

Living History On Deathbed

Gunston Hall in turmoil following in the wake of major changes.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Gunston Hall, the historic home of George Mason, has been cast into a state of disarray in recent weeks, pitting an embattled executive director against scores of embittered volunteers. At stake is the educational mission of a museum home visited by thousands of annual tourists, one of the crown jewels among the remaining plantation homes of the late 18th century.

On one side of the dispute is David Reese, who has been director of the museum home on Mason Neck since 2003. On the other side are scores of volunteers and their allies, many of whom are calling for Reese's ouster. At the center of the dispute is former educa-

tion director, Denise McHugh — a 20-year employee at Gunston Hall whose position was terminated by Reese at the end of January.

"Recent reductions in the commonwealth's allocation to Gunston Hall have been painful," Reese said in a written statement. "Almost every educational or cultural agency in the United States is presently experiencing radical cuts in their annual budgets."

According to the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, state funding for Gunston Hall was reduced by \$5,000 last summer. Supporters of McHugh say this hardly seems like a reason to terminate the position of education coordinator, especially when the mission of Gunston Hall is so closely tied to education. Critics of

SEE TURMOIL, PAGE 7

Recalling Hamilton

Community discusses accused pedophile.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

John Hamilton was born 39 years ago. He grew up in the Mount Vernon area, has a brother, David, and after his father died, his mother, Rose Hamilton, who is the owner of Wick's Sport Lettering, Inc., remarried.

He is a white male and weighs 285 lbs. Height is 6'3". His hair is brown and his eyes are hazel. He

has two scars across his left wrist from what police say was a suicide attempt after he was released on bond last year.

Other than that, little is known about his early years, even after talking to more than 20 people who knew him, including the man who was his most recent roommate.

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 10



Hamilton



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Dreamy

As Demetrius (Ben Juricic) sleeps, Oberon (Jon Pool) awakens Titania (Kate Reid) and Titania discovers Bottom (Anton Ekman). The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre is presenting "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, on Feb. 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m. and on Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of performance. For more information visit www.MVCCT.org

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Volunteers for USO Program Hit Milestone

Two million care packages shipped to troops.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE GAZETTE

It was everyone's day off. Yet, in the early morning, 100-plus volunteers entered an old Fort Belvoir warehouse. On an ordinary Saturday they expect only a donut, a cup of coffee and three or four hours of boring labor. But today would not be ordinary.

The paid staff had a surprise. Volunteers were met with decorations and a cake so all could celebrate the USO's 70th birthday. Briefs remarks were offered by Director Jonathon H. Cannon, Operation USO Care Package (OUCP), followed by a lusty rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Then it was time to work. Lines formed on both sides of long tables and bags with personal comfort items for troops far away were passed hand-to-hand. At the same moment, recipients were on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as Korea, Guam, Germany, Diego Garcia and even Alaska.

Endless ocean, frozen tundra, or heat-racked desert, no matter the view in front of our service men and women, the care package is "a touch of home." Prepaid calling cards, toiletries, playing cards, snacks and reading material are typical inserts.

While the items are useful, their real value lies in an unstated message: Folks across the U. S. remember and are grateful for your service and sacrifice.

OUCP began in 2003 and last December the number of care packages passed the 2,000,000 mark. They

could be measured in pounds and tons, or even by total miles traveled. However, the real measure is found in the reaction of those receiving them.

"As I look upon the faces of the Marines here, I notice the spirit of every fighting man is lifted. Marines love free stuff, put simply," wrote Sgt. G. H., 1st Marine Division.

Another letter began by explaining that a battalion's supply boxes failed to arrive.

Everyone was living out of their 3-days kit. Care packages arrived and were combined with parcels sent by families. "(W)e were able to get those things out to the Soldiers the day before Christmas and it was a really great Christmas for them. You don't know how very much they appreciate all you are doing to care for us Soldiers," wrote CSM M. J., 10th Mountain Division.

"With some charities, people write a check and walk away. They never see the good happen," said Stephen Ibarra, the logistics specialist responsible for shipping. He continued, "This program is different. The volunteers touch the



Stephen Ybarra of USO guides volunteers to their work stations.



From left: Old hands Henry Georgevich of Alexandria; Joe Baker of Reston and Tracey Averett of Alexandria explain the ropes to newcomer Karen Haas of Woodbridge.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE GAZETTE

very items that will reach the hand of a service member, somewhere. That makes it very personal."

Not wishing to limit participation to the Metropolitan Washington Area at Fort Belvoir, 20 or so "stuffing parties" are held each year at bases from coast-to-coast.

In the eight years of operation, Ibarra estimates that a total of 15-20,000 volunteers have participated. Their reasons vary.

"I began on a team formed by my employer. I'm Navy and the USO was there for me. This is one way to pay back," according to Henry Georgevich of Alexandria. He added, "Besides, it's fun."

"Friends told me about the program and I was attracted because we are a military family on both sides. Right now, my daughter is thinking about enlisting," said Karen Haas of Woodbridge.

Sign Up

Individuals and groups may apply to join a Fort Belvoir "stuffing party." Patience is required for this popular activity. Write to Jonathon H. Cannon, Director, Operation USO Care Package, 9455 Jackson Loop, Bldg 1415, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

"My daughter-in-law started stuffing care packages because her children needed community service hours at school. One boy is in college now, but she kept on coming. Lately, she invited me to join. My husband is buried in Arlington Cemetery so helping those in uniform seems perfectly natural," said Anna Forlini of Hayfield. "I'll keep coming as long as I'm able to do something useful."

The volunteers built a couple thousand care packages before noon, and went home. The good they did would take weeks to surface in some distant place.

Pet Therapy's Role at Mount Vernon Hospital

Paws-itive play promotes rehabilitation.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
THE GAZETTE

Amy Dowling, a certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS), in her ninth year with Mount Vernon Hospital, discusses pet therapy at Mount Vernon Hospital. Previously she worked at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. She earned her bachelor of science degree in therapeutic recreation from Radford University in 2000.



Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Amy Dowling

Can you give us a brief history of the pet therapy program at Mount Vernon Hospital?

The program started about 20 years ago by a recreation therapist who had a strong interest in using dogs to enhance a patient's hospital experience. Initially the program started with one dog that would come once a week for patient visits. The program evolved, and over the last several years we have had about

eight to 10 dogs participate. Most of our dogs and volunteers come twice a month.

How is pet therapy used at Mount Vernon Hospital?

Our dogs visit only the patients on the rehabilitation unit. Our patient population consists of Traumatic Brain Injury, Strokes, Spinal Cord Injuries, Multi-trauma injuries, MS, amputations, and general debility from an illness. At times we may have special requests from other units and, if appropriate, we can bring the dogs to their units. The dogs visit patient rooms as well as therapy gyms.

SEE PAWS-ITIVE PLAY, PAGE 6



Diane Robertson's dog Tiggy, an English Lab, sits with Judith Miller as she awaits therapy at Mount Vernon Inova. Behind Miller is Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Amy Dowling.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



The Webelos cheer as the cars descend the track and head to the finish line.

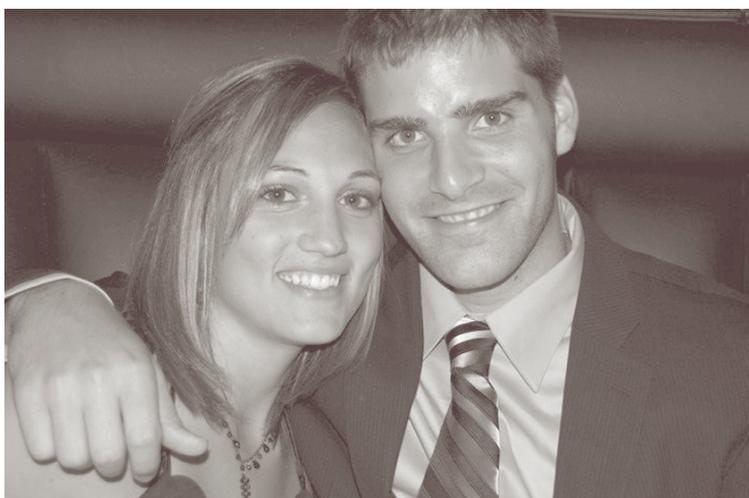


Daniel Pasquerella holds up his derby design based on the "Ice Cream Sandwich."

Den leader John Keightley prepares to announce the winners of the design and speed categories to the Bear Cub Scouts.

In the Race

Boy Scout Pack 1504 held its 2011 Pinewood Derby in the Fellowship Hall at Aldergate Church on Fort Hunt Road. The scouts brought in their models and presented them to the race crew. The scouts took seats around the track as scout leader John Keightley called the races. The scouts will continue on to the Colonial District Derby on March 12 at West Potomac High School. Pack 1504 is chartered by the Waynewood PTA.



Katelyn Noble and Stephen Nichols

Nichols and Noble Are Engaged

Sharon Nichols of Alexandria, announce the engagement of her son, Stephen Nichols, to Katelyn Noble, daughter of Mary Pat and Pat Keener, of New Market, Md.

The prospective groom is a 2009 graduate of Longwood University and is a financial analyst for the U.S. Navy.

The bride-to-be is also a 2009 graduate of Longwood University and is working toward a master's degree in occupational therapy at Towson University.

A June 2, 2012 wedding is planned.

'Stuff Bus' for UCM

The public is invited to come out to the Beacon Mall Giant on Saturday, Feb. 19, between to 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., to help "stuff the bus" full of food to go into United Community Ministries' food pantry. Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and the Office of Public Private Partnerships are partnering with MV Transportation, Inc. and local grocery stores (Bloom, Giant, and Shoppers) to collect donations of food to assist the most vulnerable in the community.

All donations will go directly to UCM. For more information on the Stuff the Bus program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs or call 703-222-9764, TTY 711.

Victim Recovers Items

According to Mount Vernon Police, a Fairfax man tracked down his stolen property on Craigslist, met the seller at a local donut shop, and called police to have the suspected arrested on Saturday, Feb. 12.

Thieves broke into a Buick sedan in the 13000 block of Pleasant View Lane in western Fairfax County during the nighttime hours of Thursday, Feb. 10 and stole two GPS devices hidden in the vehicle. The victim reported the theft to police and scanned Craigslist in hopes of finding the stolen property. After seeing an item he suspected could be his, the man contacted the seller and arranged a meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at a donut shop on Richmond Highway. After recognizing the items were his, he called police and they responded to the scene.

A 20-year-old man was charged with receiving and buying stolen goods. Police are continuing the investigation to see whether this incident can be linked to others in the area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

PEOPLE NOTES

SRA International Inc., a provider of technology and strategic consulting services and solutions to government organizations and commercial clients, has awarded the 2010 Chairman's Award for Honesty and Service to **Al Bornmann**.



Bornmann is a Mount Vernon resident and a current co-chair of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations.

Need a vocalist for an upcoming event? Deborah

Anne Kamara is a soprano looking to save up money for college, where she hopes to pursue degrees in geology and vocal performance. She has also appeared in Mount Vernon High theater productions (The Ghost of Christmas Present in "A Christmas Carol," Alice Sycamore in "You Can't Take it With You," Rapunzel in "Into the Woods" and Gertrude McFuzz in "Seussical: The Musical"). She has performed the National Anthem for military ceremonies in Fort Belvoir, and has performed with her Madrigals Ensemble at other venues. To contact her, email kamaradeborah@yahoo.com.



