

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 3, 2011



Meredith Godfrey gives her first speech at the annual fundraiser started by her brother Cooper five years ago.

Supporting Camp Comfort Zone

Personal commitment inspires fundraiser.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Dawn Young talks with friends Bev Harmon and Maureen Enger over the silent auction before going into the courts for play.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, Meredith Godfrey with help from friends, organized a fundraiser that was started by her brother Cooper after Meredith returned from Camp Comfort Zone five years ago. Cooper saw the positive change in his sister returning from camp and upon entering high school the following year he and Meredith started raising money for the camp. They started a tennis tournament to raise money for the campers.

Meredith spoke before the luncheon donated from Landini's was served: "I would like to start off by saying how much it truly means to me that you are all here today to support me, my family, and the truly amazing Comfort Zone Camp. And I would also like to thank you for believing in me this year, as it is my first year doing the event alone without my brother, Cooper who is now in college. My brother and I worked side by side on this event for four years ... If there is one thing I learned after Cooper has left, it is that, even though I have turned his bedroom into a walk-in closet, I do miss



Meredith Godfrey still wears the shirt from Camp Comfort Zone of five years ago. She is returning this summer as a camper with two friends who recently lost parents.

SEE SUPPORTING CAMP, PAGE 7

'Ashley's Law' Passes

Law aims to prevent accidents similar to one that killed Ashley McIntosh.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

The tragic police accident that killed a Mount Vernon teacher's aide led to the passage of state legislation to prevent similar accidents.

In 2008 on a rainy, wintry rush hour at the intersection of U.S. Route One and Boswell Avenue, Mount Vernon resident and teacher's aide Ashley McIntosh drove her car out of the Hybla Valley Shopping Center intent on passing through the intersection while the light was green on her way to Shellhorn Road. But her vehicle was hit by a police cruiser and she was killed before passing through the intersection.

The police officer who ran into McIntosh's car was responding to an emergency call and went through the red light at a high speed without the siren on, and

without pausing or stopping at the light. That avoidable accident began a long legal and political odyssey orchestrated by a determined Cindy McIntosh-Colasanto, mother of the victim, and a host of legal and political supporters and advisors. That effort culminated in the successful passage of Virginia legislation designed to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

The chief sponsor of the legislation was state Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller: "I am very pleased the bill passed, and it is my hope that this law will prevent other lives from being lost."

Puller gives credit for bipartisan guidance and support from Del. David Albo (R-Springfield) who guided the legislation through the House of Delegates, and state Sen. Janet Howell (D-Reston), chair of

SEE 'ASHLEY'S LAW,' PAGE 6

McKay To Announce Reelection Campaign

No challengers yet for freshman supervisor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

This weekend, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay will announce his intention to seek a second term on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. So far, no Republicans have stepped forward, and no Democratic primary challenger is expected. That means McKay could

sail into a second term unopposed. "I would say that Jeff is one of the most aggressive and smartest supervisors," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), who has clashed with McKay over Richmond Highway revitalization. "Sometimes we are going to have conflicts, but voters put us in office to fight for what we believe in — and Jeff

SEE MCKAY, PAGE 6

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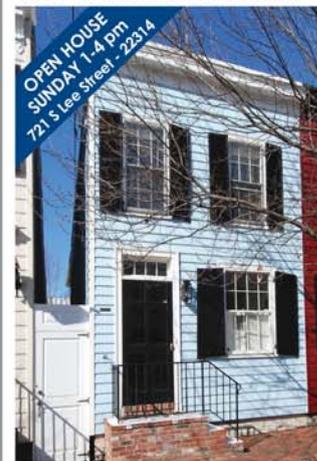
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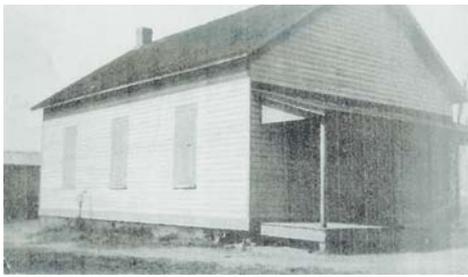
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The first Groveton School built in 1876 is still standing on the corner of Popkins Lane and Route 1, which is now the property of St. Louis.

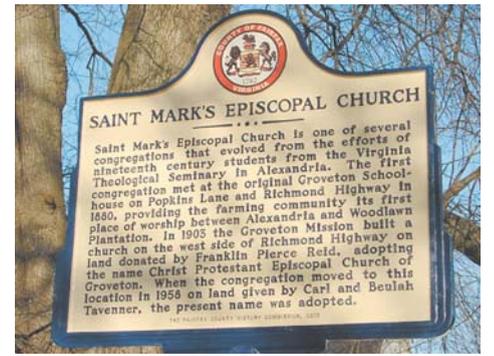


COURTESY PHOTOS

Church was rebuilt in 1930.



From Route 1 facing the lot, the second Groveton School was built (on corner of Groveton and Route 1).



The church now known as St. Mark's Episcopal Church has an historical marker placed at its current site on 6744 South Kings Hwy.

Ground Broken for Heights at Groveton

Neighbors remember former Groveton School site.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Earlier this month, ground was broken on a plot of land running along Richmond Highway located in the Groveton neighborhood of Alexandria. Originally the property of Franklin Pierce Reid, the land will now be home to The Heights at Groveton — a single-building design featuring five and six-story elevations encompassing 299,000 square feet.

The Heights at Groveton has been a long time coming. The property, located at the old Groveton School Site, 6818-6832 Richmond Highway and 2999 Memorial Street, has been vacant since 1982 when the school building was declared as surplus by the School Board and title was transferred to the Board of Supervisors.

Jon Hass and Daryl Butcher, principals of Madison Development Partners, purchased the land in 1982. They originally planned to build an office building, but when that market slowed, they asked for an out-of-turn amendment to build a mixed-use site (PRM-planned residential mixed-use). Concerns about traffic and congestion led to protests by the neighboring associations, the SFDC and the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Haas and Butcher never went ahead with their plans. Fast forward seven years, and the ground is just being broken — and it is for a residential mixed-use building. This time, however, there is no objection. Timothy Mulcahy, president of Redbrick Development Group, LLC, said that they put a contract on the property in December 2007.

“It took three years to put it together and the purchase was complete in December, 2010,” he said.

When asked what was different about this plan, he said that they divided the project into two buildings.

“We took the original plan and went back



Brandi Pensoneau, Annabel Baer, Gerry Hyland, Jeff McKay, Charlotte Brown and Sharon Yabroudy Brumleve participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

through the [planning] process,” said Mulcahy. “We presented it as two separate buildings — there was no way we could get financing for one building. The first building will have 290 residential units and 10,000 square feet of retail space. The second building, which will have an additional 10,000 square feet of retail space and 50,000 square feet of office space, will be built when the economy approves.”

At a Groveton Association meeting, Mulcahy said, “Housing is stronger than in other parts of the county. We have a high occupancy rate for apartments and, on average houses do not stay on the market as long as in other areas. People are relocating here due to the BRAC and the close proximity to Old Town and the Patent Trade Office in Alexandria. There have been banks, pharmacies, and retail stores opening and doing well along Richmond Highway.”

Redbrick Development Group received \$68 million in financing for the Heights at Groveton, a 290-unit apartment development project along Route 1 in Alexandria. The financing for the development was arranged by Cassidy Turley.

JP Morgan is offering a senior debt construction loan for 60 percent of the total amount, or about \$40 million. Wood Partners and Redbrick will be working as co-developers on the development. An affiliate of Redbrick Partners and CBRE Investors will provide majority of the equity.

Dedicated residential and retail parking will be available for the residents and retail patrons. Key features include an outdoor pool, interior courtyard with fireplaces, a media and game room, as well as a modern gym suited for the CrossFit brand of physical training. The Heights at Groveton will seek Energy Star certification from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Project completion date is targeted for the end of 2012.

The groundbreaking, held last month, was attended by Supervisors Gerry Hyland and Jeff McKay, as well as Groveton Community leaders Charlotte Brown and Annabel Baer. Also in attendance was Mulcahy, Kurt Schwarz (JP Morgan), Jim Dunn, and Leonard Wood (Wood Partners).

SEVERAL PEOPLE at the groundbreaking ceremony remember the property as much



To the left of the original school was built the Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Groveton, also known as Christ Chapel of Groveton (orig. 1903).

more than a vacant lot and were there to reminisce about the history of the property.

The Groveton School site is known in the Fairfax Deed books as “Reid’s Corner” and has been home to many activities. Over the years, it was the site of: Hino’s Tourist Home, Groveton Elementary School, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and finally Fairfax County Administrative Offices. This acreage was part of the much larger Reid land holdings that encompassed Beacon Field Airport.

In 1924, the county bought two acres from the Reid family on the west side of Route 1 between Memorial and Groveton Street, building a two-room school house that opened in 1925. By 1931, the enrollment had surged to 100 students, who were jammed into the two rooms with two teachers. A new and larger brick building opened in 1933 — that was the one that closed in the 1970s and demolished in the 1980s.

