

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 14, 2011



Home Life Style

PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE GAZETTE

William Clifton inherited 1,800 acres that now include River Farm, renamed the property Clifton's Neck, and by 1757, Clifton built a brick house on the property. In 1760 George Washington obtained the 1,800 acres and house for £1,210 at the equivalent of a bankruptcy sale and changed its name to River Farm. Much enlarged and remodeled over the subsequent two centuries, River Farm has served as the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society since 1973. The remaining 27 acres provide gardens and walking paths open to the public. 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, 703-768-5700, www.ahs.org.

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 21

BRAC Choke Points To Add to Traffic

More cars, few fixes.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE GAZETTE

As the summer months begin, motorists on U.S. Routes 95, 395 and Route 1 will begin to face the delays at major choke points caused by Defense Department personnel transfers ordered under the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, according to Tom Fahrney, the Virginia Department of Transportation's BRAC coordinator.

Fahrney has been grappling for nearly three years with the shifting of some 20,000 defense employees from Washington, Maryland and Arlington County to new facilities in Fairfax County and Alexandria.

Three troubled stretches of highway have stood in the way of a smooth completion of the BRAC changes mandated in 2005. There is no construction funding available at this time to fix these difficulties and highway officials estimate it could be 2016 before real relief would come. Indeed there is no clear appropriation of construction funds in the offing, according to Fahrney and congressional officials.

"There is going to be pain, painful delays for people heading to these new jobs and delays for commuters going north to Washington and the Pentagon," he said.

CHOKES POINT ONE is the exit ramp on the northbound side of I-95 to the new portions of the Fairfax Parkway. This is Exit 166 A and B. A takes a motorist east to

SEE BRAC, PAGE 3

Restoring Streams In Route 1 Corridor

Discussion includes what can be done to help the watershed.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Sponsored by the Coalition for Smarter Growth and co-sponsored by a host of local civic and environmental groups, an April 6 community forum at Sherwood Hall Regional Library was attended by more than 60 citizens who listened to three presenters: Stewart Schwartz, the Coalition for Smarter Growth; Stella Koch, conservation associate from the Audubon Naturalist Society,

and Danielle Wynne, ecologist from the Fairfax County stormwater planning division.

They emphasized the importance of integrating stream restoration and preservation and stormwater management techniques with development and redevelopment plans in the Route 1 corridor.

They painted a bleak picture of the present condition of the watersheds that in the corridor. However, at the same time they were

SEE RESTORING, PAGE 5

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ATTENTION
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Alex/Parkfairfax
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Upgrades Galore! Beautiful 1 bedroom treehouse unit in Parkfairfax. From custom draperies to the elongated hardwoods, to the must-see to believe bath, and the kitchen that lacks nothing-this is an unbelievable Monroe unit! Great location just steps from DASH bus, 10 minute walk to the shops & restaurants of Shirlington Village. Come see for yourself!

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7607 Fallswood Way

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Steve Frishmuth 703-346-6854



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5835 Valley View Dr.

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Alexandria VA 22315





Ella Schmutz and Betsy Holahan Schmutz check out the goodies.

Easter Bunny Arrives Early

While the ground was still a little soggy, the little ones were all smiles as they lined up for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Waynewood Recreation Association on Saturday, April 9.

In addition to the age-appropriate egg hunts, there were plenty of other activities, including face painting, cupcakes, games — and a visit with the Easter bunny.

— GALE CURCIO



Chris Stirewalt and Newman Stirewalt enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt.



Walker McElwain and Brendan Forti have fun at the egg hunt.



Samantha McElwain, Ryan Morris and Margaret Kretzer enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt.



Caitlin Forti at the Easter Egg Hunt.

BRAC Choke Points to Add to Traffic Congestion

FROM PAGE 1

Ft. Belvoir and B leads west to Fullerton. B allows motorists after several thousand feet to connect to Fairfax Parkway and the entrance to the new headquarters of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

Over the next six months, the bulk of some 8,500 employees at National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) will be reporting to work at this new headquarters.

Money was provided for widening the southbound ramp connection from I-95 to the Fairfax County Parkway and it was completed in January, but there were no funds to widen and realign the northbound ramp.

Fahrney said there is a study underway for a “flyover ramp” from northbound I-95 to northbound Fairfax County Parkway. The study is expected to be complete by the spring of 2013, but there is no construction money as yet.

Fahrney said that when the attendance at NGA is near the 8,500 capacity, there will be significant traffic delays in the morning at the northbound exit which is both narrow and winding.