Dr. Elizabeth Puscheck, a graduate of Ft. Hunt High School and the daughter of Dr. Herbert C. and Betty L. Puscheck, West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, has been selected as chair of the Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Specialist-in-Chief of the Detroit Medical Center. Puscheck is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Washington School of Medicine, St. Louis. She has authored more than 50 peer review articles and held numerous nationwide leadership positions in her area of expertise. She is married to Dr. Daniel Rappolee, formerly of San Francisco, and the mother of three: Eleanor, 15, and twins Benjamin and Thomas, 12. They reside in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

PEOPLE

MVHS Junior Named to School Board

Eugene Coleman, III chosen by Council.

Eugene Coleman, III, a junior at Mount Vernon High School, has been chosen as the 41st student representative to Fairfax County School Board.

The county-wide Student Advisory Council elected him to serve a one-year term on the School Board beginning July 1.

"I am honored to be elected by the Student Advisory Council. I intend to represent their voice and their ideals, and speak about their concerns on the School Board," said Coleman. "By doing so I hope to help make a good school system better and more responsive to the needs of my fellow students."

Coleman says he is interested in examining the possibility of restarting summer school and addressing the issue of fees for high school athletics, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.

— GERALD A. FILL



Eugene Coleman III, with MVHS student and friend, Yaphet Elaias.

Duties

The role of a student representative on the Fairfax County School Board:

- ❖ Participates as a non-voting member on the Board.
- ❖ Provide the members of the Board and the public a student's perspective on issues before the Board — how a pending policy or decision may affect students.
- ❖ Raises other concerns from students' point of view.

Profile

EUGENE COLEMAN, III

Age: 17

Parents: Martha and Eugene Coleman, Jr.

Hobbies: Flying private airplanes; he is a licensed glider pilot

Academic & Extracurricular

Record:

Grade Point Average: 3.9

Enrolled in the International

Baccalaureate (IB) Curriculum

Favorite Sport: All sports; currently participating in Lacrosse and Cross

Country.

Junior Class President

Captain, Marine Corps JROTC

Member, Men of Vision and Purpose program, formed to create and encourage male leaders, help close the achievement gap, and dispel the stereotype of young African American males.

Member: Debate Team, and Founder of the school's glee club

Member: National Honor Society, and Black Student Achievement Council

Volunteer: Gum Springs Youth Athletic Association

Jupiter Appointed to Library Board

Jay Jupiter has been appointed by Supervisor Gerald Hyland to the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees.

"I was interested in being associated with such a fine organization and hope to help assure that the library system would enjoy favorable oversight and community support," said Jupiter, a resident of the Mount Vernon area for 40 years.

"The library system is facing significant challenges in coping with evolving technology and budget constraints. I hope to provide some thoughtful support and perhaps new ideas to help the system cope with these challenges.

"One area that I intend to focus on is the interaction between the library system, the Branch Friend's organization, and the Fairfax County Library Foundation. I also hope to propose other

Profile

JAY JUPITER

Education: BBA City College of New York; MBA Cornell University; Juris Doctor Catholic University

Employment: Currently attorney in private practice; formerly worked for various federal financial regulatory agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve

Local Volunteer: PTA, Woodlawn Elementary School; PTA, Mt. Vernon High School; Potomac Appalachian Trail Club; Boy Scout Troops

Family: Married to Francine Jupiter; Adult children: David, Karen.

areas where mutual support of community organizations with the library system can enhance services." — GERALD A. FILL

CRIME

Activities reported by the Vienna police department through Feb. 11.

BURGLARY

A home in the 7700 block of Eagle Ave. was burglarized around 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3. An investigation determined the suspect forced entry through a door and stole a television and video game system. Police are investigating and a petition for burglary is pending.

BURGLARY

A home in the 2200 block of Windsor Road was burglarized on Sunday, Feb. 6 between 3-7 a.m. An investigation determined someone entered through an open garage door and stole loose change from a vehicle.

BURGLARY

A home in the 5900 block of North Kings Highway was burglarized

between 2-3 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 7. Nothing appeared to be missing.

LARCENIES

4300 block of Agnew Ave. Computer stolen from business.

4300 block of Agnew Ave. GPS and cash stolen from vehicle.

3700 block of Austin Ave. Jewelry stolen from residence.

1400 block of Belle View Blvd. Cell phone stolen from business.



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3232 Woodland Lane

Lovely 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on a spectacular .48 wooded lot in prestigious Woodland Park. Stunning sunroom addition in 2006. Cherry cabinets & Corian counters in large remodeled kitchen and updated baths, freshly painted interior and newer energy-efficient replacement windows. Spacious double carport with ample storage. Community boat ramp for water access. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Metro & Old Town, 25 to Natl Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C.



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Alex./Wessynton
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This U.S. Douglas SBD-3 Dauntless dive bomber from the USS Hornet shown attacking the burning Japanese cruiser Mikuma for the third time on June 6, 1942 is similar to one that Ray Johnston served on as a rear gunner.

PEOPLE



June 1942: The air crewmen seen on the USS Hornet CV-8 just before the Battle of Midway (Ray Johnston is pictured far left on top row).



June 4, 1942, 09:00 hours: Aircraft on the USS Hornet CV-8 prepare to take off for the Battle of Midway.



COURTESY PHOTOS

April 30, 1942: USS PT-28 and USS PT-29 escort the USS Hornet CV-8 out of Pearl Harbor to head for the Coral Sea.

Ray Johnston Remembers the Battle of Midway

One of the few crewmen still alive.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Other than walking his dog, Zoe, visiting with friends and family, and doing some gardening for a former neighbor, Ray Johnston likes to relax. At the age of 93, he figures that he has earned this time.

When he was 24, he was drafted. His brother told him not to go into the Army, so he joined the Navy and became Earnest R. Johnston, ARM3c. Once his platoon finished boot camp, they were assigned to the Mess Hall in Norfolk.

Shortly after that, they became part of the Scouting Squadron Eight (VS-8) and shipped out towards the West Coast on the USS Hornet CV-8. Johnston was a rear gunner on a two-man plane with ENS Benjamin Tappan, Jr. as the pilot.

Johnston recalls passing through the Panama Canal in February 1942, docking at Pearl Harbor and then heading towards the Coral Sea. They missed the Coral Sea

PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE



Ray Johnston, living at Montebello, recalls the Battle of Midway.

Operation, and headed back to Pearl Harbor.

Shortly thereafter, the commander told the flight crew that there would be a "major sea battle."

When asked if Johnston was nervous about the impending battle, he said, "I was as ready as I'd ever be."

They shipped out and for a few days prior to the battle, Johnston and Tappan were among the many planes sent out for surveillance flights.

"Two planes were sent at a time to look for enemies," said Johnson. "We flew a couple hundred miles and came back after four hours. When you're out there, the en-

emy knows where you are."

When it was time for battle, all the planes went off at the same time in a tight formation and flew together. The dive bombers were the second in rotation to fly, with the small one-person fighter planes going out first, and the three-person torpedo planes going out last.

The battle raged for three days and when it was over, they were ordered to go to Sick Bay. They were pleasantly surprised when they all received a shot of whiskey.

Johnston's pilot was shot and his helmet split in half, but he was not injured. Another close call came when they came in for a landing and their plane missed being caught by the cables that catch the landing gear to stop the plane. To avoid crashing into the fighter planes parked in front of them the pilot pushed the throttle forward taking off again and turning out over the side of the ship. They crashed into the water, ejected and were rescued; the plane sank.

Johnston left the Navy after six years, but returned to service after 20 months. He served for the remainder of 20 years and retired as 'Chief' E-7. He then joined the ranks of the Naval Civil Service employees spending three years at Pax River in the of-

fice that wrote aircraft maintenance manuals then moved to the Navy Headquarters in Washington D.C. in acquisition project management working on the procurement of the E-2A and E-C-2A aircraft.

Originally from Farmville, Va., Johnston lived in Wellington for a long time, until he moved to Montebello in 2005. He still comes to tend former neighbor Katherine Ward's garden.

Some of the memories are not so pleasant for Johnston. All of the fighter planes were destroyed during the Battle of Midway and the crew was killed. Johnston recalls one of the dive bombers returning from a mission and didn't realize that the guns were charged — they went off and the crew was killed.

After the battle, he and other crew were in the Officer's Ready Room. They were told to vacate the room — just in time to avoid being hit by two or three Japanese planes that flew into the ship exploding on impact. The hangar deck was listing and all of the crew were moved to the Lexington while the Hornet was towed back into port.

"I was very fortunate," he said.

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

Paws-itive Play Promotes Rehabilitation

FROM PAGE 3

How does pet therapy work?

Our program is two fold. We do general visits where the patients enjoy petting and learning about the dogs for their enjoyment.

We also use the dogs to facilitate therapeutic goals. We may have a patient with a weak upper extremity use that arm to pet the dog. Also, patients with visual deficits are instructed to find the dog in their environment. A patient with communication deficits may practice speech by giving the dog a command. A patient with cognitive deficits may practice attending to the dog and remembering the dog's name. Some low level brain injured patients who have not responded to any stimuli will respond to a dog. We have

had patients practice walking the dog on a leash to challenge balance.

A recreation therapist facilitates the interactions by escorting the dogs and their volunteer owners. All therapists including those in occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and psychology find the dogs beneficial and will facilitate therapeutic interactions as well.

Do the pets ever work with family members?

Family members are active in the rehab program. Family members are free to interact with the dogs and it brings a welcome distraction.

How does a dog become a therapy dog?

I think some dogs are born therapy dogs.

They have a gentle disposition and love to interact with all people. They have a tolerance for those who may have difficulty using their arms, can tolerate loud noises, and hospital equipment.

Our dogs have to be certified by Therapy Dog International (TDI) or Canine Good Citizen. After a dog has been certified we conduct an interview to make sure the dog is fit for our setting and patient population. Volunteers usually contact us through word of mouth in the community.

What are the benefits of pet therapy to the patient? Have there been any studies that support the use of pet therapy?

There are numerous articles and research that support the benefits of pet therapy. Our program benefits our patients by diminish-

ing physical pain, reducing anxiety and reducing boredom.

Pet therapy lifts spirits, increases attention span, increases environmental awareness, offers stress relief and lowers blood pressure. It also provides mental stimulation, motivates participation in therapies, promotes social interaction, physical movement, and cognitive awareness.

Animals are non-threatening and non-judgmental, so our patients receive unconditional love from them despite their new disability.

Also, patients who miss their pets at home take comfort in visiting with our dogs.

For more information about therapy dogs visit:

<http://www.tdi-dog.org/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/index.cfm>

NEWS

Historic interpreters say they will not return to Gunston Hall until director David Reese has been replaced.



PHOTO BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE

Turmoil at Gunston Hall

FROM PAGE 1

Reese says he has long worn out his welcome and that Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell should appoint a new director as soon as possible.

"An awful lot of people think he's just not the right person for the job," said former Del. James Dillard (R-41). "He has systematically thwarted the educational effort at Gunston Hall, and he needs to go."

ASIDE FROM TERMINATING the position of education director and reducing the number of hours for the educational mission of Gunston Hall, other recent changes have raised concerns. Some special event programs and public-relations initiatives have been reduced, curtailing efforts to broaden appreciation for Mason. And several enrichment programs have been eliminated, including a teachers' institute, a weeklong summer camp and a popular colonial farm animal program.

"I just don't see how he's going to carry out the mission of Gunston Hall by cutting back on education," said Kiki Coderre, a former volunteer at the museum. "How can you continue a robust program that used to fill 60 hours a week if you cut that down to 40 hours a week?"