Harry P. Lehman and his wife Anna Marie Hicks were there. Lehman’s family owned most of the Groveton area from about 1848. Harry Lehman is the oldest grandson and son of Mary Lewis Reid Lehman, daughter of the second longest serving Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors W.F.P. Reid.

SEE RECALLING GROVETON, PAGE 18

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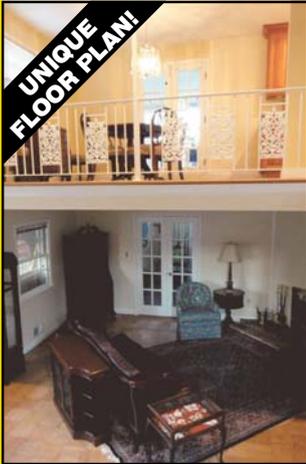
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Alex./Rosemont \$429,000
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Focusing on 'A World of Health'

Group explores ways to live greener and healthier.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

While many people may give lip service to preserving the environment, a small group of people at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church are doing something about it.

They have been meeting as a focus group during the past few weeks discussing "A World of Health: Connecting People, Place and Planet."

The program was developed by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI), that seeks to empower individuals and organizations to transform culture toward a sustainable and enriching future. NWEI currently offers nine self-guided discussion guides for small groups suitable for workplaces, universities, homes, faith centers, neighborhoods, and community centers. NWEI programs encourage participants to explore values, attitudes, and actions through discussion with other people.

Wendy Burns initiated the group of 14, with participants electing to moderate one of the six sessions.

Ian Roberts and Tom Tarcza moderated the session on Jan. 30, titled "Cleaning House." At the beginning of the session, Margaret Ruhe tested samples of Fairfax County water versus water that had been run through a Brita filter.

The group then reviewed the "Eating Ethically" brochure that was prepared by some church members. The brochure lists a dozen or so ethical eating establishments in the area that are advertised to be purveyors of organic produce and naturally raised animals; sustainable restaurants; and area stores that sell Fair Trade-certified products. Brochures can be picked up at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane.

One of the sub-topics was "The Dark Side of Lawns" and Roberts asked the group what they were doing to have green lawns without toxins. He suggested using corn gluten meal fertilizer that can be purchased at Village Hardware and other stores.

Roberts also spoke about being aware of toxins in the home, and said, "People spend 90 percent of their time inside. We need to consider ways that the government can reduce toxins and ways to reduce exposure."

THE GROUP THEN segued into a variety of topics. Ruhe spoke about the "No Impact Man," a movie about a couple who buy nothing for a year and turn off their electricity. While this is a more drastic measure than what the group is suggesting, Tarcza said he is committed to only eating raw foods.

"It's something that I am passionate about," said Tarcza. "I try to make it playful and have joined a Raw Food Meet-Up Group."

Dan Cohen said, "At the end of the day how much inconvenience are we willing to endure?"

Cohen worries that youth is over consuming and Burns said, "The less connected with nature they [youth] are, the less concerned they are. Our parents saved everything. We have to find a way to reduce, reuse and recycle."

Schaffer commented that his daughter composts during the summer, but not during the winter.

Dick Schaffer spoke about balancing work and play. "We were raised to be outside, but then there was



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Margaret Ruhe tests water samples.

the technology boom. Food is now super cheap and mass produced. There are chemicals and poisons in our waste water."

Ruhe said, "So many new industrial chemical are introduced every year. EPA is not allowed to test these products, but in Europe they have to test before they use."

Cohen, who is a pedia oncologist, said, "There's more that we don't know than we do know. Even if you eliminated all the toxins in your house, you would still have them in your body. You will have BPA and PBC in your blood forever."

Burns then talked about changing what she does in the future. She checks labels to see where items are produced and tries consciously to buy what is growing locally. Schaffer likes the farmers' markets, while Ruhe is changing her eating habits — eating grains instead of meat.

"I don't miss meat," said Ruhe. "One hamburger is equivalent to driving an SUV for 10 miles [in terms of carbon footprint]."

After the class ended, Roberts said, "I got lots of reinforcement to our desires to clean up our acts for the health of the world we live in here, and the world as a whole — specific examples of what some of us have done with leads to doing similar for ourselves (raw food, eco shopping, geothermal, clean cars) ... deep fun and encouragement to influence others we know, and influence makers in our communities (Mount Vernon) ... agreements that there are huge barriers to change that will really help the world, also that changes can happen from grass roots levels.

"I recommend using these workbooks, creating in depth discussion groups (like ours but explore), trying all ways to change laws/habits/culture.

"I will drive less and more economically, eat less, cook less, use less energy at home (wear sweaters), buy less packaging, buy more local.

"I say to others: Read up on latest ecological findings, talk to more law makers, write more letters to editors, more lists of helpful services and be prepared to be shocked into action."

Dorothy Brandt said, "I did enjoy and learn from participating in the class and would recommend it to others. Most of the learning came from the interaction between class members. The readings stimulated discussion.

"What I take away from this experience is a determination to be more informed and make decisions based on facts. I also hope to be more politically active, and show an appreciation to the vendors, such as Staples and Trader Joes who are more aware of how they can be responsive and support good practices.

"The class will meet one more time to set goals for what can be done."



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Alex/Riverside Estates
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Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA brick split w/garage & spectacular sun room addition which overlooks a lg. landscaped yard backing to a private, wooded sanctuary. Furnace & A/C replaced in 2001 & newer energy efficient windows thru out. Kit appliances & counter tops replaced in the 2000's. Good paint, beautiful hdwd floors accent a meticulously maintained home. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, commute to Alex, Ntl Airport, Pentagon/D.C. via GW Pkwy. This is a GEM!



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Alex/Westgate **\$624,900**
9010 Volunteer Drive

Beautiful traditional colonial w/2 car side garage in fabulous Mt. Vernon location. It is classy! Over .5 acre landscaped corner lot. Stunning sunroom addition. Hardwood flrs main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kit. Wood FP in living rm. Lovely kitchen w/corion counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfn bsmt: ample storage.



Alex/Riverside Estates
\$535,000

3112 Battersea Lane

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Alex/Wessynton **\$3,000**
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'Ashley's Law' Passes General Assembly

FROM PAGE 1

the State Crime Commission that conducted a study on emergency response procedures and recommended legislative language which was eventually endorsed by the Crime Commission.

"It has been a long journey, in Ashley's memory."

— Cindy McIntosh-Colasanto

Mark Hubbard, of McGuireWoods Consulting, in Richmond, whose firm provided assistance to Puller and McIntosh-Colasanto and others on a pro bono basis for the past three years, said: "Passage of this initially controversial legislation is a testament to how one person can make a difference — Cindy McIntosh-Colasanto — she single handedly overcame concerns and obstacles to gain the support of the State Crime Commission and eventually the General Assembly ... Her efforts and those



FILE PHOTO

Cynthia McIntosh-Colasanto holds a photograph of her daughter Ashley McIntosh who died in a crash with a police cruiser in 2008.

of the former superintendent of the Virginia State Police, W. Gerald Massengill, a key member of the State Crime Commission, were critically important in making this leg-

islation a reality."

Massengill said, "I believe Ashley's Law provides clarity and uniformity of the emergency response procedures, is eminently trainable, and will help to make entry into intersections on an emergency response basis safer in Virginia for police officers and citizens ... in addition it will allow police officers to turn off their siren or horn and proceed silently, where necessary, and safely, by stopping at a red light before proceeding with due caution."

Reflecting on her efforts over the past three years, McIntosh-Colasanto said, "It has been a long journey, in Ashley's memory. I am proud of the accomplishment, but at a terrible cost to our family, and we can barely touch the wounds that will never heal. However, I do find some comfort that this bill will help and protect others who are at risk like Ashley."

She credits Puller for her tenacity in shepherding the bill, Albo for his House leadership and guidance, and Howell's support on the Crime Commission. She also reserved special mention of appreciation to Massengill for "turning the tide" with his thoughtful efforts that eventually resulted in support of the legislation by the Crime Commission.

Ashley's Law

Senate Bill # 762 (Ashley's Law) establishing procedures governing emergency vehicles proceeding through intersections passed by a block vote of 99-0 in House and 38-1 in the Senate this past week. The legislation was sponsored by state Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller (D-Mount Vernon) after one of her constituents, Ashley McIntosh, was killed when a police officer ran a red light at a high speed without using a siren on Route One during a cold, wintry evening rush hour in 2008.

The bill requires that "an operator of an emergency vehicle display a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights and either sound a siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals or slows the vehicle down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions, yields right-of-way to the driver of another vehicle approaching or entering the intersection from another direction or, if required for safety, brings the vehicle to a complete stop before proceeding with due regard for the safety of persons and property."

Drivers of emergency response vehicles are exempt from routine driving procedures when entering an intersection so long as the driver performs these safety procedures. In addition, emergency response drivers are exempt from the siren or horn requirements when entering an intersection if it is required that the law enforcement officer proceed silently to the emergency response site. In those cases the driver is required to come to a stop before proceeding through the intersection.

McKay To Announce Reelection Campaign

FROM PAGE 1

fighters very hard for what he believes in."