NGA has taken some steps to relieve this burden. It has encouraged employees from northern locations to use public transportation to Springfield Metro

station and will run shuttle buses from there to its headquarters. Many of the transferes currently live in Maryland and Washington and will be coming south to work, but a “significant number” live south of NGA in Prince William and Stafford counties where housing is less expensive, said Travis Edwards, BRAC outreach chief at Ft. Belvoir.

CHOKES POINT TWO is the exit ramp from northbound I-95 to Seminary Road in Alexandria.

The Mark Center is a new defense department building on Seminary Road and I-395. Some 6,400 defense employees from Reston, Crystal City, the Pentagon and Washington will begin moving into this facility in July. There has been much controversy over its location which has no easy entrance or exit from 395 and is some six miles from the nearest Metro Station.

The Defense Department is only providing parking places for 60 percent of the employees and will run shuttle buses from the King Street and Van Dorn Street Metro stations and from the Pentagon.

Nevertheless, as Edwards points out, many of the employees already live south of the Mark Center in Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties.

This is what makes choke point two for cars coming north to Mark Center so crucial.

On Feb. 11, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton advised area leaders including Mayor William Euille of Alexandria that Virginia will move forward on access ramps from the under construction HOV lanes to several points along I-95 and I-395.

A direct ramp from HOV lanes on I-395 to Seminary Road will be part of this effort. The Connaughton letter said that it could only be delayed by an Arlington county lawsuit.

“There is going to be pain, painful delays for people heading to these new jobs and delays for commuters going north to Washington and the Pentagon.”

— Tom Fahrney, VDOT’s BRAC coordinator

Fahrney said that the funds for the ramp, some \$8 or \$9 million, would be included in a legislative package on June 1 and if work started promptly it could be completed by 2014. But last week, the Federal Highway Administration ruled that Virginia with have to do a complete environment evaluation which could take as much as 18 months

more, so earliest relief might be 2016.

In addition work would have to be done to allow a left turn from Seminary Road into Mark Center property. As it stands now, a car exiting from north or south 395, has to go to Beauregard Street to make a left turn to enter the western driveway of Mark Center. During rush hour it has been estimated this would 18 minutes each way.

Perhaps the most crucial aspect of delays on I-95 and I-395 is that they will slow commuters going to the Pentagon and Washington beyond.

CHOKES POINT THREE is on Route 1 by the gates to Ft. Belvoir.

New traffic demands on Route 1 to expand facilities at Ft. Belvoir began last year and will increase in number as the new Army Hospital and the Museum of the U.S. Army become fully operational. Estimated visits to the Ft. Belvoir hospital and later the museum have been estimated in the hundreds of thousands annually.

As it stands now this narrow area of Route 1, not widened for several decades, is often clogged with traffic.

Virginia and the Army are sharing the estimated \$100 million cost of widening Route 1 to six lanes from the intersection of Mount Vernon Parkway some six miles to Telegraph Road.

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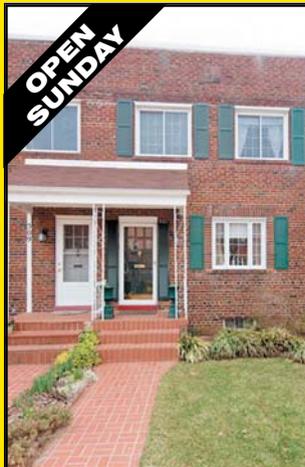
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Alexandria \$589,000
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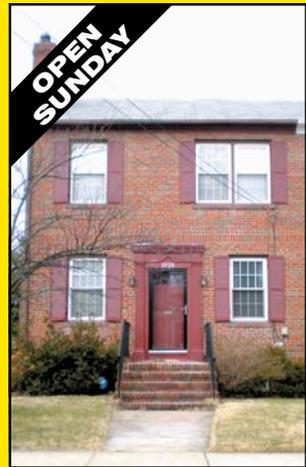


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Greg Koons 703-209-7678



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Kerrie Price 703-901-2778

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Joyce Named New Commander

He replaces Captain David Moyer who was promoted to major.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Captain Randy Joyce has taken over as commander for the Mount Vernon Police Station.

In a message to Mount Vernon area citizens, he stated: "I am proud and honored to have been named commander of the Mount Vernon District Station. I am very excited about the challenges it presents and will do my utmost to earn your respect and confidence during my tenure as your station commander."

"Major David Moyer left the station in great shape, with a dedicated staff ready and able to continue to carry out their duties. If ever you have any concerns or wish to contact me about anything involving, or potentially involving any of our operations, or an activity that you feel should be brought to my personal attention please do not hesitate to call, email, or write me a letter and I will respond as quickly and fully as I can."

PROFILE Why did you choose law enforcement as a career?

Early on I realized that I could make a positive impact on the lives of others and that attracted me to the law enforcement profession.

