

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 7, 2011



SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



Joy of Helping

McClain Brooks leaps for joy as her team wins the second relay during Saturday's "Mt. Vernon's Helping Hands" fundraiser for children undergoing chemotherapy.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

SEE PAGE 5

Galas Bloom In Springtime

Local organizations use spring events to raise money.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

If it is springtime, then it must be time for Spring Galas. Used by many local organizations as one of their annual fundraising events, several galas have already been held.

United Community Ministries (UCM) held their Spring Gala: April in Paris last weekend. The evening featured food, entertainment and fun and benefited the programs and services of United Community Ministries.

Guests enjoyed bidding on raffles for baskets filled with treasures. They also enjoyed a gourmet formal dinner, danced to some lively dance music and then bid on live auction items.

There are still many more events scheduled for April and May, so there is plenty of time to get reservations, purchase that special outfit and bid on some fantastic prizes.

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN GALA

Join Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services on Saturday, April 9 at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria for the A Night on the Town Gala featuring cocktails, dinner, and auction and dancing to the tunes of Reverie Jazz.

Cocktails and a silent auction will be followed by dinner, a live auction and dancing.

This year's auction items include

SEE LOCALGROUPS, PAGE 3

Neutral Ground

Mount Vernon to launch new tour exploring Civil War years at the estate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

In good times, Mount Vernon was a great location at the middle of commerce and politics. But when war broke out between the Union and the Confederacy, the George Washington's estate found itself between two warring armies. The caretakers of the house worried that the historic slave plantation would become a casualty of war and went to great

lengths to preserve the estate and keep it open for tourists even as the drums of war were beating across Virginia. Now Mount Vernon Estate has created a new one-hour walking tour for the sesquicentennial that will offer visitors a glimpse into life at Mount Vernon during the war.

"We won't be talking about battles," said Gail Cassidy, manager of interpretation at the Mount

SEE NEW TOUR, PAGE 3

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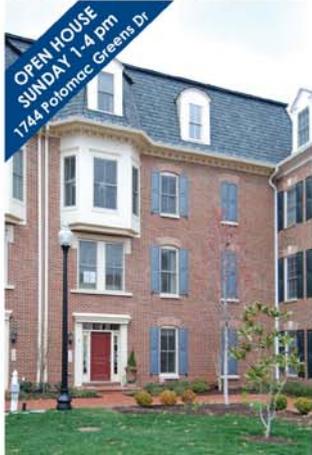


OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

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Located in a courtyard setting at Potomac Greens, this handsome, unusually expansive townhouse offers size and space rarely seen in Old Town. This better than new townhouse has over 3800 SF of luxurious open spaces characterized by high ceilings, rich crown moldings, and gleaming hardwood floors. Just a short walk to trendy shops and cafes, this amazing home is but a short commute away to Reagan Airport and DC bridges. This grand residence is not to be missed!



Noel Kaupinen
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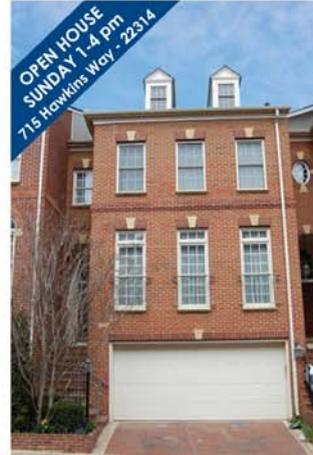


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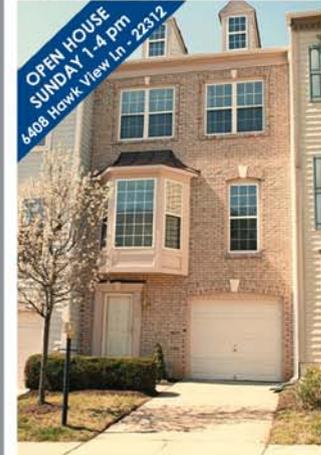


ALEXANDRIA

\$465,000

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Immaculate, spacious and elegant townhouse with three-level extension. Three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, living room, dining room, family room, den, sunroom, rec room, master bedroom sitting room. Luxury finishes include hardwood floors, crown molding, paneling, granite countertops. Fenced backyard, one-car garage and driveway parking. Community pool, tennis courts, tot lot, jogging trails, and beautiful wooded areas.



Annette Hinaman
571.216.4411
www.annettehinaman.com



ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN

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www.masonbavin.com
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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

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Short Walk to Metro

Beautifully updated Del Ray home with three bedrooms and two and a half baths is just a short walk to the restaurants and shops on The Avenue. Large eat-in gourmet kitchen has been recently remodeled. Half bath and a spacious office/sunroom on the main level. Lovely hardwoods on two levels. The finished lower level offers a large family room and full bath.



Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Elizabeth Lucchesi 703.868.5616
www.homesbyhayes.com
MLS ID# AX7566160



ALEXANDRIA/CLOVER

\$615,000

New Listing in Sought-after Clover

This home is within walking distance of schools, shopping and public transportation. Nicely situated on a tree-lined one-block street, this rambler is ideal for anyone desiring one floor living. In addition to a living room, dining room, and eat-in kitchen, there are three bedrooms, two full baths, a family room, covered patio and fully floored attic. Estate Sale.



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Local Groups Use Spring Events To Raise Money

FROM PAGE 1

an African Safari for two, spa and restaurant gift certificates, a chocolate gift basket, jewelry, vacation homes, catered dinners, artwork and more.

Tickets are \$175. For more information, contact Karen Jupiter at 703-768-9404 or visit <http://www.goodhousing.org/help/annual-gala.html>.

GALA DE MAYO

New Hope Housing's annual spring night of fun will be held on Saturday, May 7 at the Waterford in Springfield. Join them for dancing, dining and auctions —this year with a Latin flair.

One of their live auction items is a walk-on role on the TV series Raising Hope. Executive producer Greg Garcia is donating the item.

An Arlington native who graduated from Yorktown High School, Garcia is creator and executive producer of the Fox television series "Raising Hope." Garcia has maintained ties to his home community. Along with the walk-on spot, clothes from the show's child actors are being donated as well.

Garcia said, "I'm happy to provide this support; I know New Hope Housing does important work, and I'm pleased to be able to help them and to help people in the community where I grew up. I wish them great success with this year's gala."

Garcia has been a friend of New Hope Housing for several years. His earlier network shows included the Emmy Award-winning "My Name Is Earl" and "Camden



PHOTO BY CALE CURCIO / THE GAZETTE

Guests gather for last year's Fiesta Cinco de Mayo at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota.

County." In 2008 a team of cast members from the "My Name Is Earl" show competed on Celebrity Family Feud and won \$25,000 that Garcia donated to New Hope Housing.

"All of us at New Hope Housing really appreciate Greg's support and his interest in helping us," said Pamela Michell, New Hope Housing's executive director. "He is a talented and generous friend. I've known Greg's mom, Natalie, a local Realtor, for several years, and we look forward to having her and her friends with us for the Gala as well."

Proceeds will benefit New Hope Housing's programs bringing hope and hospitality to hundreds of homeless families and individuals each year.

For information on this year's Gala, including the Raising Hope walk-on auction opportunity, visit www.newhopehousing.org, or call 703-799-2293.

FIESTA CINCO DE MAYO

This annual event benefits Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., an or-

ganization that manages the Arlandria Health Center to provide accessible, coordinated, community-based primary health care, including behavioral health and oral health, to people in Alexandria and surrounding communities.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 12, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria. Join them for food, wine and beer, music, and a silent auction.

Once again, a one-week vacation at a two-bedroom private villa in Santorini, Greece overlooking the Aegean Sea will be the featured item in this year's auction. There are also other opportunities to bid on places to go that are closer to home.

Cost is \$65 per person. If interested in sponsoring and/or donating to this event, e-mail cincodemayoalex@aol.com or call 703-360-438.

CATCH THEM YOUNG, INC.

On Saturday, May 14, Catch Them Young, Inc. will hold a fundraiser at 6 p.m. at The Westin Washington National Harbor, 171 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md. Come out and enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing to DJ, guest speakers and fun.

This event will benefit the organization that is committed to making a difference in the lives of youth. Catch Them Young, Inc. trains youth to overcome the challenges that they must meet to live productive lives.

Donation of \$55 is required. For more information, visit <http://www.catchtheyoung.org> or call 240-988-8625.

New Tour Explores Civil War Years at the Estate

FROM PAGE 1

Vernon Estate. "This information has been out there before, but we've never offered it as a tour before."

Cassidy begins the tour by setting the scene. When the war began in April 1861, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association had only recently gained possession of the property the previous year after the property had fallen into disrepair. At that time, the decrepit mansion was completely empty except for a key to the Bastille given to Washington by the Marquis de Lafayette, a globe in Washington's study and a bust sculpted by Jean-Antoine Houdon. The only people on the property were a secretary named Sarah Tracey and a superintendent named Upton Herbert — the two heroes of Cassidy's tour who needed a chaperone in the house so they didn't violate the Victorian standards of the day.

Spoiler alert: Tracey and Herbert would later fall in love and marry each other. Today they are buried together at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria.

"They didn't need a chaperone then," said Cassidy, who has been at Mount Vernon on and off for 23 years. "Mount Vernon probably would not have survived the war with-



MT. VERNON LADIES ASSOCIATION

Mount Vernon Estate in the 1850s. Sailing masts have been used to prop up the roof on the river porch.

out them."

WHEN THE BATTLE of Manassas was raging near Centreville, Tracy and Herbert could hear the cannonfire at Mount Vernon.

Rumors were circulating through the region that the Union invaders would occupy Washington's house as they had the Arlington House, where President Lincoln occupied the house because of its strategic loca-

Mount Vernon At War

tion overlooking the capital city. He would later start burying the war dead in Mrs. Lee's rose garden.

From April 2 to Oct. 30, the Mount Vernon Estate will be offering a special one-hour walking tour featuring stories from the Civil War. The tours will be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. They cost is \$5 in addition to estate admission.

tion overlooking the capital city. He would later start burying the war dead in Mrs. Lee's rose garden.

Concerned about the welfare of Mount Vernon, Tracey took a coach to the War Department and demanded to see general-in-chief Winfield Scott. She was unable to get into Scott's office, but through an intermediary he assured her that Mount Vernon would remain neutral ground. She would later receive a similar commitment from about Confederate troops from Virginia Gov. John Letcher.

