

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 31, 2011



An Orphan's Tale

Hondo Lilly (the dog), Maya Brettell and Fiona Penn perform in the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's production of "Annie!" at the Carl Sandburg Middle School. Two performances remain: April 2 and 3. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Former Coach Pleads Guilty

John Hamilton molested young athletes, exchange student.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

They didn't get to testify in court Tuesday morning, but the mothers — and even a grandmother — of John Hamilton's victims all sat together in the front row of courtroom 4F to hear him enter his pleas.

And before they all left, Hamilton, 39, of Gabrielle Way in Centreville, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual battery, two counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor and one count of crimes against nature.

"Are you entering these pleas of guilty freely and voluntarily and because you are, in fact, guilty of the crimes charged?" asked Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Brett Kassabian. "Yes, sir," replied Hamilton.

Before moving to Centre Ridge, Hamilton was a popular, well-respected and long-time Little League baseball coach for the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association. But unbeknownst to the parents



HAMILTON

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 7

No Citizen Oversight

Police chief, county executive oppose citizen oversight of Fairfax County Police Department.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Citizens will have no role in a model for investigating allegations of police misconduct under a recommendation presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this week by Police Chief David Rohrer and County Executive Anthony Griffin. For advocates of a citizen review board, the move was a disappointing rejection of an effort more than a year in the making. Almost immediately after a memorandum outlining the plan was re-

leased last week, experts began questioning the extent of research that was invested in the proposal.

"I find it perplexing that they made no effort to contact the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement," said Phillip Eure, former president of that organization, adding that he's still waiting to receive a phone call from Fairfax County. "It really makes you wonder about the extent of the best-practices research they conducted."

The March 29 memorandum

SEE ROHRER, PAGE 6

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MVCCT Performs 'Annie!'

Two performances remain on April 2 and 3 for the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's production of "Annie!" at the Carl Sandburg Middle School.

The cast and crew are also working on an outreach collection for the Orphan Foundation of America. The OFA will pack care packages in April for the thousands of college students across America who have aged out of the foster care system and are going to school without family support.

MVCCT asks for support for this project with items such as:

- ❖ \$10 or \$15 gift cards: Starbucks, Target, Walmart or national fast food chains
- ❖ New school supplies: Trendy notebooks, pens, calculators
- ❖ Toiletries: Toothbrushes, toothpaste (not travel size), small travel Kleenex packets, hair clips for older girls
- ❖ Personal accessories: Small collapsible umbrellas
- ❖ Games: Decks of cards, games enjoyed by college age kids



Summer Davis, Nikki Amico, Delaney Keefe, Ellie Milewski, Maya Brettell, Lauren Duffy, Mollie Passacantando and Owen Albrecht.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

❖ Pre-packaged light-weight snacks that don't crumble or spoil: Boxes of Rice Krispy treats, packages of gum, microwave popcorn

Collection boxes will be at each performance and at the Variety Store in Hollin Hill and the carry-out side of Primo Family Restaurant in Belle View.

For more information visit www.mvcct.org

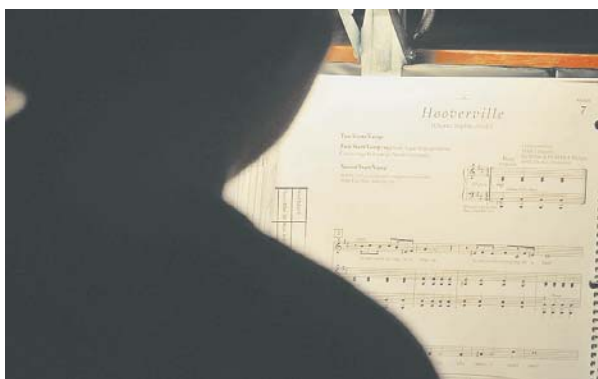


Barbara Peisch



Jessica Niles

Amy Conley plays the piano for the show.



Emma Kelly, Nasya Cabanez, Megan Huck, Elizabeth Rader, Katharine Niles, Anna Rizzi, Emily Roddy and Chloe Sinn



Kate Simpson, Alia Smith, Ellen Livingston, Delaney Keefe and Adrianna DeLorenzo

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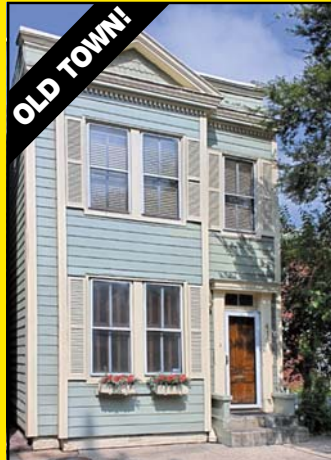
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Alexandria \$599,000
 Outstanding end unit w/3 bedrms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Three level bump-out, gourmet kitchen, unique master suite, living rm w/double French doors & hardwood floors through out the main level. Blocks to Huntington Metro. Bobbazzle54@gmail.com
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PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET



Annual Book Sale
The Mount Vernon Unitarian Church's annual book sale was held inside Hollin Hall mansion on Saturday, March 26.

Hundreds of books are stacked on shelves and tables for the Unitarian Church annual book sale.

AT MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Resolutions passed March 23 by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association included:

- Education Resolution to support the County Executive's recommended budget for education that included a recommendation to add money to support the growth in enrollment projections (\$17.8 million) and recommended that the property tax rate be \$1.09, consistent with the MVCCA Budget Committee's Resolution.

Passed by a vote of: Yes-24 No-3

- Environment Committee Resolution to support the establishment of an interim off leash dog park (OLDA) at Westgrove Park, and until such time as the Master Plan for Westgrove is completed and a long-term planned is decided. After a spirited debate an unsuccessful effort was made to amend the Resolution to include a requirement that a fence be installed, on an interim basis, for that portion of the park to be used for an OLDA. It was argued by the critics of the fence amendment that the cost to install such a fence would be approximately \$20-30,000. They argued that if required it would likely kill any effort to establish an OLDA on an interim basis because the cost to install a fence would be prohibitive for the designated volunteer dog park community managers. The amendment failed and the Resolution passed as submitted.

Passed by a vote of: Yes-20 No-6

- The Budget Committee's Resolution was debated on several issues, including a successful effort to eliminate language in the Resolution that would have, if approved as submitted, recommended eliminating funding for the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. Another amendment intended to reduce the recommended property tax rate to \$1.05 instead of the recommended \$1.09 was defeated for lack of a second on the motion. An amendment to strike the language calling for a one-year delay on the North Hill housing project was defeated. The Budget Committee resolution included support to fund the projected enrollment growth in the School Board budget transfer of \$17.8 million, and support for the overall request for funding of the School Board's budget as submitted by the county executive.

SUPERVISOR GERALD HYLAND'S presentation to the council included the following:

- Announced that he has asked county staff, jointly with Supervisor Jeff McKay, to study the efficacy and feasibility of installing a trolley that would operate on the Route One Corridor.

- Discussed his recent letter to the MVCCA co-chairs requesting the Council's views on the county's staff recommended options to potentially greatly expand the number of housing units at the North

SEE AT MVCCA, PAGE 14

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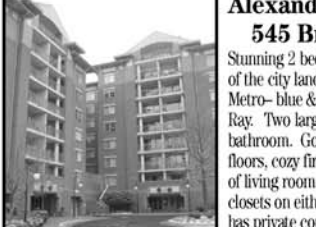

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UNDER CONTRACT



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Rohrer and Griffin Oppose Citizen Review Board

FROM PAGE 1

outlining the plan does include a 1997 report indicating that only 98 out of 651 eligible agencies had public review. But critics of the proposal say much has changed in the last 14 years, and that if the county officials had examined the current state of the

“Having an auditor review the police investigation is like having the fox guarding the henhouse.”

— Kent Willis,
executive director, American Civil
Liberties Union of Virginia

field they would have discovered that Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in the country without any independent review of its police department.

“It’s unfortunate that the board is seeking guidance from Chief Rohrer because I feel he’s a big part of the problem,” said Ronald Koch, president of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. “He would much prefer to continue to have police police themselves.”

INSTEAD OF HAVING an independent investigation of allegations of police misconduct, Rohrer and Griffin

suggest having the county auditor review the police investigation. The brief memorandum outlining how this would work explains that the auditor, who reports to the county executive, would not have the power to subpoena witnesses. Instead, the auditor’s review would be limited to examining the police investigation.

“It is not proposed that the Internal Auditor will do an independent investigation separate from the police,” Rohrer and Griffin write in the March 29 memorandum. “There may be instances, however, when the Internal Auditor will need to contract for consultants to aid in a view to compensate for a lack of particularized expertise in a specific area.”

Critics say this model presents a conflict of interest. Because the auditor and the chief of police report to the same individual, how would the public ever know if the two disagreed on an investigation? Also, would an employee of the county executive be willing to issue a report detailing police misconduct?

Advocates for a citizen oversight panel say the only way to ensure an independent investigation is to create a system outside of the existing power structure.

“It’s clear that they are doing everything in their power to avoid citizen oversight,” said Nicholas Beltrante, executive director of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. “I would encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt our proposal rather than the one presented by the chief of police and county executive.”

ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSAL from Rohrer and Griffin was on the docket for the Board of Supervisors meeting this week, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland of-

fered a motion to postpone the matter and send it to the Public Safety Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee. The move was cheered by many who were concerned that the public had no opportunity to respond to the proposal. Now that the police chief and county executive are on record opposing citizen oversight, those who would like to see a more public process say they will be fighting for a more public process than the one currently under consideration.

“Having an auditor review the police investigation is like having the fox guarding the henhouse,” said Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. “Citizens should have the opportunity to evaluate, investigate and review police activity.”

Rohrer and Griffin, on the other hand, believe that a citizen review board would not provide “additional value” to a review process. In the memorandum outlining their proposal, they say the citizen’s role would stop at asking for an investigation. Because the auditor already investigates allegations of inappropriate behavior and business practices, they say, he or she would be familiar with police procedure and investigator practices.