Since he was first elected in 2007, McKay has developed a reputation as a knowledgeable and diligent member of the Board of Supervisors. He's taken positions on the transportation committee and the legislative committee, two high-profile panels that make key decisions countywide. Many consider him a rising star in the Democratic Party, a potential successor for Supervisor Sharon Bulova when she decides to retire.

"I look forward to another four years with Supervisor McKay," Bulova said in a written statement. "His experience in transportation and legislation are invaluable to the county and his constituent service is second to none."

FOUR YEARS AGO, McKay was chief of staff to longtime Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman. After spending more than a decade on the Board of Supervisors, Kauffman said that he was increasingly frustrated at having to fight for what he considers basic long-range vi-

sion and common sense initiatives. When he announced he would not seek another term, McKay threw his hat into the ring and became the Democratic standard-bearer, launching a campaign that called on contacts he had been developing for more than a decade.

"I have a good handle on what's going on in the Lee District," he said shortly before formally announcing his candidacy in January 2007, "all the things Dana and I have worked on jointly."

McKay's candidacy was seen by many as history repeating itself. Kauffman had served as chief of staff to the previous Lee District supervisor, Joseph Alexander, who was a member of the Board of Supervisor from 1964 to 1996. His candidacy was also a sort of hometown story because McKay is a lifelong resident of the district who attended Fairfax County Public Schools, taking the job in Kauffman's office shortly after receiving a bachelor's degree in public administration from James Madison University in 1996.

"I want to be a member of this board because there is a lot that needs to be done on a wide range of issues — the impact of

BRAC, keeping the Route One revitalization momentum going, bringing the Springfield back to what it used to be, and increasing parks and open space," McKay said at his official campaign kickoff in June 2007.

IN THE LAST ELECTION, McKay faced Republican challenger Doug Boulter, an Army veteran who was a former president of the Virginia Hills Citizens Association. The campaign featured competing visions for the future, with Boulter advocating for a suburban approach to land-use decisions while McKay supported mixed-use development. During a Mount-Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce debate, McKay attacked Boulter as a candidate who would harm the district.

"My opponent is a no-growth candidate," he said. "I'm not 'no' anything. The worst thing we can do is say 'no' to growth and, thereby, raise expenses."

McKay beat Boulter with 65 percent of the vote. The final tally was 9,978 for McKay and 5,452 for Boulter. After taking office, McKay became a board member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and also began a campaign to fight blighted properties. He gained a reputation

as being a knowledgeable and hard-working delegate who took a conservative approach to spending.

"I can't say that I've agreed with everything he's done, and I can think of one time when he voted against fund-

"He's not anti-tax. He just wants the money to be spent in the most cost effective way, and I admire him for that."

— Jane Hilder, chairwoman, Lee District Association

ing for a nonprofit that I probably would have voted for if I were in his position," said Jane Hilder, chairwoman of the Lee District Association of Civic Associations. "He's not anti-tax. He just wants to money to be spent in the most cost effective way, and I admire him for that."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ONGOING

Free tax preparation assistance is

available to low-income residents through April 13 at the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Low-income City residents can get help filing federal and state income tax returns and applying for

all applicable credits and deductions on Saturday mornings beginning at 9 a.m. and Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking preparers will be available. To request a reasonable disability accommodation or to receive

materials in an alternative format, contact Suzanne Kratzok, Coordinator of Community Resources, at 703.746.5663 (703-836-1493 TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the session you wish to attend.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Pruning Shrubs and Trees. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Offered by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. At 2416 Ridge Road Drive, Alexandria. Pre-registration is required; call 703-228-6414; ex013mg@vt.edu.

NEWS



Meredith and Colette Godfrey.



Jan Smith hits back a ball in a set of the tennis round robin.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Supporting Camp Comfort Zone

FROM PAGE 1

him for all the hard work that this event takes. "As the nation's largest bereavement camp, comfort zone is able to help thousands of teenagers and young kids every year. As some of you know, five years ago I was a camper at comfort zone camp, and can honestly say it helped me monumentally through the hardest time of my life. Therefore since I have seen first hand the help this camp provides to so many struggling children, I can honestly say it means everything to me."

In the past four years Cooper and Meredith have raised more than \$35,000 to fund the camp. In Virginia 200-plus children attend the week-long bereavement camp during a given season. Cooper has gone off to college at Yale and Meredith has taken over the fundraising. She is presently a sophomore at Saint

Stephens Saint Agnes School in Alexandria. Five courts are donated for the day for the fundraising tennis tournament by the Mount Vernon Athletic Club.

"My dad died when I was 10. I was encouraged to spend a week at this camp in Richmond, Virginia, Comfort Zone Camp. I was very reluctant but I went. This camp monumentally helped me with getting through the hardest moment of my life, losing my dad."

— Meredith Godfrey

"What's really great is that Comfort Zone Camp exists and kids who have lost a significant person in their lives can get there if there are funds to cover their stay," said family friend Lisa Mountcastle. "I know that now the camp is seeing many kids who have lost family members in the Iraq/Afghan Wars. So often the children left behind get sent back to school, on with their lives, because the adults left behind are so overwhelmed themselves. The general thought is that kids need to resume their daily routine. Well they do, but they need to grieve too. So often that is lost. CZC is a haven for these children."

For more information on Comfort Zone Camp visit www.ComfortZoneCamp.org

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Five Bills Pass and a Unanimous Budget

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The Virginia General Assembly wrapped up the 2011 Session this past Sunday around 8 p.m. It was quite a journey.

Five bills I authored are now sitting on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature. I discussed those last week. I am especially pleased that legislation I drafted requiring home energy auditors to be licensed was passed by the House of Delegates on a very close vote with 29 Democrats and 28 Republicans in support.

RICHMOND REPORT

I worked hard both last year and this year with the Energy Efficiency industry, Dominion Resources, and the McDonnell

Administration to put together a coalition of consumer groups, industry groups, and legislators from both sides of the aisle to get the bill through.

Senator Puller's resolution authorizing the U.S. 1 Transit Study was unanimously adopted by the House of Delegates last week. Both Secretary Connaughton and the director of Rail and Public Transit, Thelma Drake, have assured both myself and Senator Puller that they will move forward on the study with available funding. This is the first step in the process of laying the groundwork for an enhanced U.S. 1 transportation infrastructure.

We also passed a budget on a unanimous vote for the first time in anyone's memory. Both sides made significant sacrifices to reach a budget that was mutually agreeable. During

the budget floor debates, House Democrats were unified in saying that "transportation is important, but it's wrong to take money from children, seniors, education, health care or public safety to pay for roads." House Republicans heard our message and more than \$117 million previously budgeted for roads are now dedicated to funding our schools, police, and mental

health services including an additional \$4.1 million in education funding for Fairfax County above the Governor's proposal.

Around the Commonwealth, brave men and women put their lives on the line every day to protect our safety. Sheriffs will receive an additional \$22.6 million over the biennium in the adopted budget. An additional \$12.4 million is allocated for localities through HB 599 funding.

We must fulfill our responsibility to children from low-income families by funding the medical services they need. The adopted budget restores \$12.5 million in children's mental health services and provides \$3.1 million for a pilot program aimed at managing the care of children in need of community mental health services.

We cannot turn our backs on our seniors when they need us the most. The original proposal to cap personal care services at 40 hours per week was draconian. The adopted budget caps personal care services at 56 hours per week and requires the development of criteria for exceptions to this cap including the level of care, activities of daily living and risk of institutionalization.

To move our intellectually disabled and developmentally disabled citizens from trainings centers to community-based care, we established a trust fund of \$30 million. This funding begins to address the serious flaws in the treatment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Commonwealth as identified by the Department of Justice.

We also passed a significant piece of transportation legislation. Three weeks ago I set out the reasons I opposed the legislation. Several of my concerns were addressed with the compromise legislation, but I still have significant concerns. I ultimately voted "yes" for the final transportation bill, but I want to emphasize that it is a very minor step and does very little to solve our transportation problem beyond 2011.

We are back in Richmond on April 4 for our special session on redistricting and the Reconvened or "Veto" Session. My next columns will discuss the redistricting process and changes that we have seen in our community since the last census, the new transportation legislation, and the other bills we passed this session.

I have also posted a summary of some of the more important votes along with my votes and a more detailed summary of the budget on my blog at scottsurovell.blogspot.com. I will also post my entire voting record on my blog once I have received it. I have also posted over 16 floor speeches and 180 articles in the last 15 months containing my analysis on the issues facing the General Assembly and our community.

You can also email me at scottsurovell@gmail.com if you have any feedback. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

LETTERS

A System In Crisis

To the Editor:

Parents of Fairfax County students have been frustrated for some time with the lack of transparency and responsiveness of Fairfax County school administrators and School Board members. But [the recent] suicide of a student takes the frustration to a new level. Parents are not frustrated now — they're shocked and angry. I suspect elected and appointed officials in Fairfax County public schools are appropriately on edge and are investigating their actions to seek ways to ensure this tragedy not only doesn't repeat but doesn't ever get close to repeating.