"God bless the ladies," Scott reportedly said.

With tourism at a virtual standstill, the restoration effort was all but abandoned. Workmen had to be discharged since the association was unable to pay them. Meanwhile, simply putting food on the table be-

SEE NEW TOUR, PAGE 5

OPEN SAT. & SUN. 1-4. TOTALLY REMODELED



7911 Bayberry Dr. • Alexandria, Virginia

Stately columned home on large corner lot and cul-de-sac just minutes to Mount Vernon and the Potomac River. Completely updated wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath on beautiful corner lot! Minutes to Potomac River, parks, restaurants, shopping. Location! G.W. Parkway toward Mt. Vernon, right on Collingwood to right on Candlewood, left on Bayberry to 7911. \$425,000



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SPRING FUN

Out to Brunch

Celebrate spring with a weekend meal.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Elsie's Magic Skillet

Open for 35 years, this diner serves breakfast all day.

Elsie's cooks up traditional diner fare including omelets, hamburgers, tuna melts, pancakes and biscuits covered in sausage gravy.

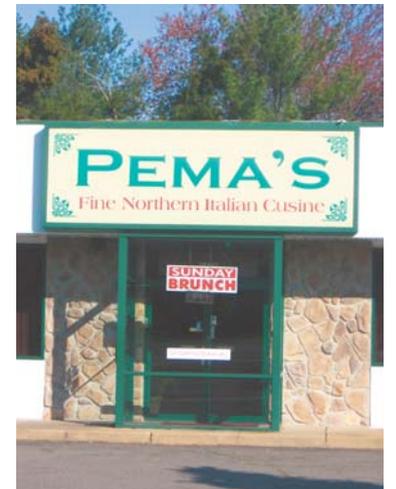
One person can eat a meal at this restaurant for under \$10. Elsie's serves breakfast 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday. It is located at 8166 Richmond Highway; 703-360-0220.

Cedar Knoll Inn Restaurant

Built in the late 1800s, this historic inn sits on a hill overlooking the Potomac River.

The brunch menu features a tenderloin steak, eggs and potatoes sauteed with green peppers and onions. There is also French toast with maple syrup and a side of bacon.

Cedar Knoll holds brunch from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Sundays only. It is located on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, at 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria; 703-799-1501.



Pema's Restaurant

Pema's serves Northern Italian cuisine and has both indoor and outdoor seating areas.

The restaurant's brunch buffet includes nine hot entrees, waffles, and more.

SEE PLACES, PAGE 6



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SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 9 & 10

Saturday, April 9th

Chris Polk Band on the Plaza Stage

6pm to 8pm

"The Karate Kid, Part II" on the Plaza's Big Screen

8pm to 10pm

Sunday, April 10th

Sakura Sunday - 11am to 4pm

Entertainment on the Plaza Stage

UZUHI, Samurai Sword Soul, Reni and many more musicians and dancers to dazzle the audience

Japanese Market on American Way

Artisans, crafters and food vendors with one-of-a-kind items to purchase

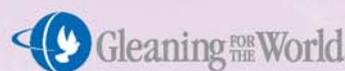
Other activities include Sumo Wrestling Contest courtesy of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, Kite Making for Kids by the National Children's Museum, and Face Painting, Video Game Demonstrations, and Cosplay Fashion Show by the DC Anime Club

National Harbor Springtime Festival & Fireworks - 4pm to 8pm

Enjoy live entertainment on the Plaza Stage and a spectacular fireworks show over the Potomac.

Visit NationalHarbor.com or call 1-877-NATLHBR

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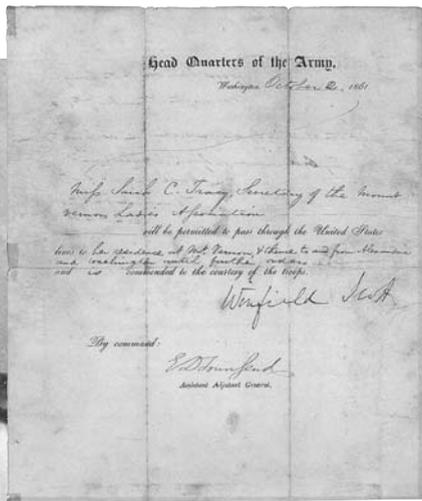


\$1 for every car parked at National Harbor will be donated to **Gleaning For The World Japan Relief Fund**. To learn more, visit www.GFTW.org

SPRING FUN



Sarah Tracey.



The pass allowing Sarah Tracey to cross through Union lines signed by General Winfield Scott.



MOUNT VERNON LADIES ASSOCIATION

Upton Herbert, the caretaker of Mount Vernon after the purchase of the estate by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

New Tour at Mount Vernon Estate

FROM PAGE 3

came a full-time occupation — one that required crossing into Union-occupied Alexandria. Roads were blocked and boats were seized, which left visiting soldiers the only source of tourists who stopped by to see the room where Washington died half a century earlier. Many of the visiting soldiers paid the 25-cent admission. Others pleaded poverty and were allowed in anyway.

“Many of them come from a great distance and have never been here, and have no clothes but their uniforms,” Tracey wrote to association founder Ann Pamela Cunningham. “They borrow shawls and cover up their buttons and leave their arms outside the enclosures and never come but two or three at a time. That is as much as can be asked of them.”

LIFE AT WARTIME Mount Vernon was precarious. Certain destruction lurked around each corner, with military invasion or financial ruin an ever-present threat. When Tracey learned that John Augustine Washington III had been killed at a skirmish in West Virginia, she became concerned about the Union Army’s plans to confiscate a large amount of money the association paid to assume ownership of Mount Vernon. So she tucked the cash snugly in the bottom of an egg basket and hurried to Washington, D.C., where the money was deposited at Riggs Bank.

Moving between Confederate Virginia and occupied Virginia was always difficult, and after Gen. George McClellan revoked her pass it became more of a challenge than it had been. But Tracey was not willing to accept no for an answer. So one day she forced her way through a blockade and arrived at the White House for a meeting with the president. Lincoln saw Tracey and provided her with a note granting her authority to freely move from one realm to the other.

“With what astonished amusement the ungainly giant must have looked down upon this bit of femininity who had burst in upon him bristling with indignation against his field commander, and demanding that he order the United States Army to stand aside while she passed with her groceries,” wrote Gerald Johnson.

McClellan would later send a boat of provisions to Mount Vernon after he realized who he was dealing with. The story of Sarah Tracey and Upton Herbert is one of survival — two people cast together by the winds of war trying to cope with trying circumstances. In the end, Mount Vernon was preserved as a tourist location that remained open and unharmed during the war.

“So there’s a happy ending for Mount Vernon,” said Cassidy. “But there’s also a happy ending for Sarah Tracey and Upton Herbert.”

Local BUSINESSES Support the COMMUNITY

- \$60,000 donated for local high school scholarships
- Thousands of dollars given to local charities
- Commercial taxes support schools and public services

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Alexandria City/Colecroft \$589,900
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Stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath Penthouse (1599 sq ft) w/panoramic views of the city landscape in great location (across the street from Braddock Metro- blue & yellow lines). Easy access to Old Town, Crystal City & Del Ray. Two large bedrooms suites w/vaulted ceilings, each w/their own bathroom. Gorgeous living room has high ceiling, gleaming hwdwd floors, cozy fireplace & built-in bookcases. Large walk-out balcony off of living room affords spectacular views & has two spacious storage closets on either side. 2 covered garage spaces. Well-appointed complex has private courtyard & exercise room. Walk to restaurants, shops & nightlife. This is city living at its best - it's a 10!



Alex/Riverwood \$709,900
3712 Carriage House Court
Superb price on this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in prestigious waterfront community of Riverwood. Quiet cul-de-sac & backing to Mt. Vernon Estate. This home has been freshly painted, hwdwd floors refinished on upper level & new carpeting on main level. Updated kitchen & baths plus sun rm & breakfast rm addition. Partially finished basement & 2 car garage. This is a great home! Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex./Westgate \$624,900
9010 Volunteer Drive
Beautiful traditional colonial w/2 car side garage in fabulous Mt. Vernon location. It is classy! Over .5 acre landscaped corner lot. Stunning sun-room addition. Hardwood flrs main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kit. Wood FP in living rm. Lovely kitchen w/corrian counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfin bsmt: ample storage.



Alex./Woodland \$599,000
3232 Woodland Lane
Lovely 5 bedroom , 3.5 bath home on a spectacular .48 wooded lot in prestigious Woodland Park. Stunning sun room addition in 2006. Cherry cabinets & corian counters in large remodeled kitchen and updated baths, freshly painted interior and newer energy efficient replacement windows. Spacious double carport with ample storage. Community boat ramp for water access. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Metro & Old Town, 25 to Natl Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Mt. Vernon Manor \$579,900
4319 Granada Street
Beautiful, spacious (3500 sf) 4 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial w/garage. Spectacular landscaping and sparkling pool. New roof and HVAC system. Remodeled kitchen w/granite. Refinished hardwood floors. Family room w/gas FP and breakfast room off of kitchen. Lovely finished LL offers Rec room, game room, wet bar, workshop. Wonderful location, 4 mins. to Ft. Belvoir. Comfortable and cozy, this is a great home for entertaining - it's a 10!!



Alex./Riverside Estates \$480,000
8405 Cherry Valley Lane
Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA brick split w/garage & spectacular sun room addition which overlooks a lg, landscaped yard backing to a private, wooded sanctuary. Furnace & A/C replaced in 2001 & newer energy efficient windows thru out. Kit appliances & counter tops replaced in the 2000's. Good paint, beautiful hwdwd floors accent a meticulously maintained home. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, commute to Alex, Ntl Airport, Pentagon/D.C. via GW Pkwy. This is a GEM!

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SPRING FUN



The Mt. Vernon Helping Hands committee: Ellen McMichael, Hal Mosher, Stephanie Melvin, Rolly Ramlow, Sharon Timmons, Teena Crum, Neeley McAllister, Deb Oelschlager, Frank Gulino and Alice Hume. Not pictured are: Tim Bainton, Dave Cooper, Jay Hyland, Domenica Marchetti, Aaron Volbrecht and the MTVAC tennis pros and staff.