“There is no strong evidence that a citizen review board provides additional value to a review process,” they wrote. “Public review boards have the same issues as any publicly appointed body.”

THE MOVEMENT to create a citizen review board in Fairfax County began in February 2010, shortly after police officer David Ziants shot and killed an unarmed driver on Richmond Highway. Police officials failed to release the incident report or the dash-

board video footage of the incident, even when the information was requested in a Virginia Freedom of Information Act request. Yet Rohrer and Griffin now say the existence of the dashboard video footage is a reason citizen input is not needed.

“In summary, an independent auditor is a recognized model and option to provide an independent look at significant responses by police and alleged police misconduct,” the memorandum concludes. “It allows the public to initiate reviews of the Police Department actions, and coupled with the Board’s anticipated acquisition and installation of digital cameras in police patrol vehicles, which the Police Department has long sought, the public’s trust of police should be enhanced.”

The Fairfax County Police Department has long maintained the position that its incident reports should be kept secret, even though these documents are routinely available in the vast majority of jurisdictions across the country. Even when one of their officers shot and killed the unarmed man in 2009, the department refused to identify the officer who fired the fatal shot.

“What does the name of an officer give the public in terms of information and disclosure?” asked police spokeswoman Mary Ann Jennings at the time. “I’d be curious to know why they want the name of an officer.”

Because the auditor would merely review information submitted by police, critics say, the department’s reputation of secrecy would be counterproductive for investigating allegations of misconduct.

“We’re happy they’ve acknowledged there’s a problem,” said Koch. “But the proposal currently under consideration is not what we were looking for.”

Lorton Incinerator Purchase Goes Up in Flames

Supervisors choose to continue lease agreement.

BY JULIA O’DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors ruled out a government purchase of the \$432 million Energy Resource Recovery Center in Lorton, a privately owned facility better known as the county’s trash incinerator, on March 29.

The supervisors voted 9-1 to extend Fairfax’s public-private partnership with Covanta Energy, which currently owns the plant, under a new agreement. Fairfax County staff is expected to finalize the new contract with Covanta and bring it back before the board for approval over the next 60 days.

“Renewing the contract on the terms county staff has negotiated provides an economical, safe and secure way to ensure Fairfax County residents have reliable, af-

fordable and environmentally preferable trash disposal for the next 30 years,” said Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Under the new agreement, Covanta will own and operate the incinerator until 2041, but Fairfax will continue to own the land on which the incinerator sits, said Bulova. This arrangement requires Covanta to lease the incinerator property from the county, even though the private company owns the facility outright.

IN FEBRUARY, Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin had recommended that the supervisors purchase the incinerator rather than sign a new lease agreement with Covanta. The company had been asking too much of the Fairfax and buying the plant appeared to be cheaper for the county in the long run, he said.

“Staff believes it is still negotiating with Covanta but [the agreement] is not to a level that we should continue a long-term relationship with them,” said Griffin on Feb. 22.

At that time, the supervisors also indi-

cated they weren’t satisfied with the deal Covanta presented. The county board unanimously voted to give Covanta a list of “must haves” for Fairfax in the new contract.

If Covanta declined to accept these terms, the supervisors said they would be likely to move forward with the purchase of the waste management plant.

Bulova said the threat to purchase the incinerator did ultimately produce a better financial deal for the county this month. The new agreement saves Fairfax \$300 million over the life of the 30-year contract when compared with previous agreements that had been presented, she said.

“When we looked into purchasing the incinerator, it gave us some leverage with Covanta and put us in a much better bargaining position,” said Bulova.

Other supervisors characterized the new agreement and success of this month’s negotiations differently, saying the contract closely resembled the one that had been on the table in early February.

“There has not been any substantial change to the contract,” said Supervisor

Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

“The terms we laid out were not accepted by Covanta. That is why I think the purchase [of the incinerator] remains the better option. Nothing has moved substantially since Feb. 8,” said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

Hyland, who represents the communities that surround the incinerator, was only county board member to vote against extending the county’s agreement with Covanta.

“That agreement, in my opinion, does not go far enough,” said Hyland, who wanted the county to move forward with purchasing the facility.

In an interview, Bulova acknowledged that the county didn’t get everything it wanted from Covanta.

“Time was out and I think we negotiated as good a deal as we possibly could have,” she said.

FAIRFAX’S NEW ARRANGEMENT with Covanta doesn’t give the county enough

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Hamilton Pleads Guilty to Five Sex Crimes

FROM PAGE 1

who trusted their sons to his care and tutelage, he was doing things to some of the boys that had nothing to do with baseball.

It was under the radar, though, until 2009, when a 24-year-old man came forward and accused Hamilton of wrongdoing. He told authorities the incidents occurred during June and July 1997 when he was 12 and Hamilton was his baseball coach.

In court, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathy Stott said the young man "came to the police department and reported that his Little League coach sexually molested him in his [Hamilton's] vehicle in the parking lot of Carl Sandburg Middle School."

As a result, police arrested Hamilton, of Centre Ridge, on May 22, 2009, charging him with taking indecent liberties with a minor. When police went to his home, said Stott, they discovered a 16-year-old, male, Danish exchange student living with him. "He told police that Hamilton walked around naked in front of him and had performed [sex acts] on him," said the prosecutor. These incidents occurred between Aug. 15 and Dec. 25, 2008 and, for them,

Hamilton was charged with crimes against nature.

AFTER HIS ARREST, police issued a press release and asked any others who were victimized by Hamilton to step forward and tell their stories. In response, three more young men told police what had happened to them.

In one case, Hamilton coached a boy from ages 10-13 and, at some point, moved into his home to become a nanny for the boy's widowed father. According to Stott, this victim told police that, "three or four times a week," he and Hamilton engaged in a particular sex act. For this offense, police charged Hamilton with aggravated sexual battery.

Another former baseball player of Hamilton's said that, between June 1 and Aug. 31, 1999, when he was 14, he received extra batting practice from his coach. One day, said Stott, Hamilton told him and another boy that, if he beat them at bowling, they'd have to do yard work at his home. Then, while they did the yard work, she said, "[Hamilton] exposed himself" to the 14-year-old. Subsequently, Hamilton was charged with taking indecent liberties with a minor.

The third young man told authorities that, when Hamilton was his Little League coach in fall 2001, he victimized him, as well. Said Stott: "Hamilton 'touched him through his shorts' and [performed sex acts on him]." For this offense, police charged Hamilton with aggravated sexual battery.

The prosecutor also told Judge Kassabian that, after the grand jury indicted him, Aug. 17, 2009, on all five felony charges, Hamilton was slated to enter his pleas to them, Oct. 7, 2009, in Circuit Court. But when he didn't appear, a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

"He traveled to Germany with his mother and refused to return to the U.S.," said Stott. "But on Aug. 25, 2010, he was arrested by the Polish Border Guard as he tried crossing into the Czech Republic."

HAMILTON WAS THEN extradited back to the U.S., returning to Fairfax County's Adult Detention Center on Jan. 20; but this time, he was denied bond. He was initially slated for a March 29 jury trial, but instead, decided to plead guilty.

Appearing in court Tuesday in the green outfit of a county jail prisoner, Hamilton answered a series of questions from the judge after entering his pleas. "Do you un-

derstand that, by pleading guilty, you may waive your right to appeal any decision of this court?" asked Kassabian? "Yes, sir," answered Hamilton.

Kassabian also made sure Hamilton realized that the attorneys have made no agreement regarding his sentence, and that — following his conviction and sentencing — he'll have to register as a sex offender. Furthermore, the judge told Hamilton the maximum punishment he could receive for each aggravated sexual battery is 20 years in prison; indecent liberties, 10 years; and crimes against nature, five years. And if his sentences are run consecutively, said Kassabian, "You could receive a maximum sentence of up to 65 years."

Hamilton's attorney, Ted Sibert, chose to reserve his comments for sentencing, and Kassabian accepted Hamilton's pleas and found him guilty of all the charges. He then set sentencing for June 24.

Afterward, outside the courtroom, the grandmother of the boy sexually abused in fall 2001, plus the mothers of each victim, all said they "hope [Hamilton] gets the maximum — 65 years." In addition, one mother said, "He took us all in and [emotionally] raped an entire community."

County Decides against Purchase of Incinerator

FROM PAGE 6

power over what outside waste might be burned at the facility, said Hyland.

Given the shortage of landfills and other waste management options on the East Coast, the supervisor worries that the Lorton incinerator might attract trash from several neighborhood states. More trash trucks on the roads could aggravate the traffic congestion in Lorton and along Interstate 95.

"Additional truck traffic would be a problem," he said.

Hyland had also wanted Covanta to provide more generous community benefits. The company currently helps pay for Fairfax's mass document shredding as well as computer and electronic disposal events, but Hyland said Covanta had done more in other communities where it operates.

POTENTIAL INNOVATION in energy production and the power industry led Bulova to steer clear of purchasing the incinerator.

Under the scenario presented the county executive, Fairfax was not expected to reap any financial benefits from buying the trash burner for another 17 to 20 years. By that time, advancements in technology could render the incinerator obsolete, said Bulova.

"There were many questions about changing technology and what the recycling market will be like 20 years from now. There are no short-term savings with the purchase option and there could be no long-term savings," she said.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce also lobbied hard for the supervisors to reject incinerator purchase option.

"We are very pleased with the decision. Chairman Sharon Bulova has shown a lot of leadership on this issue," said Jim Corcoran, president and chief executive officer of the Fairfax Chamber.

"It would have sent a very negative message for Fairfax to take over a facility from a private business," said Corcoran, who confirmed that Covanta is a chamber member.

The entire Board of Supervisors is standing for reelection in Fall 2011 and the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is one of the most influential players in local politics. Over the last 15 years, the chamber's political action committee has donated approximately \$47,639 to Fairfax supervisors' political campaigns, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan organization that tracks campaign finance data.