One of the groups most outraged by Reese's decisions is the costumed interpreters who portray historic characters at Gunston Hall, a group known as the Gunstonians. McHugh was popular among the costumed interpreters, and Reese's decision to suddenly terminate her position was viewed with suspicion. Living history volunteers say tensions first began when Reese euthanized a stray cat known as "Bobo," and that things only got worse when dancing was forbidden at special events to protect items in the house.

"I can't see how a serious education program can be maintained at Gunston Hall in the current environment," said Ted Borek, a living history volunteer who performed in costume at Gunston Hall. "And without active programs that attract, enlighten and entertain, the public won't come, and Gunston Hall risks becoming a magnificent irrelevancy."

THE HISTORY of Gunston Hall dates back to the 1759, when a 34-year-old George Mason completed construction of a new plantation home after marry-

ing 16-year-old Ann Eilbeck of Charles County, Md. The Georgian mansion includes a mix of rococo, chinoiserie and Gothic styles, making it one of the most opulent examples of plantation life still in existence. Mason lived here while serving as a delegate from Virginia to the Constitutional Convention, which he left without signing because it lacked protection for individual liberties.

In 1932, Louis Hertle donated Gunston Hall to the Commonwealth of Virginia with the understanding that the property would be administered by a Board of Regents chosen by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Hertle continued to live on the property until his death in 1949, at which time the property formally changed hands. A new museum honoring Mason was opened to the public on April 25, 1952. Since that time, the property has added a visitors center and a new building to house a growing collection.

But recent years have seen a number of cuts. A decade ago, the museum received \$656,000 in state money. Now, that's dwindled down to \$489,000. Meanwhile, money from private donations has been increasing to meet some of that demand, increasing from \$210,000 a decade ago to \$264,000 in the current fiscal year. Nevertheless, officials at Gunston Hall say the termination of McHugh and the elimination of her position was a necessary step.

"I know people are upset about this," said Susan Blankenship, a spokeswoman for the museum. "But this was a budget decision."

FOR NOW, volunteers and administrators are at an impasse. Reese says McHugh is gone, and the Gunstonians have vowed not to return to the museum until Reese is gone. That leaves a Gunston Hall without a George Mason. And it leaves the Gunstonians without a Gunston Hall.

"It breaks my heart," said Janis Harless, who has portrayed Nancy Mason since 2006. "But sometimes in life you have to take a stand when things aren't right,

and what's happening now at Gunston Hall just isn't right."

The way Reese sees it, living history was never really central to the mission of Gunston Hall anyway.

"Although living history performances are a component of some programs," he explained in a written statement, "Gunston Hall is not a living history museum."

"It breaks my heart. But sometimes in life you have to take a stand when things aren't right, and what's happening now at Gunston Hall just isn't right."

— Janis Harless, a Gunstonian since 2006

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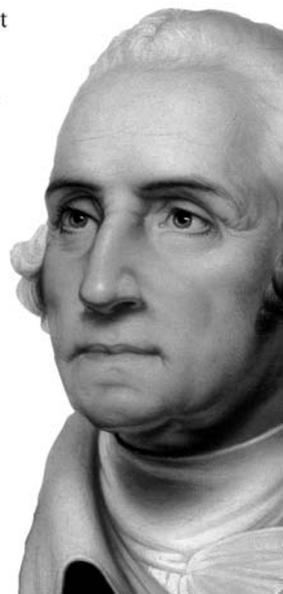
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Important Step for Autism

Governor should sign bill that would require limited insurance coverage for needed therapy.

Thanks to Delegates Tim Hugo and Tom Rust, along with state Sen. Janet Howell and a majority of members of the Virginia General Assembly, for passing a bill that would require some insurance companies to provide limited but critically important coverage for therapy for children with autism.

Now, Gov. Bob McDonnell should sign the bill into law.

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo. ... "If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness."

Behavior therapy at an early age can make the difference between a child who speaks and interacts and a child who is non-verbal. But the therapy, often not covered at all by insurance, can cost \$20,000 a year or more per child.

Consider the heartbreak of one family who was able to afford therapy for one of their children with autism. Unfortunately, the family has two children with autism.

As they become adults, children with autism will cost Virginia more if they don't receive early intervention services.

And this is a growing problem.

EDITORIALS

For example, in Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that local government's fiscal health would be greatly impacted by providing services to the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism diagnoses.

Missing the Point

As the U.S. Department of Justice presses Virginia to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities and more options to live in the community, it's important to remember that it's not just a question of moving some current residents out of training centers.

Families across Northern Virginia and the state are stretching budgets, going into debt and hanging on by their fingernails as they care for family members with intellectual disabilities who should have "waivers" providing for services in the community.

Right now, more than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services, according to the Arc of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are in urgent

need because they live with an aging caregiver, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or are aging out of foster care.

See www.arcofva.org.

Cheap and Effective Traffic Fix: Telework

While National Telework Week officially began Monday, Feb. 14, last month's commuting-home debacle probably did more to push individuals, governments and companies to contemplate real teleworking measures than any other advocacy.

Increasing the number of people who regularly work from home at least one day a week is the only possible cure for the current traffic nightmare in the region. On most days, rush hour in Northern Virginia is a pain. But it only takes one hiccup (a man threatening to jump of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or an inch of badly timed snow) to bring the region to a standstill and worse.

Telecommuting can also be good for the environment, good for employee morale, good for families, good for productivity. And anything that decreases the chances of a 10-hour commute or being stranded overnight on the George Washington Parkway is a step in the right direction.

The technology exists to make this work.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

House Budget Fails Schools, Transportation

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The Budget took center stage this week in Richmond. Virginia budgets in two-year cycles. We passed the "big" budget last year. This year, the legislature tweaks it to address changes in revenue or policy. Under our system, the Governor proposes his amendments first, then the House and Senate pass competing measures which are then worked out in a conference committee and passed at end session. I voted no to the House amendments this week because of several serious flaws.

RICHMOND REPORT

First, the House reduced education spending by \$92 million over what the Governor proposed — a \$6 million cut for Fairfax County. The House also voted to mandate stricter physical education requirements — an \$18 million mandate — but provided no additional funding. The state mandated standards of learning (SOL) testing be taken online this year — an \$8 million unfunded mandate. If the state keeps mandating without funding, then Fairfax County will have to choose between higher real estate taxes or deferring the complete implementing full-day kindergarten. I voted against \$34 million of unfunded mandates for Fairfax County Public Schools. This kind of irrespon-

sible policy-making is not sustainable.

The House amendments also use \$150 million of General Fund money to transportation to fund a "Transportation Infrastructure Bank" designed to float more bonds, i.e., to borrow. Transportation in Virginia has been historically funded with cash, not borrowing, and with gas taxes, 30 percent of which are paid by people

who don't live in Virginia.

Virginia's General Fund money pays for schools, colleges and public safety. Most General Fund money we send to Richmond does not come back because Northern Virginians make more money and the state only funds 19 percent of our school budget. Dipping into General Fund money instead of the Transportation Trust Fund for roads not only compromises schools, colleges, and public safety, but it means that Northern Virginia taxpayers would pay for even more for downstate roads than already — in this state, services that everyone in Virginia should support. I stood up and spoke out against this on the House Floor and will continue to do so because it is not fair.

The House also passed a \$2 million winery tax credit and a \$25 million tax credit for corporations funding private school scholarships. A tax credit means lost revenue and this one is like asking every four-person Virginia family to write a \$12 check to fund private school

scholarships. I will not vote to fund wineries and private schools while we cut our public schools.

The House budget amendments also allowed localities to use Pre-School Initiative monies to fund full-day kindergarten, basically taking money from poor families to fund full-day kindergarten in more affluent areas instead of simply funding education directly. The House budget also prohibits stem cell research which will impede progress in curing diseases and limit opportunities for research and development and job growth in Virginia.

Finally, since the General Assembly failed to fully fund state employee (including teachers) pension obligations over the last decade, Virginia has a \$17 billion unfunded pension liability. This is about one-half of a year's worth of spending. The Governor proposed to stop the damage by undoing a 1983 agreement where state employees agreed to forego a raise and restructure the state pension plan to require employees to contribute five percent toward their pensions and to give them a three percent raise. The House and Senate Budgets basically rejected this proposal although in different ways. Either way, this is a ticking time bomb that will ultimately affect our bond rating. We need to start funding these obligations now instead of continually pushing them off on to our kids.

SEE STATE BUDGET, PAGE 9

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OPINION

State Budget Skips Route 1

FROM PAGE 8

Finally, last week, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce announced their Top 50 Transportation Projects in Virginia. U.S. 1 and a Yellow Line extension were not on the list. These projects will never happen without the support of the broader business community or statewide leadership. I hope the Governor and his team can help the downstate business community better understand our needs. We must start beating

the drums now for the widening of U.S. 1 and extension of the Yellow Line. Look for me standing on a box on a street corner in Richmond with a megaphone.

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. As always, you can find more information regarding my bills or my agenda on my blog – The Dixie Pig (scottsuovell.blogspot.com). It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

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Two great talkers will not travel far together.

—George Borrow



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- 4. Pottery class—1:00
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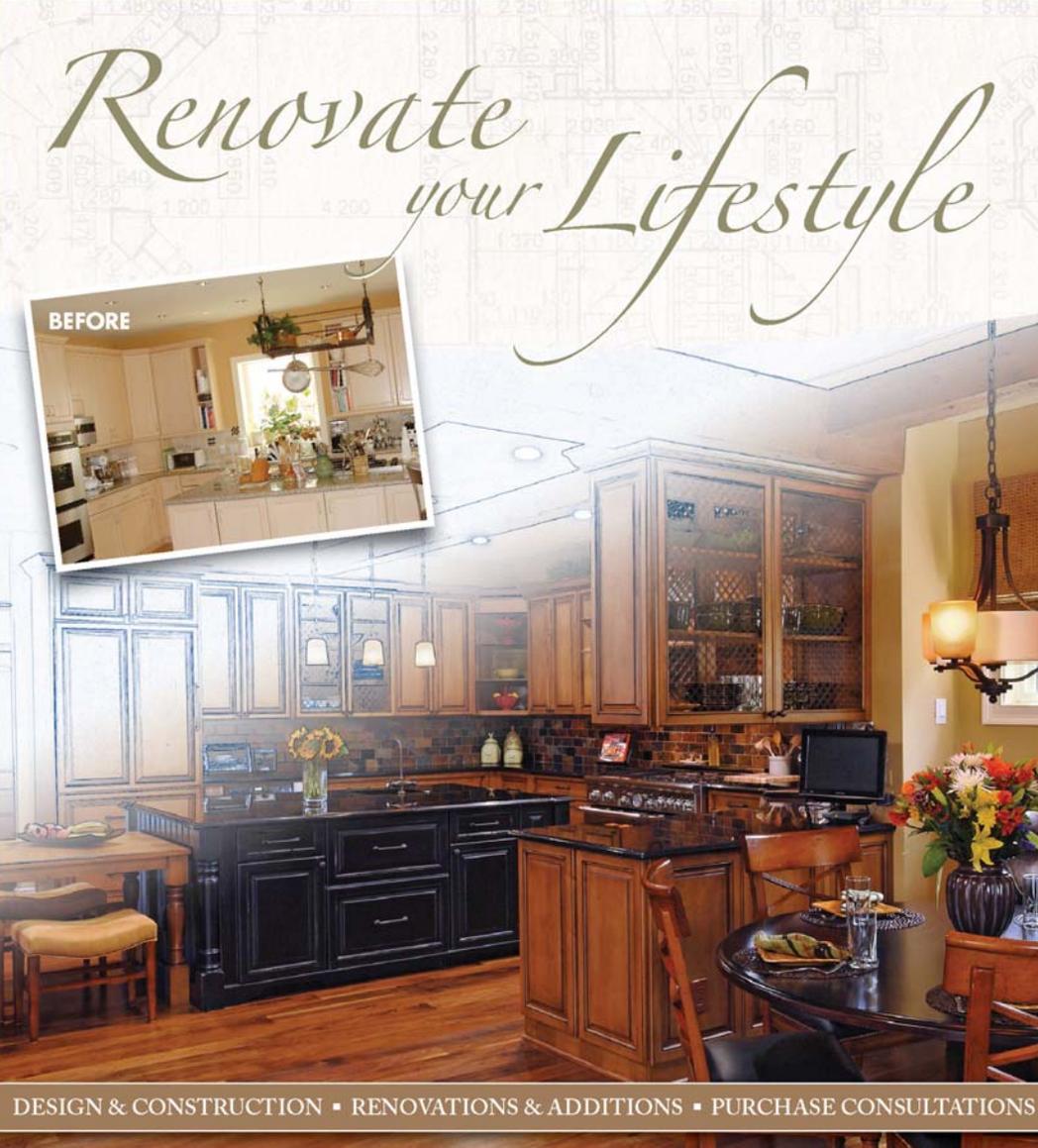
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John Hamilton: Coach, Umpire and Accused Pedophile