Playing the net a bit close: One child struggles to capture a ball on a pick-up.

'Mt. Vernon's Helping Hands'

A little over a year ago Dave Cooper approached two members of the Mt. Vernon Athletic Club and asked if they would help create a fundraiser for children undergoing chemotherapy. The fundraiser would aim to raise money for education — the children's ongoing education. Sharon Timmons and Ellen McMichael had an understanding of what chemotherapy does besides knock out cancer; Timmons remarked that "coming out of chemo there is a mindfog." The idea of the fundraiser seeks to enable the children in the Inova Fairfax Pediatric Oncology Program to have a chance to keep up with their classmates in formal education and maintaining connections with friends while promoting exercise and activities.

Timmons and McMichael insisted that Cooper get some of his tennis buddies involved. He agreed. Last Saturday, April 2, the Mount Vernon Athletic club gave over the courts for the second annual "Mt. Vernon's Helping Hands." Ellen and Sharon had previously worked on a "Swing for Pink" breast cancer event.

As the children were leaving the first part of the event making way for the adults, more than \$6,000 had been raised from sponsors and friends. The events included games and drills for the children with tennis pros followed by a round robin with the adults.



A game of sharks on the court brought excited antics from the children.

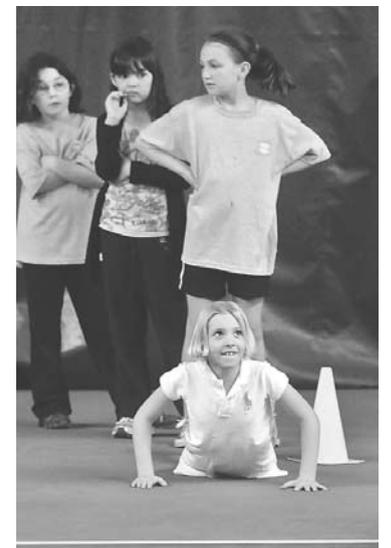


PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

The children under 5 wait in line for another lesson in proper handling of the ball and racquet.



Dane Schroeder prepares to receive the tennis ball.



Middle school children through a row of relays on the court.

Places To Celebrate Spring with a Weekend Meal

FROM PAGE 7

omelets and smoked salmon. Homemade desserts — including cakes, pies and torts — are also available.

Pema's serves brunch from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sundays only. It is located at 8430 Richmond Highway, Alexandria; 703-619-5005.

Primo Family Restaurant

This Italian-American restaurant has been part of the Belle View community since 1988.

The breakfast menu features Eggs Benedict, steak and eggs and seven types of omelets. Pancakes, hash browns, bacon, ham, sausage

and toast can also be ordered as a side dish.

Main dishes run from \$3.99 to \$7.50.

Primo Family restaurant opens for breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and Sundays. It is located at 1636 Belle View Blvd. Alexandria; 703-765-6890.

The Bungalow

Owners Keith and Cheryl Early opened this branch of the local billiards hangout in 2003.

For brunch, the restaurant serves up blackened prime rib with eggs, potatoes and toast. Diners can also enjoy a twist on the traditional Eggs Benedict dish, where grilled pizza dough is used instead

of an English muffin. During this meal, the restaurant also offers Bloody Marys and champagne mimosas.

Main dishes are \$6.99-\$8.99.

The Bungalow serves brunch from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It is located at 7003-C Manchester Blvd., Alexandria; 703-924-8730.

NEWS

Fighting Against Histiocytosis

Raising funds to help find a cure for rare blood disease.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE



Brian Downie was diagnosed with histiocytosis when he was a year old and continues to battle this disease.

Most people can't even spell histiocytosis, nevertheless know what it means. That is not the case in the Waywood neighborhood where 5-year-old Brian Downie suffers from a rare cancer-like disease.

Histiocytosis is a life-threatening blood disease that predominantly affects children under 10. It affects 1 in 200,000 children born each year in the United States.

According to Brian's mother, Melanie Downie, he was diagnosed with histiocytosis at 14 months of age.

"He had 16 bone tumors and underwent a year of chemo at Fairfax Hospital," said Downie. "Shortly after coming off chemo, he relapsed and had 10 new bone tumors. We switched to Georgetown Hospital where he was put on three different types of chemo. Everything cleared up again and then a few weeks later, the histio was back with 23 tumors throughout the body.

"Brian again underwent chemo and this time spent almost as much time in the hospital as he was out. Again, everything went away and the summer it was back in his skull. This time, I opted to have it removed and in June he underwent neurosurgery. Christmas 2010 it came back again in the spine and Brian came out of Kindergarten and started chemo again — treatment number 5. Now he's undergoing a very strong chemo for six months and then will have 1-3 years of maintenance chemotherapy thereafter."

Histiocytosis is an orphan disease that doesn't get any government funding. Every

SEE HELPING, PAGE 22



Joseph P. Cavallo, D.D.S., FAGD

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OPINION

Simply Disappointing

Sad to report that proposed General Assembly districts are not an April Fool's joke.

By the time the Connection is delivered to homes and businesses this week, there is a good chance that how you vote and who you can vote for will have changed. No one will have consulted you about this.

Virginia's every-10-year, hyper-partisan process of drawing political districts is in rare form this year. It's all the more disappointing since two years ago, there appeared to be developing consensus that this process should be approached in the best interests of voters.

Instead, the Democrats in control of the Virginia Senate and the Republicans in control of the Virginia House of Delegates have created a nearly obscene mess without even lip service to providing effective representation.

Proposed changes in districts split communities, localities, counties and even precincts and homeowners associations. The City of Alexandria will likely now have three state senators. Arlington, which could be represented by a single state senator in a compact and highly effective district, could instead have as many as three Senate districts within its boundaries. Arlington's primary senate seat, District 31, will now snake along the Potomac River through McLean and Great Falls and actually encompassing part of Sterling, covering three counties in a densely populated area that begs for compact districts.

This means residents of McLean and Great

EDITORIAL

Falls will likely be represented in the Virginia Senate by someone from Arlington, who will try to understand the complexities of three very different counties. The change shifts Janet Howell's district 32 to the west, leaving thousands of residents to get to know new candidates who will likely be focused on other areas first.

Mount Vernon, a highly diverse community, will also have its senate representation split, likely resulting over time in half being represented by someone from the City of Alexandria and half represented by someone from Prince William County, neither with the grasp of community needs that a Mount Vernon centered district would allow.

George Barker's district 39 scoops up parts of Prince William, the least densely populated parts of Fairfax County in Clifton and Fairfax Station, then takes a turn through densely populated Lorton, Newington and Franconia before poking its head into the City of Alexandria. This certainly does not comprise a "community of interest."

If Democratic voters were wealth, this would be the plan to spread the wealth around. Whether that will actually be effective for the Democrats in retaining seats is dubious. We've seen numerous examples of seats specifically drawn to benefit particular candidates or party that fail to hold up.

There are almost as many examples as there are senate seats in Northern Virginia.

There are similar problems with the Republican drawn delegate seats, but the smaller districts make for more compact districts, with the problems a bit harder to cherry pick.

Every seat in the General Assembly will be up for reelection in a few months, with August primaries and caucuses and November general election, which is one reason this process is happening with so little citizen scrutiny. Proposed boundaries will have been public for only a few days, and will be voted on and approved by the end of the week. Homeowners Association presidents who might object to having their neighborhood split won't have time to react, for example.

Is there hope to circumvent the madness for 10 years from now?

It really is time to give control of the redistricting process to an authority that will not consider voting patterns or incumbency, but instead will focus on what will create more effective representation.

Keeping communities of interest together is key. That means not splitting jurisdictions, creating compact shapes, minimizing the distance from one end to the other of populous districts.

But it's unlikely that the winners of the coming elections will be that interested in the project. After all, they will be the beneficiaries of the current flawed process.

It's time for a constitutional amendment that would save us from districts shaped like boa constrictors and clawed dragons a decade from now.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop Child Abuse Now

To the Editor:

More than 8,700 children were reported as neglected or abused last year in Northern Virginia. On any given day, over 800 local children are in foster care, and one-third of all children in Northern Virginia qualify for free or reduced price school lunches.

We live at an incredibly fast pace here in Northern Virginia, struggling to balance work and parenting and the countless challenges of daily life. But no matter how fast the world might be moving around us, it is critical that we take time every day to focus on children.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and here in our Northern Virginia community that means that a local group — SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia — is working especially hard to get messages of prevention and support to families across our region. SCAN's

Pause for a Child campaign is a fantastic reminder to all of us that it only takes a pause to make a difference.

A simple pause can be critical for a parent when responding to a child's tantrum, or life-changing when reacting to a sign of child abuse. It is one of the most basic things we can each do to help prevent child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs.

This April, we invite you to take a pause for the children in your own life, and be a part of SCAN's exciting campaign. Look for the blue pinwheel - the new nationwide symbol for the support of child abuse prevention - in your own community. You can even download a worksheet to create a pinwheel with a child you know on SCAN's campaign site, www.pauseforachild.com

Through SCAN's work, we have seen the transformative power of a pause lead to more positive parenting and stronger families. Please make April the month when you start supporting a true leader in local child abuse pre-

vention. Learn more at www.pauseforachild.org.

Rep. Jim Moran (D-8)
Rep. Frank D. Wolf (R-10)
SCAN Honorary Board of Directors

Lack of Transparency

To the Editor:

In the category of "lost opportunities," Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin not only fumbled the ball, but exposed the fact that county government has forgotten for whom they work. They don't work for themselves; they don't work for the bureaucracy; they work for the taxpaying citizens of Fairfax County.

Following the death of a motorist in a police crash and the fatal shooting of an unarmed motorist, Griffin and the Board of Supervisors were petitioned by we the people to establish a "citizens' review board" to investigate potential police wrong-doing and rec-

ommend exoneration or punitive action.

Instead, Griffin unilaterally opted to use his employee, the county's internal auditor, Christopher Pietsch, for the required investigations.

Given the hubris being exhibited at all levels of government, especially in Fairfax County, why would Griffin want to further erode the credibility of, and public confidence in the police?

Griffin and everyone else that receives a county check works for us. Rejection of citizen redress creates questions about what is being hidden - waste, fraud, incompetent management, or all of the above.