Perhaps more importantly, individual members of the chamber

are also among the most generous donors to county board campaigns and frequently give more money to candidates endorsed by the chamber.

When asked if he felt the chamber's outspoken opposition to the incinerator purchase made a difference, Corcoran said: "I think it did. I think that was truly democracy in action."

Bulova and Hyland continue to worry about one aspect of the county's lease extension with Covanta. The county is obligated to provide the facility with a certain amount of trash, otherwise it has to start paying Covanta a financial penalty, said Hyland. The incinerator also has to receive a large amount of trash in order to produce the energy Fairfax ends

up selling to Dominion Power every year, said Bulova.

So a decline in the amount of trash coming into the Lorton incinerator could result in the county have to pay a fine to Covanta and potentially losing revenue from the sale of energy to Dominion, costs that would ultimately have to be covered by the taxpayers.

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In Praise of Workforce Housing

County needs more affordable housing of all varieties.

After a recent vote to approve 270 apartments that would be rented to families with a variety of income levels, the three members who voted against it — John Cook (R-Braddock), Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) — called the project “subsidized luxury housing” which would compete with the private sector.

Fairfax County desperately needs a mix of affordable housing. The county offers a wide variety of options, from tiny efficiency apartments for a single person that can cost less than \$400 a month including utilities, to three-bedroom apartments that cost \$1,100 a month for families of four or more who could earn \$100,000 a year.

But there is not nearly enough such housing available. There are more than 12,000 families or individuals languishing on a waiting list that could take three years or more. Some families are waiting in homeless shelters.

This isn't a case of wanting to spread the wealth around. This is a serious economic development issue.

“Businesses today are seeking young creative professionals with state-of-the-art technology skills,” said Gerald Gordon, of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, call-

ing workforce housing and this project in particular “fuel for the growth of our technology and other businesses.” These workers often cannot, at the beginning of their careers, afford to live in Fairfax County.

“Opportunities to live close to where they work helps employees reduce commute time and improve their quality of life. And that translates into a business advantage,” said Douglas Koelemay of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

More than 70,000 households in Fairfax County have income of less than \$50,000 per year, less than half the area median income for a family of four, \$102,700, according to the 2008 US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

More than 26,000 households in Fairfax County have income of less than \$25,000 per year.

EDITORIALS

Think about it for a minute. If you're reading the Connection in newsprint, chances are that your household has

annual income of more than \$200,000 a year. How can any family survive on less than \$25,000 here?

Fairfax County has the largest number of renters with what is described as “worst case housing” in Virginia: More than 12,000 Fairfax County renter households pay more than 50 percent of their income for housing costs, have incomplete plumbing facilities and/or live in severe overcrowding.

Fairfax County is smart to take underused county-owned property, like the land around Government Center and other “surplus” property to help create more opportunities to expand lower cost rental apartments.

The biggest boom in the county will come in the next few years in Tysons Corner, where the county must engage every creative mechanism to boost housing opportunities for every income of Tysons worker.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Redistricting Maps To Be Released Just after Presstime

Don't miss your only opportunity to comment locally in Northern Virginia on newly drawn state district lines for Virginia Senate, House of Delegates and U.S. Congress. The public hearing is Saturday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

Or travel to Loudoun, the only other Northern Virginia hearing, on Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. in the Loudoun County Board Room,

Leesburg.

New districts are on a fast track to approval in time for summer primary elections.

For more, see <http://www.vpap.org/updates/redistricting>, and <http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov> and www.connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Still Leaving Out the Public

To the Editor:

In April 2010 the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability (CCPA), a grassroots citizens advocacy group was founded. One of its primary goals was to urge the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to appoint a Citizen Review Board to accept and investigate citizen allegations of police misconduct or negligence and report its findings and recommendations to the Chief of Police. Over the past year many Fairfax County citizens have endorsed the CCPA's proposal. Additionally, more than a dozen prominent local, state and national organizations have also endorsed our proposal. They include the ACLU of Virginia, the NoVa Chapter of the NAACP and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Many leading law enforcement leaders have also expressed their approval of citizen review boards.

Throughout the U.S., hundreds of cities and counties have successfully established review boards in recent years. Thirty-six states and

the District of Columbia have such boards. These boards have enhanced the public's trust of police and have made their communities a better and safer place. In dozens of cities in California and in cities like New Orleans these boards have provided an independent review process to investigate allegations of police misconduct or negligence.

Under present policy in Fairfax, only the police “police” the police. In recent years, there have been a number of questionable actions by Fairfax County Police, such as the shooting deaths of David A. Masters and Dr. Salvatore Culosi. In addition, a number of officer-involved shootings of mentally ill citizens including Ian Smith have caused alarm among the families of the victims and mental health organizations. Several recent police incidents have led to civil lawsuits in federal courts for the sums of \$1.5 and \$2 million. Prior to these trials, the Board of Supervisors settled out-of-court. In these difficult budgetary times, Fairfax County can ill afford these payments of taxpayer's monies for questionable police actions. The officers involved in these incidents

remained with the department.

While the recommendation of County Executive Anthony H. Griffin is a step in the right direction, it falls short of the CCPA's recommendation for a review board comprised of Fairfax County citizens. The independent review process as proposed by Mr. Griffin does not include citizen participation. The CCPA is hopeful the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will adopt our proposal to give citizens a voice in the review process. It is important to note that county officials recognize the need for an independent review process to investigate citizen allegations of police misconduct.

Nicholas R. Beltrante
Executive Director, CCPA

Tax Increase Talk Ill-Advised

To the Editor:

In the immortal words of President Ronald W. Reagan, “There you go again” MVCCA. For the third consecutive year, the MVCCA's Budget & Finance Committee has passed a resolution ad-

vocating drastic tax increases to address county budgetary pressures. At its March meeting, only eight member associations showed up, but that was enough attendance for the committee to agree to send a resolution to the MVCCA Council which enacted it.

This country continues to be in the depths of a deep recession. I was amazed to read a report from the Gallup polling organization published earlier this month that reported the current unemployment rate at 10.2 percent. More astounding is what they describe the rate of “underemployment,” a term described as the combination of those unemployed plus those working part-time who seek full time work. That number is 19.9 percent. The report may be read at the following link:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/146666/gallup-finds-unemployment-mid-march.aspx> Thus, one in five U.S. workers are either unemployed or seek more employment.

In this context, the MVCCA Resolution is completely out of touch with reality. Our County's

SEE OPINION, PAGE 19

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
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Publisher
Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren

Photography:
Louise Krafft

Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,

John Heinly, John Smith

Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
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NEWS

Retail Summit To Spotlight Route 1

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is hosting "Retail Trends & Opportunities," a retail summit on April 13, 8 a.m.-10 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites at 5821 Richmond Highway.

Interested individuals and businesses are invited to attend and learn about recent trends and opportunities in the retail market in Northern Virginia.

"The Route 1 Corridor is home to highly successful retail areas such as Beacon Center and Mt. Vernon Plaza. There are significant transformational shifts occurring in the retail sector due in part to demographic changes and the impact of the internet on shopping behavior," said SFDC interim executive director Janet Gregor. "Included is a discussion of the relocation of thousands of people to Fort Belvoir and how it will affect the retail sub-market, and the emer-

gence of walkable town centers. This retail summit will discuss the impact of these trends in a way that will be useful for attendees in determining how to attract a vibrant mix of retail to the Richmond Highway Corridor in Northern Virginia."

A panel of experts in the retail development field will speak to the shift from Baby Boomers to the "X and Y" generation as major market drivers and the competitive impact of the internet on traditional bricks and mortar retailers. They will also discuss strategies for advantage of the area's projected population growth over the next decade.

Advance Registration is required. Continental breakfast will be provided. Contact the SFDC through its www.sfdc.org or by calling 703-360-5008.

— GERALD A. FILL

CRIME REPORT

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

ROBBERY

A 20-year-old woman was robbed of her purse in the 8200 block of Russell Road around 4:38 a.m. on Saturday, March 19. The suspect was described as black, about 6 feet 3 inches tall and 190 pounds, wearing a black, red and white motorcycle jacket. He fled in a white 2009 Hyundai Elantra. The victim was not injured.

LARCENIES

7900 block of Central Park Circle. Radio and iPod stolen from vehicle.

7300 block of Fordson Road. License plate stolen from vehicle.

7900 block of Fort Hunt Road. Light bulbs stolen from residence.

8400 block of Fort Hunt Road. Laptop computers stolen from school.

2300 block of Huntington Ave. Beer stolen from business.

2300 block of Huntington Ave. Beer stolen from business.

3100 block of Jackies Lane. License plates stolen from vehicle.

7200 block of Jon Paul Drive. License plate stolen from vehicle.

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JUST LISTED in Kings Cloister



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3932 Ft Worth Ave \$959,000
Updated Colonial - Seminary Ridge

Exciting new listing! Spacious 3LVL colonial in prime Seminary Ridge location. Home is in pristine condition with many fabulous features including: 4 large BRs, updated white kitchen, newly finished hardwood floors, luxurious master suite and oversized 2 car gar. Deck overlooks private grounds. Walk to St. Stephens/St. Agnes School. OPEN SUN 4/3, 1-4. From King and Janneys: W-Janneys & continue as it becomes Seminary; L-St. Stephens Rd; R-Ft Worth Ave.

JUST LISTED

9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$798,500
Expanded and Updated!

Custom colonial on gorgeous large lot in fabulous setting on one of area's nicest streets. Numerous special features include: recently updated kitchen w/light maple cabinets, granite countertops, and SS appliances. Family room off kitchen, home office, refinished hdwd flrs, 4BR including master suite with private bath and sitting room. Spectacular second floor fam rm addition and oversize 2 car garage. Expansive outside decking overlooks custom pool and spacious grounds. Won't last long!

JUST LISTED

8900 Camden St \$698,500
Spectacular Property - Super Value!

Stately, columned Mt. Vernon colonial on gorgeous, elevated corner lot in premier Stratford location. Numerous special features include: bright, open floor plan, stunning family/sun room, 6BR, 3BA, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen, 2 car garage. Ultimate privacy for deck and backyard. Unique opportunity!