FROM PAGE 1

"He kept to himself," said Don Essex, who shared a townhouse with him for eight years. "He went his way and I went mine. He had friends over very rarely."

Essex was out of town when Hamilton was arrested in May 2009, and when asked if he had any idea what was going on, said, "God no, I wouldn't have lived with him if I had known."

Essex said that other than having an entire team over for pizza occasionally, Hamilton was never alone with a boy, and Essex was as surprised as most people when Hamilton was arrested.

Hamilton was charged with six felonies involving sexual crimes against children. Following his arrest, Hamilton was initially held without bond. However, he was later released from jail on \$32,000 bond. On Aug. 17, 2009, the grand jury indicted him on all six counts, and he was slated to enter his pleas on Oct. 7, 2009, in Circuit Court at 10 a.m. However, when he failed to appear, Judge Randy Bellows issued a bench warrant for his arrest and nationwide extradition was approved.

Hamilton avoided capture until Aug. 25, 2010 when 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. where he was denied bond and is behind bars. Hamilton is scheduled to begin a jury trial, March 29, in Circuit Court.

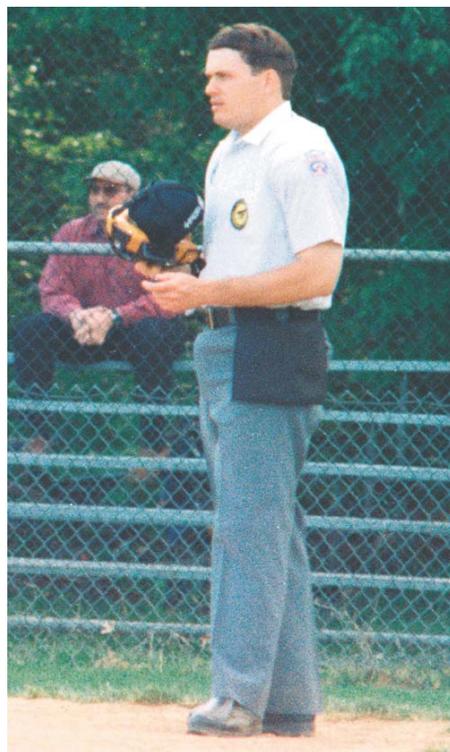
FROM 1989-90, Hamilton became involved in basketball, spring (Little League) baseball, and Fall ball baseball. As a basketball ref, he refereed girls basketball as well. He served as a building director, running the gyms for basketball games and deal with the community, the parents, the schools, the players, and the refs.

Hamilton was also a groundskeeper for baseball, mowing and grooming the fields for at least a year before he was listed as head groundskeeper in 1995.

In addition to the above, Hamilton managed or assistant coached several end of season all star teams in baseball. As an umpire, he umpired the District IX Virginia Little League playoff games, including District finals. He umpired at least one Virginia Little League playoff game in the State Tournament.

Cheri Nolan and her husband, David, knew Hamilton because their two sons played basketball with the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association (FHYAA) and David coached for several years. Hamilton worked as the building director during basketball season. He was responsible for opening and closing the building before and after games.

"We saw him every week, and he always said, 'Hi Mrs. Nolan, how are you?' He was always jovial, friendly, outgoing and articulate. We never thought about what he did after he left the gym. In hindsight, all the red flags were there — he was always telling you how great your kids were and he was always there."



John Hamilton as an umpire in his younger days.

Nolan, who worked for America's Most Wanted (AMW) at the time, was upset when he didn't show up for his court date. In November 2009, she contacted the Fairfax County Police Department about the possibility of doing a segment about Hamilton on AMW to help find him.

"They called me back within an hour and we had airtime within three weeks," she said.

The first airing about Hamilton on AMW was a mere eight and a half seconds, but even that brought in tips to the FCPD Hotline. The next airing was a month later, when Hamilton was featured on the Fifteen Seconds of Shame. The most extensive segment was aired in February 2010.

This final airing was a full re-enactment with victims and parents (with identities concealed) talking about their experiences.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of FCPD and Detective Jeremy Hinson," said Nolan.

Nolan shared her thoughts about the incident on AMW's website. "Just a few miles from Washington, D.C., but far away from the problems and crime of big city life, we raised our three children. We felt safe in that not only did we know our children's friends, but also their parents. They were our neighbors and our friends. Coaches were also a part of our lives because they too cared about our kids. They volunteered their time, and we cheered on our kids from the sidelines. As the seasons changed so did the sports, but the constant was the coaches that came back year after year. Life was good; crime didn't touch the parents and children in this part of Fairfax County. Nothing bad ever happened here — so we thought.

"Because of my affiliation with America's Most Wanted, my kids thought I was the most paranoid mother in the world: Just because they were five minutes late com-

ing home didn't mean they were kidnapped. We relied on other parents and coaches to drive our kids from time to time — we all helped each other out. Despite being paranoid about children's safety I knew in my heart that nothing bad could really happen to any of the kids we knew; bad things happened in other places to other people.

"One of the coaches, one of the people always at the local field or gym to help, was John Hamilton. He knew everyone, and everyone knew him. He was larger than life not only because he stood 6 feet 3 inches tall, but because of his personality. Parents felt good about this young man taking such an interest and being such a big help. Who else wanted to mow the fields and clean up after games? John's positive attitude and engaging smile made everyone that knew him feel good and safe.

"My kids played travel sports as they got older, and we didn't see John Hamilton that often, but he was still a presence: his picture in a team photo at the local gas station, in the aisles of a local grocery store or behind the counter at Wick's Sports Lettering. My kids were huge fans of European soccer, and at Wick's they would add the name of the player and his number to a jersey, just like the professionals. John was always helpful and friendly. I didn't think twice when he would ask, 'Mrs. Nolan, how are your boys?'"

"Thinking back, I was one of the thousands that thought they knew John but never gave thought to what he did on his own time. It didn't matter — we trusted him.

"In May 2009, I was shocked when I heard on the news that John Hamilton had been arrested, accused of sexually abusing young boys. John had put on a lot of weight since last time I saw him, but there he was in a mug shot. The news rocked all of us in the Mt. Vernon area to its core. Could it be true? Could it be the same John Hamilton that was so familiar to everyone who had children that grew up in local youth sports? How could this happen in our small, close-knit community?

"As the summer months passed, daily lives moved on as everyone waited for the criminal justice system to work and bring him to trial that would prove his innocence or guilt. The story disappeared in the headlines until October when the Mt. Vernon area was rocked again when the news reported that John Hamilton had failed to appear in court to enter his plea of guilty. How could this be?

"I knew immediately I had to help bring him to justice. Why would an innocent man run? This will be a riveting story for AMW viewers, but one that is deeply personal for me, an AMW producer."

AS COMMISSIONER of the basketball league at the time, John McIntosh hired Hamilton as the building director.

He did that job for four or five years, and McIntosh was surprised, because unlike other people who had the job and didn't pay attention while they were working, Hamilton was not distracted by friends.

"He never had that [distractions]. He was a nice-looking kid, but had no girlfriends," said McIntosh. "Looking back, he was just watching the boys who were age 8 through 12."

McIntosh was responsible for purchasing all the shirts for the league, and while Hamilton technically worked for Wick's Sports Lettering, McIntosh always dealt with Rose Hamilton.

"We had 800-900 shirts and I had to make sure that it was right," said McIntosh.

Mike Lewan was the equipment manager for the baseball league for eight years and he initially did his ordering with Hamilton. He found that Hamilton wasn't very reliable when it came to delivering orders.

"People want their stuff when they want their stuff," said Lewan. "John would say that it was coming, but he didn't deliver."

When Lewan started working with other vendors, Hamilton asked for a second chance, but even with that, Hamilton still couldn't deliver.

"He was a likeable guy, but unusual and odd," said Lewan. "Some people didn't like him. He wasn't much more than a kid and a little immature. He was a good coach, but a poor sport and questioned calls and took advantage of the rules occasionally.

"I can't say that I suspected anything and never saw anything that concerned me, but in retrospect, why would a young man dedicate so much time to working with kids? Had we known, we would have done something."

Herb Lea ordered merchandise from Hamilton for his landscaping business. He also knew Hamilton from coaching and umpiring alongside him.

"I spent a lot of time with John and was absolutely floored when I heard the news," said Lea. "I never would have guessed it."

Lea's son played baseball and knew the boy who initially approached the police. Lea said that he did think it odd that a single man would commit the amount of time he did with the boys.

Lea heard the stories about Hamilton taking the boys camping, but said, "I never saw a situation when my son could have been approached."

"He was using it for other reasons — that's the tragedy of it," said Lea. "It's anger that everybody feels."

AS QUICKLY as Hamilton appeared on the scene, after 10 years, it seems that he disappeared as quickly. His participation in FHYAA seems to end in 2000. He went to work for Bishop Ireton High School where he was dismissed and then to West Potomac High School, where he was also dismissed.

Bishop Ireton principal Tim Hamer, said, "Our records indicate that John Hamilton was an assistant baseball coach at Bishop Ireton High School during the 1999 season. We have no further information about his tenure."

William Simmons, athletic director at Bishop Ireton, said, "Last year, a former BI assistant baseball coach from the 1999 season, John Hamilton, was arrested. At that

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 19

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Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



Old Town \$764,000
813 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

www.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



Old Town \$662,000
1250 S. Washington St #824, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday 1-4pm! Waterfront at a new price! This Porto Vecchio 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo has river views from every window. Features balcony, fireplace, in unit W/D, reserved garage space and more! Call to arrange a private tour.



Denise Davis 571-332-8531

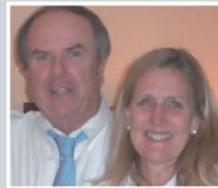
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ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT



Managing Brokers
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

OPEN SUN **JUST LISTED**

8919 Union Farm Rd
\$560,000
Updated Home - Tranquil Location!
Made for entertaining! Shows like a model home! Remodeled inside and out! New kitchen w/ stainless and granite, baths w/new fixtures and ceramic tile, designer paint and new carpet. Pool and deck were redone in 2009. Upper deck and lower patio create a wonderful outdoor space for all seasons. Quiet street overlooking golf course and backs to woodland. OPEN SUN 2/20, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; R-Old Mill Rd; L-Union Farm Rd.