Our police officers deserve better than to be stained by this ill-conceived decision. The voters certainly deserve better.

Dennis Husch

The writer is a candidate for Dranesville District supervisor.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

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Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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LETTERS

Watch How They Vote

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, the self-proclaimed fiscal moderate, is at it again. After voting for trillions of dollars of government spending and increasing the deficit and national debt by trillions of dollars, he voted against several bills to cut government spending. During the period Jan. 24 through March 21, 2011, according to Mega Vote published by Congress.Org, the bills include one to keep the Federal government operating through 2011 with a cut of \$61.5 billion, one requesting the United Nations to return an overpayment of \$179 million, one requesting the Neighborhood Stabilization program to return \$1 billion of unspent funds and one prohibiting public radio stations from using Federal funds to purchase programming from NPR. He also voted against repeal of the "job killing" Health Care Act. Since passage the Executive Branch has granted 1,000 waivers to entities so that they don't have to comply with the act. That Act was to bring down cost and help those needing health care, so why the exemptions?

I urge you to go to the web page Congress.org and sign up to receive the Mega Vote. It is very informative and keeps you up to date on how your congressman and U.S. senators are voting without any effort on your part. And, it provides you

with important information to make informed comments to your congressman and U.S. senators.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Risks Beyond By-right

To the Editor:

In 2007, after a hard-fought battle, the MVCCA passed a resolution concerning the 33-acre North Hill property that described a compromise regarding its proposed development. In the compromise, 22 acres would be developed as a park and 11 acres would be developed with 66 affordable homes. Ever since, the County has moved forward to enact the compromise as a by-right project. The County is required to develop affordable homes at North Hill because that's what it represented it would do when it obtained the acquisition funds from the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) 30 years ago. If affordable homes aren't built, the County risks having to reimburse HUD at the current market value — I've heard a figure of \$60,000,000.

In the meantime, opponents of affordable housing at North Hill, including a number of MVCCA leaders, having been trying to

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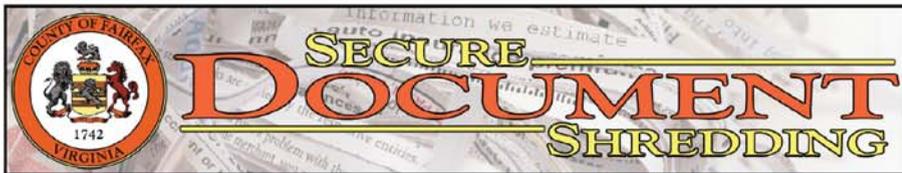
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

find any way to provoke a public hearing concerning North Hill so they can marshal their forces and try to kill the project. Up until now, they have failed and the Board of Supervisors is planning to vote on a bond issue in June, the proceeds of which would fund the development.

Word now comes that, inexplicably, Supervisor Hyland has handed North Hill affordable housing opponents a gift — he has asked the MVCCA to provide comments concerning three additional development

options, each of which would still include at least 67 affordable homes but would include from 264 to 528 total units. Each of these options would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment and a re-zoning, thereby triggering multiple public hearings. There is no doubt the MVCCA will attempt to pass a resolution endorsing one of the new options. Why? It will have less to do with the option chosen and more to do with the opportunity presented to opponents of any affordable housing at North Hill to use the public hearings in an attempt to kill any affordable housing at North Hill, even the

by-right option currently being pursued.

Supervisor Hyland has assured us that if the three new options fail to garner community support, he will retreat to the fall back position of the current by-right option. But, in an election year, what will he do if opponents of affordable housing at North Hill organize a large number of vocal opponents and use the public hearings to express opposition against all of the possible options, including the by-right one? It might very well become politically unpalatable for the Supervisor to proceed with the current plan. The risk of this occurring is too great

in my view to give the opponents any opportunity to exploit the situation and seek to kill the whole project. Supervisor Hyland, please reconsider your decision to consider the other options at this time, and proceed with the by-right development, as currently configured.

One final point: in his letter to the MVCCA, Supervisor Hyland stated: "If the Council supports a Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning of the property, I will work with the Redevelopment Hous

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INVITATION TO Open House-Open Hearts

April 10, 2011

The pantry is bare and we need your help!

Please join us at the Open House-Open Hearts Charity Event to help fill the Food Pantry at UCM. United Community Ministries is a wonderful local organization that works hard to fulfill many roles in the community, including helping to feed those that cannot afford to feed themselves.

We have arranged for live music, wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and a great silent auction featuring services and products from local businesses. You can find a list of our sponsors and a partial list of the auction items at the event website.

Come spend some time with us on Sunday the 10th from 2 until 5 pm working to fill the food pantry. Please bring a bag of non-perishable food items like soup, cereal, tomato sauce, macaroni & cheese, or other items on UCM's list to get into the event.

See you on Sunday the 10th!

Daniel Sanders, Elizabeth Lucchesi and the UCM Organization



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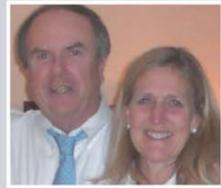


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Stately Colonial - Great Price!
Unique opportunity-three level colonial with huge potential priced to make it one of the area's best values! Features include exceptionally large room sizes, hardwood floors on 2 levels, first floor family room with fireplace, 4 bedrooms including master with private bath. Walk-out lower level, walk-in attic and 2 car garage. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in fabulous Southwood.

OPEN SUN

9316 Allwood Dr \$489,500
Absolutely Impeccable!
New Priced Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2704 DARTMOUTH RD #3 / Alex. City \$272,000
Quiet courtyard view from new balcony of this charming 2BR. Updates include new carpet, newer appl & HVAC, fresh neutral paint & updated bath. W/D in unit. EZ access to Old Town, BRAC facility@Mark Ctr, Metro. Priced to sell.
Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

926 PRISCILLA LN Waynewood \$729,000
Spacious - well maintained home on beautiful street. 5BR/3FBA, garage & an amazing French country kit w/frpl. Great community w/pools, tennis & playground. Located off GW Pkwy, near the River, shopping, parks & public transportation.
www.WaynewoodRealtors.com
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1109 N PITT ST #1B Canal Place / Alex \$324,900
If you like to cook, you'll love this kitchen! Custom granite/cherry/stainless, double oven, wine rack, built-in micro, cooktop. 1 BR condo. Custom built bkcases/wardrobe. Just refinish wood floors. \$100,000+ in remodel & upgrades. Assigned prkg, X-storage, 2 lites to DC, 2 blks to River, 1 blk to jog/bike path. EZ Metro.
Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6004 LINCOLNIA RD Alexandria City \$459,900
Elegantly designed w/unique mouldings, arched windows & wood flrs. This 2 garage Brick home shows like brand new w/the recently installed carpet, SSA, fixtures & fresh paint. The mstr suite w/dual vanity, Jacuzzi & sep shower incl. loft. Outdoor space incl. deck or patio.
Ginger Webre 703.927.8398

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

Unit #606 \$300,000
Sunny 1BR unit just 1 blk from Metro. HW flr in living rm, updated painted kit w/silestone/quartz counters, SS undermount sink, New GE appl. incl. bottom freezer/frig w/ice maker, breakfast bar. Full size W/D. All new light fixtures thru-out + under cabinet lighting. BA w/jack&jill doors, Jacuzzi, new paint. All 4 closets w/custom elfa shelving. Private balcony - grilling allowed - prkg.

BOTH UNITS at 1200 BRADDOCK PL. Alexandria
Brian, Jerry & Daniel 703.929.5764
www.brianandjerry.com

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

237 WESMOND DR Alexandria \$349,900
Beautifully updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Hardwood, granite, new carpet in the basement family room. Off street parking.
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

7325 REBECCA DR Hollin Hills \$899,000
One of only 5 cust. homes by Charles Goodman. Upscale & modern 3BR/2BA; 3,000 sqft incl. mstr suite w/frpl & BA w/heated flrs, slate, wood & flagstone flrs; open living/dining; eat-in kit; deck; & more!
The Cary Team
Kendra Carey 703.731.7975
Sean Sarkis 703.731.8086
Michael Shapiro 301.503.6171

8728 THOMAS STOCKTON Stratford Landing \$725,000
Lovely 1/3 acre lot in Stratford Landing / Mt. Vernon for build-to-suit, purchase sellers' plans or purchase lot and new home to be built. '99 foot water frontage on Little Hunting Creek.
Leah Chapla 703.929.4875

SOLD! 8714 Bluedale St
SOLD! 7406 Rippon Rd
SOLD! 7106 Colgate Dr
JUST LISTED! CONTRACT 2335 Creek Dr

SOLD! 4117 Robertson Blvd
SOLD! 8826 Camden Rd
JUST LISTED! CONTRACT 8310 Riverside Rd
SOLD! 8949 Fort Hunt Rd

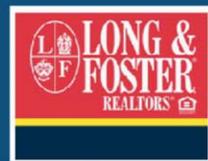
SOLD! 9316 Heather Glen Dr
SOLD! 9212 Cherrytree Dr
SOLD! 6515 Princeton Dr
SOLD! 4504 Neptune Dr

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6108 REDWOOD LN Alexandria \$599,000
• Wilton Woods
• Close to Metro
• 4 bedrooms/2.5 baths
• 3 levels
• Lots of Upgrades + New Kit, Roof & Siding
• 2 Car Garage
• ALL UNDER \$600,000.
Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

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

4106 FERRY LANDING RD / Alex \$969,000
Exquisite 6BR, 4 full BA home w/open fl plan. Main lvl boasts master suite w/priv BA, library, living, dining, breakfast & family rooms + fantastic Chef's kit w/SS, cherry cabs, ctr island, lg pantry & tile w/porcelain inlay. 2nd mstr suite has tray ceilings, frpl & fabulous BA. Beautiful landscaped yard + deck & 2 brick patios.
Randy Bender 703.906.1749



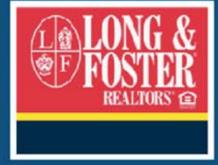
CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314

703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303

www.OldTownAlexandria.com



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703-549-8700
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THINKING OF A REAL ESTATE CAREER? Call Kim Farina at the Alexandria/Old Town Office.