JUST LISTED

1907 Rampart Dr \$675,000
Expanded and Updated!

One of the most truly spectacular properties in Ft. Hunt area! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Back of home was expanded resulting in breathtaking, glass walled, open kitchen/family room and main level master suite. Fabulous features include: updated gourmet kitchen w/granite and custom cabs. Expansive deck! Great location!

NEW PRICE!

2205 Basset St \$715,000
Total Renovation! Prime Location!

Unique Opportunity-Fabulous 3 level Colonial. Totally renovated and updated from top to bottom. Custom features include: brick exterior, bright, open floor plan, hdwd flrs, 3.5 updated baths, 4 large BRs with luxurious master suite, 2FP and fin LL with direct outside entrance. Prime cul-de-sac location. Fenced level lot. Move In Ready!

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

4620 TARPON LN Alexandria \$698,500

This beautiful home is nestled amongst large trees, sweeping lawns, & million dollar homes. Enjoy a cool drink in the expansive screened porch or sit by the fire in the open floor plan main level. The 2 car garage also has a loft & workshop. Close to Ft Belvoir, Mt Vernon & EZ commute up the GW Pky to DC or metro.

Katherine Ward 703.627.8782

6108 BEECH TREE DR Alexandria \$569,000

Bring the family to this solidly built 3 lvl Colonial in the highly desirable Wilton Woods community, convenient to Metro, Pentagon, Belvoir & more! Corner lot w/5BR/3.5BA on 3 fin lvls. Hdwd flrs thru-out, all new paint & lights, garage pkg & storage.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

BOTH OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

6101 EDSALL ROAD Alexandria

Each unit has 2BR/2BA, 1,408 sf, 40' balcony. #501 \$ 240,000 End unit, dramatic interior, needs some updating.

#607 \$ 265,000 Updated and open w/hardwood floors, ceramic, new appliances, and updated kitchens and baths

Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045

4561 STRUTFIELD LN #3314 Alexandria \$260,000

Stylish and sophisticated 2BR/2BA condo at Palazzo at Park Center has all the upgrades: stainless, granite, maple, 2 garage parking spaces, hardwood floors. Professionally negotiated short sale.

Virtual Tour www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

3171 WOODLAND LN / Mt Vernon \$865,000

WATER FRONT CONTEMPORARY - Spacious & secluded home on large wooded lot sited on Little Hunting Creek. Walls of glass w/water & wildlife views from almost every room. Multiple decks lead to a private dock, be on the Potomac River in just minutes.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

400 MADISON ST #701 Alexandria \$549,500

Stunning 2BR/2BA renovated unit in sought after Alexandria House. Light & spacious w/ closets abound. Gourmet kitchen - baths w/tall vanities - two garage spaces convey. Roof-top pool s/panoramic vistas. Call Ann for more details...

Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171

4331 Mt Vernon Memorial Hwy \$735,000

IF YOU WANT LAND! Privacy and a beautifully updated Colonial, you see this new listing on one acre near Mt Vernon Estate. Features 3/4 bedrooms, new gourmet granite & stainless steel kitchen, Sunroom opening to deck, 2 frpls, family room & 2 car garage. Please call Renee for an appointment!

www.ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

14215 BISMARCK AVE Woodbridge \$194,500

AFFORDABLE AND RENOVATED HOME! Detached home with 3 to 4 bedrooms, spacious deck off the eat-in kitchen, large level fenced yard backs to trees, garage, convenient access to I-95, easy commute to Fort Belvoir, Quantico, and Potomac Mills.

www.WaynewoodRealtors.com
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

5826 WYOMISSING COURT Alex / \$385,000

This brick front townhouse has 3BR/2 full and 2 half baths. Hardwood floors are thru-out the main level. Both the kitchen and the bathrooms have been updated along with new windows. Fenced yard & brick patio. Ample storage.

Susan Haughton & Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

SOLD! 8714 Bluedale St

SOLD! 7406 Rippon Rd

SOLD! 7106 Colgate Dr

JUST LISTED **SOLD!** 2335 Creek Dr

SOLD! 4117 Robertson Blvd

SOLD! 8826 Camden Rd

JUST LISTED **CONTRACT** 8310 Riverside Rd

SOLD! 8949 Fort Hunt Rd

SOLD! 9316 Heather Glen Dr

SOLD! 9212 Cherrytree Dr

SOLD! 6515 Princeton Dr

SOLD! 4504 Neptune Dr

4161 LEGATO RD Fairfax / \$624,900

Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA town-home in Centerpointe. With 4 finished levels, this home features an open gourmet kit, master suite, two gas fireplaces, finished loft w/full bath, rooftop terrace, two-car garage and more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

NEW PRICE!

6108 REDWOOD LN Alexandria \$599,000

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- 2 Car Garage

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Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

5008 LARNO DR Alexandria \$499,000

Super convenient to both DC & Ft Belvoir. Warm and inviting 2 level ramble w/4BR/2.5BA and a garage. Updated kitchen - hardwood floors - lovely patio backing to trees and privacy - lower level family room and space for workshop, work-out room and lots of storage. For an appointment to see this lovely home, please call...

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



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* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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NEWS

Recommendations at MVCCA

FROM PAGE 5

Hill development project. It was noted that the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the 67 units on June 21 to finance 67 affordable units on 11 acres of land. Hyland stated his commitment to maintain 67 affordable housing units in all the options discussed by the county staff. However, consideration of higher density for the North Hill project, he pointed out, is fully consistent with the Comprehensive Plan (CP) and the Hyland Visioning Task Force recommendations. Hyland requested

staff to look into building various forms of multi-family dwelling units at North Hill that would include market rate housing on the 11 acres as part of a new plan. Staff responded with three possible scenarios, from 264 units to as many as 528 units. Hyland's letter said that if the MVCCA supports a Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning of the property for higher density he would work with the Redevelopment Housing Authority and the county to bring the applications to the Board of Supervisors for approval as quickly as possible.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Fort Belvoir Hospital Update. 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$25 before April 5; \$35 after. Presented by Col. Susan Annicelli, commander of the Fort Belvoir Hospital. At the Fort Belvoir Officers Club, 5500 Schultz Circle, Fort Belvoir. Register online at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org/AprilBizLunch.htm or call 703-360-6925.

of clean-up, tree planting, and other projects to beautify the Lorton/Mason Neck area. Christalyn Solomon, a senior at Mount Vernon High School, was chosen as Student of the Year. Among many volunteer activities with her church and in the community, she has also created a school club which encourages teenage girls to "change the world, one girl at a time." At the Laurel Hill Golf Course. Information and reservation forms are available at www.mvcca.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

Retail Trends and Opportunities. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Four of the retail industry leaders from the region will be the featured panelists for an in-depth discussion at the evolving landscape of the retail sector. Continental breakfast. Registration is required. At the Hampton Inn and Suites, 5821 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Visit the SFDC website at www.sfdc.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

MVCCA Gala. Selected for Citizen of the Year is the Rev. Jeri Fields, chosen for her outreach work with Ventures in Community, Affordable Housing, and Hypothermia Outreach Project among others, as well as chaplain to the Mount Vernon Police Department. Chosen as Organization of the Year is the Mason Neck Lions Club, in recognition of more than 10 years

Things To Do Today

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

Notes:

Italian Night in the dining room!

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THEATER

Signature's New York State of Mind

Premiere of "And The Curtain Rises" features out-of-town talent.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Part of the reason for the success of musicals at Signature Theatre, a local company with a national reputation in the field of the American musical, has been its success at finding local talent and giving them a spotlight in which to shine. Its strange, then, to see Signature turn almost exclusively to performers whose careers have been built elsewhere — principally in New York — for the core of the cast of its latest adventure in staging new musicals. The result for "And The Curtain Rises" is certainly not an improvement in the performance

talent on display this time out. Instead, we get an enjoyable but certainly not entrancing evening of musical theater.

Regular attendees at Signature are well aware of the strength of the talent pool in the local area and have come to anticipate great things when the likes of Donna Migliaccio, Harry A. Winter, Lauren Williams, Christopher Block or Bobby Smith are cast in challenging roles. Unfortunately for Signature, all of them and quite a few others happen to be working at Ford's Theatre this month where they are in another new musical, "Liberty Smith." Planning for Signature's world premiere of "And The Curtain Rises" goes back to well before casting for shows at other theaters was an issue, however.

This new musical is the result of a commission Signature announced back in May of 2006 as part of the American Musical Voices Project funded by The Shen Family Foundation. Under terms of a \$1 million grant, Signature was able to give commissions to three up- and-coming composers and guarantee them that their new

work would be given a world premiere here in their venue in Shirlington.

The first two have already been produced. Michael John LaChiusa's sprawling musical staging of Edna Ferber's novel "Giant" was given a striking production in 2009. Ricky Ian Gordon's semi-autobiographical musical "Sycamore Trees" was on this stage in 2010 and has been nominated for four Helen Hayes Awards including the Charles MacArthur award for Outstanding New Play or Musical. Both of these relied more on talent recruited in New York than on local cast members, and it is disturbing that the third in the series continues and even accelerates that trend. Of the 15 members of the cast of "And The Curtain Rises," only two have appeared on Signature's stage before and only two others who have named roles have Washington area credits in their bios.

Earlier importations from the talent pool in New York have brought big name Broadway stars,

Leading lady Rebecca Watson may not have been given much sparkling material to perform, but she lends a bright personality and a strong voice to the proceedings.

some of whom have become regulars here. None of the New York performers in this production have established star status. While they all are at least acceptable in their roles, no one reaches the heights that we've enjoyed from Signature regulars over the years.