My objective here is to re-start the discourse. I say 're-start' because many parents and teachers preceded me in good-faith efforts to reach decision-makers in Fairfax County Public Schools to: get some answers and press the logic of their case — all to no or little effect.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



PHOTO BY FELISHA GASKINS

World Thinking Day Girl Scouts from Service Unit 53, which included several Cadette, Daisy and Brownie Troops in Alexandria, celebrated World Thinking Day at Groveton Elementary School on Feb. 22. Above, Junior troop 1838 poses with their presentation of Greece. Troop 1838 also had an opportunity to present a rap to their fellow scouts on Thinking Day titled "Thank you Greece."

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

To start, let's go back to an earlier day when communities and schools were small, most Americans lived in small towns, and when everyone knew everyone else. Schools were and are a big part of our history and social contract. Schools are where we grow up, meet others, develop rationality, make mistakes, learn the lessons of forgiveness — in other words, after the home, school is where we develop our sociology — our ability to find our unique place in the world and to work in harmony with others.

I'm reminded of the time when schools were collaborative enterprises between three parties: parents, students, and teachers. Teachers reinforced the moral virtues — honesty, responsibility and self-reliance — that students learned at home to which teachers added the A, B, Cs and 1, 2, 3s. The social compact between parent, student, and teacher was strong.

Over the years, we have 'professionalized' most everything in our lives. We turned to 'outsiders' to manage our towns and counties, mostly to good effect. We sent our kids away to schools; many became teachers and put

down roots in other communities, spreading themselves around — also to good effect.

We consolidated small, hometown schools into larger, regional schools to effect economies of scale and lightly populated but geographically large counties (like Fairfax) grew like topsy. That produced other benefits; students and teachers, coming from outlying or sparsely populated areas, enlarged the societal pool and broadened perspectives.

Consolidation and rapid growth brought their own issues; they gave us schools with larger student populations, diverse in culture, aptitude, and motivation. Simultaneously, we gained a new partner in education which supplanted the parent-teacher team: the Courts. With the courts now calling the shots on disruptive students, we found ourselves diverging from those things we had at the start — a common culture and a common vision of the role of schools. Plus, somewhere along the way, we got so big we spawned 'administrators' and diluted — if not lost — the collaborative nature of parent-student-teacher comity and collegiality.

Long-lived concerns with Fairfax County Schools policies — and

they are numerous — have brought the historic parent-student-teacher social compact to the breaking point. That three-part social compact has been kicked to the curb by what parents see as unresponsive Fairfax County School administrators.

Communications have broken down in some instances. Teachers have been prohibited from responding to policy questions, principals have turned away from parents, staff have refused to provide available information, appointees are formulating policy in private, students are denied courses they need to progress, communication is one-way from the administration to parents, school board reps know nothing and can't/ won't help. In this situation, the recourse for parents and teachers are but three: advocacy groups, the media and the courts.

Taking advocacy groups first, I believe that's the logic behind the suit by Clifton parents and why parents and teachers have formed FAIRGRADES, RESTORE FCPS HONORS, and END ZERO-TOLERANCE.

Advocacy groups are a lot of work. It's much easier to just talk

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Things To Do Today

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

Notes:
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

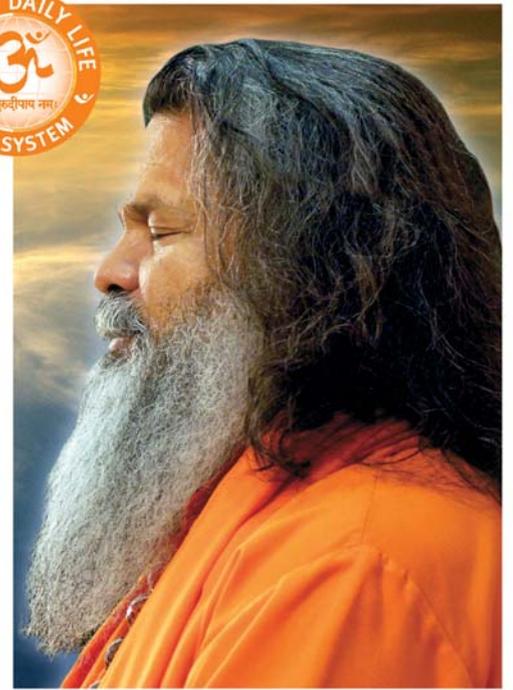
to your kid's teachers, school principals, and School Board rep. Setting up and running an advocacy group while holding a full time job and raising kids. I can only say it's a tough road, not lightly taken.

So why take it? The only logical answer is that parents and teachers have found direct communication to be not fruitful. They are taking the advocacy route because nothing else seems to work. These people are frustrated and have organized because their members believe their elected and appointed school officials are not available, not listening, and / or not responsive.

There is another contentious issue in this mix of frustration and mistrust: the Fairfax County Schools Zero Tolerance policy. Although I am not an advocate, I can see situations where, as a parent, it seems appropriate; those situations, however, are few. I see more situations where relatively good kids might get in adverse company and make a bad choice or two. Given some guidance, most of those kids learn from their experience, don't repeat, and lead exem

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

Spiritual Lectures— Yoga & Meditation Workshops with Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda



THURSDAY, MARCH 10

7:00 pm: Welcome Satsang *Suggested donation: \$15*

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

7:00 pm: Public Lecture –
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THEATER

Little Theatre Mounts a Mystery Play

Detective and audience struggle to solve family disappearance.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

“Widdershins,” a fascinatingly enigmatic play is given a highly atmospheric production on the stage of the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

The curtain is already up when the audience enters the theater. The dramatic set, which was designed by the director, C. Evans Kirk, is dimly lit by Ken and Patti Crowley to reveal the main room of a rural Welsh house, and dimly visible specters of people outside the confines of the three-dimensional world of the home.

It gives the audience a welcome hint of what is to come, for few would know from the play’s title what to expect. “Widdershins?” What exactly would that mean? In its least dramatic sense, the word simply means counter-clockwise. However, its deeper meaning refers to ancient legend of children who circle a church in the opposite direction than that of the sun and then disappear into a dangerous otherworld of demons.

The play is by Don Nigro, a tremendously prolific playwright who counts over 200 titles to his credit. Half a dozen of these featured a troubled detective who is called back in this play to solve a confounding mystery despite, or perhaps because of his personal troubles. We learn that it has been six months since the death of his wife and in



Emily Woods (Constance), Lars Klores (Mr. English), Elizabeth A. Keith (Mrs. English), and Elise Kolle (Felicity) star in “Widdershins” at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

that time grief and drink have adversely impacted his work. Actor J. Andrew Simmons gives the role a sense of professional excellence as well as a hint of newfound self doubt as the character clings to a glass he frequently refills from the victim’s liquor cabinet.

His colleague, played by Mike Baker Jr. with a light touch, is called upon to explain some of the more important plot points. His opening line could well be what the audience is saying to itself for most of the first, and perhaps part of the second act. “I can make no sense of it whatever,” he says.

Baker proceeds to explain the mystery, ostensibly for the benefit of the audience, but really for the audience: “They simply vanished. A man, his wife, and two daughters.

Supper on the table. A fire in the fireplace. A chess game half played. No sign of violence or struggle.”

The detectives begin to probe. The only clue apparent in the home is a one-word note on the missing head of the household’s desk. The word is “widdershins.”

They interview the family servant, Rebecca Fischler in a satisfyingly reticent performance that reveals clues slowly and responds to developments in a very believable way. They quiz a ward of the family who returns from college when she hears of the family’s disappearance, the feisty Kat Sanchez. They follow leads to a neighbor, an odd reclusive hermit of an old woman played with an audience-pleasing sharp tongue and haughty self righteousness by Gayle Nichols-Grimes.

The play takes on its special feel not from these mere mortals, all costumed by Annie Vroom in stark shades of grey and black, but from the four missing persons who emerge in flashbacks as the investigation proceeds. Their appearance on stage is always emphasized by the Crowley’s lighting scheme, making the distinction between physical reality and metaphysical episodes clear, and by Vroom’s costumes for them which are in brighter colors.

Elizabeth A. Keith is the at-times dismissive missing wife, while Elise Kolle and Emily Woods create two very believable and distinctly different sisters. It is the missing father, however, who is the central figure in the mystery. He is a strange, mercurial character who is straight-

laced, formal and demanding as a writer at his desk, but who becomes softer, more approachable and personable when he takes off his glasses and, he says, sees the world as impressionist artists do. Then he’s a painter more interested in the world around him than in the small matters on his desk.

Lars Klores gives the strange dichotomy of the character a clarity that helps keep the audience wondering just what is happening throughout the evening. At one point he’s imploring Fischler’s servant girl to reveal secrets of the house, which may have been haunted in the past. (“My work is foolish tales” he tells her.) At another, he is all but seductive in his effort as an artist to have her reveal herself by posing in the nude for him. Hints of a background of Druidic cult activity begin to emerge.