Alexandria \$279,000
Beautiful 2BR, 1BA Garden Lvl Condo in Quaker Hills. Renovated bath With Jacuzzi Tub. Hardwood Floors. Open Floor Plan. Shows Great! Close to 495, Old Town and Metro
111 Quaker Lane
Kerrie Price 703-901-2778



Alexandria Old Town \$639,000
Lovely detached Victorian w/spacious rooms, High ceilings, large windows pocket doors & Original hardwoods, Large kitchen, w/beamed ceiling, granite, island & breakfast nook deck, deep yard w/arbor covered patio
418 Patrick St.
Christine Garner 703-587-4588



Arlington \$399,500
Fabulously renovated Edgewood model in 2009 of nearly 1400 SF. 1 Bdrm 2 Bath w/huge stainless kitchen & granite counters. Hardwood Floors and custom features. Minutes to Pentagon and DC
4669 34TH St. S
Philip Matyas 571-332-0963



Alex/Old Town \$750,000
Extra-deep TH in heart of Old Town--truly spacious/ finished on all 3 lvls Wood floors, 3 fireplcs, skylights, kitchen/ family room open onto brick walled patio garden via double French doors. Large owner's suite w/walk-in cedar closet. Master bath w/cathedral ceiling & skylight. Off st parking for 2. No HOA fee. Steps to transportation, cafes, shops & restaurants.
720 GIBBON St.
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria Fairlington Towne 349,900
What a value! This fantastic 2 BR, 1.5 bath, 2 level is perfect. Great back patio that opens to community green space. Loads of upgrades include gleaming wood floors, new doors, updated baths and tons of storage. LOW CONDO FEE!
3742 Jason Ave.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria \$565,000
Huge 3BR/3.55BA TH inside Beltway. Main lvl, hardwood floors, walk out to deck with panoramic views of trees & common area. Expanded kit with extra storage. 2 gas fpls, lower level rec rm with extra storage & walk out to secluded fenced back yard. Two MBRs on 2nd lvl w/walk in closets & hwd flrs. Top lvl has large BR & full BA + office.
5204 Cottingham Pl.
Nancie Williams 703-608-6959



Alexandria \$599,000
Beautifully updated home in Governor's Hill. Hardwood floors on main and upper levels Up to date kitchen with granite & Newer Appliances. Unique rear yard w/synthetic turf & concrete. Stamped Patio One owner home.
3372 Wilton Crest Court
Bob Bazzle 703-559-8964



Alexandria/ Rosemont \$774,900
Fabulous Rosemont Colonial with spacious family room, 2 sun rooms, breakfast room. Open floor plan, gleaming wood floors, high ceilings and wide baseboard trim. Off-street parking for two vehicles, but you can leave your car at home, just a short stroll from both King Street and Braddock Road Metro.
118 Walnut
Bob Bomar 703-927-2213
Homesofalexandria.com



Alexandria \$1,300,000
This understated home, in a location that provides maximum privacy, has craft features throughout the main & guest house. Hand painted tiles, artist painted cabinets & ceiling, designer doors & knobs. Add these features to the new paint, refin. hardwoods, new baths w/substantial finishes, the result, a sophisticated, cottage-like feel. 3/4 acre w mature perennial gardens & 9' deep pool.
3601 Tupelo Place
Christine Garner 703-587-4588



Alexandria \$269,900
Wonderful UL 2BR, 1.5 BA, 1 Lvl Condo overlooks courtyard and has an abundance of natural light! Pristine w/ Gleaming Parquet wood flrs. New Heating & Cooling. Fabulous renovated bath. Terrific Old Town Location right off of GW Parkway and only one light to DC. Steps to bike path, river & Shops.
1710 Abingdon Dr.
Lisa McCaskill 703-6156036



MCLEAN, VA \$2,195,000
Want ALL the options-we've got it! Turn-key high-end 4 lvl Colonial in close-in Gated community. 10' ceilings, crown moldings, bow windows & elevator show distinguishing style. Dramatic curved stairwell, custom inlaid marble flrs at entry. Rich Gourmet kit. LL full wet bar! Sound system. Master suite w/3 sided FP, sitting rm, Private Deck, 2 walk-in closets, huge bath. Long d/w + 2 car gar
7207 Farm Meadow Ct.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria/Cameron Station \$399,000
Will entertain any offer*
*Opportunity to buy way below market! Inviting open flr plan w/lots of light. Wood flrs, stainless steel appls and gas FP on main lvl. Wood blinds, upgraded light fixtures & neutral paint decor. Master BR has full BA w/sep shower, custom built walk-in closet & extended patio. W/D on BR lvl. 1 car gar + assigned spot. Shuttle to metro. Pool, fitness cntr & so much more! 1 year warranty.
503 Cameron Station Blvd.
Erka Carroll 703-568-7376

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Dual Premieres To Launch Next Signature Season

Two new musicals open in August.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Signature Theatre in Arlington has long been known for introducing brand new musicals. But even this company, which won the Tony Award as the outstanding regional theatre in America two years ago, is doing something different by premiering two new musicals simultaneously to kick off its 2011-2012 season.

Each will be directed by recipients of multiple Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Direction of a Musical, and will play rotating schedules in Signature's larger space in Shirlington, The MAX, beginning this August.

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, six-time winner of the award, will be directing "The Hollow," a musical based on Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Frequent Signature guest director Joe Calarco, who won the award four times for work at Signature, will mount a musical version of Joe Meno's novel "The Boy Detective Fails."

"The Hollow," based on Irving's story of Ichabod Crane and the headless horseman, will have a script by Hunter Foster and a score by Matt Conner, both of whom are known to Signature regulars.

Foster starred in Signature's 2008 production of "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and most recently starred on Broadway in "Million Dollar Quartet," which was directed by Schaeffer. "The Hollow" won't be the first musical for which he's written the script. He also wrote the musical "Summer of '42."

Conner is even better known to Signature regulars, and not just because he's frequently found playing the piano in the lobby before shows there. He's often featured in the ensemble of musicals and he's the composer of the musical "Nevermore" for which he set the poems of Edgar Allan Poe to music.

These aren't the only new musicals in Signature's season. Those who enjoyed "The Fix" when Signature presented it in their old space back in 1998, and "The Witches of Eastwick" in the new space in Shirlington in 2007, will be de-

lighted to know that the new musical by their composer Dana Rowe and lyricist John Dempsey will premiere here in February, 2012. It is titled "Brother Russia" and presents the life story of Grigori Rasputin as told by a Russian theater troupe set to rock-infused songs. Schaeffer will direct this premiere as well.

Schaeffer will also direct a new production of a well known major musical, "Hairspray" with songs by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. "Hairspray" played over six years on Broadway, making it the 20th longest running show in Broadway history. It won seven Tony Awards including those for best musical, best book and best score in 2003. Signature's production is slated to open this November.

Signature's resident director Matthew Gardiner will be at the helm in April of 2012 for the area premiere of the surprise Broadway hit of 2007 based on a failed disco movie "Xanadu." Gardiner will also direct the world premiere of a non-musical, a piece titled "Really Really" which is described as telling of "when the party of the year results in the regret of a lifetime."

Another non-musical set for the season is the Tony Award winning Best Play of 2009, Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage." Reza's earlier hit, "Art" is one of the final shows of the current season, now in previews before an official opening next weekend. Like "Art," "God of Carnage" has been translated from Reza's native French by Christopher Hampton. It will open in Signature's smaller space, the ARK, next April.

The one surprise in the company's mainstage schedule for the season is the absence of a musical by Stephen Sondheim. This will be only the third season since Signature's first musical was produced in 1991 that won't have a full production of a Sondheim musical. However, the company will be presenting a concert version of Sondheim's 1953 musical "Saturday Night" for four performances in October. It is a musical which was to be his first production on Broadway, but the death of its producer resulted in the termination of the project before it reached the stage. It wasn't produced until 40 years later.

Garden Events Sprout

April 16 festivities highlight the spring season.

Visitors will revel in the splendor of spring with a colorful variety of garden events throughout Alexandria. The season's cornerstone garden event is the annual Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour which invites the public to saunter through Old Town's walled gardens, intimate courtyards, and stately historic homes. Elsewhere in town, green thumbs and plant lovers will stock up on greenery, flowers, and other garden goods at special sales at Carlyle House, River Farm, and Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens. Visitors are invited to tour these properties and talk to gardening experts. Hands-on activities for kids at Carlyle House and educational tours at Mount Vernon will get the whole family into the fun.

Find these garden events and more springtime fun at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour

When: Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Refreshments 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Old Town Alexandria

Admission: Self-guided tour of six homes and refreshments \$35 in advance, \$40 day of tour. Single house or garden admission \$20

Information: VAGardenWeek.org; 703-746-3301

Six of Old Town Alexandria's finest historic homes and gardens are open to the public in this highlight of Alexandria's glorious spring season. The tour is part of the 78th Annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the oldest and largest house and garden tour in the nation.

The six houses represent some of the finest and earliest structures in the Old Town district, with the houses built between 1796 and 1856. A fine example of a Georgian home built in 1800 and later occupied by Hugo Black, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, has expansive grounds, including a 19th-century guesthouse and boxwood-rimmed rose garden. The interior of the home built in 1796 has been restored to that period and features carved wooden fireplace mantels and faux wood painting by a fifth-generation artisan who restored the wood graining at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Tickets may be purchased on the tour day at any of the houses on the tour and at the Alexandria Visitor's Center. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.VAGardenweek.org and at the following locations in Old Town Alexandria: The Alexandria Visitor's Center (221 King Street), The Athenaeum (201 Prince Street), Market Square Shop (202 King Street), and The Enchanted Florist (139 S. Fairfax Street). Ticket price is \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of the tour. Single house or garden admission, \$20.

Friends of Carlyle House Herb Sale

Plus hands-on activities for kids

When: Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria



Admission: No admission required to shop plant sale or to take part in kids' activities. Admission charged for house tour: Ages 13 and over, \$5; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 4 and under, free. (Admission for house tour is included in \$40 ticket for Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: CarlyleHouse.org; 703-549-2997

Herbs and perennials from the gardens and greenhouses of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate are on sale as well as a variety of local jewelry, home goods, and crafts for sale by local artisans and merchants. Sales of herbs and plants raise money to support the preservation of Carlyle House. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer horticultural questions. While at the sale, be sure to check out the hands-on activities for kids and take a tour of Alexandria's oldest home, the Carlyle House.

