

# Mount Vernon Gazette

Otis relaxes at the information table as Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue volunteers greet shoppers at PetSmart in Hybla Valley.

Owner Dies, Pet Lives, What Next?

PET GAZETTE, PAGE 5

# Looking For a Home

PET GAZETTE, PAGE 3

Helping Train the Family Pet

PET GAZETTE, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

PET GAZETTE



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## Well-Heeled, Good Mannered Yet Playful, Too

Area dog trainers help the family pet fit in.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
THE GAZETTE

**B**ack in November of 1975, long before there was a Dog Whisperer, England's Victoria Stilwell or Animal Planet, Sandy and Carlos Mejias opened Olde Town School for Dogs. With just 300 square feet of retail space that was previously a florist shop, they introduced Northern Virginians to the idea of sending their dogs to school.

"Dogs, I think, more than any other animal, are like an extension of the family," Sandy Mejias said. "And, just like with a child, you want to make sure your dog has good manners and exhibits proper behavior."

"Not training your dog is kind of like not teaching your child not to interrupt or run through a store pulling things off the shelves," she added. "It's almost imperative they learn the rules."

For the army brat who grew up all over the world, training dogs wasn't a career path she planned on. But shortly after graduating college in 1973, she enrolled in a 3-week dog-training course at the Captain Haggerty's School for Dogs in upstate New York.

"I've always been a big dog lover," Sandy Mejias said. "I think I learned every breed by the time I was age five. I was the kid that brought all the lost and stray dogs home and my parents didn't really like dogs," she added with a laugh.

Captain Haggerty's turned out to be more than just a new career path. It is also where she met her future husband and business partner Carlos Mejias who had trained to be a trainer at the famous N.Y. institution. She ended up staying in for more than two



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON DOG TRAINING CLUB

**Mount Vernon Dog Training Club Training Director Cheryl Pratt competes in a rally with her dog York.**

years honing her newfound career skills.

"In the early years here in Old Town, our first clients were people off the street or friends of my parents who just wanted their dogs to behave," Sandy Mejias said. "We did some specialty work (theatrical, protection, service dog, obedience ring). But, the bulk of our training was, and still is, educating dogs and their owners."

At Olde Town School for Dogs, they like to start early. The Puppy Head Start class is for dogs five months and younger, starting as early as nine-weeks old.

"We've developed and perfected unique ways to have the puppy find its place in the family," Sandy Mejias said. "And, we use only natural methods for correcting behaviors, such as holding the puppy on its side."

In three sessions, Olde Town School for Dog trainers teach puppies basic vocabulary using food and praise as a reward. The puppy learns to accept grooming, to come with a whistle, to socialize with people and

other dogs.

"We want the owner to start realizing, 'Hey, I'm the leader, I'm the one in charge,'" Mejias said. "It's pretty laid back."

Not so with Obedience Training classes at Olde Town School for Dogs which she describes as stricter than most other obedience schools. One-on-one classes with a trainer are available. But Day Care training is their most popular program.

According to Mejias the first day of obedience training they try to have as few distractions as possible.

"But by day two, we use a 15-foot leash and bring the dogs around distractions and natural environments like the local parks, Market Square and King Street," she said.

In the day care program, dogs are trained 30 minutes at a time, three times a day, Tuesdays through Fridays. Owners get three one-hour private sessions to learn how to handle their dogs.

"With its busy streets near quiet streets



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Jill Schutt, owner of My Dog's Nanny, with Luke.**

and landmarks like the big fountain, Old Town is a great place to train a dog," declared Mejias.

While Olde Town School for Dogs draws clients from Arlington, Mount Vernon and beyond, they are by no means the only game in town.

**THE MOUNT VERNON** Dog Training Club is an AKC club and hobby organization that's been teaching obedience training since 1960.

"Ninety-five percent of people just want to be able to walk their dog without it practically pulling their arms off," said Cheryl Pratt, training director at the club.

"Our goal is to get your dog to walk with you and not pull, to stop when you stop."

SEE WELL-HEELED, PAGE 20



**Willard, an honorary cocker, was rescued by the group from a high kill shelter. At 8-months-old, he is 38 pounds.**

## Volunteers Try To Find Homes For Rescued Dogs

**V**olunteers from "Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc." hosted an adoption show Saturday, Jan. 29 at Petsmart in Hybla Valley. Willard, Otis and Oscar greeted shoppers at the store as volunteers answered questions about the dogs and the program. Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc is an all-volunteer 501c3 rescue organization based in Newington. Adoption shows are held bi-monthly at the Hybla Valley store. Alternate months the show is held at the Springfield Petsmart on Frontier Drive. For more information on the organization and the dogs available for adoption visit [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com)



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Otis, an 8-10 year old male cocker responds to volunteer Hillary Esquina by rolling over for a tummy rub.**



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**PET GAZETTE**



Some of the PACK members who braved the cold to inaugurate Fairfax County's newest monument — the first-ever trash can placed in Westgrove Park, donated by an environmentally-sensitive (and still-frustrated) PACK member. The organization has been requesting that part of the park be designated as an off-leash dog area.

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# Owner Dies, Pet Lives, Then?

A trust can assure a pet's care when the owner cannot.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW  
THE GAZETTE

**P**et owners, like most people, do not like to think about dying, or becoming incapacitated. Expressed informally or silently assumed, the ordinary owner expects a family member or close friend to provide good care for the loyal pet that has given such pleasure and affection.

Receipt of the veterinarian's bill after the first visit often curdles the new caregiver's best intentions. The pet owner can take steps to avoid this unfortunate outcome. One choice is to create a trust.

"Historically the law did not allow provisions for the benefit of pets in wills. Sadly, this often resulted in heirs giving the pet to a rescue organization and keeping the money designated for the pet," according to lawyer Peter King of the Tysons Corner firm Hauswiesner King LLP.

King added, "In July 2006 Virginia joined the majority of states in recognizing a trust for the benefit of pets." He noted that roughly one in five estate plans now make provision for pets.

Apart from the pet, two parties usually are involved in the trust: The trustee, who holds and manages the money, and the custodian, who provides day-to-day care to the animal. Choosing the right people for these roles is vital if the pet owner's wishes are to be carried out.

A trustee should have ordinary experience handling money and a respect for animals.

Most trustees are individuals, not trust companies. This is because the amounts of money are modest.

Selecting the custodian requires much more care. The person's feelings for the animal and capabilities to provide the needed services must be weighed. An older person or someone with infirmities may not be able to exercise the pet or drive to the veterinarian. Someone with a job may not have the time for scheduled attention to the animal.

The pet owner should sit with the potential custo-

## Health Insurance for Pets

A special segment of the insurance industry provides health coverage for pets. While all companies cover dogs and cats, several include birds, fish and other exotic animals.

The policies are similar to those of human owners and use much the same terminology: premium, deductible, co-pay, exclusion and preexisting condition. If the pet owner is comfortable examining his or her own insurance, considering the terms of a pet policy is not difficult.

There are many resources available to guide the pet owner through the decisional process, such as:

❖ "Pet Insurance University: A Vet's Guide To Pet Insurance"

<http://www.pet-insurance-university.com>

❖ "Pet Insurance Fact Sheet"

<http://www.veterinarypartner.com>

❖ "Pet Insurance Buyer's Guide: [American Animal Hospital Association] Seal of Acceptance"

<http://www.healthypet.com>

— MICHAEL MCMORROW

dian and talk at length about the details of care. A detailed understanding and agreement must be reached.

King advises: "These trusts are extremely flexible, allowing the drafter to specify activities and treatment of the pet." Elements such as training, preferred veterinarian, a pet health insurance policy, food, exercise and anything else designed to provide the desired "good life" for the pet can be written. So can the inevitable arrangements for a pet cemetery or other disposition of remains.

Occasionally, a third party is involved: An advisor (read: enforcer), possibly a member of the local animal welfare organization. Designating such a person to "look in" once or twice a year confers "standing," that is, the right to enforce the trust in court.

Two additional factors deserve mention. Naming an alternate to serve in each role provides continuity in the event a primary designee cannot or will not perform the prescribed duties. Clearly, combining both (or all three) responsibilities in a single individual eliminates oversight of the trustee and custodian.

The amount of money to deposit in the trust is  
SEE OWNER DIES, PAGE 20

## More

"Estate Planning for Non-Human Family Members" by Texas law professor Gerry W. Beyer was written for law students and estate lawyers. However, any pet owner will benefit from reading it. An owner's choices to provide for a pet are examined. See <http://www.professorbeyer.com>, then "Articles" and "Animals."

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# PET GAZETTE



I have a boy kitten named Oreo. He is my favorite cat. I got him from a rescue clinic at PetSmart. He had the biggest cage and toys. He has a brother named Lovebug who is my sister's cat. When we were looking for cats at the store, Oreo was so hyper and happy that he jumped in the trash can! Every night Oreo sleeps with me in my bed. My cat is black and white like a real Oreo. He is an American Short Hair. He loves to eat Oreo's! He has beautiful green eyes. This morning when I took the picture with him, he ran and played in the snow. My family and I love this special kitty so much!