The strongest is Rebecca Watson, this production's leading lady playing a leading lady in the show-within-a-show that forms the basis for "And The Curtain Rises." She may not have been given much sparkling material to perform, but she lends a bright personality and a strong voice to the proceedings. Nick Dalton, playing a producer, is even better with his dialogue scenes and has a vibrant singing voice but that voice unfortunately wavers from true pitch from time to time. Among the supporting players, Erick Devine as a classically trained actor is a standout as is Alma Cuervo who, after her stints

Where & When

"And The Curtain Rises" plays at Signature Theatre in Shirlington through April 10. Performances are Tuesday - Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday - Sunday. Tickets are \$55 - \$81. Call 703 573-7328 or log on to www.signature-theatre.org.

as Mrs. Potts in "Beauty and the Beast," Fraulein Schneider in "Cabaret" and Ida Straus in "Titanic" has the biggest Broadway name.

The production is being advertised with the slogan "Partly historical. Totally hysterical." It is a half accurate description. The script by Michael Sladego takes some liberties with the historical event on which the story is based but those liberties don't do violence to historical fact, at least as far as can be determined since there is no definitive history on which to draw. It is the story of an 1866 show in New York City, which became such a hit it spawned many imitators starting the evolution of what we now think of as the American Musical. That show was the result of a combination of events at a propitious time. America was just emerging from a bloody civil war and was ready for new diversions. At just that time a theater in New York called Niblo's Garden was preparing a major melodrama when a troupe of ballet dancers became available due to a fire that had destroyed the theatre where they were scheduled to perform. Adding dancers to the melodrama, then deciding to add songs as well made for a new blend of ingredients for a popular entertainment. The show, "The Black Crook," was a huge success, perhaps mostly because those dancers appeared in flesh-colored tights giving the impression of almost being naked. Now that sold tickets!

The other aspect of Signature's slogan for "And The Curtain Rises," that it is "totally hysterical," is much more of a stretch. The script includes a few laugh lines that draw a chuckle or a murmur of mirth but few outbursts of laughter and none of the gags build one on the other to reach any comedic heights.

The songs feature music by Joseph Thalken and lyrics by Mark



PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

Nick Dalton (as William Wheatley) enlightens his hopeful cast — Rebecca Watson (as Millicent Cavendish), Laura Keller (as Jacqueline) and Erick Devine (as Jeremiah Burnett) in "And the Curtain Rises." At Virginia's Signature Theatre through April 10, 2011.

Campbell. As seems to be the fashion these days, each is delivered with a single singing of the melody without development. There is a very brief overture which does not introduce many of the melodic lines but, rather, serves as a tone setting transition from the pre-show piano solos to the full orchestra sound of the show. The entr'acte is even briefer and only one or two melodies are given a reprise, so the audience has little chance to catch and appreciate the musical qualities of the score. The one time something approaching a soaring melody is attempted is for an imitation of the overly sentimental ballads of an age gone by and it is interrupted and then dismissed in the dialogue of the show as "insipid garbage." A 14-piece orchestra supports the numbers with a good, solid sound, however.

That orchestra, or at least part of it, becomes an element in the scenic design of Broadway designer Beowulf Boritt who pre-

sents the stage of the historic Niblo's Garden with views from both front and back. When viewed ostensibly from back stage, the orchestra is seen in the pit with a shockingly anachronistic view of hanging mics to pick up the sound. This is supposed to be 1866, some 10 years before the invention of the microphone and nearly a century before microphones in the orchestra pit became a frequent sight. Signature veterans Kathleen Geldard and Colin K. Bills supply satisfying costumes and lighting design. All this is under the direction of Kristin Hanggi whose work on "Rock of Ages" on Broadway earned a Tony nomination.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY THURSDAY

Environmental Activists Needed. 6 to 9 p.m. Clean up your community, your country, your planet — meet with the Sierra Club at its new NOVA Hub in Del Ray, 2312 Mount Vernon Ave., Suite 206, Alexandria. RSVP to Phillip Ellis, Sierra Club Field Organizer at 571-970-0275 or phillip.ellis@sierraclub.org.

NOW THROUGH THROUGH APRIL 3

“Design for Murder.” A whodun’ it murder mystery by George Batson, produced by Bailey R. Center and directed by Liz Owens. Presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$12/youth/seniors. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; April 3 Sunday Matinees, 2 p.m.; and March 31 Special Thursday, Dinner Show, 7 p.m. Dinner show ticket prices are \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth. Discount tickets at www.acctonline.org. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria. Call 703-660-2611.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

The HGS 7th Annual Arts & Sciences Exhibition. 7 to 9 p.m. See what students have been up to: taking photos, painting, writing, performing and recording music. At The Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road, Alexandria.

“Straightlaced — How Gender’s Got Us All Tied Up.” 7 p.m. Free film screening. How pressures around gender and sexuality are shaping the lives of American teens. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. RSVP to Erika.Kleiner@alexandriava.gov.

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane



SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Movies with a Mission. 4:30 p.m. Free. “Promised Land.” Though apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994, economic injustices between blacks and whites remain unresolved. As revealed in this award-winning film, the most potentially explosive issue is land. 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.

Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby’s Tavern Museum’s historic ballroom. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

“Nurses, Spies and Soldiers: The Civil War at Carlyle House.” Free admission. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays noon to 4 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail: Carlyle@nvrpa.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Magic Tree House Tour. Sponsored by

Horry for Books. Meet author Mary Pope Osborne, lyricist Will Osborne and Traveling Duo, “Jack” and “Anne,” stars of the Magic Tree House: The Musical. Call 703-548-4092. To learn how you can get involved in local poetry activities, e-mail poet@alexandriava.gov, or call Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, Office of the Arts, at 703-746-5565.

APRIL 1 AND 2

“Hansel and Gretel.” 7 p.m. Presented by the Rose Hill ES Players. Tickets are \$3/children; \$5/adults. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-313-4200.

APRIL 2 THROUGH OCT. 30

Civil War Walking Tour. Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Covers the changing role of African Americans on the estate, views on George Washington from the perspective of Union and Confederate supporters, and the Washington-Robert E. Lee connection. At Historic Mount Vernon. These tours are limited in capacity and cost \$5 in addition to Estate admission: \$15 adults; \$7 children (6-11); free for children 5 & under. Visit www.MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

THROUGH APRIL 2

“Little Shop of Horrors.” At the Theatre at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Friday, April 1 - 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 - 2 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 - 7:30 p.m. Visit www.metrotheater.org for tickets.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

National Tartan Day. 1 to 6 p.m. Join in celebrating Alexandria’s Scottish heritage at the 2011 Tartan Day Festival and Clan Gathering. Enjoy piping, drumming, dancing, kilt-flipping, shopping, and music auld and new. Special appearance by the Devil’s Tailors, dance performance and dance lessons throughout the day by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. At Alexandria Market Square, 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Evening of A Cappella. Seven groups will compete in a variety of styles at the 27th Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Competition — Barbershop, jazz, pop, rock, contemporary and more. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. To purchase tickets log onto: www.Birchmere.com or go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-745-3000.

April in Paris Gala. 6 p.m. cocktails; 7:15 dinner; 8:30 live auction; 9 p.m. dancing. Tickets are \$135/person.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

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Saturday April 2nd, 2011

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7:00 PM – 11 PM Adult Events

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Mount Vernon Athletic Club will be hosting the 2nd annual **Children’s Charity Event.** All proceeds will benefit the Inova Fairfax Hospital for children Pediatric Oncology Program. All funds will support the children’s access to continuing formal education, maintaining connections with friends, and promoting exercise

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

Sponsored by the Friends of UCM. At the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Contact Diane Tollefson at 703-980-2757 or dtollefson@cox.net.

Kids' Rummage Sale. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by the Good Shepherd Mom's Group. A \$1 donation will be collected at the door for charity. At Good Shepherd Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria.

Spring Concert Fund-raiser. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. With guest artist Dr. Adlan Cruz, international pianist virtuoso. At Grace Covenant Church and Conference Center. To register, email ttf_cateam@yahoo.com or call 1-877-570-9488 or visit www.timetofly.org.

Civil War Guided Tour. 10 to 11 a.m. The Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society will conduct an inaugural Civil War Guided Tour of Ivy Hill for the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. At Ivy Hill, 2823 King Street, Alexandria. Enter from King Street, through the Ivy Hill Gate, turn left, and park along the side of the driveway. Contact Ruth Reeder at ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4719 for reservations.

Talk on Preservation. 1 p.m. Free. Hear Dr. Dennis Pogue, vice president of preservation at Mount Vernon, discuss the history of Mount Vernon's preservation, recent challenges and current methods to preserve. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Call 703-431-2869.

St. Mary's School Auction. 6:30 p.m. Items range from landscaping services to painted furniture to fine dining at local restaurants. Bid online at www.smsva.org. At St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Old Town Alexandria.



Kay Krekow as Floria Tosca.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Puccini's Opera "Tosca." 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Presented by the American Center for Puccini Studies. There will be pre-performance operatic entertainment and light Italian fare available, beginning at 3:15 p.m. At First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. Call 301-602-4389 for tickets. Visit PucciniAmerica.org.

APRIL 2 AND 3

"Annie." Presented by MVCCT. Show times are 7:30 p.m. nightly with an April 3 matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8/students; \$10/seniors and are available for purchase online at www.mvct.org. Organized groups receive a discount and can order group tickets by calling 703-360-0686. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428

Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Order by calling 703-360-0686.

ETAP Benefit for Japan. "The Show Must Go On" will be performed April 2 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; April 3 at 2 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College's Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center. A percentage of ticket sales will be donated to the American Red Cross to help the victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami. Tickets are \$15-\$21. Call 703-222-5511 for group bookings.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Community Bingo. 2 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$20 for 20 games, \$15 for students, pay at the door. Prizes from local businesses will be offered (e.g., restaurant certificates, entertainment, home & garden consulting, tourist events, and home/kitchen/car/health & beauty care items). Monetary donations can be made at www.wphs2011langc.org. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Contact Christian Reynolds, 703-799-2609.