Spring Garden Market at River Farm

When: Friday, April 15, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria

Admission: Free admission; \$3 public parking
Information: AHS.org; 703-768-5700

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) presents the Spring Garden Market at its River Farm headquarters. More than 20 vendors from throughout the mid-Atlantic region are on hand

SEE GARDEN, PAGE 16

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Garden Events Sprout

FROM PAGE 15

selling a wide variety of plants, including natives, perennials, shrubs, herbs, vegetables, annuals and roses, as well as garden supplies and unique garden art. Master Gardeners have a booth onsite to answer gardening questions.

Spring Plant Sale at Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens

When: Saturday, April 9, to Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Where: Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon

Admission: No admission required to shop plant sale. (Admission to Estate included in \$40 ticket for Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: MountVernon.org; 703-780-2000

This once-a-year sale features a collection of gardening tools, gadgets, books, seeds, plants, pots, hats, gloves, and more. Also included in this sale are plants and herbs grown at George



Carlyle House

Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

Garden and Landscape Tours at Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens

When: April 1-Oct. 31, 11 a.m. daily

Where: Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon

Admission: Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; children ages 6-11, \$7; children under 5 are admitted free. (Admission included in \$40 ticket for Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: MountVernon.org; 703-780-2000

This 30-minute guided walking tour examines George Washington's brilliant design for the grounds around his Mount Vernon estate. Visit the gardens he created, see some of the original trees, and learn how he merged areas for work and leisure to create a master plan for his beloved home.

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 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.

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.leafendallhouse.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. Formerly with Men @ Work. Performs at The

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000.

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Spring Luncheon/Fashion Show. Vendors open at 10 a.m.; lunch at 11:15 a.m.; fashion show starts at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20/person. Vendors will be selling jewelry, scarves, and other merchandise. Presented by The Women's Group at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Proceeds will benefit UCM and Rising Hope. Call 703-765-7555.

A Night on the Town Gala. 6 p.m. cocktails/silent auction; 7:30 p.m. dinner; 8:30 p.m. live auction; 9:15 p.m. dancing to Reverie Jazz. Tickets are \$175. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. At the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria.

The "Grandest Congress." Noon to 4 p.m. Visit the Carlyle House Historic Park for costumed re-enactors representing Gen. Braddock and the five Colonial governors as well as John and Sarah Carlyle. Visitors can inspect the troops as they drill on the front lawn of the house. Peek in on the meeting inside and enjoy the sights and smells of 18th-century style food being prepared for a grand dinner for Braddock and the governors. Contact Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or e-mail: carlyle@nvrpa.org

Spring Mulch Sale.

Mount Vernon High School Class of 2011 is conducting its spring mulch sale. Pick up in MVHS parking lot. Orders must be made by Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Limited delivery area for orders of 10 or more bags. The cost is \$5 per bag and the proceeds benefit the Class of 2011. Call Robin Gordon at 703-799-1330, or email: MVHSmulchsale@gmail.com.

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.

Wonders of Science Demos. 1 to 3 p.m. Discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. Tours will be held every 30 minutes. Admission is \$6. At the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

YoKid Challenge. 2 to 4 p.m. YoKid will

FINE ARTS

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.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

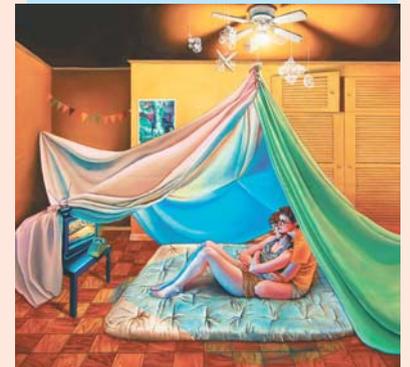
It's Only Rock 'n' Roll, But I Like It! Del Ray Artisans' April show, pays homage to all things Rock 'n' Roll. All-media show, juried by Fierce Sonia and Jen Chappell. A day of rock-themed movies is planned for Sunday, April 10, noon-9 p.m. An open mic lyric slam is planned for Sunday, May 1, 2-4 p.m.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

APRIL 26 TO JUNE 26

Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. Opening reception is Sunday, May 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

NOW THROUGH MAY 15

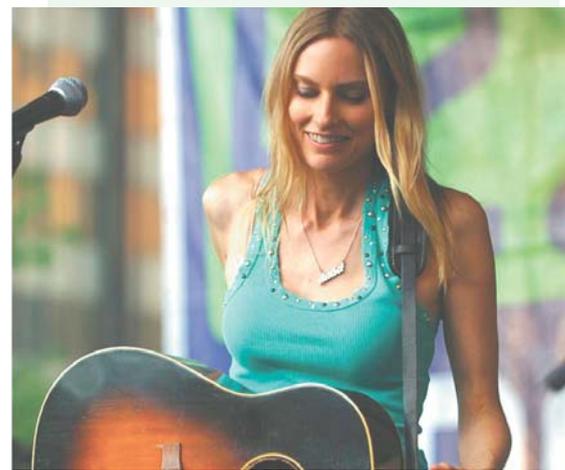
The Nest Project. What does home mean to you? This project



THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Spring Awakening. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Celebrate the season of renewal with gallery receptions and special activities featuring Target Gallery's The Nest Project. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

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. 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.



APRIL 12 AND 13

Aimee Mann. 7:30 p.m. Currently penning a new musical production based upon the concept album, The Forgotten Arm. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 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.

challenge adults, kids and families to see how many sun salutations they can do, and provide delicious treats for participants to enjoy, along with tips on healthy eating, in support of YoKid's mission to provide low- and no-cost yoga programs for kids in Alexandria. At the Cora Kelly Rec Center, Alexandria. Visit www.yokid.org.

Family and Friends Day.

11 a.m. Guest speaker is Minister Sheila Stubblefield-Whiting. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria.

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

Alexandria. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org

Free Organ Concert. 6 p.m. Faure Requiem and Rheinberger Organ Concerto with choir from St. Martin Lutheran Church, Annapolis. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Contact www.gracealex.org or 703-549-1980.

MONDAY/APRIL 11

Spring Golf Outing. 12 noon check-in; 1 p.m. shotgun start; format: Captain's choice (scramble); handicapped foursomes; fee \$225/person in advance; \$250/onsite. At Mount Vernon Country Club. Fundraiser for The Campagna Center. Contact Lee Martin at 703-224-2351 or lmartin@campagnacenter.org.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

APRIL 11 AND 12

Jewelry Sale. Board of Lady Managers Jewelry Sale. All jewelry is \$6; gifts and handbags are \$12-\$48. Monday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, April 12 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. At INOVA Alexandria Hospital Education Rooms 1 and 2. All proceeds benefit Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

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

Spring Fever Open House.

4 to 7 p.m. Join in an evening of refreshments, door prizes and shopping. The shop and garden center are loaded with new arrivals of unique accessories for home and garden. At Electric Nature, 1503 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-837-0500.

Australian Wine Tasting. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tastings are led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar and tickets are \$25 per person and tours of the historic house will be available during the evening. To purchase tickets, call 703-548-1789 or www.leefendallhouse.org. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Alexandria.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Flo Anito. 7 p.m. With Poetry by Cliff Bernier. Tickets are \$10. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

Livingston Taylor Performs. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. With David Buskin and Robin Bateau. At The Birchmere. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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.

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay with Underwater Plants. 7:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Contact Alan Ford, VNPS Potowmack Chapter President at 703-732-5291.

Contemporary Religious Trends: The End of Religion or a New Beginning? Free. An Evening with Dr. Diana Butler Bass. 6:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres; 7:30 to 9 p.m. program; 9 p.m. dessert and book signing. At St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Call 703-780-3081 to register or office@stjamesmv.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. Tickets go on sale for the popular event at Mount Vernon. Experience live jazz and sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on May 13-15 from 6 to 9 p.m. Fruit and cheese boxes available. Tickets are \$35/person. Tickets are tables available at www.MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Musician Carrie Newcomer. 7:30 p.m. Carrie will be co-headlining with Four Bitchin' Babes and Washington, D.C. area resident, Debi Smith. 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.

Wellness Fair. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Seminars, lectures, health screenings, a cooking demo, door prizes, refreshments and more. Celebrity Chef Lauren Von Der Pool of Von Der Pool Gourmet will be featured at the fair. She will be talking about healthy eating and also conducting a cooking demonstration. At Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Grand Ball. 8 to 11 p.m. Live music, dance instruction, a special Queen's Cake and dessert, "gaming" and a cash bar. A "King" and "Queen" will be chosen to preside over the ball. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. Hosted by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Culinary and decorative herbs and plants from Mount Vernon and Homestead Gardens will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Friends of Carlyle House. A Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

Growing Vegetables in Containers. 10 a.m. to noon p.m. Learn how to grow vegetables in pots, planters or other containers for maximum production on your deck, balcony, porch or patio. At Charles Houston Rec Center, Room 2, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Register early by calling 703-228-6414.

Family Fun Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. D.C. United Mascot Talon, Children's Deejay, Moon Bounces, Petting Zoo, Children's



APRIL 14, 15, 16

Spring Garden Market. More than 20 vendors will be selling natives, perennials, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and annuals. Friday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; AHS Members' Night is Thursday, April 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. At the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria.

(13 and over); \$15 (6-12 years); Free (5 and under). T-shirts included. In memory of Kelley Swanson. Funds raised will support the Therapeutic Recreation Program, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. Race held at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Send donations to Kelley Cares, 203 E. Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Dead Men's Hollow with Bob Gramann. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Info: 703-501-6061. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Kaydee Puppets. 3 p.m. Heritage Presbyterian Women sponsor Kaydee Puppets performing Goldilocks & the 3 Bears and Nursery Rhymes. All ages welcome. Admission is a plate of cookies to be shared after the show. RSVP to Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria, 703-360-9546.

Japan Disaster Relief Concert. 7 p.m. Tickets \$40. Presented by the Japanese Americans' Care Fund, with Japanese Members and their Friends of the National Symphony Orchestra, Toshiko Khono (flute), Mahoko Eguchi (violin), Tsuna Sakamoto (viola), etc. Mozart, Beethoven, Japanese songs, and more. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Online Reservations: www.instantseats.com/events/JACF Contact: 703-256-5223, or carefund@jacarefund.org.