— FROM COURTNEY SMITH (7)



Shortly before she passed away on Dec. 8, 2010 at the age of 15 years, Acappella Solo went for a spin in the Porsche Turbo, ears flapping in the breeze as she committed a serious traffic infraction.

— JAY SPIEGEL



Roxie: "One treat is just not enough!"



The Phalens welcome their new boy, Fog, fresh off the track in Florida.



I've been going to Westgrove Park since I was six months old, and after two years: An arrest! I miss my buddies and that wonderful place to run. I look longingly. Oh, woe is me.

— PADEN COSGRAVE  
(SUBMITTED BY PATRICIA HORN)



Nine-year-old Madison Eaton, fourth-grader at Stratford Landing Elementary with Riley, a 2-year-old soft-coated Wheaten Terrier. They are doing a snow dance. They were dancing and singing "Do a little dance, make a little snow, fall down tonight — fall down tonight!"



The Dunston's Beef (Bulldog) and Otto (Miniature Schnauzer)



Maddie



This is Christina, our amazing foster dog. We rescued her in October from a neglect situation. She was 10 pounds underweight and didn't even have access to water. She'd recently had puppies that had been sold, and was nursing off herself in an attempt to get nourishment. In the months we've shared our home with her, she has really blossomed. Christina currently is looking for her forever home and will make a wonderful pet for the right person. She is sweet and silly, and loves cuddling, long walks, and peanut butter Kongs. To see video of her, please search "sleepy, mellow, pit bull" on YouTube.

I am often asked why we don't keep Christina. We are absolutely in love with her, but already have two other dogs, plus cats, rabbits, and birds. We simply don't have the space, time, and energy to care for another dog on a permanent basis. Christina deserves to be in a home where she gets to be the center of attention. If you are looking for a K-9 best friend, Christina may be the dog for you.

SHEILA MORRIS



Here are Meigs (tan) and Ellsworth (black). We got them as puppies almost 14 and 13 years ago respectively. Meigs and little Ells have been on every road trip we have taken from Maine to Florida. They have never been kenneled and they have starred in their own children's book. Meigs knows she is a dog. She protects, keeps watch, mothers Ells, and takes care of the family. Ells, well, I am not so sure he knows he is a dog. Ells is unique. All who meet him know that he is special. He has the biggest heart a dog could ever have.

We know we are very lucky to have been blessed with Meigs and Ellsworth in our lives. They have provided us with much happiness for many years, but if there is one thing we can always count on from Meigs and Ells ... When we come home from work every day, they are there to greet us with tails wagging and there is nothing better than that.

— SUSAN VINISKY, LIBRARIAN, GROVETON ES



Emily and Grace Leahy with their pet Westie named Georgia.



The Murrin's Max, a black lab ...



... and Gabby, an Australian shepherd mix.



NEWS

# Hyland: A 7th Term?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

The wait will soon be over. This weekend, longtime Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland is expected to announce his decision on whether or not he'll seek a seventh term on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. In the weeks leading up to this weekend's town hall, Hyland has avoided previewing his intentions.

"You'll have to wait for the town hall," said Hyland, 75, in a recent interview.

Even before Hyland makes his official announcement, speculation has already started about potential candidates. Names that are frequently mentioned as potential Democratic candidates include former Del. Kris Amundson (D-44), Hyland aide Ron Fitzsimmons, Fairfax School Board member Dan Storck, Planning Commission member Tim Sargeant and Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations Special Committee on Strategic Planning Chairman Kahan Dhillon.

"I think candidates should have opposition from the other party and from their own party," said Wellington neighborhood resident Katherine Ward. "That's what democracy is all about."

But unseating a popular incumbent would be difficult, but not

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 14



## FREE HEART HEALTH COMMUNITY LECTURE

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## Making One's Own Pet Connection

**We love our pets, but millions more need homes.**

**A**re you considering adopting a dog or a cat or another animal? Be sure to rescue one in need.

More people have turned in pets to animal shelters in the past couple of years, in part because of the recession and increased foreclosures.

Approximately 6-to-8 million pets end up in animal shelters each year, according to The Humane Society of the United States. Of that number, 3-to-4 million are adopted, but the remaining 3-to-4 million pets end up being euthanized.

Here are a few places to adopt a pet who needs a home. There are many rescue organizations, including some that specialize in particular breeds. There are also networks of people, like PetConnect, mostly communicating on the internet, who help save adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters from near and far.

### Some Places to Adopt

**Fairfax County Animal Shelter:** Dogs, cats and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter Tuesday – Friday, noon – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, 703-830-1100 Some animals available for adoption can be viewed online. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm)

**Fairfax County Humane Society,** [www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org), 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-7387. FCHS also operates two thrift stores. Second Chance 1 Thrift Store, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 4055 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-3064. Second Chance 2, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 929 West Broad Street, Falls Church, 703-533-9268

**Pet Connect,** [www.petconnectrescue.org](http://www.petconnectrescue.org)

### EDITORIALS

## Super Bowl Parties, Fun and Safe

This year's Super Bowl might even turn out to be a game worth watching.

Super Bowl parties are fun even for those who are not big football fans. It's a great reason to get together at home or out in a restaurant or bar with friends.

Just be sure that you or your guests get home safely.

## Fighting for Fair Transportation Funding

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



### COMMENTARY

**T**he legislative session is now moving at a furious pace.

On Monday, I presented one bill at 7 a.m., a bill and a budget amendment at 8:30 a.m., another bill at 10 a.m., our Caucus met at 11:30 a.m., and our floor session ran for two hours at noon. Our committees are all pressing to complete action on bills so that they can be heard before next "Crossover Day" next Tuesday when the House and Senate swap bills.

Also, I was honored by a visit from my Young Leaders this week. Delegate Amundson started the Young Leaders Program and we restarted it this year. I was visited by four students from West Potomac and two from Mount Vernon. The program introduces students to state policy and state government. The students met several policy makers, myself and Senator Puller, attended committee hearings, and watched a floor session. During one committee hearing, they were able to observe debate on repealing the state gay marriage ban, a constitutional limit on state debt, and restoration of felon voting rights. They are now beginning to work on a project as a result of their visit. I appreciate the support of Cox Communications who helped to cover the program's cost.

My bills are also moving through the system. Although not adopted, several of my bills were referred for study. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) decides which transportation projects to fund in Virginia. It has 10 commissioners representing each transportation district and four at-large members who represent the interests of transit, rail, airports,

and ports. The transportation districts are based on the 1930's congressional district lines, plus a Northern Virginia seat that was added in 1985. Presently, the three urban/suburban districts have 62 percent of the state's population and 3 of 10 votes. The rural districts have 38 percent of the state's population and 7 of 10 votes.

My legislation requires the commissioners to be appointed based upon congressional districts. It would more than triple Northern Virginia's current representation plus help Hampton Roads and Richmond. It would give Northern Virginia the seat at the table that it deserves. The Governor's Office and Transportation Subcommittee agreed this needs to be addressed so it was referred to the Governor McDonnell's Government Reform Commission for further study.

Senator Puller's U.S. 1 Transit Study resolution is moving through the Senate and the Secretary of Transportation continues to assure me that my budget amendment to fund it should be included in the final budget. I am hopeful we are finally seeing some progress.

During my campaign, I noted that there were 14 preschools east of U.S. 1 and not a single preschool or childcare center on the west side of U.S. 1 (Woodlawn, Janna Lee, Hybla Valley and Groveton) in my district. After several meetings of my Preschool and Childcare Working Group, I introduced legislation this year to ask the Department of Social Services to study ways to maximize federal childcare matching funds and increase the availability of subsidized childcare in Virginia. There are 20,000

The McLean-based organization Washington Regional Alcohol Program suggests tips for safe celebrating to on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6. During Super Bowl Sunday 2009, 50 percent of all U.S. crash fatalities included drivers who were intoxicated according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Plan ahead: designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol, or use alternative transportation like taxi or public transportation.

If you're hosting the Super Bowl party: serve high protein food like meats and cheeses with alcohol; serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option; designate a bartender so guests don't mix their own drinks; close the bar at least an hour before you expect your guests to be leaving; don't serve alcohol to anyone who appears to be impaired; never serve minors; never allow anyone who has had too much to drink to get behind the wheel.

If you're driving on Super Bowl evening (or anytime), wear your seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP director. "The routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

children on Virginia's subsidized childcare waiting list and 2,000 in Fairfax County — many of which are in the U.S. 1 Corridor. Making high quality childcare and preschool more affordable and available to families in our community is critical to improving our school performance. My legislation was amended and then tabled this year with a commitment from the Department to further study the measure over the next year and revisit the issue in 2011.

About 100 constituents attended my Town Hall Meeting with Senator Toddy Puller on Saturday, Jan. 29. We had a two-hour discussion on a wide variety of topics ranging from redistricting, retirement benefits, and education funding to the extension of the Yellow Line and transit expansion. It was great to be back home and get some feedback on how we are doing.