Drawing the Clothed Figure. 1 to 4 p.m. In this workshop students will practice drawing the clothed model in a simplified manner intended to express the underlying human form. Cost is \$15/DRA members; \$18/nonmembers. Contact Katherine Rand at 703-836-1468 or DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 4

Tavern Toddlers. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult. Or \$30 for a five-week pass. For toddlers (walkers through 36 months) and their caregivers. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

R.E. Lee Camp Dinner. 6:15 p.m. Hear author Jayne E. Blair speak on "They Fought Valiantly," based on her book "Tragedy at Montpelier: The Untold Story of 10 Confederate Deserters from North Carolina." Come and meet friends and members of the Alexandria R.E. Lee Camp 726, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Gen. Samuel Cooper Chapter 105, Military Order of Stars and Bars. The cost of the evening is \$25/person. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703-299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314, and must be received by April 1. To be held at the American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Visit www.leecamp.org.

Jars of Clay. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. Performs at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Spoken Lessons. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Hosted by Sonya Renee of HBO's "Def Poetry Jam." Spoken Lessons is a poetic teacher showcase and community forum. Teachers from area schools will share poetry inspired by classroom experiences. Amy Young, Alexandria's Poet Laureate, will also be reading her work. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

Civil War 150th Lecture. 7:30 p.m. "Alexandria, VA: Southern Town, Yankee Citadel" presented by James G. Barber, National Portrait Gallery historian and author of "Alexandria in the Civil War." Admission is \$10/person. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994.

DJ Dance party. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

"For My Father" Film. 7 p.m. The film tells the story of a Palestinian, forced on a suicide mission to redeem his father's honor, who is given a second chance when the fuse on his explosive vest fails to detonate. At the James M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Contact 703-746-1705.

Virginia Tech Politics and Planning Series. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Free. "Remembering Alexandria Civil Rights Pioneer Samuel W. Tucker," a conversation with Stephen J. Ackerman, a noted expert on Tucker, and Louis Hicks, director, Alexandria Black History Museum. At the Washington Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince Street, 3rd Floor. Contact Matt Dull at mdull@vt.edu or 703-706-8117.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Story Time. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Designed for young children and caregivers, this event will feature story time and a small craft. Fee is \$3 per child. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Alexandria.

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 p.m. 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, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

APRIL 7 AND 8

Musician Colin Hay. Former with Men @ Work. Performs at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

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How do we practice our faith? How do we live in community?

April 14th, SPECIAL EVENT, 6:30: An Evening with Dr. Diana Butler Bass
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FINE ARTS

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

New Exhibit Opens. "Nurses, Spies and Soldiers: The Civil War at Carlyle House." At Carlyle House Historic Park. Alexandria became a major transportation route and many buildings were commandeered for use as hospitals. The Carlyle House and the properties that once surrounded it were known as the "Mansion House Hospital." A grand hotel before the war, the building could hold up to 700 wounded soldiers. This exhibit takes a close look at Carlyle House's figures, including poet Walt Whitman, Confederate spy Frank Stringfellow, and Sarah Emma Edmonds, who disguised herself as a Union soldier. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-549-2997.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

New Exhibit Opens. "The Marshall House Incident" exhibition. At Fort Ward Museum. The deaths of Union Col. Elmer Ellsworth and secessionist James Jackson at the Marshall House Hotel on King Street during the Federal occupation of Alexandria on May 24, 1861 stirred patriotic fervor in the North and South. This exhibit will feature objects from Fort Ward's collection, like a star from the flag that had flown over Marshall House, and items from the Mary Custis Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy to tell this story that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 3

Kiln Club Annual Show. At the Scope gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Hours are 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 the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm and www.kilnclubwdc.com.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 4

Water Marks. Watercolorist Barry D. Lindley creates striking paintings portraying the effect water has on natural and man-made objects. On Display in the Art League Gallery.

APRIL 4 TO MAY 1

"Flowers & Garden: Outdoors and In." This potting season, come to the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery to see some ceramic groundbreaking odes to fledglings and flora, focused on home and garden clay accents. Clay artists will feature bird sculptures, nesting bowls and home-inspired work surrounding the nest centerpiece. At Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

From Social Work to Sculpture. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Featuring Carol Gellner Levin, Torpedo Factory Artist. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.

APRIL 5 TO JUNE 5

Two Visitors Exhibit. Photography by Laurie Sand and Colleen Spencer Henderson. Opening reception is April 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

3 North Carolina Poets. 8-10 p.m. Washington, D.C.'s Ruthless Grip Poetry Series visits Del Ray Artisans for National Poetry Month. Acclaimed North Carolina writers Lee Ann Brown, Chris Vitiello, and Dianne Timblin will read from their works. Email Bryan Koen (bwkoen@gmail.com) or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

APRIL 1 TO MAY 1

It's Only Rock 'n' Roll, But I Like It! Del Ray Artisans' April show, pays homage to all things Rock 'n' Roll. All-media show, juried by Fierce Sonia and Jen Chappell. Meet the artists at the opening reception, Friday April 1, from 7-10 p.m. A day of rock-themed movies is planned for Sunday, April 10, noon-9 p.m. An open mic lyric slam is planned for Sunday May 1, 2-4 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or Fiercesonia@aol.com.

APRIL 1 TO MAY 15

Artist Linda L. Anderson. Dimensional Landscapes: New Perspectives of our Natural World. Artist's Reception is Saturday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Artist's Talk at 6 p.m. At the



Jennifer Halvorson (IL) , Beloved, hotworked and blown glass, tatted lace, wool, straw, antique egg basket 12"x6"x6"

APRIL 2-MAY 15

The Nest Project. What does home mean to you? This project is a four-part endeavor that enlists the help of a dozen local D.C. area art groups, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, and the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Outdoor nest installations are created by local DC arts groups. All nests will be composed primarily of natural renewable resources like leaves, twigs, and driftwood, but could also contain recycled materials. Reception is April 14, 6-9 p.m., with Gallery Talk at 7 p.m., Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Artists' In-Studio Nests - April 2-May 15. Indoor Community Nest sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia - April 2-May 15.

Schlesinger Center's Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Campus, Alexandria.

APRIL 6 TO MAY 1

River Views and Moldau Visions. Watercolor paintings by Helen Dille Barsalou. Barsalou's exhibition is comprised of four parts: River Views, Moldau Visions, Florals, and Animals. An opening reception is Sunday, April 10 from 2 - 6 p.m. Watercolor painting demonstration on Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

APRIL 7 TO MAY 2

"Food, Glorious Food." Free. Artist Cindy Packard Richmond food-scapes on display. Meet the artist reception is Thursday, April 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. At the Art League Gallery. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily; Thursdays until 9 p.m.; Sundays noon to 6 p.m. Visit richmondlikethecity.blogspot.com.

NOW THROUGH 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. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 10

Asian Inspirations. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18 of Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

APRIL 15 TO JUNE 3

Solos 2011. Opening reception is Friday, April 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. D.C. collector and curator Michael Pollack and independent curator Melissa Keys, former of the Perth (Australia) Institute of Contemporary Art, selected this year's crop of promising artists from across the Mid-Atlantic region. Artists in the exhibition are Mindy Hirt, Mariah Anne Johnson, Ailsa Staub, Leigh Davis, Joshua Wade Smith and Jennifer Coster. At the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-248-6800. Visit <http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org>

And All That Jazz

Hammond Middle School's Ambrose, ASO team up in Charlie Parker tribute.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For 12 years, he has inspired students in the Alexandria City Public School system to reach for their musical dreams. On April 2, Francis C. Hammond Middle School music director Vaughn Ambrose will fulfill one of his own as he takes to the stage with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in a tribute to jazz great Charlie Parker.

"Charlie Parker With Strings" is one of my all-time favorite jazz recordings and a staple in jazz history," said Ambrose, who made his conducting debut with the orchestra at last year's ASO Children's Festival under the new Symphonica Nova series. "It's a huge honor to have the privilege to play this music."

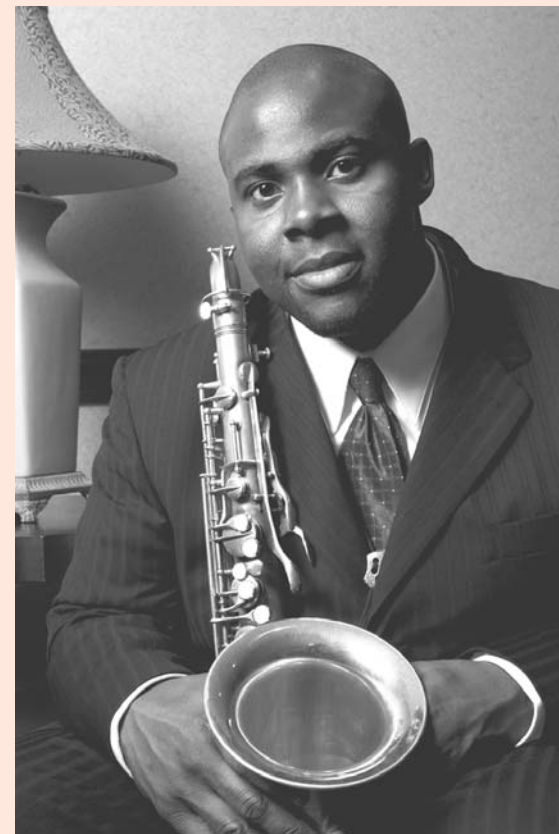
Parker recorded the legendary selection of popular standards backed by a string orchestra after World War II with help from famous jazz producer Norman Gantz.

"I'll be performing standards from that time including 'I'm In the Mood for Love,' 'Summertime,' 'April in Paris' and 'Can't Take That Away From Me,'" Ambrose said. "The concert will also feature two songs that didn't make the final cut: 'They Didn't Believe Me' and 'Scootin', which for some reason was never recorded anywhere."

When he is not teaching the symphonic, marching and jazz bands at Hammond, Ambrose leads his own jazz ensemble in the D.C. area and has performed with such famed artists as the Temptations, Lou Rawls, Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight. In March of 2009, he participated in a six-week long U.S. State Department tour to the Middle East, performing and lecturing in Afghanistan, Armenia, Iraq and Lebanon.