OPEN SUN

9316 Heather Glen Dr
\$650,000
Price Slashed - Large Colonial!
The most house for the money in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's. Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price accordingly! OPEN SUN 2/20, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson; L-Heather Glen Dr.

OPEN SUN

9316 Allwood Dr
\$489,500
Absolutely Impeccable! New Price! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. OPEN SUN 2/20, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; L-Allwood Dr.

JUST LISTED!

210 LONGVIEW DR
Alexandria
\$679,000
One level home on 1/2 acre lot in quiet, tucked away location. Highlights: large family/sunroom, screened porch, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, brick patio, room for expansion. Less than one mile from King St. Metro.
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.587.7841

1685 HUNTING CREEK DR
Old Town / Alex
\$840,000
Immaculate & lovely 4BR/4.5BA end unit in OT Greens. Gorgeous open floor plan, wonderful built-ins, upgraded kit w/granite, lots of storage & 2-car garage. Roof deck, deck off kit & rear fenced patio. Amenities: pool, tennis, tot lot & 1 mile to Braddock Metro-shops & restaurants + more!
Laura Biederman 202.309.1350

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

4501 ARLINGTON BLVD #123
Arlington
\$229,900
Stunning renovation! All utilities within Condo fee. Open kitchen w/new SS, 5 burner gas stove & granite. Huge Master bedroom w/walk-in closet. Brazilian hardwood. Fresh paint. Private entry. 42" wall mount / flat screen TV w/speakers conveys. Prkg. Walk to Ballston Metro. 2BR/1BA.
Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

Just Completed!
8826 Camden St \$879,900
Unique opportunity-Brand new custom home by Wakefield on stunning large tract spanning both sides of creek in prestigious Stratford Landing. Fabulous floor plan loaded with upgrades!

JUST LISTED

2205 Basset St
\$729,000
Total Renovation! Prime Location!
Unique Opportunity-Fab 3LVL Colonial. Totally renovated and updated from top to bottom. Custom features include: brick exterior, bright, open floor plan, hardwood floors, 3.5 updated baths, 4 large bedrooms with luxurious master suite, 2 FPs and finished lower level with direct outside entrance. Prime cul-de-sac location. Fenced level lot. All the work has been done-Move In Ready!

NEW PRICE!

4408 Tarpon Ln
\$598,000
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.

NEW PRICE!

6104 EDGEWOOD TERRACE / Alex
\$1,149,900
Overlooking parkland, this brick colonial has been totally renovated w/'05 addition. 4BR/4BA, kit open to FR & screened porch. Master suite w/lg spa bath, 2 closets plus walk-in & deck. Walk-out LL w/teen BR & BA, FR w/FP leads to covered loggia.
Suzanne Backus (owner/agent) 703.338.3594

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!

212 GREEN ST
Yates Gardens / Alex
\$732,000
WELL MAINTAINED home w/3 finished levels. Gleaming wood floors, 2 large BRs, 2.5BAs, & 2FPs. Kitchen & baths tastefully updated. LL family rm w/ built-ins opens to enclosed brick patio & much more.
Virtual Tour www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545

6026 WOODMONT RD
Alexandria
\$649,900
CHARMING SINGLE FAMILY HOME in Belle Haven. Located on a quiet street, this 3BR, 2.5BA home is ready for your personal touches. Main level features formal dining room & eat-in kit w/access to the beautifully landscaped backyard. LL family room w/fireplace.
Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

4117 Robertson Blvd
\$719,000
Upgraded Throughout!
Owner just spent thousands on upgrades. All the work has been done for you. Move right in and enjoy! Classic colonial with 2 car side load garage. Elegant foyer, formal dining room with built-ins, family room off kitchen leading to deck. Table space kitchen features silestone counters. LL boasts rec. room, den, full bath & storage. Two fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Huge lot with mature trees and gardens.

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!

3800 Great Neck Ct
\$549,000
Huge House-Little Price!
Huge potential! 5BR home on one of Mt Vernon's nicest streets just across from Estate grounds. Spacious home with spectacular glass walled addition overlooks gorgeous grounds. Many special features include expanded kitchen with custom cherry cabs, 2FPs. Open foyer, hardwood floors on main level and replacement thermal windows. Most of interior has just been painted. Great Value! Huge house and lot for price!

6101 EDSALL ROAD #501 / Alex
\$240,000
ALEXANDRIA KNOLLS WEST 2BR/2BA, 1,408sf of spaciousness in a popular hi-rise end unit. Enormous LR; sep. DR w/ wet bar; huge MBR w/WIC; LR & BRs open to 40ft balcony; W/D in unit. Nice amenities. EZ to Van Dorn Metro, I-395, the Beltway and Old Town. "OWNER WILL PAY 3 MONTHS CONDO FEES"
Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045

6465 BRICK HEARTH CT
Alexandria
\$349,900
STORYBOOK PERFECT INSIDE AND OUT. Enchanting Garden! 2 Master Suites, one with a balcony and one with a sitting room. Lower level has sep entrance & full bath for use as another bedroom. LR has fireplace, DR has big bay window. Big laundry rm with storage area. Close to Metro, on busline, walk to many shops.
June Sherwood 703.346.3029

8004 YORKTOWN Hollin Hall
\$589,900
Unique opportunity in Hollin Hall. Totally renovated beautiful 3 level Cape Cod w/garage on oversized lot. 4BR/3BA, sunroom, finished basement w/guest room/ office, rec room. Pool membership conveys. Wayneswood School district.
Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809
anita@homesfromanita.com
www.homesfromanita.com

SOLD!

7106 Colgate Dr
\$499,500
Hollin Glen - Super Value!

JUST LISTED

2335 Creek Dr \$989,900
Waterfront Perfection!

SOLD!

8531 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$475,000
Huge House-Little Price!

CONTRACT

7406 Rippon Rd
\$759,900
Mason Hill Stunner!

SOLD!

6515 Princeton Dr
\$749,900
Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!

CONTRACT

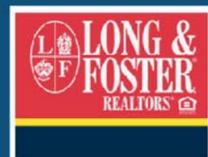
4504 Neptune Dr
\$479,900
Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates

6423 15th ST
New Alexandria
\$629,900
NEW PRICE for this beautifully updated colonial on large private lot. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, wine refrigerator, huge family room with built-in bookcases, 2 fireplaces, patio, hardwood floors and custom trim & moldings throughout.
Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

ALEXANDRIA CITY Malvern Hill
\$949,900
All brick Colonial on large, level lot w/ 4BR, 2.5BA. Highlights include eat-in kit, formal living/dining rooms, family room, laundry room on main level, LL rec room, 3 fireplaces, tons of storage, & deep backyard w/patio. Sold as-is.
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.587.7841

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1250 S WASHINGTON ST #406
Porto Vecchio
\$650,000
Move right in! This open floor plan offers the perfect flow for entertaining w/a large terrace that could be glass enclosed. Fabulous water vista! Recent updates include granite kit, new tile floor, refinished hardwoods, fresh paint & more. Wonderful building amenities.
Pat Tierney 703.850.5630



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chris.white@longandfoster.com