Also, nearly 700 households have responded to my constituent survey. Improving the economy, working on transportation and education were the top three issues. A majority of respondents did not favor further cuts to the state budget and said we should consider raising taxes. A majority of respondents also favored some form of modest tax increase for transportation. If you are interested, I will be posting more complete results on my blog, The Dixie Pig at [scottsuovell.blogspot.com](http://scottsuovell.blogspot.com) over the next two weeks.

You can also continue to submit feedback online at [www.scottsuovell.org/survey](http://www.scottsuovell.org/survey).

You can also comment on legislation, set up a meeting or request a Capitol tour at [www.scottsuovell.org](http://www.scottsuovell.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.

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A Connection Newspaper



## Unnecessary Litigation

To the Editor:

As a resident and homeowner in Olde Belhaven Towne Owners Association (OBTOA), I would like to respond to the article titled "Neighbor Against Neighbor" printed in the Jan. 27 – Feb. 2, 2011 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

For over 40 years, OBTOA has existed to provide for the maintenance, preservation and architectural control of the community. Prior to the current situation, most disputes were resolved in a neighborly manner without resorting to the expense of protracted litigation.

The article opens with a discussion about the size of a political sign. OBTOA has covenants regarding the number and size of signs, and all members are expected to abide by these established guidelines. Several other homes displayed political signs that met the covenants. Why did this one homeowner fail to abide by them?

This latest controversy brought on by one homeowner is very disruptive to the majority of the residents and homeowners — not to mention the impact financially to each and all homeowner, including families, retirees, and widows. The continuing action by this homeowner poses an ongoing menace to our community.

The actions by this homeowner continue to threaten the peace and good order in our community. Neighbors don't sue their neighborhood; they seek a solution that is mutually beneficial.

**Harriet Singleton**

## Enough Research?

To the Editor:

One of the more interesting shows on cable television is an A&E production called Intervention. A typical episode follows the life of an addict from addiction through intervention, treatment and recovery. The featured addict invariably has a close family member whose misguided sense of love and compassion has served to enable the addict's destructive behavior. For the intervention to be successful the behaviors of the addict and of the enabler must be challenged by the treatment team. Each episode illustrates that love is not always what it seems.

Those who would question Aldersgate's decision to allow for Muslim worship are no less loving nor are they paralyzed with irra-

tional fears and prejudice. The Muslims now worshipping at Aldersgate may be our neighbors, co-workers and friends but did the church vet the strand of Islam now practiced in their church? Is it the virulently anti-Western, anti-Semitic strand that is intent on destroying Israel on its way to establishing a world Caliphate? Does it follow or tacitly endorse Sharia law, whether here or abroad, that allows for honor killings when a wife or daughter brings dishonor to the home? I trust the church

would withhold its hospitality from such a body just as I would hope it would not facilitate the practices of a cult, teachings that are antithetical to the faith or even those of a Christian sect that finds it necessary to picket funerals with messages of hate.

Author William James once said that "a great many people think they are thinking when they are really rearranging their prejudices." Jesus did indeed preach a message of love but that is only one side of His earthly ministry.

Upon entering Jerusalem, He overturned tables and drove out the money changers for profaning and corrupting the Temple. Jesus would go on to clash with the religious leaders of Jerusalem calling them a brood of vipers who were of their father the devil.

Tough words from a loving God and perhaps an example to others that being complicit with error — or with the self-destructive behaviors of an addict — is a lot of things but love is not one of them.

**Thomas M. Beattie**

## Mary F. Oden

Mary F. Oden of Alexandria died after a long and heroic battle with cancer on Jan. 27, 2011. She was the beloved wife of Wallace Oden and loving mother to Irene Harley, Barbara Douglas, Wallace Oden Jr. and Jimmy Oden. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Service was at Mount Comfort Cemetery, 6600 South Kings Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306 on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011.



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### Elegant Belle Haven Home



Stately seven bedroom, five and one half bath 1940's brick colonial. Renovated in 2006, this home offers lovely moldings & architectural detail, hardwood floors, slate roof, copper gutters & downspouts, light filled living room, spacious formal dining room w/ fireplace and French doors leading to a private patio, gourmet chef's kitchen, cozy family room, luxurious master bedroom w/ vaulted ceiling, & walk in closet, master spa bath, fabulous rec room w/ stone fireplace, wet bar and 600 bottle wine cellar, and a large brick patio overlooking a rolling lawn. ~\$1,750,000



1906 Belle Haven Road Alexandria, VA 22307

### Price Reduced! Live in DelRay!



Move In Ready! Walk to DelRay and Potomac Yards! Beautiful updated townhouse, 3 fully finished levels, 2 bedrooms + Den, 1.5 Baths, NEW Windows, landscaped fenced in backyard w/ deck. Remodeled kitchen w/ open floor plan and maple cabinets, gleaming hardwood floors stainless steel appliances w/ gas cooking. Master bedroom w/ vaulted ceilings, lower level den/rec room w/ half bath. Recently painted. ~\$399,900 more info at [www.PhyllisPatterson.com](http://www.PhyllisPatterson.com)



519 East Custis Avenue Alexandria, VA 22301

### Like New In Plymouth Haven



Inviting and refreshing southern style with front and back porches custom built and only 3 years young! 6700 finished sq feet on half lush acre. Dual staircases, modern open floor plan, easy entertaining flow, 6 BRs, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, wide wood floors, 3 fireplaces, chefs kitchen Exercise, music and game rooms, walk up attic, study. Steps from Ft. Hunt Park! ~\$1,550,000

8839 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

### Custom Built Waterfront by Boucher



4808 finished square feet of custom built home on 2 levels, + option to finish basement. 1.29 acres/ waterfront lot on highest point in neighborhood. 4+ bedrooms, 2.5+ baths. 183 feet of waterfront + dock conveys! ~\$2,549,000 contact Phyllis for floor plans and elevations. [www.PhyllisPatterson.com](http://www.PhyllisPatterson.com)

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### Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven



Beautiful, light filled colonial perfect for elegant entertaining as well as comfortable family living. Offering a two story foyer, tall ceilings, gracious formal rooms, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces beautiful master suite with a vaulted ceiling, six bedrooms, five and one half baths, exceptional built-in bookshelves and cabinets, wonderful family room and recreation room with fireplaces, two private decks, and two car garage. ~\$1,599,900 more info at [www.JeanneWarner.net](http://www.JeanneWarner.net) or 703.682.5458

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### Custom Build along the Parkway



Custom Built Homes By Boucher on half acre! 2 models available or design your own. 4+ bedrooms, 3.5+ baths, 3 levels, chefs kitchen, crown moldings, 2+ car garage, overlooking the scenic GW Parkway. Driveway off Ridgecrest culdesac. Starting at ~\$1,495,000

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### Only 1 Lot Remains- Glenwood Estates



BRAND NEW HOME. Pictures above are of Lot #3 and Lot #7 of the 11 lots of Glenwood Estates. Custom Designed Homes by Morris Construction. 4+ bedrooms, 3+ baths, TONS of upgrades to choose from. Lot 8 is last one remaining! Get in NOW to customize!! ~ Starting at \$799,000 [www.PhyllisPatterson.com](http://www.PhyllisPatterson.com) for more information. OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

4651 Neely Ann Court @ Glenwood Estates Alexandria, VA 22310

### Charming in Old Town

Delightful 2BR,2BA brick townhouse featuring crown molding and chair rail, hardwood floors updated kitchen with granite counters, rec room with full bath on lower level with outside entrance to lovely private deck, stone patio and garden ~\$539,000 more info at [www.JeanneWarner.net](http://www.JeanneWarner.net)



912 South Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314

### The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horsehair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~\$2,250,000



611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

## The Market Is Moving... Are You?

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**Wilton Woods** \$699,000  
6066 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria VA 22310

Amazing rambler with 5,600 finished square feet of living space. 2nd kitchen for entertaining or guests in lower level, main floor family room, 3 fireplaces, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths & garage.



Sherry York 703-409-3377



**Seminary Ridge** \$960,000  
4012 Moss Place, Alexandria VA, 22304

Just Listed! Freshly painted with refinished HW floors, this solidly constructed 4 bedroom & 3.5 bath brick colonial is in impeccable move-in condition. Perfect for gracious entertaining and comfortable family living. Terrific value!



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



**Potomac Gardens**  
\$935,000

1810 Carpenter Road, Alexandria, VA 22314

House Beautiful! Overlooking beautiful parkland, this lovingly maintained 4 bedroom and 3.5 bath brick end townhome features high ceilings, fine moldings, hardwood floors, and a fabulous gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



**Old Town** \$779,000  
813 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Visit [813OronocoSt.com](http://813OronocoSt.com)! Total renovation & historic character. Granite, stainless steel, HW floors, exposed brick/beams & huge sunny rooms. 1,958 sq ft. Old Town dining, shopping, waterfront, free gym & pool.