"Right now, all my free time is focused on this concert," said Ambrose, who has been playing the saxophone for more than 25 years. "For the last two months, I have been practicing for an hour-and-a-half every night working on this music."

The concert, which will also include works by Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers and Arthur Schwartz, is part of the new



Hammond Middle School music director Vaughn Ambrose.

Symphonica Nova of the ASO Jazz Series at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere. Now in its second year, the series is produced in partnership with Arlington Cultural Affairs.

"Through this concert, I hope people are transformed back to a time when music was in its purist form," Ambrose said. "Before electronics, the music and melodies were simply incredible and these have stood the test of time."

When Ambrose takes to the stage to perform "Charlie Parker With Strings," which was honored with the Grammy Hall of Fame Award in 1988, he'll do his best to pay tribute to one of the world's greatest jazz musicians.

"I'm excited and honored to do this," Ambrose said. "And as Charlie Parker once said, 'I'm just trying to play all the pretty notes.'"

Symphonica Nova of the ASO presents Charlie Parker and Strings takes place April 2 at 8 p.m. at the Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington. The theatre is located two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro and there is free garage parking available. Tickets: Youth tickets (up to age 18) always \$5; \$10 student, \$15 senior, \$20 adult. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

FROM PAGE 8

status as one of the most affluent is no excuse or justification for advocating tax increases during times of economic turmoil. I know one local business owner who gave his employees the choice of either accepting a 10 percent salary decrease or he would have to cut 10 percent of the employees. They chose the salary decrease. Such scenarios that are likely not isolated don't show up in unemployment statistics but they exist nevertheless. Increasing the BPOL tax as the resolution proposes will trigger the layoffs prevented by salary cuts.

The resolution also includes but the latest attempt by MVCCA partisans to kill affordable housing at North Hill. It requests that all funding contemplated for North Hill instead be used for "public safety, human services, and education, resulting in the delay of the North Hill project by one year." It justifies this proposal "to limit structural damage to County agencies due to budget cuts." Depriving the poor of affordable housing is not the way to balance the budget. In an article published in last week's Gazette, MVCCA P&Z chair David Dale is quoted as describing the affordable housing proposed at North Hill as a "low-income slum." His solution? Apply the money to be used at North Hill instead to purchase foreclosed homes in his Spring Bank neighborhood and house the poor there. In other words, use the government's money to prop up property values. People who use civic involvement to pursue personal agendas should not be permitted to serve. All too many members of the MVCCA leadership fit this category.

The resolution also advocates consideration of defunding the County's marine patrol, fireboats and helicopter force. Apparently, the Budget & Finance Committee has lost sight of the fact that we live in a suburb of our nation's capital. Those counties surrounding the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia along with federal and state assets combine together to provide a ring of security around Washington. That ring of security includes use of helicopters and boats as first responders to prevent terrorism and provide assets to react to terrorism acts.

It would have been appropriate to urge the Board of Supervisors to seek Federal Homeland Security funds to subsidize our Marine Patrol, fire boats and helicopter force, given their role in protecting our region from terrorism. But defund them without a suggestion to replace the funding with Federal funds? Irresponsible, short-sighted and ignorant.

Meanwhile, at the same MVCCA Council meeting, by a vote of 20-6, the Council passed the resolution concerning the proposed interim use off-leash dog area (OLDA) at Westgrove Park. However, the journey to that result was not without controversy. As earlier recounted, at the March 2 MVCCA Environment & Recreation (E&R) Committee meeting, the original resolution included the interior fence. During the debate, a motion was made to remove the interior fence. A lengthy discussion ensued culminating in the vote on the motion. E&R Chair Elizabeth Martin an-

nounced the vote, 10 in favor of removing the fence requirement, 3 opposed. The 3 opposed were Ms. Martin, Bill Cleveland and Martin Tillett. Subsequently, the committee voted 11-3 to pass the resolution as amended.

At the MVCCA Council meeting, with Ms. Martin presiding, Mount Vernon Tree Commissioner Eleanor Quigley moved to amend the resolution to re-insert the fence requirement. In my opinion, as soon as this amendment was proposed, Ms. Martin had a moral obligation to immediately tell the Council that the issue had been thoroughly addressed in committee and rejected. Instead, she initially refrained from any mention of the committee deliberation and vote. It was only much later when a Council representative specifically asked about the committee vote on the fence that Ms. Martin finally admitted that the committee had debated and rejected the fence, but then she claimed that she didn't remember the vote tally and hadn't recorded it. Once the committee action on the fence was made known, the Council swiftly voted down the amendment by a 17-8 vote followed by approval of the resolution unamended.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Ever-Growing Senior Population

To the Editor:

A fall can be a catastrophic event to a senior citizen. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report falls as the number one cause of injury deaths in the senior population. Yearly in the United States more than one third of adults 65 years of age and older have a fall; 15,800 people 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls in 2005. Moreover, the incidence of fall-related deaths in the senior population has been steadily increasing over the past 10 years. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the senior population will more than double to 89 million by the year 2050. With the ever-growing size of the senior population, the fall numbers could increase drastically in the not so distant future.

Physical activity is a critical facet of health across an individual's lifespan. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states, "Being active is one of the most important steps that Americans of all ages can take to improve their health." Appropriate physical activity among the senior population can aid in a multitude of health issues. Senior citizens who engage in regular physical activity are more inclined to have a stable weight, lowered blood pressure, improved cognitive functioning, reduced osteoporosis, controlled diabetes, reduced heart disease, improved mood, improved arthritis, and less falls. According to the CDC, senior citizens who participate in appropriate physical activity are less likely to suffer a devastating fall.

On Jan. 20, Del. Scott Surovell announced his introduction of six amendments to the 2010-2012 Virginia budget. These amendments include a \$10,000 allocation in state



State Senators Patsy Ticer, George Barker, and "Toddy" Puller speak to the chamber of commerce.

MVLCC PHOTO

Legislators Address Chamber

While the 2011 Session of the General Assembly was difficult, it wasn't as bad as the 2010 Session. As Del. Dave Albo said, "We did most of the heavy lifting last year. This year wasn't as brutal."

Speaking to the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, state Senators George Barker, "Toddy" Puller, and Patricia Ticer, along with Delegates Albo, Mark Sickles, and Scott Surovell recounted their individual initiatives and major accomplishment of the last session.

MVLCC recognized Ticer for her 15 years of service in the General Assembly with an engraved clock. "Thank you for your devoted service," said Chamber President Michael Gailliot, "For all those years, all those trips to Richmond."

Surovell also presented to Jeff Todd, past Chairman of the Chamber, a resolution passed by the General Assembly recognizing his many accomplishments in the community.

Beginning a five-minute presentation by each elected official, Barker commented that the budget passed with no dissenting votes. Puller said that she had never seen a budget pass unanimously in both Houses. Barker sponsored 20 bills that were passed into law including legislation on economic development and verifying the immigration status of state employees and contractors.

Puller discussed Senate Joint Resolu-

tion No. 292 that provides for a transit study of Richmond Highway from Quantico to the Beltway. Puller said that the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit will take the lead on this study which is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The study will be done by January 2012 and ready for the next session to consider.

Surovell said that the Route One Transit Study sponsored by Puller "will bring more long-term benefit to the quality of life in the Mount Vernon area" than any other legislation passed during this session.

Albo talked about the quandary the state has with Medicaid payments saying, "Increases in Medicaid are unsustainable. It's hard to look people in the eye and tell them they can't get the benefits they expect, but we can't continue the increases in Medicaid payments." Albo also discussed his support for the governor's transportation bill saying it was smart to build as much infrastructure as possible now while interest rates are low.

Sickles touched on several issues specific to the business community including revisions in the accelerated sales tax provision to eliminate more small businesses from this requirement. He also mentioned the legislation to require abortion clinics meet the same standards as hospitals saying, "it was a bad idea."

grant money to Mount Vernon At Home for the purchase of a vehicle and a \$5,000 appropriation to the Fairfax County Senior Center Without Walls program. These amendments could make a difference in the important work of these two innovative endeavors.

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization providing its members assistance to live independently in their homes for as long as possible. Transportation to recreational, educational, and social activities is one example of the numerous services offered to its members. The Senior Center Without Walls program is a public-private venture between the Fairfax County government, faith communities, and local businesses. The program provides recreational, educational, and social activities to senior citizens without the use of an exist-

ing senior center or constructing new facilities.

The senior population is growing at an immensely fast rate and the health needs of this population are growing just as fast. Initiatives such as Mount Vernon At Home and the Senior Center Without Walls program can assist our senior population with access to recreational, educational, and social activities. Specifically, these endeavors can provide access to physical activity, a pivotal key to improving the health and reducing the number of falls in our Mount Vernon senior population.

Susanne M. Young
Certified Therapeutic
Recreation Specialist
Master of Public Health Student,
George Mason University

West Potomac Softball Misses Opportunities

Failing to score with the bases loaded and nobody out in the first inning sent the West Potomac softball team down a path of frustration in its Patriot District opener against South County on March 25. A missed sign in the third inning was too much for the Wolverines to overcome.

South County's Julia Kastner broke a scoreless tie with a two-run home run in the third inning and the Stallions pulled away for a 10-0, six-inning victory at WPHS. Wolverines head coach Craig Maniglia said Kastner was supposed to see a curveball on the outside part of the plate, but instead she saw a screwball on the inner half and drove it out of the ball park.

"I saw the pitch," Maniglia said, "I saw [the catcher] set up and I went to scream timeout but it was too late."

West Potomac's problems started in the first inning, when the Wolverines loaded the bases with nobody out and failed to score against South County pitcher Kyra Ketch. West Potomac also came up empty during a bases-loaded opportunity in the fourth.

"It just comes down to making a hit when you've got the players in position to score," Maniglia said. "We let that game slip away in the very first inning with bases loaded and no outs and we couldn't get anything out of [our] 4-5-6 [batters]."