The play offers plenty of puzzles and mysteries for the audience to contemplate but plays of this nature always rise or fall on the satisfaction of the final resolution of the mystery. “Widdershins” leaves a few too many unresolved questions or hanging plot points at the end to provide that evening-capping sense of resolution, that feeling of “Ahhh!” that is the mark of a truly well constructed mystery. But all evening long, Kirk’s cast and design crew provide a stylish effort to reach that final moment. The fun is in the journey, not necessarily in the destination.

Where & When:

“Widdershins” runs through March 19 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17 - \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

Local Theater Companies Draw Helen Hayes Award Noms

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The Helen Hayes Awards, which recognize outstanding work in professional theater in the Washington region, announced the nominations for this year’s awards for work in 2010. Two Arlington companies, Synetic Theater and Signature Theatre, were well represented with a total of 27 nominations, while work in Alexandria drew one more. Washington-based Arena Stage’s production of “The Light in the Piazza,” which was

performed at its temporary space in Crystal City, garnered four nominations while MetroStage’s Lauren ‘Coco’ Cohn earned an outstanding supporting actress nomination for her work in “Glimpses of the Moon.”

Synetic Theater’s Irina Tsikurishvili continued her unprecedented record of being nominated for outstanding choreography every year since 1999. Again this year she has pulled in multiple nominations, one for her incredible dance-and-splash work for Synetic’s “King Arthur” which was performed on a watery stage in the

company’s new home venue in Crystal City and again for dryer but no less impressive choreography for the company’s “Othello.” Her husband, Synetic’s Artistic Director Paata Tsikurishvili, was also nominated twice this year for his direction of “Othello” and “The Master and Margarita.”

Both of those productions were nominated for the principal award for non musical plays, the Outstanding Resident Play award and two of the cast members of “Othello” were nominated for the Robert Prosky Award for Out



“Chess” was nominated for outstanding direction (Eric Schaeffer) as well as outstanding supporting actor in a musical (Jeremy Kushnier).

SEE HELEN HAYES, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT

FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS

Line and Hand Dance Party. 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5/class. At the Weyone Sports Lounge, Landmark Mall E-100, 5801 Duke Street, Ground Level, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 31

Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition. America's oldest and largest display of historic and contemporary needlework will be showcased at the 48th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition. Hundreds of needle workers from around the world, both professional and amateur, enter their creations each year. Demonstrations throughout the month will highlight a variety of techniques for the visitor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday - Monday during March. Admission prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students through 12th grade. At Woodlawn Plantation, 9000 Richmond Highway, three miles west of Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-4000 or visit www.woodlawn1805.org.

MARCH 4-12

"Bye Bye Birdie." March 4, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee on March 5 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/art

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Louisiana Dance Party. 8 p.m. Popular dance instructors Ben Pagac and Debbie Shaw will be on hand to provide free lessons in the art of swing, cajun and zydeco stepping. There will be King Cake and Mardi Gras beads for all, and drinks will be plentiful at the cash bar, along with light snacks. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door. With the bands Junkyard Saints and Squeeze Bayou. Tickets at www.hungryformusic.org. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. on the Potomac River in Old Town Alexandria.

SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Apothecary Open Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Old Town Alexandria and tour the Apothecary Museum for free. At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-3852. www.apothecarymuseum.org.

Ninja Warrior Night. 7 p.m. 100 contestants must run through four increasingly difficult obstacle courses that test endurance, strength, and agility. Cost is \$20. At Urban Evolution, 5402 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria. For more information or to participate, visit www.urbanevo.com, or call 571-215-8218.

Digging for Buried Treasure. 1 to 3 p.m. How a Treasure Trove of Civil War and Alexandria History was Uncovered and Became The Book, "Letters to Virginia" At the Alexandria Library, 717 Queen street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.

Greg Greenway and Reggie Harris. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria.

Mardi Gras Celebration. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$40/person. Hosted by the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee. Del. Scott Surovell is a confirmed speaker. Congressmen Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Jim Moran (D-8), Supervisor Gerry Hyland, and other local Democratic leaders from Mount Vernon District are invited to speak. At Don Beyer Volvo, 7416 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Visit www.mvdemocrats.com.



SATURDAY/MARCH 5

St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Parade. Free. Old Town is Irish for a day with the Fun Dog Show at 10:30 a.m. in Market Square, classic car competition at 10:30 a.m. along North Pitt Street and the parade at 12:30 p.m. The parade will start at the corner of King Street and Alfred Street, and proceed East down King Street to the corner of King Street and Lee Street. Co-Grand Marshals are Tom and Nancy VanCoverden. Throughout Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-237-2199 or visit www.patricksparty.com

La Bella Sinfonia — An Evening in Italy. 6 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$200; \$150 first timers. Part is tax deductible. The Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) is honoring Italy and Alberto Manai, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute at its 24th annual fundraising ball "An Evening in Italy." Proceeds go to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At the Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Call 703-960-7994; mtpwoods@aol.com.

"Unmasked Auction." 7 p.m. Food, fun and bidding; many unique items to bid on during a silent and live auction. Proceeds benefit Blessed Sacrament Grade School and Early Childhood Center. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. At Blessed Sacrament School, 1417 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Contact Rosy Lowenkron, 703-407-7207 or rosynjeff@verizon.net.

MARCH 5 AND 6

Jazz and Tap Festival. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 4 p.m. Presented by the Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Company. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$20/door.

At Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus Theatre. The NVCC Annandale Campus is at 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. For tickets and information, visit www.dance-festival.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 6

National Concert Band of America. 3 p.m. Led by Music Director Melvin Kessler, Lt. Commander, USN (Ret.). Special rates for students \$2, Mil/Vets \$7, Srs. \$10 and Adults \$15. At the Kaufman Auditorium at the Lee Center, Alexandria.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m. Conducted by music director Sylvia Alimena, the concert will feature Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1 in G Minor, to be performed by violinist Elisabeth Adkins. Tickets are \$25/\$20. Call 703-635-2770. Performs at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.eclipseco.org.

International Women's Day. Ten Thousand Villages will donate 15 percent of its sales on March 6 to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. At 915 King Street, Old Town Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

"Race to Nowhere" Screening. 7 to 9 p.m. Documentary film examines the culture of education and achievement in America. Tickets are \$15/door; \$10 online at <http://www.racetonowhere.com/epostcard/4135>. At Mt. Vernon High School Little Theatre, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria.

Pat Victor. 7 p.m. Part of the Second Thursday Music at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-548-0035 or nvfaa.org.

MARCH 10-13

"Cultivating Nonviolent Speech." His holiness Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda (known as Swamiji), a spiritual leader and Mahamandaleswar, humanitarian, environmental advocate, author, and founder of Yoga in Daily Life, brings his teachings to a three-day program held at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The schedule and fees for the March 10-13 conclave are:

Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m., Welcome Satsang. \$15 suggested donation.
Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., Public Lecture – Cultivating Nonviolent Speech; \$15.
Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Yoga Workshop including asanas, talk by Swamiji, yoga nidra

(deep relaxation), pranayama (breathing techniques), and meditation. Lunch included; \$45. Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m., Stewards of the Earth – an evening of music and inspiration featuring Eco Voce and the Earth Sangha; \$20.

Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., Farewell Satsang. Suggested donation, \$15. All programs are held at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

On-line reservations may be made and further information may be found at: www.yogaindailyifeus.org or by calling 703-299-8946.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

"Celtic Aire." 8 p.m. Free. An evening of Celtic music performed by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafb.af.mil.

MARCH 11, 12, 18, 19

A Night of Broadway. 8 p.m. Featuring Lisa Anne Bailey and Andy Izquierdo, accompanied by Charlie Manship. Presented by Zemfira Stage. Tickets are \$15/general; \$10/students/seniors. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Tauxemont Silent Auction. 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Come celebrate Tauxemont Treasures and help raise money for Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria.

"Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors." 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Presented by experts from the National Archives and Records Administration. Archives specialists Constance Potter and Katherine Vollen will review some of the many Union and Confederate records and resources for researching Civil War ancestors. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Reservations suggested at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Movies with a Mission. 4:30 p.m. Free. "Good Fortune." This film explores how massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. Screening will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact 703-746-4356.

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

MARCH 12-13

Verdi's Requiem. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Presented by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Kim Allen Kluge. In addition to welcoming soloists Jan Cornelius, Stacey Rishoi, Scott Six, and Gustav Andreassen, the ASO is collaborating with several local choruses: The Alexandria Choral Society, the Metropolitan Chorus, the Heritage Signature Choral, and the NOVA Community Chorus. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. Call 703-548-0885 for tickets or visit www.alexsym.org. MVhSmulchsale@gmail.com.

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THEATER

Local Theater Companies Draw Helen Hayes Award Noms

FROM PAGE 14

standing Lead Actor in a Resident Play: Philip Fletcher and Alex Mills. What is more, the entire ensemble of Synetic's "Othello" was nominated for the outstanding ensemble in a play award.

Other nominations for work at Synetic Theater included Colin K. Bills' two nominations for outstanding lighting design for "Antony and Cleopatra" and "The Master and Margarita," Konstantine Lortkipandze's nomination for outstanding musical direction for "Othello" and Lortkipandze's nomination shared with Irakli Kavsadze for outstanding sound design for "Othello."

