ALL the Bells and Whistles • Four Levels of Luxury – Hardwoods – Elaborate Mouldings • Island Kitchen – Granite Counters – Raised-Panel Cabinetry • Two Generous Dining Areas – One Formal – One Informal • Unique Master Suite – Fireplace and Sitting Area • Professionally Decorated with Custom Papers and Paints

Offered at.............................................$1,750,000

**7207 Park Terrace Drive**
- Magnificence along the Potomac River • Smashing, Remodeled Rambler in Villamay • Elegantly Appointed from top to bottom • Villamay’s Largest Kitchen w/Island and Wet Bar • Luxury Master Suite w/Stainless steel bridge, bear R onto West Blvd, L on Alexandria Ave, R on Lee Ave

New Price..............................................$1,159,000

**6704 Oak Drive**
- YOUR CHOICE! YOUR OPPORTUNITY! • Reduced Price $229,900 • Two Bedrooms – One Full Bath – Full Basement • Enormous One-Half Acre Lot in Great Location • Buy it and live in it • Buy it and remodel! • Tear Down and Build New – Total Package Available through Wakefield Homes for $635,000 • Owner Wants Offers This Week! • Property Will Be Sold!

Offered at.............................................$299,900

**711-B “I” Street**
- Custom-Built Three-Level Townhome w/4 Bedrooms & 3.5 Baths • Over $100,000 in upgrades • High Ceilings and Huge Rooms—Perfect for Entertaining • Granite and Stainless Gourmet Kitchen • Hardwood Floors Throughout Main Level • Center Four Sectional Grand Staircase to Upper Levels

Private Rooftop Terrace • Plantation shutters throughout with Custom Built-Ins in Bedrooms & Living Room

Dir: From Old Town, S on GW Parkway, R on Belle View Blvd, R on Potomac St., R on “I” Street to 711-B on R.

Offered at.............................................$799,000

**271 Pickett Street South, Unit #302**
- Great Location in Sought After Hillwood
- Beautiful & Spacious 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Unit with 8-Post Ceilings
- Large Living Room with Wood-Burning Fireplace • Dining Room with sliding glass doors to Private Balcony • Great Open Kitchen – Perfect for Entertaining

• Master Bedroom with Huge Walk-In Closet • Master Bath with Soaking Tub and Separate Shower

• New Carpet Throughout • Steps to Metro Bus and Minutes to Van Dorn Metro • Reserved Parking, Pool and Clubhouse • Don’t Miss this Opportunity!

Dir: From 385 Duke Street East, R on Pickett Street South, R into Hillwood, Building 271, Unit #302.

Offered at.............................................$305,000

**6803 Derrell Court**
- South Alexandria – Turnkey Condition • Wonderfully located just south of Capital Beltway • All Brick Home • Cul-de-Sac Location • New Professional Landscaping • Decking at Rear • Three Level Split – Two Full Masonry Fireplaces • New Designer Kitchen-Vaulted Ceiling-Granite Counters • Three Bedrooms – Two and One Half Baths • Generous Living Room and Family Room • Separate Laundry – Freshly Painted Interior

Dir: GW Pkwy S, R on Belle View which becomes Beacon Hill, L on Derrell Court to house on R.

Offered at.............................................$475,000

**6309 Barrister Place**
- Terrific location near GW Parkway and Old Town • The only townhome available in Old Belhaven Towne • All Brick, Full Masonry—4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 2 Fireplaces • Two levels of Hardwoods-Two Hardwood Staircases • Large Bright Remodeled Eat-in Kitchen w/Stainless Appliances, Silstone Counters, New Flooring & Lighting • Walkout Lower Level w/Bedroom, Shower Bath and Large Family Room-great for Guest or Au Pair Suite • Enormous Brick-walled Georgetown Patio at Rear

Offered at.............................................$639,000