Please comment on your ideas to expand the station's community relations outreach and make more effective use of partnering with other county agencies.

I plan to examine the composition of the present Mount Vernon area Citizens Advisory Committee to see if we can more effectively and efficiently reach out and communicate with the community. I want to avoid duplication, and be more proactive in our efforts to listen, learn, and share our ideas and information by including more community organization representatives on the advisory committee. The more we can network with local organizations the better.

Another possible initiative I plan to look into is to see if we can expand our partnering opportunities with other county agencies. For one example, we might help support the county's Code Compliance department where it is discovered that a large group of individuals are living in an overcrowded home or apartment in violation of the housing and/or fire code. Co-enforcement and partnering with other agencies is something I want to make sure that our officers are participating in so we make the most effective use of our county resources. Our department can and should do what it can to be as efficient and effective as possible.

Most difficult police assignment?



Captain Randy Joyce

From 2002-2007 I had two assignments that challenged me to the limit: one was participating in the design and construction of the Fairfax County Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center and Forensics Facility; simultaneously I also served as a supervisor of the crime scene section. During the day I was working with construction contractors and, at the end of the day I frequently was required to go in the evening on crime scene investigations. It was very demanding. During this time my wife had to put up with a great deal and supported all the demands on my time and never complained. I was very grateful for how she handled it, and it made my life more manageable.

Restoring Streams in Route 1 Corridor

FROM PAGE 1

optimistic, thanks to nature's capacity to respond relatively quickly to stream restoration techniques. The caveat to all this, they said, is continued citizen advocacy of cleaning up and maintaining clean Mount Vernon and Lee District watersheds.

"The history of the Tyson Corner experience, when for years planners failed to protect streams and watersheds, and failed to promote mixed-use, walkable, bikable, pedestrian friendly development, demonstrated how it set back opportunities for the development of a more livable people friendly community for many years," said Koch. "The new development plans now fully integrate environmentally friendly development and redevelopment; assuring that readily available planning techniques will preserve and protect the environment for future development in the Tyson Corner area. This is a valuable lesson learned for those who care about the scope and character of the revitalization of the Route 1 corridor."

"Restoring the watersheds present in the Route 1 corridor can and should be of the highest priority for citizen and county advocates. It will pay off in the long-term future of the Route One Corridor as a destination place to live, and create new opportunities for park development and clean water."

Wynne, who has been studying the watersheds of the Route 1 corridor, spoke about the Bell Haven, Little Hunting Creek, and Dogue Creek watersheds: "They are in poor physical shape ... one of the reasons is the large parking lot areas along the Route 1 corridor which promotes rapid water runoff and promotes the destruction of stream ways for these watersheds. Also, they are filled with trash and debris."

"There is currently little or no protection. How-

ever, that is going to change. We have been extensively analyzing the condition of these watersheds and have developed and adopted Watershed Management Plans. We are now in the process of prioritizing and developing stream restoration projects.

"Among our tactics to get the most out of our limited project funding is to develop partnerships with other county agencies such as for example to partner with the school system and the park authority on sites they wish to develop and they along with other agencies are cooperating with us to integrate requirements to restore and preserve streams."

All three panelists engaged the audience in a question-and-answer session which included ideas about what individual citizens could do to promote stormwater protection and management. Some of the suggested mitigation techniques included: installing rain barrels to collect and redistribute rain water, and disconnecting downspouts and redirecting them to holding ponds or areas that would slow the runoff infiltration of rainwater.

Schwartz also discussed how development decisions designed to promote cluster housing and reduce the need for large impervious commercial parking lots can reduce stormwater runoff and help fight erosion and siltation of streams in the Route 1 corridor. He noted that the Route 1 corridor is made up of numerous strip malls and one-story businesses that are surrounded by large parking lots which have an adverse effect on watershed health because of the impact of high volume stormwater runoff that results in the physical destruction of streams. Promoting more intense residential and commercial development designs and reducing the need for large parking lots would in itself positively impact efforts to control stormwater runoff.



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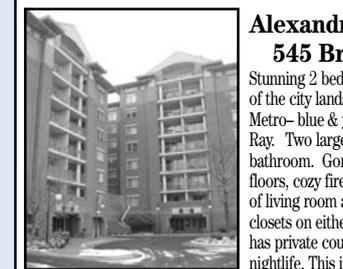
Alexandria
Hollin Hall Village \$514,900
1501 Alexandria Avenue

Beautiful 4BR, 3BA Brick, Split level home in Hollin Hall (Wayneswood Elementary) w/lovely landscaping. Vaulted ceiling in living and dining areas. Spacious rooms, solid construction, replacement windows, wood floors on 2 levels, two fireplaces. Lower level walks out thru French doors to extensive ground decking and patio in backyard. Ideal for entertaining. Well-maintained inside and out. This is a great value!