Signature Theatre drew 10 nominations for work on four of its shows, all musicals this year. Their third production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" was nominated for the outstanding resident musical award, which continues another remarkable run. The first two times the company staged that musical it also drew nominations in that category and the 1992 version won.

Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer was nominated for his direction of "Chess." Other nominations for work on that production included Jill Paice for outstanding lead actress in a musical and Jeremy Kushnier for outstanding supporting actor in a musical. Signature's "Sunset Boulevard"

drew nominations for Jon Kalbfleisch for musical direction and Ed Dixon as outstanding supporting actor in a musical.

The Signature Theatre musical with the most nominations was Ricky Ian Gordon's "Sycamore Trees," which Signature commissioned and gave its world premiere. It was nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical, its star Marc Kudisch was nominated for outstanding lead actor and Fred Lassen earned a nod for outstanding musical direction. The entire cast was nominated for outstanding ensemble in a musical.

Arena Stage's lovely staging of Adam Guettel's "The Light in the Piazza" in Crystal City was nominated for the Outstanding Resident Musical award and Arena's Artistic Director, Molly Smith, will be competing with herself, among others, for she was nominated for outstanding direction of a musical for both this show and for "Oklahoma!" which played at their regular venue in D.C. "The Light in the Piazza" also drew a nomination for lead actress Hollis Resnik and its musical director Paul Sportelli.

The winners will be announced on April 25 at an awards ceremony at the Warner Theatre in Washington, followed by a gala reception at the JW Marriott Hotel, which is billed as the biggest cast party of the year.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

plary lives. But either way, zero-tolerance can be a harsh punishment, not a routine fit for teens whose consciences are still forming.

Apparently whoever wrote the Fairfax County 'zero tolerance' policy believes that as well because s/he left room for judgment to be applied in each case. Tragically, those involved in recent events didn't exercise it in at least one case where it may have made all the difference. More to the point, perhaps, it might have been the social isolation that was / is part of the zero-tolerance that was most onerous and proved to be ultimately not bearable.

In my view, elected officials — overseeing the 10th or 11th largest school system in the nation — are stretched beyond their part-time capacity by a work load that spans 175,000-plus students, 20,000-plus teachers, almost 200 buildings and facilities, over \$2,000,000,000 in outlays— and — did I mention 'curricula' suitable to high, low, medium and under-achievers?

No wonder we've lost our collaborative way; we have no time to know what we need to know; no time to communicate effectively; and, worse, no time to make the considered good judgments expected of us by those who send us their dearest.

Write to me at bmeuse1@hotmail.com.

In future essays, we'll look at what other school systems are doing and at some prescriptions to right the ship.

Barry M. Meuse
Fairfax County
Member, Restore FCPS Honors
West Boulevard Drive
Alexandria

Warning Signs Not Outlined

To the Editor:

I wanted to write you to tell you that I was very disappointed in the John Hamilton article in the Mount Vernon Gazette. I felt that it was poorly written, and the content troubling.

I grew up as a close friend to John Hamilton (best friend through 1989) and to be frank, I was not shocked when the story broke. I feel that your story did an injustice to what went on and I feel that

not enough was or has been written about what happened. You had a great opportunity to write about how so many warning signs failed and how many parts of the system failed that allowed this to happen. You failed horribly, and as a parent and coach I feel more parents need to be educated so this does not happen again.

Next time you do an article, how about you spend more time helping readers understand 1) How he angled his way into people's lives; 2) How and who he targeted (single moms); 3) How he gained trust and took kids on trips and stadium tours with overnight stays; 4) How and who allowed him to be released on bail while awaiting sentencing. Explain to the community how a child predator was released and was able to travel freely let alone get a passport and fly to Europe.

The bulk of the article was worthless filler that described his jobs and then ended with a section telling people to not take out their anger on David, Rose and Wicks. I know David well and I know what he went through but this is where your article went way off track.

This was a major incident in this area and more should have been written to help the community understand why the system failed. How about you write something of substance next time?

Robert Kelly

\$400 Million For Incinerator?

To the Editor:

Supervisor Hyland is favorably inclined to purchase the trash incinerator owned and operated privately by Covanta in Lorton, and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is considering that option. Is this approach to expand government during this difficult economic downturn and the County facing funding problems a good move? You decide.

Here are just two examples of past financial moves pushed by Supervisor Hyland and approved by the Board of Supervisors:

1. A little over 17 acres of land (Lamond) located at 7509 Ft. Hunt Road in Mt. Vernon was assessed for \$1.5 million but the price paid was \$4.6 million or \$3.1 million more than the assessed value. Also, such purchase took that property off the tax rolls losing tax revenue for the County. Is this a good

financial deal?

2. A little over 2.8 acres of land located at 7837 Richmond Highway across from the Hybla Valley Shopping Center in Mt. Vernon was assessed for \$615,635 but the price paid was \$980,000 or \$364,365 more than the assessed value. Then the County had to spend another \$1.4 million of your tax dollars to clean the toxic ground before it could be used. Is this purchase financially sound?

Now Supervisor Hyland seems willing to spend \$400 million plus for an incinerator plant that is over 20 years old and is assessed for \$47,390,953 plus the value of personal property and vehicles for a total of \$149,803,025. Spending \$400 million plus means that Supervisor Hyland is willing to pay over \$250 million more than the total value of the private company assets, including the plant that is over 20 years old. The General Counsel for the National Solid Wastes Management Association said the idea of such a move is "puzzling."

If the incinerator purchase is approved by the (BOS), look forward to your trash collection fees increasing to help pay for the revenue bonds and the interest thereon that will be used to raise money to purchase the incinerator by the County and future operations by the County. The BOS has been advised about an increase in refuse collection rates in a staff presentation given to them on Jan. 11 about a lease or purchase option.

With Supervisor Hyland's and the BOS past history of spending, particularly the two examples cited above and there are more, are you comfortable with another financial endeavor and expansion of government by purchasing a privately owned company?

Let your views be known to all supervisors before they make such a vital decision that can adversely affect you. You can call the Clerk of the Board at 703-324-3151 or go on the web at Fairfaxcounty.gov to obtain the supervisors' phone numbers and mailing addresses that includes email.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Divorce, Indeed

To the Editor:

I would like to reply to the article entitled

"Neighbor Against Neighbor" that appeared in the Jan. 27-Feb. 2, 2011 edition of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

Highlighted in the article was the statement by Maria Farran, "I don't know how I ended up in this bizarre world. It almost feels like a divorce."

I am one of the many long-term residents of Olde Bellhaven Towne Owners Association. All of the problems and lawsuits involved were instigated by Maria Farran and her husband, Samir, and it has cost the Association a lot of money to defend ourselves. That is why it is so ludicrous to have Maria attempt to portray herself as the victim in your article.

The campaign sign incident has been blown way out of proportion. Other residents with campaign signs that did not comply with Association rules were also required to make changes, not just the Farrans. Ultimately, everyone but the Farrans abided by the Association rules.

The real issue here is that the Farrans wish to build a deck on the back of their townhouse which faces common area. Construction of a deck overlooking the common area would be unsightly and would infringe on the privacy of other residents. There are no other decks in the Olde Bellhaven Towne Owners Association. This is not personal against the Farrans; it is about maintaining the architectural integrity of the neighborhood and residents' privacy.

In the article Maria fails to mention that the Court upheld the Board's authority to make an architectural decision, such as denying a deck. She only mentions one part of the Court's decision related to imposing fines. By the way, they were never fined.

The Farrans constantly remind residents how expensive it is to defend our community against their lawsuit and how the expense will only increase if the Association does not back down and give in to their demands. That is their approach in spite of the fact that the community, including elderly widows, retirees, and young families, is bearing the burden of defending against the lawsuit the Farrans initiated.

As for Maria's quote from the article that "it feels like a divorce," she is right. It would be very difficult for them to reside in harmony with their neighbors after this is resolved. However, that does not seem to bother them at all.

Robert Reilly
Alexandria

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Feb. 25.

ROBBERY

A 29-year-old Alexandria-area woman reported she was robbed by three men around 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the 8300 block of Brockham Drive. The victim alleged that she was struck in the head from behind by the suspects. They knocked her to the ground and took cash before fleeing. The victim later responded to the hospital around 2:30 a.m. and reported the incident.

A 20-year-old man was robbed at knifepoint in a parking lot in the 7500 block of Richmond Highway around 10:25 a.m. on Wednesday,

Feb. 16. The suspect was described as black, between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 1 inch tall, 180 to 220 pounds, in his mid-30s and wearing a black hoodie, a mask and black pants. The victim was not injured and detectives believe the victim was targeted.

ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ RESISTING ARREST/ DRUNK IN PUBLIC/ ARREST

Police responded to a home in the 6600 block of Quander Road for a report of a man acting disorderly outside the home. When they arrived, the man allegedly refused to cooperate and assaulted two officers. A 27-year-old male of the 3100 block of Clayborne Ave. in Alexandria was taken to jail and charged with

resisting arrest, drunk in public and two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer.

LARCENIES

2800 block of Beacon Hill Road.