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www.OldTownAlexandria.com

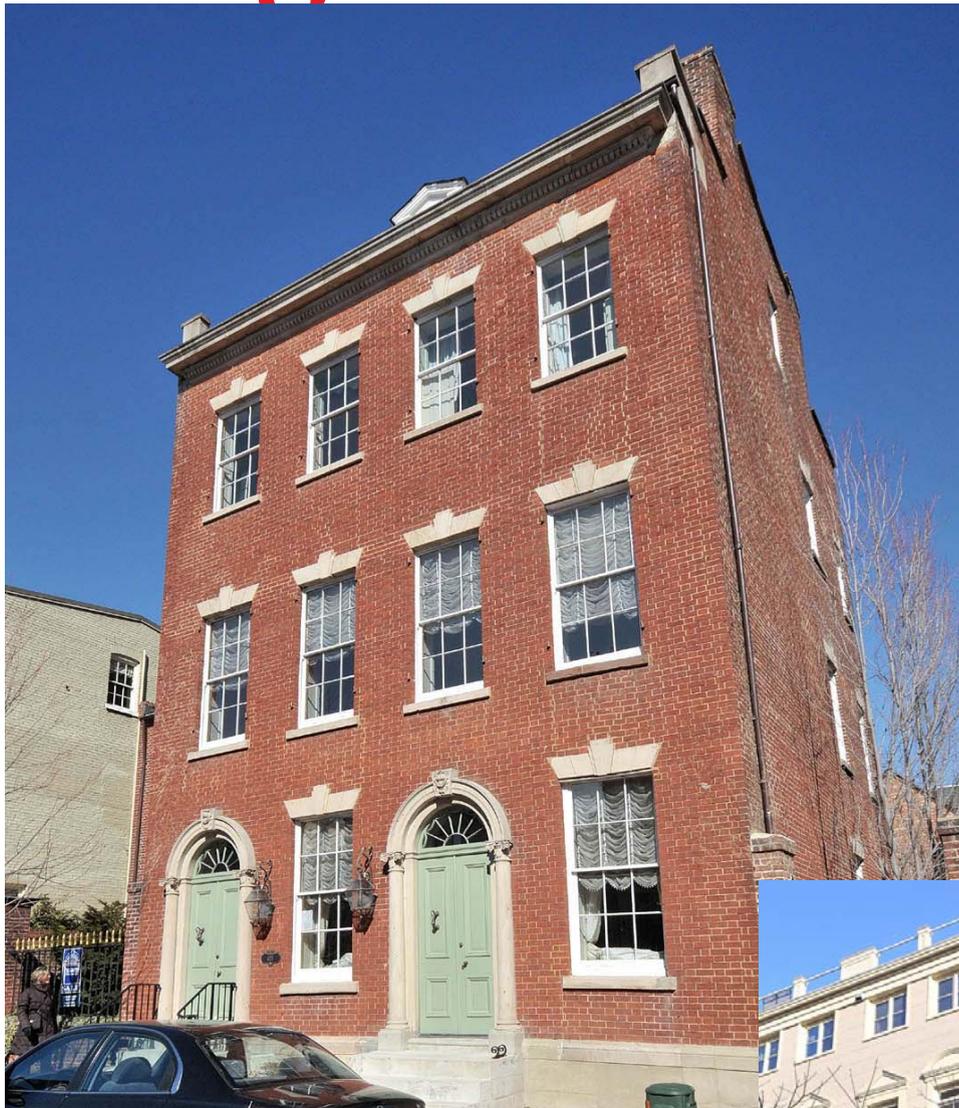


Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

2 207 Fairfax Street South, Alexandria — \$2,840,000



1 415 Prince Street, Alexandria — \$2,850,000

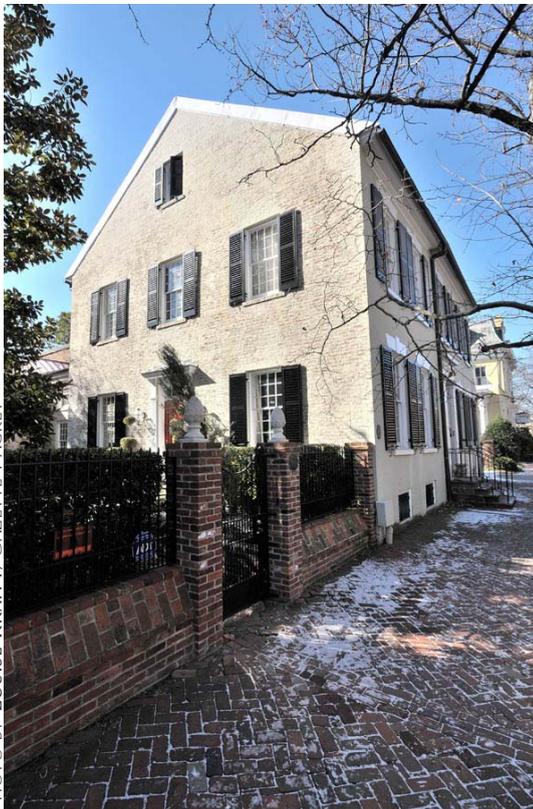


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

4 606 Cameron Street, Alexandria — \$2,100,000



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

10 11990 Market Street, Reston — \$1,000,000

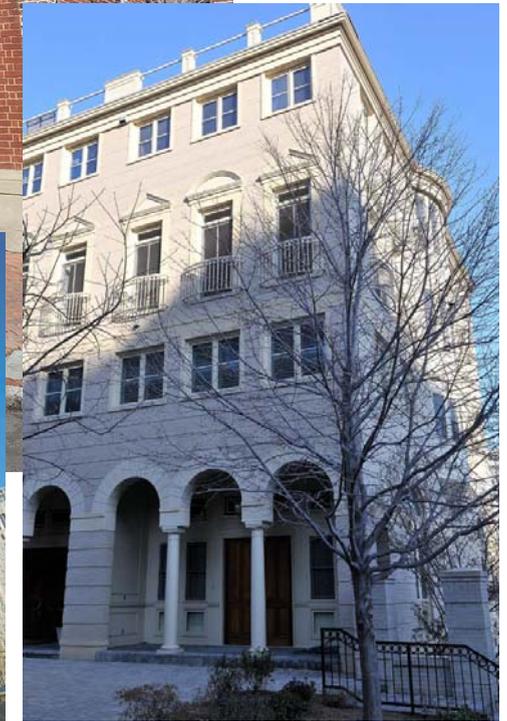
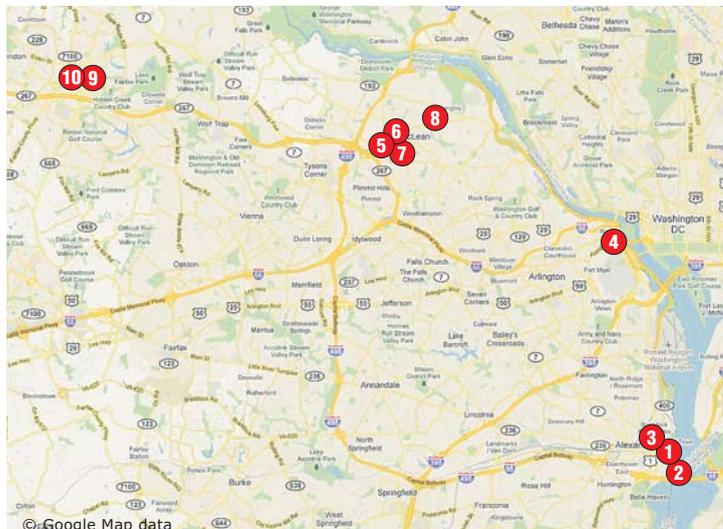


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

3 1401 Nash Street, Arlington — \$2,150,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 415 PRINCE ST	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,850,000	Townhouse	0.17	OLD TOWN	08/23/10
2 207 FAIRFAX ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,840,000	Townhouse	0.13	OLD TOWN	07/09/10
3 1401 NASH ST	4	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,150,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	BROMPTONS@MONUMENT PL	09/30/10
4 606 CAMERON ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,100,000	Townhouse	0.11	OLD TOWN	06/07/10
5 7218A FARM MEADOW CT	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,685,000	Townhouse	0.06	EVANS FARM	06/30/10
6 1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,630,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	06/21/10
7 1496 TEAGUE DR	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,487,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	07/16/10
8 1227 STUART ROBESON DR	3	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Townhouse	0.10	MERRYHILL	04/30/10
9 11776 STRATFORD HSE PL#11043	3	0	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRAFORD	01/29/10
10 11990 MARKET ST #1813	2	3	0	RESTON	\$1,000,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/05/10

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

Home Life Style

Security, Convenience and Green Innovation

Northern Virginia companies debut home technology trends in Las Vegas.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Getting a lot of attention at this year's Consumer Electronics Show were several Northern Virginia companies who were among the more than 2,700 exhibitors displaying some of the world's most cutting edge home technology trends.

This year was all about the "apps" as more than 150,000 people from around the world descended on the Las Vegas Convention Center last month for the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.

Homeowners can have more control over their homes using many newly developed smartphone applications, getting real time information from home security systems even when not at home, controlling room temperatures, raising and lowering window shades or even starting dinner or the laundry from anywhere with an internet connection.

Surveillance Systems, Archerfish

For homeowners looking for a home surveillance system, Reston's Cernium Corporation has developed the Archerfish Solo, an IP-based wireless camera that emails video clip to your smart phone or computer whenever it senses unusual activity.

"There's been a lot of interest in the Solo,"

said Debbie Shuey of Archerfish, a CES exhibitor for the last three years. "We've had far more people stopping by this year than the last two."

Homeowners can use Archerfish to view live video via computer, smart phone or tablet devices, as Shuey demonstrated by monitoring the cameras at Reston Skate Quest cameras from the show floor in Las Vegas.

Debuting at CES this year was the Archerfish Solo Flood Light Adapter, which allows the camera to be installed by screwing it into an existing flood light socket.

"We're continuously developing products to help consumers keep an eye on the places that matter to them," said Cernium president Craig Chambers.

WWW.MYARCHERFISH.COM

Tablet Times Two, Entourage

McLean-based Entourage Systems used this year's CES to launch the Pocket Edge, a portable version of its bestselling Entourage Edge.

"We just launched last year and are doing very well, especially internationally," said Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson. "As a consumer device, we are just getting started and are excited to be here." The mission is to provide an all-inclusive personal technology device that combines the functions of several products into one solution.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations, displays his latest home technology solutions at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month. West teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University.

Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM

MAXSA, Going Green

Skip West is no stranger to the crowds of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This is my eighth year here and it just keeps getting better," said West, founder and president of the Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations. "I love inventing new products and this is the place to introduce them to consumers." West debuted a dozen new items at this year's show, most focusing on "green" technology.

"We now have solar powered motion activated flood lights, along with our solar walkway lights for decks, stairs and driveways," West said. "We've been taking lots of orders and getting a great response."

MAXSA also offers laser garage parking systems and personal devices such as a reflective safety vest with 16 LED lights.

"I sold my last company but didn't like being retired," said West, who teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University. "I love helping students develop their ideas into successful companies."

MAXSAINNOVATIONS.COM

First Impressions, Simplikey

If the employees of Herndon-based start-up Simplikey all look young, it's because

they are.

"We hired 11 people, all between the ages of 21 and 35," said Carl Guerreri, president of parent company Electronic Warfare Associates, a government defense contractor. "I told them to wander the world for a year to come up with an idea that best utilized our technology."

The result is the Simplikey lock, a remote control electronic deadbolt.

"We wanted to make something worthy of a front door," said D'Vell Garrison, vice president of sales and marketing. "The lock is all metal with a carbon core center deadbolt, concealed light-up keypad and remote key fob that works from up to 50 feet away. ... It's great seeing all the first adapters' eyes light up when they see the lock."

"I started early this morning and haven't stopped talking since," said Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo. "But people love the product and it's been a great show."

WWW.SIMPLICIKEY.COM

Capital Home & Garden Show, Feb. 25-27

The Capital Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of displays and exhibits this year, with a special emphasis on "Going Green." Exhibitors include all aspects of home design and improvement, gardening, kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring, roofing, doors, windows, fencing, pools, interior and exterior lighting, home entertainment, interior designs and much more. Get ideas, investigate new products, gather information and meet the professionals who can help.

Dulles Expo Center, Feb. 25 - 27,
www.capitalhomeshow.com.



Herndon-based Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo, right, demonstrates the new locks to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Mount Vernon's Floyd Wins Region Title

Three Majors place at Northern Region Tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Dusty Floyd thought his chances of winning the 171-pound region title ended when Chantilly's Bernabe Mejia took the Mount Vernon grappler to the mat with 25 seconds remaining in the third and final period of their semifinal match. Mejia scored two points for the takedown and led 3-1 with little time remaining for a comeback.

Desperate for quick points, Floyd attempted a high-risk maneuver, using a kick roll he had practiced for years. However, for the move to work against Mejia's claw hold, Floyd had to roll the wrong way, opening the potential for him to end up on his back. Floyd didn't have time to think about the risks if he wanted a chance to win.

In dramatic fashion, Floyd rolled Mejia onto his back, scoring two points for a reversal and two near-fall points for a 5-3 lead.

"I saw him on his back after I rolled him and I was like, 'Is this happening?'" Floyd said. "I wasn't sure if I got the two back points or not. I could hear my coach celebrating so much I knew I had to have gotten more than the reversal."

Floyd surrendered an escape point in the closing seconds and won a 5-4 decision in the semifinals. The victory equated to a win in the finals, however, as Floyd's championship opponent, Lake Braddock's

Cory Smith, suffered an ankle injury in a previous match and could not compete, giving the region championship to Floyd via medical default.

"I was more relaxed the whole day watching the matches," said Floyd, knowing he had the title wrapped up. "It's really a shame what happened to Cory. He's a great wrestler. It would have been a good match between us two. ... Going into my semifinal match, I knew he was injured, so I took my semifinal match as the finals. I just pretended it was the finals match because I knew it would be."

Mount Vernon head coach Anthony McDuffie called Floyd's semifinal win "the most amazing thing" he'd seen since 2003, when an athlete he coached won a state title in triple overtime. Floyd's region title helped Mount Vernon finish seventh with 65 points. The Majors had three grapplers place — Trey McClure was runner-up at 152 and Eriq Dahlum finished fifth at 103 — and the team finished second among National District schools.

"We finished seventh — that's the most important thing," McDuffie said. "We wanted to finish top 10 [this year] and top five next year. We had to have three [placeholders]."

McClure's loss to Lee's Konbeh Koroma in the 152-pound final left the Mount Vernon grappler frustrated, but McClure said he would use it as motivation.

"[I'll] just take it to states," he said of the emotion, "and do better."

"I could hear my coach celebrating so much I knew I had to have gotten more than the reversal."