Chris Upham 202-359-1308



**Collingwood** \$1,995,000  
1500 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

Fabulous New Listing! Glamorous gated estate renovated in 2010, with exquisitely appointed guest house. 6 bedroom & 5.5 bath, main house. 2 bedroom & 2 bath, guest house. Pool, 4 fireplaces and professional style kitchen.



Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400



**Del Ray** \$479,900  
512 East Custis Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

Del Ray! Newly priced! Del Ray jewel with stylish high end finishes. Ideal alternative to a condo. Granite counters, glass tile, stainless steel appliances, driveway, great yard, 2 bedrooms and 1 bath.



Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400



**Old Town** \$559,000  
517 North Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed. Open Sunday 1-4 pm! Two bedrooms, 2.5 baths, totally renovated townhouse with off-street parking! Hardwood floors, fireplace, great storage, brick patio, huge eat-in kitchen, and fabulous bathrooms. A must see home!



Linda Wolf 703-518-6165



**Lake Barcroft** \$859,000  
6334 Crosswoods Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044

Absolutely Charming! 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car garage, 2 level home with views of Lake Barcroft from the living room, family room, and two tiered patio. Lots of windows and sunlight.



Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



**Stratford on the Potomac** \$649,000  
1917 Sword Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Just Listed. Open Sunday 1-4 pm! Freshly painted 4 bedroom, 2 full and 2 half bath, 3 level, center hall Colonial. Family room with fireplace, hardwood floors, new carpet, granite counters and updated baths.



Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



**The Plaza** \$285,000  
803 N. Howard Street, #262, Alexandria, VA 22304

Pristine 2 bedroom and 2 bath home with separate dining room, updated kitchen, and new appliances. Fresh paint, new carpet, washer/dryer & garage parking included. Metro bus at entrance to The Plaza.



Fran Orr 703-623-4070



**Highgate of Rosslyn** \$875,000  
1503-D N. Colonial Terrace, Arlington, VA 22209

Location! Location! Completely updated "Kent" model. Garden, 2 car garage, sunny eat-in kitchen, open floor plan for living room & dining room. Go to [www.Highgate1503-D.com](http://www.Highgate1503-D.com) for more photos and layout.



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



**Old Town** \$925,000  
2151 Jamieson Ave #1804, Alexandria, VA 22314

Rare Terrace at Carlyle Towers! Fabulous 35' terrace with fountain, curved glass enclosed balcony, 3BR & 2 3/4BA. Eat-in kitchen, DR, large LR, moldings, marble baths, HW flrs from the Montebello Collection & 2 car gar. [www.CarlyleTowers2-1804.com](http://www.CarlyleTowers2-1804.com)



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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 kit, 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 2/6, 1-4. GW Pky S; R-Morningside; R-Fort Hunt; L-Mason Hill; R-Rippon.



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5904 MT EAGLE DR #310  
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5904 MT EAGLE DR #910  
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Popular "E" Unit w/enclosed balcony & beautiful river view. 2BR/2BA has new carpet, new terra cotta tile in balcony, new kitchen appliances, newer HVAC.

Feel right at home in this stylish & sophisticated unit. Beautiful hardwood floors, updated appliances. French doors to enclosed glass balcony. One garage space.



Dayna Blumel & Kerry Adams  
703.597.2252



Dramatic views from every window in this 2BR/2BA condo. Highlights: hardwoods, built-ins, renovated BAs, updated kit, enclosed glass balcony. One garage space.



9212 Cherrytree Dr  
\$675,000

**Expanded and Updated!**  
Fabulous large home with bright, open floor plan with many major updates including: gourmet kit, updated baths, thermal replacement windows. Stunning main level family room with large windows, recessed lighting and FP. Glass doors lead to multi-tiered deck overlooking beautifully landscaped grounds. Expanded driveway and oversized 2 car garage. This property offers size, location and condition!



4117 Robertson Blvd  
\$719,000

**Upgraded Throughout!**

Owner just spent thousands on upgrades. All the work has been done for you. Move right in & enjoy! Classic colonial with 2 car side load garage. Elegant foyer, formal dining room w/built-ins, family room off kitchen leading to deck. Table space kitchen features silestone counters. LL boasts rec. room, den, full bath & storage. 2 fireplaces, 4 BR 3.5 BA. Huge lot w/mature trees & gardens. OPEN SUN 2/6, 1-4. GW Pky S pass Estate, L-Old Mt Vernon Rd, R-Robertson.



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.



1945 N EDISON ST  
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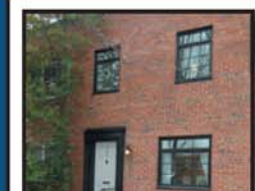
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8531 Mount Vernon Hwy  
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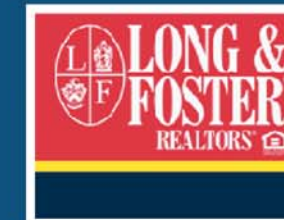
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Narian Rajan, MD  
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## NEWS

# Town Hall This Weekend

FROM PAGE 7

impossible. Hyland was first elected in 1987 by knocking off Republican incumbent T. Farrell Egge — a candidate whom he had already waged an unsuccessful challenge in 1984 to fill the unexpired term of Sandra Duckworth. But 1987 was a bad year for Republicans, with Democrats swept into a majority on the Board of Supervisors and Democrat Audrey Moore ousting Republican incumbent Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Herrity. In Mount Vernon, Hyland received 10,264 votes compared to Egge's 7,597 — a 2,667 vote margin of victory.

**“HE SAYS** the right things when he needs to, but there's been no action,” said Catherine Voorhees, a Hollin Hall Village resident. “He doesn't seem to have any influence or clout.”

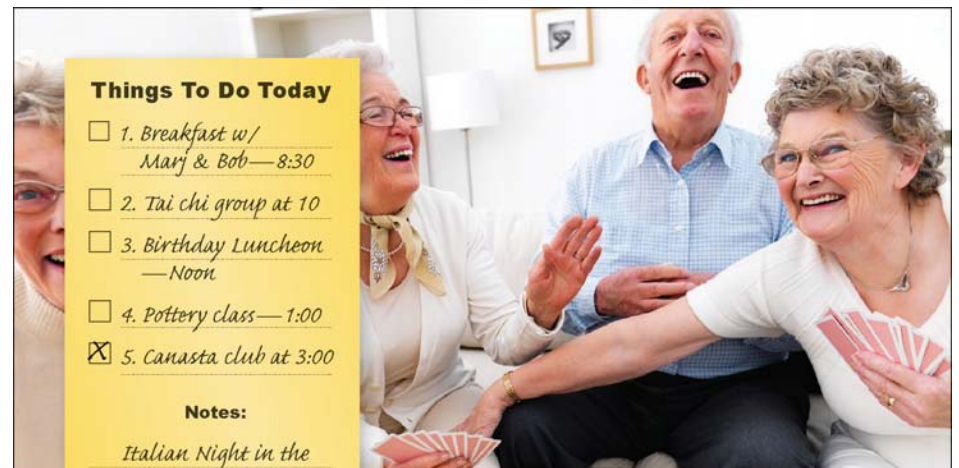
On the issue of transparency, Hyland is universally praised for making an effort to listen to constituents. Many pointed to his recent visioning task force as a good example of his leadership style, which seeks an array of opinions before making a final conclusion. Yet some say he waits too long before coming to a conclusion, including Citizens for Police Accountability executive director Nicholas Beltrante. “We're still waiting to hear his position,” said Beltrante, who is pushing for a citizen review board

of the Fairfax County Police Department. “He's been uncommitted for months.”

When the Huntington neighborhood flooded in 2006, neighbors there say, Hyland responded quickly and worked to make sure county resources were deployed effectively. Once again, Hyland receives praise for listening to the concerns of Huntington residents and advocating on their behalf. Yet, once again, the criticism of Hyland tends to focus on what happens next. “He advocated for our community to receive permanent flood protection, with funding responsibility to be shared by the county, state and federal governments, and he has been steadfast in that position,” said Alan Ruof, a Huntington resident. “Despite Gerry's advocacy, the lower half of our community remains vulnerable and without permanent protection.”

Supporters say he's been a strong leader who knows his community well and works hard to make sure his actions represent the best interest of the district. His recent actions don't give any indication that he is slowing down with a schedule that includes community meetings and fundraisers, leaving many with the impression that he has already decided to seek a seventh term.

“As far as I know, he's running,” said Del. Scott Surovell (D-46). “If he doesn't, it would be a huge loss in terms of knowledge and institutional leadership.”



### Things To Do Today

- 1. Breakfast w/ Marj & Bob — 8:30
- 2. Tai chi group at 10
- 3. Birthday Luncheon — Noon
- 4. Pottery class — 1:00
- 5. Canasta club at 3:00

### Notes:

Italian Night in the dining room!