License plates stolen from vehicle.

3800 block of Burlingame Place.

Stereo stolen from vehicle.

8700 block of McNair Drive.

Dishwasher stolen from residence.

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square.

License plate stolen from vehicle.

6500 block of Potomac Ave. Watch

stolen from residence.

6300 block of Richmond Highway.

Purse and laptop computer stolen from vehicle.

8400 block of Richmond Highway.

Beer and money stolen from business.

8600 block of Richmond Highway.

Rum stolen from business.

3100 block of Sherwood Hall Lane.

Bags stolen from business.

6700 block of South Benson Drive.

Cell phone stolen from residence.

7900 block of Wellington Road.

Purse stolen from vehicle.

2600 block of Arlington Drive.

Four Goodyear tires stolen from business.

2600 block of Farmington Drive.

Wallet stolen from vehicle.

8400 block of Hallie Rose St.

License plates stolen from vehicle.

3100 block of Lockheed Blvd.

Wallet stolen from business.

3900 block of Mariposa Place.

Purse stolen from residence.

6200 block of North Kings Highway.

Pint of vodka stolen from business.

6400 block of Prospect Terrace.

License plate stolen from vehicle.

7500 block of Republic Court.

Tires stolen from residence.

6600 block of Richmond Highway.

Wig stolen from business.

7200 block of Richmond Highway.

Food taken from business.

7300 block of Richmond Highway.

Beer stolen from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway.

Bottle of liquor stolen from business.

8000 block of Richmond Highway.

Purse stolen from business.

8700 block of Richmond Highway.

Wallet stolen from business.

2800 block of School St. Wallet

stolen from vehicle.



COURTESY PHOTO

Behind the second school and the church, the third building was built in 1933.

Recalling Groveton School Site

FROM PAGE 3

Lehman grew up in the City View Mansion (on Beacon Field Airport owned by the family) until he was about 12 years old when the airport was closed and the family repurposed the land into the Beacon Mall shopping center in 1959.

Lehman and his wife are the originators and owners of the website www.beaconfieldairport.com and are promoting the history of Groveton.

Lehman still remembers his first week of elementary school and his wife tells the story, "Despite living across the street from the familiar school, the first week of elementary school brought lots of surprises for Harry. In those days there were no pre-first day school meetings, so Harry showed up on the first day of school and joined everyone outside on the playground having a good time, a bell rang, and everyone disappeared. He wondered where everyone went, finally a teacher looking out the window saw him and motioned him to come inside ... time for class."

Lehman and Hicks still live on original family land on South Kings Highway behind the Beacon Mall center, and said, "We are thrilled to have the old Groveton School site finally be developed into a residential complex."

At the end of the groundbreaking ceremony, Hicks dug up some of the small cedar trees that were on the lot. They have been replanted on part of the 1848 land tract City View.

Charlotte Brown also has memories of the property, and said, "Jeff [McKay], of course, grew up in the area, but it was his mother Roberta Morris McKay that lived on Collard Street and her parents [Robert and Dorothea Morris] were very active in the Groveton Civic Association. Sharon [Yabroudy Brumleve] and I both grew up on Collard Street. Roberta, Sharon and I [as well as Harry Lehman] went to Groveton Elementary School.

"We walked from Collard Street to Groveton Elementary School. The playground [where the pictures were taken] had swings and 'monkey bars' for the children to play at recess. There were some great teachers and some strict teachers but the

memories were good. Our older neighbors told us about watching the planes coming in and going out of Beacon while sitting in class. It was a great place for the local children to play from both the east and west side of Route 1.

"I am glad they are finally building; it has been a vacant lot for much too long. I hope the complex provides a place for the local community to meet and learn about the community history. We hope to have an historic marker placed on the lot which will recognize the location of the second and third Groveton Elementary Schools and the first non-denominational church between Alexandria and Pohick."

PART OF THE PROFFERS includes creating a dog park behind the Giant, near Lenclair. Red Brick Development is working with the Fairfax Park Authority to meet the dog park requirements. There was also a discussion about including some of Groveton's history into the Heights at Groveton project such as artwork, naming of buildings, etc.

Mulcahy said that mobilization to get the site ready will start this month, with the actual construction starting shortly thereafter. They will build the parking garage and the first apartment will be available in 15 months (around fall of 2011). The project will be completed in two years (summer 2012).

The office building on the corner of Route 1 and Groveton Street will not be built until the economy improves. Since this will make the garage visible from Route 1, the facade will be finished so it does not look like gray cement. The land where the office building will be built will be maintained as green lawn.

Pending VDOT approval, there will be two access points on Groveton Street, one in-and-out access on Richmond Highway. A pedestrian crosswalk will cross Memorial Street and there will be a shuttle from the apartments to the Huntington Metro.

For more information, visit <http://www.beaconfieldairport.com> and <http://www.grovetonva.org>.

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

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West Potomac Girls Win 4x800 State Title

The West Potomac girls 4x800-meter relay team outdistanced the rest of the field to win at the Virginia High School AAA Indoor Track and Field Championships held Feb. 25-26 in Hampton. Sophia Passacantando, Dale Lescher, Sami Miller and Sarah Jane Underwood lowered their own school record by 2 seconds (9:25:09) and recorded the fastest time in Virginia for the 2011 indoor season, ranking them 10th-fastest in the nation. West Potomac's Underwood held off a strong challenge by third-seeded Cosby in an extremely fast anchor leg, crossing the finish line .03 ahead of Cosby's top runner, Megan Moye.

The boys 4x800 meter relay of Mark Hanak, Marc Lotterrie, Khoki Bernier and Ben Aleixo also ran strong with a season-best time of 8:06.71, placing ninth. Their time is the second-fastest in school history.

In individual events, Lescher and Underwood had strong performances, both earning all-state honors. Lescher recorded a personal-best time and beat her eighth-place seeding in the 1600-meter race, recording a time of 5:08.36 to finish sixth. Underwood was fifth with a time of 2:57.13 in a 1000-meter race that was one of the fastest in memory, according to Virginia track and field website Milestat.com. Lisa Kingston placed 12th in the shot put with a throw of 35 feet, 1.5 inches. The girls team finished 11th overall in the team scores.

Bernier set a personal best of 2:38.15 in the 1000-meter boys race. Tyron Jenkins competed in the triple jump setting a mark of 43-01 as well as running his best time of 1:07.59 in the 500 meters.

WPHS's Carriker Signs with Maine

West Potomac offensive lineman Daniel Carriker signed a letter of intent to play football for the University of Maine in the fall of 2011. The three-year starter earned second-team AP All-State honors and first-team All-State Virginia Preps accolades at guard his senior year, along with being an All-Northern Region and All-Patriot District selection.

Carriker became an anchor on a Wolverine offense that averaged 35 points per game, more than 200 yards passing and 130 yards rushing. Eagle Scout, team leader and team captain, Carriker will take those quali-



The West Potomac girls 4x800-meter relay team of (from left) Sarah Jane Underwood, Dale Lescher, Sophia Passacantando and Sami Miller won a state championship.

ties with him to Maine. He is also an honor roll student.

Carriker is projected to play guard for the Black Bears and could compete for playing time as a freshman.

Mount Vernon Spring Sports

The Mount Vernon baseball team will scrimmage at South County at 11 a.m. on March 5. The Majors will open their season at home against West Potomac on March 15.

The girls soccer team will host a pair of scrimmages in early March. The Majors will face Stafford at 7 p.m. on March 3 and Garfield at 7 p.m. on March 8. Mount Vernon opens its season on March 14 at West Potomac.

The Mount Vernon boys soccer team will scrimmage Langley at 6 p.m. on March 3 at West Potomac High School, and will host a scrimmage against either Jefferson or West Potomac at 8 p.m. on March 4. The Majors will open their season on March 14 at West Potomac.

The girls lacrosse team will scrimmage at Osbourn Park at 7 p.m. on March 3 and host a scrimmage against Edison on March 10.

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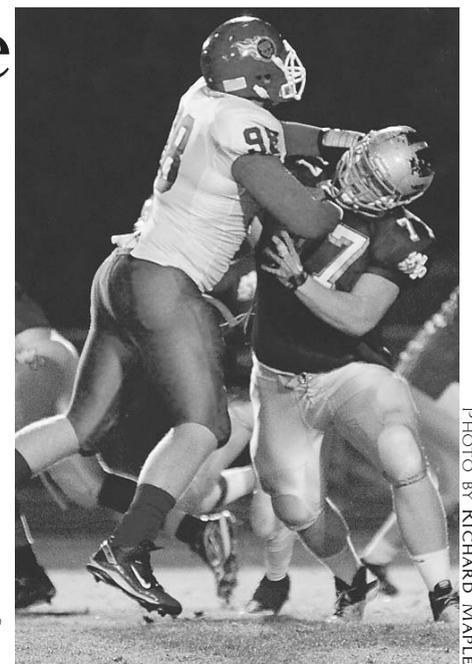
Mount Vernon High School hosted its 2010-2011 Science Fair as a part of the International Science and Engineering Fair on Feb. 10. Some 281 students competed in 11 categories to obtain 22 openings for the Regional Science Fair, held the weekend of March 18

at Robinson Secondary School. The Grand Prize winner was Callista Skaggs with an environmental science project addressing the Effect of Different Environments on the Formation of Heat Islands in a Model. The overall second-place winner was Olivia Kimble with an energy and transportation project studying the Effects of Different Feed Stocks on Biodiesel Properties. Third place went to Ginna Doss with a chemistry project studying the Effects of Increased Voltage on the Rate of Hydrogen Gas Produced in the Electrolysis of Water.