**- Mount Vernon 171-pounder
Dusty Floyd**

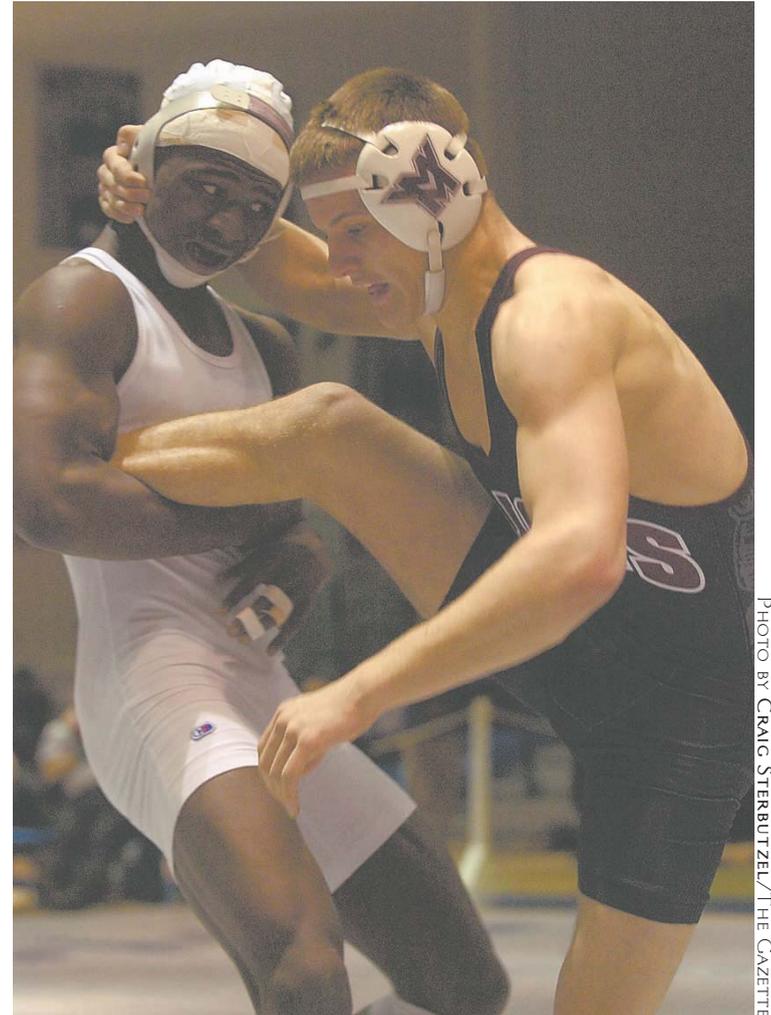


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon senior Trey McClure, right, finished 152-pound region runner-up to Lee's Konbeh Koroma on Saturday at Fairfax High School.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon Girls Advance

The top-seeded Mount Vernon girls basketball team secured a berth in the Northern Region Tournament with a 76-7 victory over No. 8 Stuart on Feb. 14.

Taylor Dunham scored 22 points and dished four assists for Mount Vernon. Samantha Porter finished with 12 points and five rebounds, Kelly Loftus scored 10 points and Tiffany Webster added nine.

The Majors tied a season-best for points allowed. Mount Vernon beat Stuart 75-7 on Jan. 11.

Mount Vernon faced No. 4 Hayfield in the district semifinals on Feb. 16. Results were not available prior to the Gazette's deadline. The tournament championship game will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Washington-Lee High School.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

West Potomac sophomore swimmer Hellen Moffitt won the Northern Region title in the 100Y butterfly, earning All-American consideration with a time of 55.55 seconds.

ris, Michael Lewis and AJ Tracey received honorable mention.

Mount Vernon Boys Win

The No. 2 Mount Vernon boys basketball team defeated No. 7 Hayfield 51-39 on Feb. 14 during the opening round of the National District Tournament, clinching a berth in the regional tournament.

The Majors faced No. 3 Yorktown on Feb. 16. Results were not available prior to the Gazette's deadline. The championship game will be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Washington-Lee High School.

National District Basketball Honors

Mount Vernon senior Jesse Konadu earned National District boys Player of the Year honors after reaching the 1,000-point mark in his career. He was also named to the All-Defensive Team.

Mount Vernon's Juwan Bullard received second-team honors. Dion Harris,

Michael Lewis and AJ Tracey received honorable mention. Mount Vernon girls head coach Courtney Coffey received co-Coach of the Year honors. Sophomores Tiffany Webster, Kelly Loftus and Taylor Dunham were named to the first team, freshman Chanel Shannon was named to the All-Rookie Team and Loftus and freshman Samantha Porter were named to the All-District Defensive Team. Juniors Lafatima Gray and Elizabeth Owusuwaa received honorable mention.

West Potomac Boys End Season

The No. 6 West Potomac boys basketball team lost to No. 3 Annandale 73-58 on Feb. 15 during the opening round of the Patriot District Tournament, ending the Wolverines' season.

West Potomac Girls Fall Short

The No. 7 West Potomac girls basketball team lost to No. 2 South County 60-32 during the opening round of the Patriot District Tournament on Feb. 15, ending its season.

PEOPLE



Observing Politics in Action

Two students from Mount Vernon High and three students from West Potomac High recently traveled to Richmond to participate in the 44th District Young Leaders Program, sponsored by Del. Scott Surovell. The students — Eric Myhre and Elizabeth O'Hara from Mount Vernon High and Shannon Frydenlund, Trevor Jenne, and Matt Kosonovich from West Potomac High — met with state policymakers, toured the Capitol and the executive mansion, observed a floor session of the General Assembly, and watched legislation being presented in committee. They attended subcommittee and committee meetings and observed debate on a number of amendments, including allowing felons to vote, constitutionalizing the state debt limit, repealing the state's gay marriage ban, and ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

Support for Teens

Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club (MVKC) Past President Bruce Malkin presents a check for \$600 on Feb. 3 to Larry Padburg, Director of Development, and Chris Bramante, Volunteer Coordinator, at New Hope Housing to continue to further the goals of its Teen Program, which offers healthy and safe activities to the teenagers in the low income housing and homeless shelters that NHH manages. Visit www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org.



BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

ONGOING

Fort Ward Museum is registering for its annual Civil War Kids' Camp, a week of learning and fun for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Participants explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities. Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 27, through Friday, July 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration is limited to 24 participants, spaces fill quickly, and applications are accepted on a first-come basis. Registration, including souvenirs and healthy snacks, costs \$200 per child, and there is limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. Contact Fort Ward Museum at 703-

746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org. **Volunteer to drive** older adults to medical appointments in the Alexandria area. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186 or DFSAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

Stuff the Bus Event. 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and the Office of Public Private Partnerships are partnering with MV Transportation, Inc. and local grocery stores (Bloom, Giant, and Shoppers) to collect donations of food to assist the most vulnerable in our community. Look for the Fastran Bus. All donations will go directly to UCM. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs or call 703-222-9764, TTY 711.

A Valentine's Special All Month Long!

Chocolate Scrub & Hot Stone Massage
Only ~~\$145.00~~ 50% off through February!

Champagne Facial
Only ~~\$99.00~~ 50% off through February!

Promotion ends February 28th, 2011.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

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Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Christ the Saviour Anglican Church

"To Love & Serve the Lord with Gladness & Singleness of Heart"

Location - Washington Mill E.S.
9100 Cherrytree Drive

Worship Service - 10 a.m.
Inter-generational Sunday School - after service
Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)	Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)	Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English) Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org

Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

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Hamilton

FROM PAGE 10

time, Hamilton was charged with one count of aggravated sexual battery and three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child by a person in custodial or supervisory relationship. This abuse allegedly occurred in 1997 while he was a little league baseball coach, and not while he was at BI."

HAMILTON'S BROTHER is a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Tuck Bowerfind, is concerned that the blame remain where it should.

In a comment to a previous article, Bowerfind said, "Responsibility for misconduct belongs with the perpetrator, not the victims, family members, or others. Only by maintaining proper focus can we begin to lift the stigma related to these crimes, and the strong tendency to avoid facing them by everyone involved, and hope to actually get substantive suspicions reported to the right people. Local clergy, Fairfax County Coordinated Services 703-222-0880, and Child Protective Services Hotline for reporting abuse 800-552-7096, are excellent resources for the first step.

"The only correct focus for our outrage, suspicion, and desire for retribution is the perpetrator. If a family member broke a law aiding or covering up crimes they should be prosecuted. But then real evidence needs to be presented, not vague suspicions by anonymous police sources. It would be terribly wrong for members of the community to punish John's family for being manipulated or deceived by him.

"In this case there is no evidence that David Hamilton, Wicks, or Rose Hamilton broke any laws, or covered up any wrong doing. They should not be the objects of retributive justice. Aside from keeping our attention focused on the perpetrator I would also like to advocate for wider training to prevent, recognize, and report sexual misconduct against children.

"Many churches offer regular training workshops in preventing and reporting sexual misconduct. In my congregation every volunteer with responsibility for children is expected to take the training. Perhaps this standard should be adopted by our schools, athletic associations, and other organizations that offer opportunities for volunteers to work with children. Fairfax County Public and non-governmental Social Services provide excellent services for a full spectrum of need in our community. Good training would also increase awareness in the general public about what to do, who to tell or call, in the event of a particular crisis like domestic violence, elder abuse, or child abuse."

In a follow-up conversation with Bowerfind, he said, "It's important to make sure that the attention is focused on John. John was deceiving everybody and David and John never had a close relationship. I would hope that these kinds of things make people more aware of the signs.

"Not to make people paranoid, but if things are going on in the community and we know how to recognize it, we can stop it."

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Parade Day Open Houses

On Monday, Feb. 21, the day of the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, several Historic Alexandria sites will be hosting special open houses with free admission.

♦ Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, will both be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors may tour these historic sites for free on this day.

♦ Also open from noon to 5 p.m. is the Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store, 101 North Union Street, where you can stop in and get dressed for the parade in 18th-century style! Make a tricorne hat to take with you, get your picture taken with the George and Martha Washington cut-out, and try on 18th-century clothing.

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson celebrated his inauguration in 1801 in the Gadsby's Tavern ballroom? What was a popular tavern beverage of the time? What was considered luxurious for overnight accommodations in the 18th century? Visitors to Gadsby's Tavern Museum will find out at the place George Washington dined and danced.

At the Apothecary, which opened in 1792, visitors will see its unique collection of herbs and botanicals, while discovering the important role the Apothecary played in early Alexandria. Among featured display items will be documents from Martha Washington, our country's first First Lady, one of several famous customers who relied on the Apothecary.

♦ At the Friendship Firehouse, first built in 1855 and remodeled in 1871, see hand-drawn fire engines, leather water buckets, axes, sections of early rubber hose and other historic firefighting equipment. The Friendship Fire Company, established in 1774, was Alexandria's first volunteer fire company, and the restoration of Friendship's distinctive cupola was just completed last year.

♦ At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, stop in for the special program "Meet the President" before the parade. At 11 a.m., Brian Hilton will portray President Woodrow Wilson and discuss events of the time of his presidency, 1913 to 1921, before taking questions from the audience. And before or after the parade, guests can explore The Lyceum's exhibitions.

For more information about these events, please visit www.historicalexandria.org.



LTA crew members Jim Hutzler, Marg Soroos, Charles Dragonette and Margaret Snow perform a parody of "Oliver!" at the LTA wrap party Feb. 5.

It's A Wrap for 'Oliver!'



Cast member Joseph Machosky, 7, with director Roland Branford Gomez.

More than a few tears were shed as The Little Theatre of Alexandria continued its long tradition of hosting a closing-night wrap party after the final performance of the musical "Oliver!"

"We all lost it when James started crying during the final curtain call," said Anna Maria Machosky of James Woods, who played the title character in the show and was a cast mate of her son Joseph. "The kids have been like a family for five months so it's very sad for all of them to be saying goodbye tonight."

Highlighted by a parody of the show by the normally behind-the-scenes producers and crew, the Feb. 5 party recognized the year-long efforts of the all-volunteer LTA production team and cast.

"You have been an amazing group to work with," said co-producer Eddie Page to the 15 children that were part of the cast. "I hope that 50 years from now you'll remember the special times you had here at LTA."