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Artists for the Climate. 7 p.m. Participants will include Bill McKibben, E. Ethelbert Miller, Janisse Ray, Tim DeChristopher, Rev. Bob Edgar, Mary Anne Hitt, emma's revolution and SongRise. Following the program, there will be a candlelight vigil at the Gen On coal plant three blocks away. The event is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network and 350.org. Tickets and information, including for the 6 p.m. VIP reception, can be found at www.chesapeakeclimate.org. At Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

Spring Concert. 3 p.m. Free. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, cordially invites you to a Spring Concert with Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Ulysses S. James, Director, for presentation of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, op. 125, D minor. (Ode to Joy). At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at 703-845-6097 or mwhitmire@nvcc.edu.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Presentation on "Working for the People" with Dr. Kenneth W. Heger, Ph.D., who will show ways to find information documenting employment with the Federal government. Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

Baby Shower for New Hope. 6:30 p.m. Social; 7 p.m. dinner at Pema's Restaurant. The Mount Vernon Evening Lions will be holding a baby show. If you would like to donate to the baby show, contact Andrea Corsillo 703-960-4973.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Antique Hats Presentation. 9:30 a.m. Free. The Antique Club of the Mount Vernon Antique Arts Association features Jo Hanna Holcomb who will show off her collection of antique hats from the 1930s and 1940s. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, The Thrillbillies. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Playgroups, Face Painting, Arts and Crafts, and more. Sponsored by Capital One Bank. At the William Ramsey Recreation Center, 5700 Sanger Ave., Alexandria. Call Kim Turpin Davis at 703-549-3741.

78th Annual Historic Garden Tour of Alexandria. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$35/advance; \$40/day of tour. This Alexandria tradition offers the opportunity to be invited into six of Old Town's finest private homes and gardens. Many of the area's historic sites offer special activities, including Carlyle House, which hosts its Herb Sale, with historical plants plus crafts. Call 703-746-3301 or www.VaGardenWeek.org.

Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk. Start time 8 a.m. Registration 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Admission is \$30

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28 Yard Sales

Alexandria. 'Another Yard Sale by Gale,' Saturday, (4/9), 8 a.m.-noon. 902 Danton Lane, (off Waywood Blvd. in Mt Vernon). Other families in Waywood are also participating on Saturday. Patio furniture, vintage items, household items, women's clothes, books, purses, jewelry, knick-knacks and much more - a little bit of everything

Big Community Book and Rummage Sale!
Saturday, April 9th. 9:00am - 1:00pm. Rain or shine. Tons of books, many genres, furniture, clothing, housewares, etc. Held inside the Howard Gardner School at 4913 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310.

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Legal Notices

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Mongolian Dining Venture III, LLC trading as Genghis Grill, 7001 F Manchester Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed beverage on premises, Beer & wine on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vernon Keith Sullins, owner

ABC LICENSE
Riva Enterprise, Inc trading as Euro Bistro and Grill, 6027 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises & Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Fotis Sadikaj, President

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 2003 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Unit at (703) 838-4709.

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21 Announcements

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Un estudio de investigacion conducido por la Universidad de la Florida esta solicitando agricultores para participar en un estudio en desarrollo acerca de como el virus de la influenza (el flu) puede ser transmitido por animales. Participantes deseables deben trabajar con cerdos, pavos, gansos, o patos, y tener 18 o mas anos de edad. Remuneracion es disponible.
<http://gpl.php.ufl.edu/AgWorkerEsp>

21 Announcements

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THE CONNECTION
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ing Authority and county staff to quickly bring these applications to the Board of Supervisors for approval." It can't have escaped the supervisor that the MVCCA is not representative of the mainstream of our community on most issues. This is particularly true concerning North Hill. I trust Supervisor Hyland will make his decision based upon a more broad consultation with community leaders including his appointees to the Visioning Task Force, and not limit input to just the MVCCA.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through April 1.

ROBBERY/ ARREST

A man robbed a 22-year-old man as he was exiting his car in the 7500 block of Richmond Highway just after 11 a.m. on Friday, March 25. A 30-year-old male of Washington, D.C., was apprehended and charged with robbery.

FATAL CRASH

Shortly after 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, a 2005 Cadillac sedan was southbound on Harrison Lane at a high rate of speed. The Cadillac failed to negotiate a sharp, left hand curve in the roadway and continued straight down the paved entrance to Huntley Meadows Park. The car then ran off of the park driveway, struck a tree and caught fire with the driver inside. Citizens attempted to free the driver but could not. The driver was pronounced dead on the scene. The medical examiner will attempt to determine the driver's identity during an autopsy. Alcohol and or drugs may be a factor. Speed was a factor. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail a www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

GRAND LARCENY/ ARREST

Two teenaged girls, 14 and 15, were arrested for stealing a 2010 Dodge Caravan from the 7800 block of Richmond Highway around 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30. An investigation determined the vehicle was left running in a parking lot. The suspects were located nearby in the vehicle, taken into custody and released to their parents. Petitions charging each suspect with grand larceny will be obtained.

LARCENIES

- 6000 block of Fort Hunt Road. Golf clubs stolen from vehicle.
- 3400 block of Little Hunting Creek. CD player stolen from vehicle.
- 6200 block of North Kings Highway. Tequila stolen from business.
- 6000 block of Richmond Highway. Cell phone stolen from business.
- 8600 block of Richmond Highway. Vodka stolen from business.
- 6800 block of Smithway Drive. Tools stolen from residence.
- 6600 block of South Kings Highway. License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 7700 block of Thrush Court. License plate stolen from vehicle.

VEHICLE THEFTS

- 7900 block of Ashton St. 2003 Toyota RAV4.
- 7800 block of Richmond Highway. Dodge Caravan.
- 5800 block of Saint Gregorys Lane. 1996 Saturn.

Redistricting the 44th and the Governor's Vetoes

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



This week, we returned to Richmond for a special session on redistricting and votes on the Governor's vetoes.

The House of Delegates and Senate announced redistricting plans for their respective bodies about one week ago. Public hearings were held on about 3-4 days notice. Realignment district lines for elected positions is required because of population changes documented by the decennial census.

RICHMOND REPORT

The House of Delegates' Republican Caucus has proposed a redistricting plan for House districts. The House Democratic Caucus has not presented a plan although one member introduced an award-winning nonpartisan plan created by University of Richmond students. You can view all proposals online by going to my blog, The Dixie Pig at scottsurovell.blogspot.com. I have posted links and instructions there if you would like to view the plans.

The latest version of the House Republican Caucus Plan proposes to slightly change my district, the 44th, as follows: Huntington Precinct would be moved to Delegate Mark Sickles' seat. A small part of

Bellehaven Precinct would be moved to Delegate David Englin's seat, and Westgate Precinct (the area south of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway) would be moved back into Delegate Dave Albo's seat where it was until 2001. Kirkside Precinct (essentially Hollin Hills & northern Gum Springs) and Marlan Precinct

(Villamay, Marlan Forest and eastern Quander Road) would be moved from Delegate David Englin's district into my district. Most of Fort Belvoir north of U.S. 1 would also be added to my district, along with Hayfield Precinct.

Two weeks ago, I wrote that I liked the 44th District the way it is. The district is the closest to the target population number in the entire state without any changes. Thankfully, the proposal did not do significant harm to communities of interest in my district. Under the proposed House of Delegates plan, I would still mainly represent the same communities, the same high school pyramids and the bulk of the U.S. 1 corridor. I welcome some new constituents. You may recall that in 2009, I knocked on over 8,000 doors in the 44th district. When you go out, meet people face to face, into the "innards" of a community, and then fight for them in Richmond, you develop a deep sense of responsibility and ownership of

"your turf." It would be hard to let parts of my current district go. For sure, I will miss some of my current constituents if the current House plan is approved.

No plan is final. We will debate and vote on them in the special session. The plans must go to the Governor for veto or line-item vetoes and then the U.S. Department of Justice for what is called a "pre-clearance" under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. There is always the possibility of a legal challenge as well.

Having said that, there is no question that this entire process is flawed. I support non-partisan redistricting. Elected officials should not draw their own district lines — the people should. The Governor campaigned on bipartisan redistricting and then effectively ignored the issue for our last two sessions. He created a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission only with advisory power and then appears to be distancing himself from their recommendations. Both the House and Senate actually proposed their plans before the Governor's Bipartisan Redistricting Commission even made its recommendations.

The House and Senate majority caucuses created a timetable that minimized opportunities for public involvement and maximized the ability of incumbents to protect their majorities. The districts that have been drawn are either very Democratic and very

Republican. Competitive seats are virtually non-existent. No one is well served by the existing redistricting system except for incumbent politicians, lobbyists, and special interest groups. Fixing this will be a priority for me if the voters return me to office.

We also have a veto session next week. The Governor vetoed legislation requiring elementary students to participate in a minimum of 150 minutes of physical education per week. I voted no and will support the Governor's veto. While I support encouraging children to be physically active, Fairfax County Public Schools estimates that this requirement will cost us over \$18 million and the state is providing no funding. Several of our elementary school principals, music and art teachers also contacted me because this requirement would reduce time in art and music.

The Governor also vetoed three other bills including an agreement to raise Virginia's medical malpractice cap, and increase civil penalties for pollution. I will vote to override those vetoes.

Please watch the news for any additional vetoes and contact me to share your views. You can email me at scottsurovell@gmail.com. You can also stay informed by reading my blog, The Dixie Pig, at scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

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Requests for interest in facility reuse must be received no later than June 15, 2011 to be considered. Please contact Julie Cline at 703-324-8708 or visit the Planning and Development Division of the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA.



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Jarrell Leads Improved West Potomac Effort

After 3-0 start, Wolverines struggling against stiff competition.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac left-hander Dan Jarrell limited the Lake Braddock baseball team, a potential state title contender, to three runs in four innings on Monday. At the plate, the junior had two hits, including an RBI single in the fourth.

Jarrell's effort spearheaded an improved effort by the Wolverines against higher-end competition. After losing handily to South County (15-4) and Annandale (10-0), West Potomac trailed Lake Braddock 4-1 entering the seventh inning. While a stronger performance was encouraging for the Wolverines, the team was saddled with another loss, falling 8-1 to the Bruins at WPHS.