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## THEATER

# Ethel Waters' Career in MetroStage's Spotlight

"His Eye is on the Sparrow" more bio-play than bio-cabaret.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

With "His Eye is on the Sparrow," MetroStage adds Ethel Waters to the string of noteworthy African American vocalists of the 20th century who have been the subject of the bio-cabarets that have given audiences a chance to sample the performance style of the likes of Nat Cole, Duke Ellington, Pearl Bailey and Alberta Hunter while receiving something of a dramatized briefing on their lives and careers.

Often these programs have been light on the biography in order to provide playing time for the impersonation/performance. Those performances have been stellar while the bio material was briskly covered in interesting and digestible bite-size asides. This time, however, the evening adds up to more of a play and less a cabaret, and that sense of heft is welcome.

As Waters, Bernardine Mitchell returns to MetroStage where she starred in the bio-cabaret of gospel singer Mahalia Jackson in 2005 and again last year, as well as appearing in "Three Sistahs" in 2004 and again in 2007. She "got the joint jumpin'" with "Mahalia" to a greater extent than she does here, but that is because the material in this show is a bit more subdued and dramatic.

The life that Ethel Waters lived lends itself to this more dramatic tone. She was born in Pennsylvania as the result of the rape of her mother and she had a hugely difficult childhood. Indeed, she says in her autobiography (also titled "His Eye is on the Sparrow") that "I was never a child. I never was coddled, or liked, or understood by my family. I never felt I belonged."

She earned stardom, but as the play makes clear, it was not all a bed of roses. She was married by age 13 and divorced by 14. Touring the south as a black entertainer in the early part of the 20th century she'd sometimes have to lodge at houses of prostitution because no legitimate hostelry would admit her. She once arrived at the back door of a theater to give her show only to find a black boy had been lynched in front for having had the audacity to speak to a white lady. At another time, she was injured in an automobile accident and the white people in the area refused to rescue her from the wreckage, saying it served her right for being in a white man's car. Later she was forced to undergo multiple painful surgeries without the aid of anesthesia because such drugs were not made available for women of her race in that area of the deep south.

It is a history like that which gave her the depth of emotion on which to draw for songs such as "Little Black Boy," which Mitchell on opening night performed a capella with great impact, and "Stormy Weather," which was one of her biggest hits as a result of the pain she was able to communicate in its story of a hard life. Mitchell's full-length rendition of that singular torch song was full of mannerisms that bring Waters' performance to mind.

Waters broke many barriers over the course of her career but none quite so remarkable as when she became the first black woman to star with whites in



Bernardine Mitchell stars as Ethel Waters in "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

a Broadway revue, Irving Berlin's "As Thousands Cheer." Those who think of Berlin as the writer of such up-beat material as "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," "Over There" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" may find the song he wrote for her for that show a revelation. "Supper time" tells of the pain of a mother having to prepare dinner for her children despite the knowledge that their father won't be coming home as he's just been lynched. Mitchell imbues the song with an incredulous air that adds to its poignancy.

William Knowles provides single-piano and keyboard accompaniment from center stage on a set adapted from the design of R. Paul Thomason. It provides three main playing areas that the actress wanders among. Jessica Winfield provides overly obvious peripatetic lighting for these wanderings with the effect that the actress is often ill-lit or completely out of the pool of light while the projections and visuals displayed on the back wall are in shadow or

overwhelmed by the silhouette effect of overly intense backlight.

The view we get of Waters looking back at the end of her career is dramatically more interesting than the other bio-cabarets, but the script does raise some questions. It isn't clear precisely why it shows Waters singing "Sweet Georgia Brown" at the age of 14 when the song wasn't written until she was in her late 20s. But more importantly, Waters had a reputation as a strong-willed and demanding star with a temper. While that temper flares a few times in this production, a kinder, gentler Ethel Waters appears on stage than her reputation might lead you to expect. Perhaps that is because the playwright, Larry Parr, places the piece at the end of her career when she has joined the crusade of the Rev. Billy Graham and she may well have found a new sense of calm or acceptance with the advent of religion in her life. This is a theater review not a history evaluation and it is a pleasure to report that the play is dramatically interesting and holds together well. I'll leave to others the question of how well it squares with the stories of Waters' more combative periods.



Christina Paschyn and Hans Dettmar star in "The Seagull" at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre.

## Brophy Directs Substantial 'Seagull'

The Arlington Players present Chekhov's landmark.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

The most important decision a theater makes when choosing to stage Anton Chekhov's revolutionary (for the late 19th century) introspective play, "The Seagull," is selecting a director. After all, when the play premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1896 it was a flop. Two years later, however, with a new director it was a big hit in Moscow. Right now, The Arlington Players are reviving this gentle human drama and the production has all the marks of a director letting the material take its natural course toward a satisfying evening of theater.

TAP selected Blakeman Brophy, who has directed a dozen shows for them in the past, including another drama that requires a careful directoral touch, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." For this new production, Brophy brings a thoughtful touch that keeps the piece from feeling like a museum piece. Instead, it has an impressive heft entirely fitting for its story of people involved in multiple triangular relationships — some romantic and some familial but none completely satisfying to the characters. Some are, however, completely satisfying to the audience in the hands of the cast that Brophy recruited.

This was Anton Chekhov's first major contribution to the Russian theater, and along with "Uncle Vanya," "Three Sisters" and especially "The Cherry Orchard," it revolutionized that country's theater arts and laid the foundation for big changes in drama world wide. Unlike the overly dramatic, classical tradition of his predecessors, Chekhov brought to the stage the light touch but sharp focus he had developed in his equally revolutionary work as a short story writer.

For "Seagull" he created not one or two starring roles with many supporting characters but, rather, a play for an ensemble with as many as six roles sharing prominence in different scenes.

There's a young playwright who, like Chekhov himself, plays not in the then-popular mode. Played here with a nice blend of emotion and naivete by Mark Jennings, the young playwright is in love with a neighbor girl (attractive Christina Paschyn) who appears in his new play in a performance staged at the lakeside estate of his uncle, the just nicely avuncular Gerald Kamens. The young playwright hopes to impress his mother, a professional

### Where and When

The Arlington Players' production of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" continues at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 South Old Glebe Road through Feb. 12. Performances are Friday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 - \$15. Call 703-549-1063 or log on to [www.thearlingtonplayers.org](http://www.thearlingtonplayers.org).

SEE SEAGULL, PAGE 16



## FINE ARTS

### Tory Cowles Is Named 2011 Artist of the Year

Tory Cowles has been selected as the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center Artist of the Year for 2011.

The award was announced on Jan. 10 in the Target Gallery of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Also recognized for their artistic excellence was Torpedo Factory artists Joyce Zipperer (Second Place) and

Brenda Townsend (Third Place).

The juror for the competition was Harry Cooper, Curator and Head of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Art.

An abstract painter, Cowles' background was in three-dimensional work such as stone wall building, woodworking, interior

design, architecture, and carpentry, and her paintings were representational landscapes and portraits. When she started painting abstracts, she was able to incorporate the challenges and appeal of her previous 3D work onto the 2D canvas. Her large abstract



Tory Cowles

canvases weave lush layers of color and spontaneous movement into mysterious stories.

### Blakeman Brophy Directs Substantial 'Seagull'

FROM PAGE 15

actress who has earned some fame but not much money in her career. The self-absorbed mother is played by Kelly Cronenberg with the most dramatic performance of the evening, which is appropriate for a character that is supposed to be an actress.

Add a slightly supercilious short-story writer played with panache by Hans Dettmar, the manager of the estate (the strong presence of Bill Fleming) and his wife (sharp-tongued Diana Shield) and their daughter (Rebecca Hausman) and, especially, Tom Flatt who makes more of the role of the family friend and town doctor than many actors might, and you have an ensemble of note. Others add to

the mix. Particularly notable is Jimmy Garza scurrying about as the workman on the estate.

The action takes place on the wide and deep stage of the Thomas Jefferson Theatre on four fine sets designed by Amanda Acker. The exterior set for act one benefits from AnnMarie Castrigno's rippling lakeside lighting while the interiors of rooms in the main house are substantial and nicely subdued, almost not like stage settings at all. Unfortunately, most of the furniture, and therefore, much of the action is placed so far away from the lip of the stage that the feeling of intimacy the play requires is hard to achieve.

The Arlington Players had to make one other major decision, one

that probably came after the selection of the director, and therefore, had his full participation. That was the selection of the translation/adaptation to use for the production. There are nearly two dozen English versions available. Indeed, one of the premiere English playwrights of our day, Tom Stoppard, is quoted as saying that "You can't have too many English 'Seagulls.'" Of course, he might feel that way because he wrote one of the "English 'Seagulls.'" The Arlington Players chose the version by Christopher Hampton, the author of the play "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and the books for the musicals "Sunset Boulevard," "Dracula" and "Rebecca." He brings a modern sense of streamlining to

the story while using a new literal translation from the Russian by Vira Liber. The result is a fine version that avoids the stilted feeling of a century-old play in a translation that requires footnotes for the out-of-date references.