Director Roland Branford Gomez and producer Rachel Alberts.



Choreographer Heidi Zufall shows off her certificate of appreciation for her work in "Oliver!"



Cast members Michael Schlesinger and Mike Baker present director Roland Branford Gomez with an autographed cast photo at the LTA wrap party for "Oliver!" Feb. 5.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

George Washington Parade on Feb. 21st

George Washington, the nation's first president, will be honored on the 279th anniversary of his birth with a parade in his hometown of Alexandria, on Monday, Feb. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Old Town.

The George Washington Birthday Parade, the largest and oldest in the country celebrating this Founding Father, will wind its way through the historic streets of Old Town where Washington lived, worshiped and conducted business. Annually the parade includes thousands of participants including historical, community and youth groups, bands, horses and canines. Spectators line the brick sidewalks along the one-mile parade route.

Events throughout the weekend in Alexandria will celebrate Washington's legacy with an historic reenactment at Fort Ward Park, the Birthnight Banquet & Ball at Gadsby's Tavern, a 10-K race, the first ever one-mile race just before the parade, plus



Fife Band marching in last year's George Washington Birthday Parade.

free admission to historic sites on parade day. Historic Mount Vernon presents a Sur-

prise Birthday Party for General Washington daily through the weekend.

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FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH FEB. 20

inMOTION by Artist Sandi Parker. Parker's collection of oil paintings presents a vibrant celebration of Arlington high school teen athletics, with almost every high school sport represented. At Cassatt's Café and Gallery, 4536 Lee Highway, Arlington.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 27

John M. Adams — Finding Zero. John M. Adams' work activates the perceptual connection between artist, object (or environment), and viewer. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. 703-548-0035. Visit nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 27

Mixing Bowl. Examines Immigration and Diversity in America. 16 artists were invited to submit work for consideration addressing their personal views on immigration and diversity in America today. At The Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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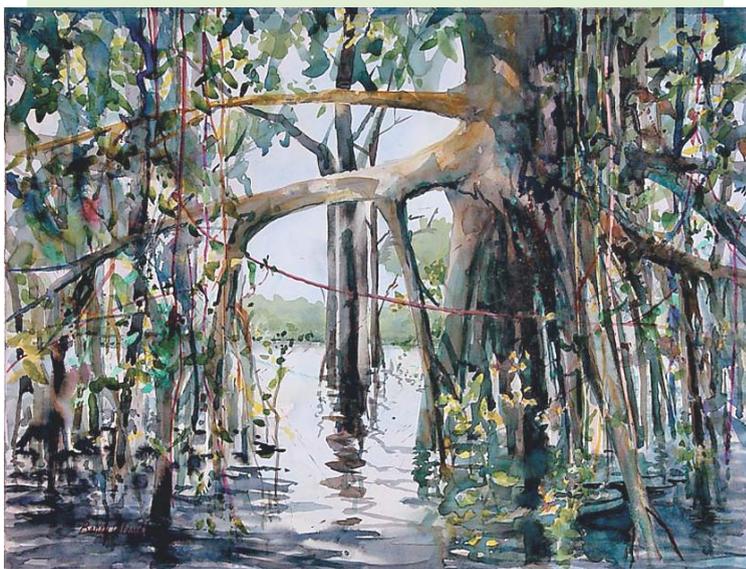
Love Letters Exhibit. A collection of love-inspired artworks paired with artist's love letter. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

NOW THROUGH MARCH 6

"Malaysia Journeys." A Photo Exhibition by Blake Stenning. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

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Centerpieces for Valentine's Day. The Ceramic Guild Show at the



Water Marks: Barry D. Lindley's Solo Exhibit of Water-color Paintings

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Water Marks. Watercolorist Barry D. Lindley creates striking paintings portraying the effect water has on natural and man-made objects. Opening reception and Meet the Artist is Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Artist's Talk is Saturday, March 26 at 1 p.m. On Display in the Art League Gallery.

Scope Gallery at The Torpedo Factory. Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 703-549-6006. Visit www.gallery-west.com.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

Objects & Apparitions by Renee Lachman. The Objects and Apparitions exhibition is an eloquent tribute to its namesake; a poem written by Octavio Paz for Joseph Cornell. At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

MARCH 3 TO APRIL 10

"Bare Bones/Ruth Trevarrow."

Show contains a collection of powerful shapes and lines that dare us to see a lush beauty in bare bones. Artist's Reception is Sunday, March 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MARCH 4 TO 27

Beyond Form: Expressing Art Exhibit. Artist's reception is Friday, March 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. All-media show exploring the color, energy and simplicity inherent in abstract artwork. Details at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or bplummer11@verizon.net.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

Exhibition of Commemorative Wares. Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community's keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 7

Artist Horace Day. "Style and Identity: Black Alexandria in the 1970s, Portraits by Horace Day." The exhibition of more than 30 paintings by Horace Day (1909-1984) features Alexandria street scenes and portraits of African American Alexandrians from the early 1970s. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street in the heart of Alexandria's historic Parker-Gray District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.



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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.

FEB. 18-20

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Feb. 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Great Books Discussion Group Meeting. 7 p.m. At the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. There will be a discussion of the three “ode” poems by John Keats. Call Bill Scouton at 703-931-3559.

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.

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 Rebeca 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.



SATURDAY/FEB. 19

Black History Month Cruise. To celebrate Black History Month, the Spirit of Washington is offering an educational lunch cruise, aimed to remember those who have influenced African-American culture. A DJ will provide live entertainment in tribute to notable African-American artists such as Duke Ellington, Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Miles Davis and Diana Ross to name a few. The lunch cruise will feature the Grande Buffet with assorted salads and sides, entrees like the Wild Alaskan Salmon, Herb-Roasted Chicken, Three-Cheese Pasta Al Forno and desserts like the New York-style Cheesecake and Sweet Chocolate Mousse Truffle. The cruise boards at 11 a.m. and cruises from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.90 per person and guests can make reservations at 866-302-2469.



PHOTO BY JUDITH BEERMANN

Navy Secretary Benjamin Stoddert (John Curd) and First Lady Abigail Adams (Bonnie Fairbanks) at Halcyon House, Stoddert’s Federal residence on Prospect Street overlooking the Potomac River

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Abigail Adams Historical Re-Enactment. 4 p.m. Free. The Colonial past meets the present when Abigail Adams and Benjamin Stoddert, the first U.S. Secretary of the Navy, discuss matters of their lives and concerns through an hour-long historical re-enactment at the Lyceum on the eve of President’s Day. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

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.

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.

FEB. 19-21

George Washington Birthday Celebration Weekend. A city-wide celebration including the country’s largest parade celebrating George Washington, a 10k race, the Birthnight Banquet and Ball, historic sites offering free admission, and more. Throughout Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.Washingtonbirthday.Net/events.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Dream Wedding Event. 3 p.m. Bridal fashion show, wedding vendors, complimentary appetizers, photo booth, auction of bridal services. At the St. George Gallery, 115 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Proceeds benefit VITAL VOICES Global Partnership, an international, non-profit organization that works with women and human rights. Visit www.VitalVoices.org.

Barbershop Concert. 3 p.m. The 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers present patriotic music in honor of President’s Day. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit UCM. Contact Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, brandtron@verizon.net.

“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.

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.

MONDAY/FEB. 21

Surprise Birthday. Free admission. Celebrate the 279th 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. At Mount Vernon.

Parade Day Breakfast. 9 a.m. The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association invites the public to join in their breakfast on the day of the George Washington Birthday Parade. Tickets are \$30/person. Funds raised will benefit the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. At the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Contact Bill Kehoe at 703-751-6416.

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 or call 703-746-4994.

TUESDAY/FEB. 22

Mount Vernon at Home. 2 p.m. Information Session. At Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Room, 1st Floor. Membership and volunteer information and presentation. Call 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org.

Quilting Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Free. Pictorial Art Quilter Laura Wasilowski presents “I Quilt, Therefore I Am” to Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited. MVQU meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact: MVQUPresident@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

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

Abrakadoodle Innovative Art Class. 1:30 p.m. At the Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3800.

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

“Oscar Night” Gala Benefit. 7 to 10 p.m. An evening of Hollywood glitz and glamour, featuring an Oscar Raffle, Silent Auction and Cocktail Buffet, the event promises to be a sellout! The event will raise funds for the Center for Alexandria’s Children (CAC), a public-private partnership dedicated to the elimination of child abuse. Ticket start at \$125 each. Tickets are available at www.oscarnight.@eventbrite.com or 703-746-6008. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

Story Time. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Designed for young children and caregivers, features story time and a craft. Fee is \$3/family. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Call 703-

548-1789. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

Life Line Screening. Get screened to reduce your risk of having a stroke or a bone fracture. Packages start at \$139. At Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road, Alexandria. To schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

Ensemble Gaudior. 7:30 p.m. Ensemble Gaudior presents “Barroca Nova” (Music in the Key of Light) – chamber music by Scarlatti, Leclair, Buxtehude, and Handel among others. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$15/seniors. At St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-395-2899 or visit www.ensemblegaudior.com.

Prohibition Night Fundraiser. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$55/door. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronco St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789.

U.S. Army Concert Band. 7:30 p.m. Free. With guest artist Steve Houghton, percussion. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NOVA Campus, Alexandria. Visit www.usarmyband.com.

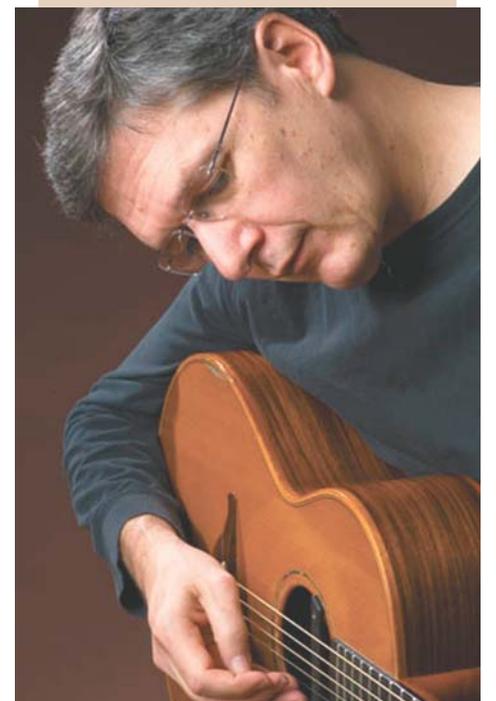
Lecture. 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Historian Carroll R. Gibbs presents, “Whirlwind Coming: African Americans in the District and Alexandria during the Civil War.” At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 to make reservations. Visit www.fortward.org.

FEB. 26-27

Mattress Sale Fundraiser. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. All sizes of mattresses available. A West Potomac High School All-Night Graduation fundraiser. At the WPHS Main Lobby, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. All profits go directly to the senior class fund.

MONDAY/FEB. 28

“Alexandria and the Civil War: Pride and Shame in Black and White.” Reception at 6:15 p.m., Dinner (\$25 members/\$30 nonmembers) at 6:45 p.m.; Program 7:15 p.m. Dinner reservations required. With Ronald Beavers, Civil War Historian; Andy Evans, Community Activist and Comedy Counselor; Lillian Patterson, Retired Curator, Alexandria Black History Museum; and Laura Trieschmann, Director, Survey and Documentation at EHT Traceries. Special Guest, Barb Winters, author “Letters to Virginians.” Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.com.



SUNDAY/FEB. 20

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.

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