West Potomac opened the season with three straight wins, outscoring Mount Vernon, Edison and Patriot District opponent Lee 49-9. But since the Wolverines entered a more difficult part of their schedule, they've been outscored 33-5. However, West Potomac could have something to build on after hanging around against Lake Braddock before the Bruins added four runs in the seventh.

"That was certainly a much better game than when we played against Annandale," West Potomac head coach Jim Sullivan said, "but still, [Lake Braddock] is a good team and we're not going to beat these guys playing OK. We played OK."

Since starting the season 3-0, West Potomac has struggled at the plate. On Monday, the Wolverines managed five hits against Lake Braddock starter Michael Church.

"We definitely haven't adjusted yet to the pitching with these last three teams," junior shortstop/pitcher Sean Trenchard said. "We've seen some good pitching. Other than that, today, the score doesn't explain the game at all. ... We just need to hit the ball and I think that will come around. ... If [we can hit] next time we play them we should

beat these guys. We should beat everyone once our hitting comes around."

West Potomac pitchers have also struggled. Jarrell pitched well enough to keep the Wolverines in the game, but it wasn't enough.

"That's what we were worried about all along: will the pitching be strong enough to compete," Sullivan said. "We don't have a single pitcher that was as good as the guy [Lake Braddock] rolled out there today. We don't have single pitcher as good as the guy Annandale rolled out there and we didn't have a single pitcher as good as the South County guy that came out. The way that we're going to win is 4-3 or 5-4, but our pitchers have got to be on, they've got to throw strikes, they can't walk people and they've got to keep the ball down so that we get groundballs instead of home runs. "Right now, Dan's probably our best pitcher because he can throw more than just a fastball for a strike. We tell them, if you can't throw three pitches for a strike, these guys are going to stand up there waiting for a fastball, licking their lips — and you'll either walk them or get to see them run a long ways."

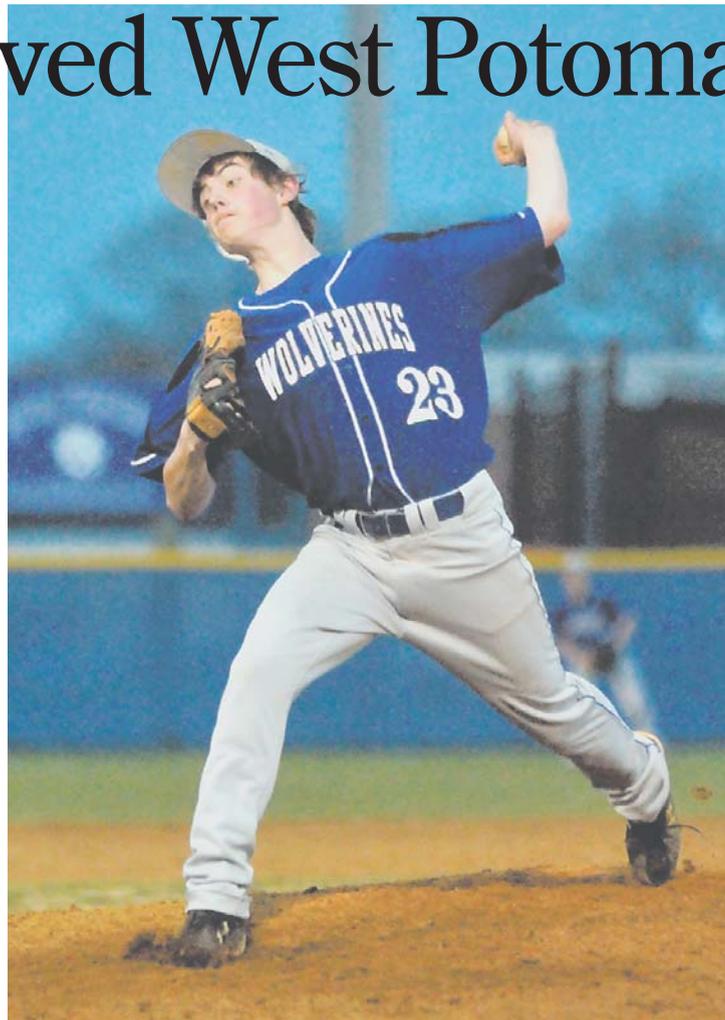
Sullivan also said the team has had problems with situational baseball.

"We've got a bunch of guys who still struggle from time to time [with playing] a team game," the coach said. "I understand, I used to play some ball and I wanted to get a hit. But there's times when you absolutely need a hit and there's times when you need to be a base runner and sometimes

record at 3-3. The Majors are 3-2 in the National District, including wins over Washington-Lee and Stuart. Mount Vernon will host Wakefield at 7 p.m. on April 8.

WP Girls Lacrosse Wins 3rd Straight

The West Potomac girls lacrosse team defeated McLean 16-3 on Monday, giving the Wolverines three consecutive wins. West Potomac improved to 4-2 and sits at 1-1 in the Patriot District. The Wolverines will travel to West Springfield at 7:15 p.m. on April 8 and host Woodson at 6:15 p.m. on April 9.



West Potomac junior Dan Jarrell allowed three runs in four innings against Lake Braddock, and drove in the Wolverines' only run during an 8-1 loss on Monday.

"Right now, Dan [Jarrell is] probably our best pitcher because he can throw more than just a fastball for a strike."

— West Potomac head baseball coach Jim Sullivan

we don't remember that. We tend to go to sleep from time to time."

If West Potomac can build on its performance against Lake Braddock, the Wolverines can not only make some noise this season, but in the future. West Potomac has only two seniors on its roster, neither of which was in the starting lineup Monday. Of the 17 players on the roster, 12 are juniors and three are sophomores. However, with many of the Wolverines having gained

West Potomac Softball Loses

The West Potomac softball team lost to Lake Braddock 9-1 on Monday, dropping the Wolverines' record to 3-2, including a 2-2 mark in the Patriot District. West Potomac will host T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on April 8.

Spring Golf Outing

The Mount Vernon Country Club is hosting The Campagna Center's 16th Annual

varsity experience last season, the "young team" label only goes so far.

"That's not really an excuse anymore," Trenchard said. "We will definitely be a lot better next year with all seniors, but it shouldn't be an excuse."

Trenchard is one of the most physically gifted players on the team, but Sullivan said he needs to make better use of his leadership skills.

"Sean's probably the best athlete we have on the team," Sullivan said. "He's a great leader, but what he's got to do is lead."

Sophomore first baseman/pitcher Jayme Murray was one of the team's standouts as a freshman.

"Jayme is probably the best baseball player on the team," Sullivan said. "He really knows the game inside and out and does all the right things. He didn't play well today, he struck out twice, but he doesn't usually swing at bad pitches. He'll put the ball in play, he'll go the other way and he's a stellar fielder and a fine pitcher. He's only a sophomore. In a couple years, if his velocity gets up a little bit, he could be right up there with [Lake Braddock standout Kenny] Towns."

Junior catcher Matt Hrin made several nice plays from behind the plate and Sullivan said junior Josh Belanger has

pitched well.

West Potomac will host T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on April 8.

"I wouldn't consider our team a young team because most of these guys played varsity last year as sophomores, so they've already had a year's experience," Sullivan said. "We still have great expectations for them. We still think that if things fall right for us, we can compete with these guys and maybe beat them once in a while."

Spring Golf Outing on April 11. Check-in is at noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The event is a scramble format with handicapped foursomes. Cost is \$225 per person in advance and \$250 per person on site.

Pantherlon 5K Is April 30

The 22nd annual Carl Sandburg Pantherlon 5K Run and 1 mile Fun Run/Walk will be held at 8 a.m. on April 30 at Carl Sandburg Middle School, located at 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. For more information, contact Rebecca Bostick at 703-768-2250 or rbarch@mindspring.com.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MV Baseball Evens District Mark

The Mount Vernon baseball team defeated Falls Church 805 on April 1, improving its record to 2-3, including a 2-2 mark in the National District. The Majors will travel to face Edison at 6 p.m. on April 7 and host Wakefield at 7 p.m. on April 8.

Mount Vernon Softball Wins Big

The Mount Vernon softball team defeated Falls Church 25-1 on April 1, bringing its

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Helping To Fight Schoolmate's Disease

FROM PAGE 7

thing comes from private fundraising that the families do to provide the money needed for research to find a cure.

"So many kids keep getting diagnosed and without a cure and zero government funding, it's hard to raise awareness and get the research we need," said Downie.

TO HELP support the Downies, Waynewood Elementary Principal James T. Meier and two teachers, Mrs. Ludovici and Mrs. Peterson, are participating in the George Washington Parkway Classic 10-mile run on April 10. The money raised will go to the Histiocytosis Association of America.

When Meier sent a note out to Waynewood students asking them to sponsor him and the two teachers, the note moved second grader Harrison Smith to action. First he wrote to his parents a note — with a cute typo, "Read this right know!" Then he said, "Let's do a lemonade stand with the kids from the street to raise money."

Ten Waynewood schoolmates from Courtland Road joined together to raise awareness for Histiocytosis. On Sunday, the students set up a lemonade stand and sold lemonade and goodies. All proceeds were given to Meier and his team.

In addition to the above events, the Downies are participating in Hike for a Cure. This hike will take place the weekend of April 30 at Shenandoah National Park. There are several different options for the hike and all proceeds go to battle histiocytosis.

"Please join us April 29 to May 1 in our fight against the histiocytic disorders and participate as a hiker, a virtual hiker, a volunteer, or a sponsor," said Downie. "Every dollar you help raise or donate represents support, hope, and a step closer to a cure for those afflicted with histiocytosis."

"You can come for the day and hike or make a family weekend out of it and stay in the cabins. It's a great time for all. Or if you'd prefer, you can sign up as a virtual hiker and be there in spirit."

For more information visit HikeForACure.kintera.org/shenandoah2011/teambrian.

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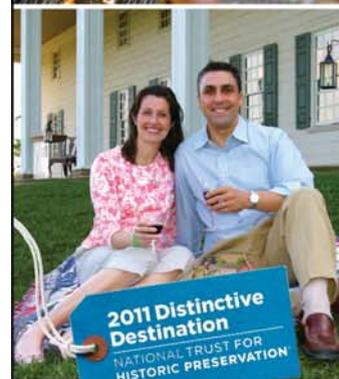
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