Instead, everything flows nicely toward the final event, one that places Jennings alone on stage with no lines of dialogue but a cryptic instruction in the script that he's to spend "several minutes" tearing up his manuscripts. As Brophy has directed the scene and Jennings plays it, it is quite clear to the audience just what is going on in the character's mind as he reaches the final decision of his life. It is an effective and affecting piece of acting.

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Wednesday, March 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am  
Martha Washington Library, Room 104A/B

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or email us at [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org)



# ENTERTAINMENT

## EVERY FRIDAY

### Grown & Sexy Happy Hour and Comedy Show.

7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Hosted by comedian Ed Blaze. Ladies free until 9 p.m. Men \$10/\$15. At Weyone Lounge, 5801 Duke St. # E100, Alexandria, located in the back of Landmark Mall. Call 202-321-0867.

## 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/FEB. 3

**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 North Royal Street. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## FEB. 3 TO MARCH 31

**StagePlay Stories.** Thursdays 4:15-5:30 p.m. Ages 6-9. Traditional children's stories come to life in this class where youngsters team up to enter into the world of make believe. Theatre games, improvisations, the unique StagePlay costume collection and an atmosphere of kindness, add to the merriment. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Cost: \$120. Email bardsplay@aol.com or call 703-963-9430.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 4

**"Crude Justice" Film.** 7 p.m. Documentary on the damage done by the BP oil spill to the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Call 703-721-0595 or [gpcourshot@yahoo.com](mailto:gpcourshot@yahoo.com).

**"Beyond Borders: The Debate Over Human Migration."** 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Film screening and panel discussion led by guest speaker Simon Burrow, executive producer. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

## 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](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

**Recruiting Day.** Noon to 3 p.m. Free. Explore Civil War reenacting when soldiers and civilians of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will be on hand to talk about a soldier's uniform and equipment, demonstrate drills and explain the roles of military and civilian reenactors. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Play Date With Pride.** 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Special Black History Month activity program for kids. Children ages 5 to 12 will enjoy this interactive workshop with hands-on creative arts like



## FEB. 12-14

**Valentine's Cruises.** Cruise along the Potomac River on the Odyssey for \$129/person dinner; \$64.90/person brunch. Includes champagne, photos, souvenir glasses. Cruise along the Potomac on the Spirit of Washington is \$109.90/person dinner; \$40.90/person lunch. For reservations, call 866-302-2469.

storytelling, crafts, music and dance. Cost is \$5/child. At the Alexandria Black History Museum in the heart of the Parker-Gray Historic District. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 6

**Marine Chamber Orchestra.** 2 p.m. New Horizons. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

**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.

**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.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 10

**Naked Blue.** 7 p.m. Part of the Second Thursday Music at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-548-0035 or [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**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 North Royal Street. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## FEB. 12-20

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream."** Feb. 12, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 13 and 20 at 3 p.m. Performed by MVCCT and directed by Tiffany Ford. Tickets are \$10/adult; \$8/seniors and students. For tickets, call 703-360-0686. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.MVCCT.org](http://www.MVCCT.org).

## 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. For tickets, visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org). Call 703-548-0885.

**Swordsmen's Rendezvous.** 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Swordsmen tours last one hour and include re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay and a display and discussion of 18th-century weapons. Admission is \$5, ages 5 and up. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 13

**Paul Robeson at the Carlyle Club.** 5 p.m. Experience the spirit of Black History Month with actor, scholar and activist Paul Robeson, in "Paul Robeson, A Play by Philip Dean Hayes." Following the 90-minute performance, guests will enjoy a two- or three-course meal. Tickets are \$40. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, in Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**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 [www.woodlawn1805.org](http://www.woodlawn1805.org).

**Make-your-own Victorian Valentine.** 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5/crafter. At Lee-Fendall House and Garden, Alexandria. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

## MONDAY/FEB. 14

**Valentine's Day Mixer.** 7 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10/person. Love-inspired artwork, mood music, food and more. Call Matthew Cuenca ([matthewcuenca@gmail.com](mailto:matthewcuenca@gmail.com)) or Tracy Wilkerson ([tlwideas@comcast.net](mailto:tlwideas@comcast.net)) or visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org). Del Ray

Artisans' gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 15

**Mount Vernon Genealogical Society.** 1 p.m. Free. Presentation entitled "Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps - Record Group 35" by Charles S. Mason. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or [haroldm@erols.com](mailto:haroldm@erols.com).

**Irish Musicians.** 8 p.m. John Doyle, Niall Vallely and Cillian Vallely. Tickets are \$25/advance; \$29/door. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., in Alexandria. Reservations can be made at [www.sunspotpro.com](http://www.sunspotpro.com) or by calling 800-404-9049.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 16

**George Washington Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12/person; \$10/members. Join Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, as he presents "Those Who Labor For Me" - A Closer Look at Some of George Washington's Enslaved Workers. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. With Jim Stephanson and the Blue Dogs. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 17

**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 North Royal Street. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 19

**Broadway Night.** 8 p.m. The Hayfield Choir Boosters present Broadway Night 2011. Complimentary Dessert Reception at 7 p.m. and entertainment by the Hayfield High School Jazz Band. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$7/students and seniors. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn Auditorium, Hayfield Secondary School.

**Steven Gellman in Concert.** 8 to 10 p.m. At St Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-739-9268.

**Genealogist Char Bah.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. During Black History Month, discover your own family history with expert techniques for tracing African-American ancestors. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**George Washington's Birthnight Supper and Ball.** Cocktails, a unique silent auction, raffle, seated dinner and live music. Hosted by the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$175. To attend, call 703-799-8647 for reservations. At Historic Mount Vernon.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 20

**President's Day Concert.** 3 p.m. Free. The 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers will present a barbershop concert at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. A free-will offering will be taken to support the work of United Community Ministries. Contact Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, [brandtron@verizon.net](mailto:brandtron@verizon.net).



## SATURDAY/FEB. 12

### Countertenor Thomas Fallon.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra welcomes Thomas Fallon for evening of vocal selections. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org). Call 703-548-0985.

**"Ready for Spring" Event.** 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Find products like Airbonne, doTerra, lia sophia, Miche Bags, Thirty One and Willow House. Purchases will benefit the Lee Fendall House Museum and Garden. Contact Jeri Hesson at 703-350-2385 or [jeri.hesson@cox.net](mailto:jeri.hesson@cox.net).

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.** 3 p.m. Free. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Pre-concert lecture at 2:15 p.m.

**Marine Chamber Orchestra.** 2 p.m. The Compleat Percy Grainger. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).

**Folk Singer Pierce Pettis.** 7 p.m. With special guest Rj Cowdery. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org).

## MONDAY/FEB. 21

**Surprise Birthday.** Free admission. Celebrate the 279<sup>th</sup> birthday for George Washington. Daily from Feb. 19 through Feb. 21, the party features "General Washington" receiving birthday cheers, 18th-century music and birthday gifts presented from his 18th-century friends. On Saturday, Feb. 19, and Sunday, Feb. 20, have a taste of Washington's favorite breakfast — hoecakes swimming in butter and honey with "the General" himself! The weekend leads up to a grand holiday party for the first president on Monday, Feb. 21, with free admission, military demonstrations, the new "Surprise Birthday Party" celebration, and a wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's tomb. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org). At Mount Vernon.

**Meet Woodrow Wilson.** 11 a.m. Free. President Wilson will be brought to life by actor Brian Hilton, who will discuss his views on events of the time of his presidency, 1913 to 1921. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History museum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town, Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.



## MONDAY/FEB. 14

**Burlesque-a-Pades, February Frolic.** 7:30 p.m. For 18 and over. Valentine's Day-inspired production from purveyors of sexy stockings and classy lingerie Secrets in Lace as well as The World Famous Pontani Sisters. Tickets are \$29.50 plus standard booking fees. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria. Visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.



## 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](http://www.repertoryoperadc.org).



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## NEWS

# Local Designers At Crystal Couture

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

Fashions designed by West Potomac Academy graduates Samuel Ugglee and Kim Truong are spotlighted in this year's Crystal Couture, a week-long series of events in Crystal City that highlights the work of local designers and boutiques.

"I like to specialize in Eco-fashion" said Truong, a 2008 graduate of the academy. "The gown I am showing tonight was made from recycled pieces of lace and fabric from other designs of mine."

Samuel Ugglee, a classmate of Truong's and 2009 graduate, was reveling in the excitement of the opening night festivities Jan. 31.

"Kim is the one who taught me to sew," said Ugglee. "It's exciting to be doing a show with her."

Maggie Francois, a teacher at the academy, is producing this year's event, which is taking place in the former Crystal City Food Court at 1750 Crystal Drive.

"This is an amazing journey,"



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

West Potomac Academy senior Liliana Alvarez, right, and Tre Gayles model designs by West Potomac graduates during opening night of Crystal Couture in Crystal City.

Ugglee said. "Crystal Couture provides a showcase for independent designers and I am very grateful for that."

Crystal Couture runs each night from 6-10 p.m. through Feb. 5 and is free and open to the public. For more information and schedule of events, visit [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).