First-place winners in individual categories include Kaitlyn Schneider in

animal sciences, Farzana Olla in biochemistry, Rachel Willett in environmental management, Jacqueline Sorto in medicine and health, Angelica DeFreitas in microbiology, Samuel Barrero in physics, and Mary Reynolds in plant sciences.

Every year, Mount Vernon High School submits artwork to the National Scholastics Art Competition. This year, there were more than 1600 entries in this region and the competition was very tough. Mount Vernon High School students won 13 awards: 2 Gold Keys, 7 Silver Keys, and 4 Certificates of Merit.



West Potomac guard Dan Carriker, right, signed to play at the University of Maine.

West Potomac Spring Sports

The West Potomac baseball team will scrimmage at Bishop Ireton at 11 a.m. on March 5 and at Thomas Jefferson at 2 p.m. on March 12. The Wolverines will open their season on March 15 at Mount Vernon.

The softball team will scrimmage at Hayfield at 6 p.m. on March 7 and at home against Chantilly at 6:30 p.m. on March 10. The Wolverines will open their season at Mount Vernon on March 17.

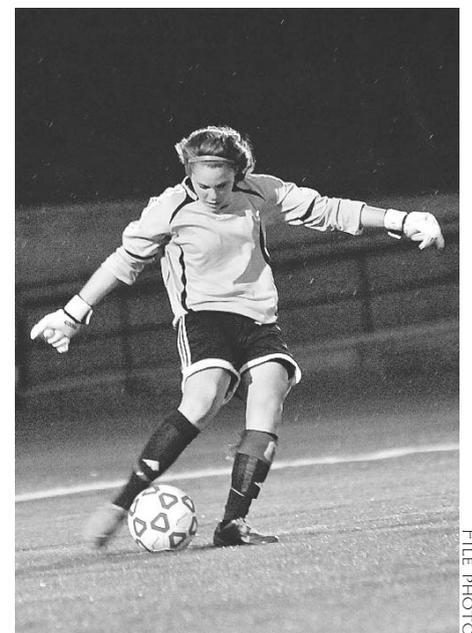
The boys soccer team will host a scrimmage against Thomas Jefferson on March 3. The girls soccer team will scrimmage at Washington-Lee at 7 p.m. on March 7 and at home against Stuart Hall at 7 p.m. on March 11.

The boys lacrosse team will scrimmage against Bishop Ireton and Mount Vernon starting at noon on March 5.

Fort Hunt Softball Registration

Fort Hunt spring softball registration is open, though late fees are in effect.

Prior to registering a child for a Fort Hunt spring sport, review the Spring 2011 sea-



Charlene Belanger and the Mount Vernon girls soccer team will scrimmage Stafford at home at 7 p.m. on March 3.

son information for the sport. See the "Softball" link at the top of the fhyaa.org website for information on the softball program. Register online at fhyaa.org.

For questions about the spring softball season, contact fthuntsoftball@yahoo.com or call 703-660 - 6338.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The Mount Vernon High School Spring Mulch Sale is underway. The delivery date is Saturday, April 9 and orders should be received by March 29. The proceeds will support the senior class All-Night Grad Party to keep students safe. The price is \$5 (\$2.50 tax deductible) for a 3 cubic feet bag of

The awards ceremony and exhibition was Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Ernst Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus.

(Student, Grade, Award, Category, Teacher)
Zainab Abdulaziz, 11, Gold Key, Jewelry, Gilliam
Zainab Abdulaziz, 11, Silver Key, Jewelry, Gilliam
Khalil Anderson, 12, Certificate of Merit, Film & Animation, Booth
Alexandra Capitol, 12, Silver Key,

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 22

SCHOOLS



Participants from West Potomac High School's Kiwanis Key Club included President Julie LaBelle, Evan Rajadhyaksha, Stephanie Fiedler, Treasurer Laura Jacobs, Charlotte Hayes, Communications Officer Karley Zdebski, Vice President Kelsie Whalen, Secretary Hong Wang, Kristin McCready, Liz Bobo and Kharis Schrange.



South County Secondary School Key Club participants at the Valentine's Day party included: Kaylyn Duda, Peter Ta, Zsharlene Jimeno, Cezar Bagonton, Shana Kim, Joyce Kwon, Elly Slugg, Jeffrey Cheng, Kelsey Cummings, Karina Aulakh, Judy Cummings, Megan Pitts and her son.

Key Clubs Organize Dance

Eleven members of the West Potomac High School's Kiwanis community service Key Club joined by 10 Key Clubbers from South County Secondary School co-sponsored a Valentine's Day dance on Feb. 16 at the Hollin Hall Senior Center on Shenandoah Road. A number of seniors participated in the dancing, games, and dinner with the teenagers. The barbecue dinner was catered by Famous Dave's.

The students organized the event, including the decorations, the dance, the contest to "Pin the Heart on Cupid," and other activities. A senior King and Queen of the Dance were crowned by the students. Door prizes were awarded by Hollin Hall staff.

These two Key Clubs as well as those at Mount Vernon High and Hayfield Secondary are sponsored by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. For more information on how to help others in the area, see www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org or send an e-mail to brucemalkin1@gmail.com.

Students and seniors eat dinner together at the Valentine's Day dance at the Hollin Hall Senior Center.



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SCHOOLS



Student Involvement

Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club Past President Bruce Malkin thanks West Potomac High School Faculty Adviser Kamy Bodaghi for his Feb. 2 presentation on high school Key Clubs. In support of these teenagers, MVKC subsidizes both their District Convention in March and the Key Leaders teambuilding and leadership training retreat in May. To work with these students, send an e-mail to brucemalkin1@gmail.com. Also see the MVKC website, www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org for a schedule of their meetings.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 20

Photography, Stahl
Jaimie Felong, 12, Silver Key, Photo, Booth
Michael Goodale, 12, Certificate of Merit, Photo, Booth
Jonathan Hanslip, 12, Silver Key, Film & Animation, Booth
Michelle Marrone, 12, Silver Key, Printmaking, Booth
Eric Ngo, 9, Gold Key, Digital Art, Feeney
Eric Ngo, 9, Certificate of Merit, Digital Art, Feeney
Oliver Rosales, 12, Certificate of Merit, Design, Feeney
Valerie Rovira, 12, Silver Key, Design, Feeney
Megan Wessinger, 12, Silver Key, Printmaking, Booth

have been named to the dean's list recognizing academic performance.

Daniel Harrison Petkoff of Alexandria;
Polly Margaret Carbonell of Alexandria.

Local students attending Hampden-Sydney College were named to the Dean's List for the first semester of the 2010-2011 academic year.

♦ **George Forrest Allen**, a sophomore, is a graduate of West Potomac High School and is the son of George and Susan Allen of Alexandria.
♦ **Kevin Komson Sidney**, a junior, is a graduate of West Potomac High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Sidney of Alexandria.

Plymouth Haven Christian Preschool is now enrolling for the upcoming school year, September 2011-May 2012. We offer a half-day early childhood education program for children ages two through prekindergarten. Extended day and enrichment classes are also available. For more information call 703-799-2217 or email phbc.preschool@vacoxmail.com. Located in Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria off the GW Parkway.

West Potomac Academy Fashion Design students took part in the Crystal Couture fashion event Feb. 1-5, showcasing their original designs alongside professional designers. Crystal Couture, sponsored by the Crystal City Business Improvement District, took place from 6 to 10 p.m. each night in the former food court at 1750 Crystal Drive in Arlington.

The Mount Vernon High School Ecology Club has made it a goal to increase the urban tree canopy on the school campus. Club members have been working with Fairfax ReLeaf and the Virginia Department of Forestry to plant approximately 175 new trees on the MVHS campus during Spring Break (April 18-22). The MVHS Ecology Club would like to welcome the community to join them for the planting. If interested in participating, contact the MVHS Ecology Club sponsor, Matt Thompson, at mjthompson@fcps.edu for more information.

Esther Antwi of Alexandria has made the dean's list for Franklin & Marshall College's fall 2010 semester. Esther is the daughter of Esther Antwi and is a graduate of Freedom Academy.

The following residents were recently named to the dean's list at the College of William and Mary for the fall 2010 semester:

♦ **Rebecca Gallahue** from Alexandria;
♦ **Cady Wiltsie** from Alexandria;

Miami University students who achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average for second semester 2010-2011

The University of Mary Washington has announced its President's List for the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year. The following students who have been named to the President's List:

♦ **Victoria Wong**, a senior, of Alexandria;
♦ **Rachel Martin**, a sophomore, of Alexandria.

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