While West Potomac struggled against South County, Maniglia still expects big things from a Wolverines team that has several experienced travel ball players.

Team captain Morgan Maniglia returns as the team's No. 1 pitcher and one of its top hitters. While the junior had a rough outing against the Stallions, she's confident the Wolverines can turn it around.

"I think we're going to be a really good team," she said "and we're definitely going to learn from this."

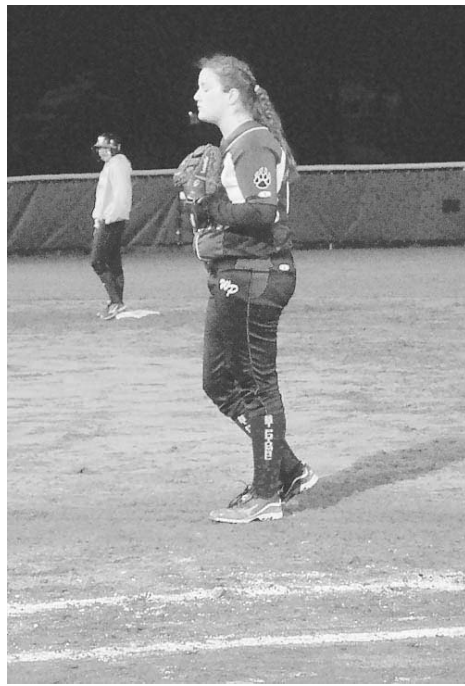


PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac softball team dropped its Patriot District opener to South County on Friday.

Junior catcher Jasmine Picini and senior center fielder Sara Link are also team captains. Junior right fielder Danielle McHugh will also be a key contributor for West Potomac.

The Wolverines bounced back from the loss to beat Annandale 3-1 on March 29. West Potomac will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on April 1.

— JON ROETMAN

West Potomac Baseball Drops Two Straight

The West Potomac baseball team started the season 3-0, outscoring its opponents 49-9. Since then, the Wolverines have lost two in a row, falling to South County 15-4 on March 28 and Annandale 10-0 on March 29. West Potomac will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on April 1.

West Potomac Girls Snap Win Streak

The West Potomac girls soccer team had its three-game win streak snapped with a 4-2 loss to South County on March 28. Prior to the loss, the Wolverines defeated Mount Vernon (1-0), Edison (3-0) and Fall Church (2-1). West Potomac will host Annandale at 7 p.m. on April 5.

West Potomac Boys Drop Another One-Goal Decision

The West Potomac boys soccer team lost to South County 5-4 on March 28. The defeat followed a 2-1 loss to Falls Church on



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Association recently participated in a dinner fundraiser with the West Potomac Crew Club. The Sportsmen presented the club with a \$1,000 donation for this crew season. From left, the team leaders are: women's junior captain Nell McKeown, men's junior captain Jeff Barger, team president Julia Bolger, men's senior captain Matt Bird and women's senior captain Anna Leonard.

March 22. The Wolverines earned their first win of the season against Edison on March 18, beating the Eagles 1-0 in overtime.

West Potomac will travel to face Lee at 7 p.m. on April 5.

West Potomac Girls Lacrosse Starts 3-2

The West Potomac girls lacrosse team defeated Hayfield 13-5 on March 29, one day after a 14-5 win over George Mason. The Wolverines also defeated Lee (13-2) while losing to Yorktown (14-6) and Lake Braddock (12-5). West Potomac will host

Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on March 31.

West Potomac Boys Lacrosse Wins 2 of 3

The West Potomac boys lacrosse team opened the season with wins against Archbishop Carroll (11-0) and Saint Vincent Pallotti (11-7) before losing its Patriot District opener to Lake Braddock 10-4 on Friday. The Wolverines will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on March 31.

Mount Vernon Soccer Starts 4-0

The Mount Vernon boys soccer team defeated Marshall 1-0 on March 28, improving its record to 4-0. The Majors won their National District opener against Wakefield 2-0 on March 24. Ruben Alvarez and Bryon Castellon scored goals against the Warriors, while Castellon and Aldaid Rodriguez each had an assist.

Mount Vernon will travel to face Centreville at 7 p.m. at April 1.

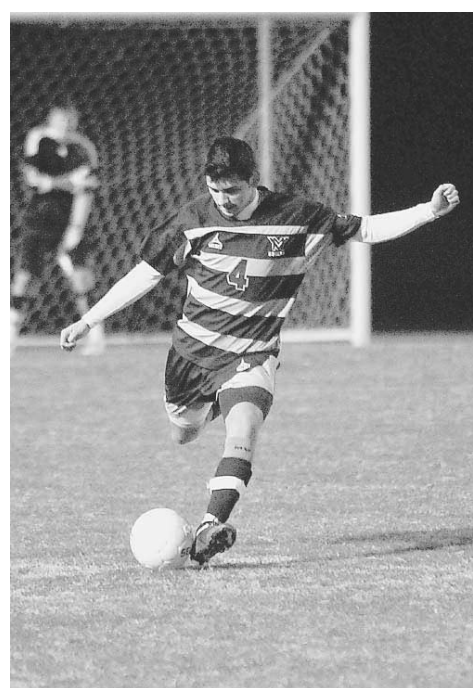
Mount Vernon Girls Earn Tie

The Mount Vernon girls soccer team played to a 1-1 tie against Marshall on March 28 after the Majors started the season 0-2. The Majors will host Centreville at 7 p.m. on April 1.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Jayne Murray and the West Potomac baseball team started 3-2.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Bryon Castellon and the Mount Vernon boys soccer team started 4-0.

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 21

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SCHOOLS

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 annual **Stratford Landing Elementary School Spring Fling** will take place Friday, April 1 in the school at 8484 Riverside Road. The event is the school's largest fundraiser, providing PTA funds for class field trips, after-school learning activities, school supplies and more. The auction is supported by parent and grandparent donations, teacher donations and donations from local businesses and dining establishments.

Through parent donations, each class chose a theme and a class basket was developed. Raffle tickets are sold throughout the event at 50 cents each and the winning raffle tickets are drawn at the end of the evening. The event begins with an ice cream social at 6 p.m.

All elementary and middle school students are invited to submit poster designs for the **White House Easter Egg Roll Poster Contest** by Monday, April 4 at 11:59 p.m. For more information about the poster contest entry process or submissions, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/eastereggroll/poster>. Submissions may not exceed 2 megabytes (high-quality scans measuring either 8.5" X 11" at 600 dpi or 20 x 16" at 300 dpi must be available upon request) and should relate to this year's theme, "Get Up and Go!" First Lady Michelle Obama will be selecting the

winning design, which will serve as the official poster for the 2011 White House Easter Egg Roll.

Approximately 20 **Mount Vernon High School** students entered their projects into the Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at Robinson Secondary School last Sunday. These projects had scored well at the school-based fair held last month and earned the right to progress to the next level. MVHS had an outstanding day with 12 MVHS students receiving awards and/or recognitions at the Regional Fair.

The following students were awarded the following places and prizes.

Callista M. Skaggs — 1st Place Environmental Science;

John G. Victoria — 1st Place Plant Sciences;

Ginna L. Doss — 2nd Place Chemistry;

Mohamed D. Lahlou — 2nd Place Chemistry;

Kaitlyn J. Schneider — 3rd Place Animal Science;

Alexander A. Weinberg — 3rd Place Environment Science;

Angelica De Freitas — 3rd Place Microbiology;

Nicole E. Weinberg — 3rd Place Physics and Anatomy;

Lauren V. Ray — Honorable Mention Medical and Health Sciences;

Mary K Reynolds — Honorable Mention Plant Sciences.

In addition to receiving top honors, John Victoria is also a CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) winner and together with Samuel Barrero, another CIA winner, will attend an awards ceremony and a tour of the CIA Headquarters in Langley, VA.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 20

Mount Vernon Softball Starts 2-2

The Mount Vernon softball team challenged National District power Yorktown on March 28, but fell short, losing 1-0 in 8 innings.

The Majors opened the season with a 10-0 loss to West Potomac, but bounced back with wins over Washington-Lee (5-3) and Stuart (16-3).

Mount Vernon will host Falls Church at 7 p.m. on April 1.

MV Boys Lax Starts 2-3

The Mount Vernon boys lacrosse team lost to Madison 9-2 on March 29 and Centreville 17-1 on March 26. After losing their season opener to South County (8-5) on March 17, the Majors bounced back with wins over Wakefield (18-0) on March 22 and Woodbridge (8-7) on March 25 in overtime.



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A nationally sought-after author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture, she holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of seven books including *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story* (HarperOne, 2009), nominated for a Library of Virginia literary award in non-fiction. Her best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (2009) was named as one of the best religion books of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *Christian Century*, won the Book of the Year Award from the Academy of Parish Clergy, and was featured in a cover story in *USA TODAY*. (From Diana Butler Bass' biography)

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OBITUARY
THOMAS MICHAEL SCANLON, 66 of
Alexandria died Saturday, March19, 2011 at his residence.
Born June 9, 1944 in Lawrence Mass., he was the son of the
late Patrick and Mary Walsh Scanlon. Mr Scanlon was retired
Director of Budget for the U.S. Dept of Agriculture.

He is survived by two daughters: Meghan B. Reynolds and
husband John of Charlottesville, Amy Sherwood and husband
Matthew of London England, one son; Brendon P. Scanlon and
wife Kelly of Fairbanks Alaska, a brother, Timothy Scanlon and
wife Janet of Connecticut, two sisters; Patricia Lyons and
husband Romeo of Vancouver Washington, and six
grandchildren; Fiona Mary Reynolds, Mary, Paul, and Patrick
Sherwood, Ruby and Maya Scanlon.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 Noon, Saturday, April
2 at the Preddy Funeral Home, 250 West Main St, Orange, VA.
Interment will be in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in
Lawrence, Mass at a later date. The family requests that in lieu
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