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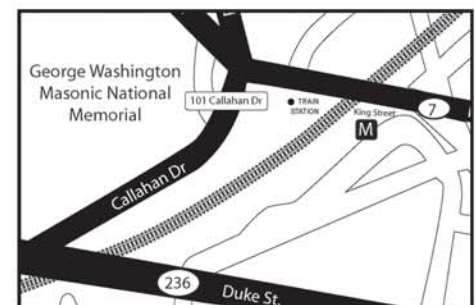
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# Mount Vernon Wrestling Defeats West Potomac

**M**ount Vernon wrestled at West Potomac on Jan. 29 and handed over a sound defeat, 60-12. The opening match at 152 pounds was between Trey McClure and Will Rupp, who were former teammates of the Mount Vernon Youth Wrestling Club. McClure won by decision (13-8) in a hard-fought match and put three team points on the board for the Majors. The Wolverines followed with a win by Nick Africano at 160 pounds and tied the team score. However, Mount Vernon was able to win 10 of the remaining 12 matches and ran away with the win.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Six Mount Vernon wrestlers won their matches by pin; they were Eriq Dahlum (103), Chris Johnson (119), Bailey Marino (125), Cody Marino (130), Jaelen Gadson (135), and Dusty Floyd (171).

West Potomac 215-pounder Zach Prinzbach won by pin, and Cole Beeby (145) won by decision.

Prior to the Mount Vernon match, West Potomac defeated Stuart 42-37. Six Wolverines won by pin against Stuart, including Ian Thompson (103), Bobby Merritt (130), Beeby (145), Will Rupp (152), Nick Africano (160), Ibrahim Shaw (171).

## Stratford Landing Sixth-Grader Excels on Ice

Over New Year's weekend, Andrew Lucas, a sixth-grader at Stratford Landing Elementary School, played in the 12th Annual Bell Capital Cup Hockey Tournament in Ottawa, Canada. The tournament attracts teams



**Head coach Anthony McDuffie, seen earlier this season, and the Mount Vernon wrestling team defeated West Potomac in a dual match on Jan. 29.**

from around the world and is one of the largest youth hockey tournaments. Lucas' team, the Assabet Valley Patriots, based in Boston, won the U12 division of the tournament by beating a number of higher-seeded teams, including the New England Junior Falcons in a double overtime victory.

Lucas scored the winning goal, and was named the "First Star" of the game.

Lucas played on the Patriots team as a guest player. His regular winter team is the Washington Little Capitals. He is also a former Northern Virginia Ice Dog, the team based out of the Mount Vernon Rec Center.

## West Potomac Competes At Swim And Dive Districts

The 2011 Patriot District Swim and Dive Championships format was held on Jan. 29 at the Lee District Recreation Center. Because of the snow and school closures the meet format was changed such that all events were swam as timed finals instead of a preliminary and finals rounds. The West Potomac girls finished fifth at the district meet and the boys finish sixth.

Sophomore Hellen Moffitt set a new Patriot District record in the 100 fly with a time of 57.97 seconds. The old record was 58.01, set in 2000 by Katie McAdoo of T.C. Williams.

The girls 200 free relay team of Moffitt, junior Reanna Dona, freshman Sara Bertram and sophomore Maddy Bolger set a Patriot District record with a time of 1:40.91. The old record was 1:41.14 set last year by West Springfield.

Moffitt took first in both the 100

fly and the 50 free and was the girls high point leader of the meet.

Dona took first in the 100 back with a Virginia AAA state-qualifying time, was second in the 50 free and was tied for second for girls high points for the meet.

Bertram took first in the 200 IM and was fourth in the 100 fly. She was fourth on the high-point list for girls.

Maddy Bolger took fifth in the 100 free and 11th in the 50 free. She was 31st on the high-point list.

Senior Mark Mattis took fourth in the 200 IM and was fifth in the 500 free. He was 12th on the high-point list for boys.

All three girls relays and two of the boys relay teams advanced to the region meet. The girls took first place in both the 200 and 400 free relays and both were Virginia AAA state qualifying times.

Top-six finishers in relays and individual events qualify to move onto the Northern Region Championships next week at the Oak Marr Recreation Center.

Other West Potomac swimmers and divers earning points for the team included: Julia Bolger (13th in the 100 fly and eighth in the 100 back), Leigh Orleans (10th in the 200 free and 10th in the 500 free), Trevor Jenne (eighth in the 200 IM and 15th in the 100 breast), Maddie Stevens (13th in the 200 IM and 10th in the 100 breast), Carolyn Murphy (ninth in the 500 free), Nate Jones (11th in the 100 back), Hannah Gwartney (14th in the 500 free), Patrick Murphy (15th in the 100 fly) and Lydia Perkins (15th in the 100 breast).

Significant time improvements were turned in by Richard Cochran (1.5 seconds in the 200 free), Austin Neal (more than 4 seconds in the 200 free), Jessica Metter (almost 5 seconds in the 200 free), Trevor Jenne (almost 2 seconds in the 200 IM), Cyrus Adams-Mardi (more than 4 seconds in the 200 IM), Billy Lescher (more than 4 seconds in the 200 IM), Sara Bertram (almost 2 seconds in the 200 IM), Spencer Watkins (almost 2 seconds in the 100 fly), Cyrus Adams-Mardi (almost 7 seconds in the 500 free), John Jasper (almost 5 seconds in the 500 free), Leigh Orleans (over half a second in the 500 free) and Aileen Fagan (almost 2 seconds in the 500 free).

## MV Girls Finish 4th, Boys 6th at Swim Districts

The Mount Vernon girls swim and dive team finished fourth with 252 points the National District meet on Monday. The boys finished sixth with 202 points, led by Mitch Ortiz winning the 1-meter dive.

In girls action, Yorktown captured the district crown with 637 points, followed by Washington-Lee (327), Falls Church (304.5), Mount Vernon, Stuart (164), Edison (147.5), Hayfield (142) and Wakefield (129).

Mount Vernon's Jinhee Lee finished eighth in the 200 free with a time of 2 minutes, 23.39 seconds. Mary Hood was fifth in the 200 IM (2:29.28) and Bridget Thompson finished eighth (2:36.06).

Sarah Sanderson (26.85) and Emma Ksenics (27.28) finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 50 free. Allyson Buennemeyer was eighth in the 100 fly (1:05.74) and Sarah Sanderson finished fifth the 100 free (1:00.36). Buennemeyer was fourth in the 100 back (1:05.27) and Hood finished fourth in the 100 breast (1:15.11).

The Mount Vernon 200 medley relay team (Buennemeyer, Hood, Sanderson, Ksenics) placed third (2:00.07) and the 400 free relay team (Thompson, Hood, Heather Campbell, Lee) finished fifth (4:13.88).

In boys action, W-L won the district title with 410 points, followed by Yorktown (391), Stuart (304.5), Hayfield (257), Falls Church (247), Mount Vernon, Edison (194.5) and Wakefield (64).

Mount Vernon's Nick Campbell finished seventh in the 200 free (2:05.98) and Ethan Lane-Singleton was fourth in the 50 free (23.47). Alex Weinberg was fifth in the 100 fly (1:01.55) and Campbell was eighth in the 500 free (5:53.90). Weinberg was also eighth in the 100 breast (1:13.50).

The Mount Vernon boys 200 medley relay team (Campbell, Weinberg, Lane-Singleton and Ryan Sin) finished seventh (1:53.50) and the 200 free relay team (Lane-Singleton, Sin, JD Stoltz, Blake Barrow) was fourth (1:39.25).

Along with Ortiz's victory in the diving competition, Stoltz finished seventh (244.10) and Orlando Diaz-Lorenzo was 13th (198.65).

## Softball League

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Anyone over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, call Donna at 703-938-0387 and check out the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Stratford Landing sixth-grader Andrew Lucas earned "First Star" honors for scoring a game-winning goal during a tournament in Canada.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The West Potomac girls 200 free relay team: (from left) Maddy Bolger, Sara Bertram, Reanna Dona and Hellen Moffitt.**





# Well-Heeled, Good Mannered Yet Playful, Too

FROM PAGE 3

We teach heel, come when called, and stay — sit stay, down stay, and stand stay.”

According to Pratt, they offer basic group obedience training in one-hour sessions over the course of eight weeks. They don't deal with puppies under five months, so there's no housebreaking or socializing lessons.

Since they are an AKC obedience club, they also offer three advanced classes for those who want more than the basics for their dog, perhaps with an eye towards participating in an obedience ring competition.

“Even though we are an AKC Obedience Club, we take any dog,” Pratt said. “Mixed breeds are now accepted at AKC Obedience Trials, and we'd love to see more mixed breeds compete.”

What makes this organization a club has more to do with like-mindedness of the members than club fees or other financial obligations. While they do charge a nominal fee of \$80 for the basic obedience training, the trainer doesn't receive any compensation for the 8-week course.

“We're a group that makes sure we have what we need to carry out our programs,” Pratt said.

That includes anything from securing venues for training to getting plaques made for a member's winning pooch to finding judges for the annual Obedience and Rally Trial in October.

And even though they are an obedience club, they do have their share of fun, including Halloween parties with prizes for the best canine costumes. There's also a Fun and Games night where one of the favorite activities features frozen hot dogs on the floor. Picture dogs searching for the right hot dog to bring back to their handler without chowing down on any of the other temptations on the floor.

Obviously these are not at the kinds of activities dog lovers have come to know and love during the Westminster AKC Club's Best of Show competition on television.

“That's all pure breeds and more like the AKC version of a beauty pageant,” Pratt said with a laugh. “That's not obedience.”

**AFTER SPENDING** time and money to teach your dog manners, you don't want



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**Good dogs: A Mount Vernon Obedience Training Class practices Sit/Stay.**

just anyone taking over the leash. What are dog parents to do when they have to go to work? Eight hours is a long time for even the most obedient pooch to wait for a potty break.

That's where “Your Dog's Nanny” comes in.

Arlington resident Jill Schutt, aka Nanny J, says the name of her business may sound cute. “But it's what I really do,” she said with a laugh.

The native Australian has lived in the States since her early 20s. But it was back Down Under in her teens that her entrepreneurial spirit first spread its wings.

“I used to macramé dog leashes and collars and then sell them to local pet boutiques,” Schutt said. “I owned my own business at age 15. And I'd always done training of dogs since I was 13. I knew I wanted to continue in some way.”

Schutt says her current business started about seven years ago and evolved from working in the animal hospitals she opened with her ex-husband, an Old Town veterinarian. One of her responsibilities was walking the dogs at the hospitals.

“I realized that people pay a lot of money to train their dogs, and it's important to keep the continuity going,” Schutt described. “There's been a real need in the area for professional, courteous, trained dog walkers that know what they're doing.”

Schutt not only provides dog walks that reinforce obedience training. She also has a doggy taxi service that includes taking

## Details

### MOUNT VERNON BASIC OBEDIENCE

#### DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Commonwealth Baptist Church in Alexandria, March 22  
The Landings Community Center in Burke, Md., March 7  
**2011 Obedience Trial and Rally**  
Oct. 7-8  
**Catocin Kennel Club**  
Point of Rocks, Md.  
703-960-2868, Training Director Cheryl Pratt  
<http://mountvernondogtrainingclub.com>

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Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
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<http://www.otsfd.com/>

### MY DOG'S NANNY

Jill Schutt, owner  
703-899-8617

small groups of dogs to a local dog park for socialization and exercise.

Schutt talked about a Portuguese water dog that won several obedience titles while under her instruction. She is still that dog's nanny, helping the owner who is home bound. The dog, in turn, is helping others. Schutt has involved the dog in the pet therapy program at Mount Vernon Hospital's head trauma unit.

“That breed has to be kept busy during the day. The more you give them to do or make them think, the happier they are,” Schutt said.

“It's very rewarding.”

**THE MAIN** thing with dog training, according to Sandy Mejias, is no matter who you end up working with, you want to make sure it's someone that uses a balanced method of training in the real world.

“You have to build a team: you, your dog and the trainer,” she said, noting that Cesar Milan, whose show “The Dog Whisperer” airs on National Geographic Television, has helped a lot of viewers see it's important to be a team.

Mejias suggests that before you enroll your dog in a class, meet the trainers, ask about their credentials and how they learned their craft. Ask about the dogs they've trained. And, make sure it's someone you can get along with.

Be careful, she advises. There are some organizations that just about anyone can join and get a certificate that says they're a dog trainer, but there's no real licensing or examination to pass that actually qualifies a person to train dogs.

“We've had many dogs that were trained in other places come here for retraining,” Mejias said.

It's like anything else, she added. When you're about shop for a new flat screen TV, you have to do your homework.

Be sure to do the same for the furry family member.

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

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The Great Falls Connection

# Owner Dies, Pet Lives, Then?

FROM PAGE 5

open to many variables, but can be quite reasonable. The kind of animal, its expected lifespan, the level of pet health insurance and special wishes of the owner must be tallied. One place to begin considering costs is the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' website ([www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)), then “pet care costs”).

Attorney Sean A. Dunston of Alexandria developed a focus on pet care before the Virginia trust law came into effect. He explains what happened.

“I was updating an estate plan. The client said that any of three cats surviving her were to be ‘put down.’ That bothered me because I am a pet owner. Routinely, I began to recommend that pets become gifts to others who would care for them.”

Dunston noted that not everyone needs a pet trust. However, where the animal is treated almost as a child in the family, a provision in the estate plan should be given serious consideration. Young people without children and older “empty nesters” are the most receptive to this suggestion, he said.



## RECEPTIONIST

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At Home in Alexandria (AHA!), a start up non-profit organization is looking for an Executive Director. AHA! will enable Alexandrians to live independently in their own homes. See [www.athomeinalexandria.org](http://www.athomeinalexandria.org) for details. Preference will be given to Alexandria residents.

Send an email to [ExecDir.AHA@gmail.com](mailto:ExecDir.AHA@gmail.com) using *ED Application* in the subject line. Completed applications must be received by close of business (COB) Friday, 4 March 2011.

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# JOB FAIR

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St. Coletta of Greater Washington, Inc. is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization that serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism, and secondary disabilities. Our adult day program offers adults with intellectual disabilities opportunities to participate in vocational and life skills training, community integration, recreational activities, and consultative services in order to achieve greater independence.

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**OBITUARY**

**Lottie Marie Beach**, 50 of Woodbridge, VA died Jan. 29, 2011 is survived by her mother Ella J. Formando, stepfather Albert M. Formando, 3 sisters Mary J. Heard, Donna J. Beach, Dorothy A. Beach, 1 brother Irvin A Beach Jr, 1 daughter Rebecca "Becky" Cruz, 2 sons Kevin H. Logan Jr, Michael L. Jones, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives. Viewing will be held Thursday Feb 3, 2011 6pm-8pm at Cunningham Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be Friday Feb 4, 2011 at 10:30am followed by burial at 12pm at Mount Comfort Cemetery.

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SOLICITING INTEREST IN FORMING RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD AT US ARMY GARRISON FORT BELVOIR

In accordance with 10 USC §2705 and Department of Defense (DoD)/ Army policy, Fort Belvoir is inviting public involvement by community members in the decision-making process, including project prioritization, for Fort Belvoir's environmental restoration program. Environmental restoration is a planned and focused cleanup of contamination associated with past DoD activities to insure threats to public health and the environment are eliminated. The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a stakeholder group that regularly meets to discuss environmental restoration at a specific property that is either currently or was formerly owned by DoD, and where DoD oversees the restoration process. RABs enable people interested in the cleanup to exchange information with regulators, the installation, and the community.

Cleanup efforts at Fort Belvoir include evaluation of Munitions Response Sites (MRS), Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) investigations, and petroleum remediation.

Remedial Investigations (RI) are being conducted at 8 MRSs to determine whether these sites warrant further response action pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The RI will determine the nature and extent of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and Munitions Constituents (MC) and determine the risk posed to human health and the environment by MEC and MC.

SWMU investigations, in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) requirements, were performed at 50 Main Post sites and over 30 sites at Fort Belvoir North Area (BNA) consisting of former spill, dump, and landfill sites. Investigations included soil and groundwater sampling. At Main Post, 14 sites plus a former tank area will be investigated further. Three other Main Post sites and 6 BNA sites may also require further action.

Fort Belvoir Buildings 305, 324, 1124, 2209 and 3161 are the five petroleum remediation sites under the RAB. Site remediation at Buildings 324, 1124, 2209 and 3161 consists of groundwater, soils and vapor treatment to reach remedial endpoints that are required in Corrective Action Plans approved by the VDEQ. The remediation at Building 305 is complete and post-operational gauging and sampling is occurring at that site at this time.

Community members interested in serving on a RAB are asked to contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, at [environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil](mailto:environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil), 703-806-4007, or 9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Suite 200, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116. If enough interest is generated Fort Belvoir will form a RAB and provide information on membership and responsibilities.

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CALL LINDA SWEENEY 703-203-1005



**ALEXANDRIA SOUTH** **ALL-BRICK RAMBLER** **\$345,000**

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

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**ALEXANDRIA SOUTH** **COTTAGE WITH CHARACTER** **\$270,000**

Most affordable close-in home on market, move-in ready and waiting for new owner. Family area with wood stove, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, rear deck, plus large work shed with electricity. Ample parking. **Directions: From Alex, Route 1 South, Left Groveton St to 2912 on left.**

CALL MARTI COX 703-906-1325



NEW  
PRICE

**SPRINGFIELD** **SARATOGA TOWN** **\$299,900**

Nifty three level townhome with open kitchen, full master bath and full finished basement. Move-in condition. Community amenities plus shopping nearby. **Directions: Fairfax Co Parkway, south on Rolling, Right Northumberland, left Powderbrook to 8081.**

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