Alexandria/Wessynton \$825,000
3003 Doeg Indian Court

Stunning 5BR, 3BA, 2 Level Rambler with WATERFRONT in prestigious Wessynton. Loaded with updates: roof, HVAC system, baths, kitchen, windows, refinished hardwood floors, electric panel, plus 2 gas FPLs and a garage. Perfect! At \$799,900, the best price you'll find for a waterfront property in Mt. Vernon. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir! Don't miss this-call Rex for details!



Alexandria City/Colecroft \$589,900
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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.



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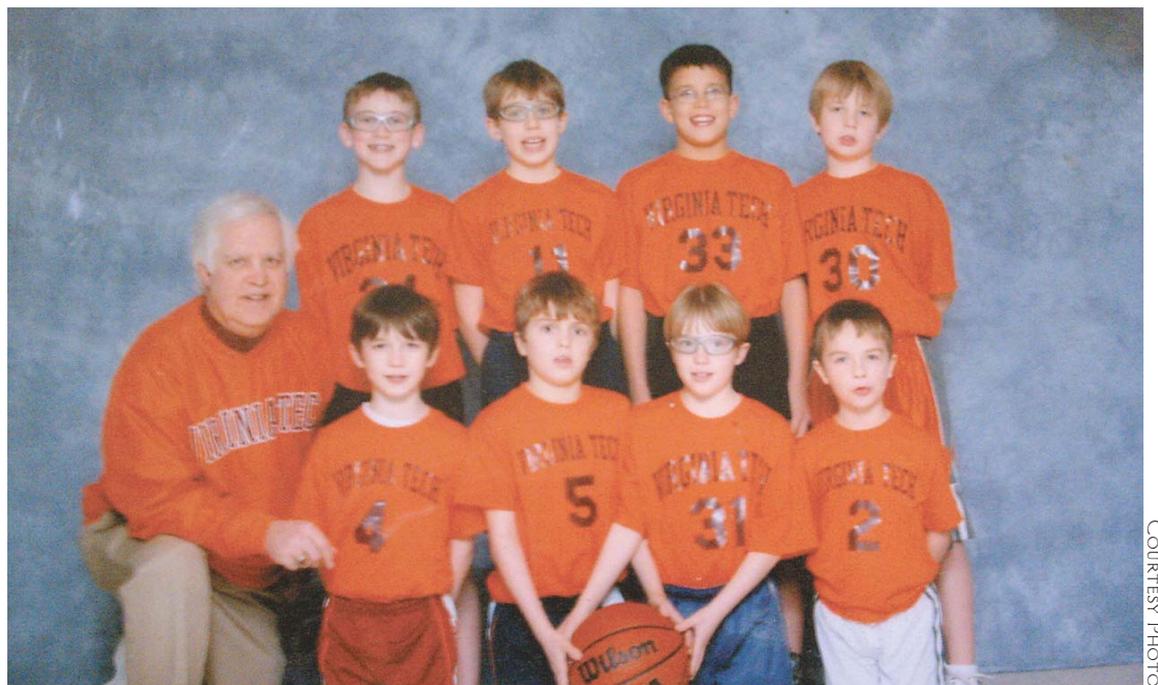


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PEOPLE



COURTESY PHOTO

Jackson Casey (#2) in FHYAA 2008 "Va. Tech" basketball team photo.

Friends, Family Mourn Jackson Casey

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Sixth graders shouldn't be thinking about death and they shouldn't be thinking about posting their sadness on FaceBook. Yet, since Jackson Casey died earlier this month, there have been 398 posts on the R.I.P. Jackson Casey page.

The message is simple — "please help us as we get over the terrible loss of our friend Jackson Casey" — and the postings are just as simple — but sincere:

"Funeral was nice." "i rember [sic] u from 3rd grade. that was fun. R.I.P." "i went to his funeral today sooo sad but i miss u buddy" "i didnt [sic] know you very well but you seemed like an amazing person and we will miss you."

Jackson Ryan Casey was born July 13, 1999 and died March 31, 2011. He was 11 years old.

Casey leaves behind father Sean, mother Jennifer, brother Conor and sister Reilly.

Also surviving and loving Jackson are his grandparents George and Sheila Casey and Gail and Mark Randis, great grandparents Elaine Casey Murphy and Cal and Edith Fisher. He was the nephew of Adam Randis, Mark and Michelle Randis and Ryan and Laura Casey. He was a loving cousin to Chance Calvin Randis, Lakin and Declan Casey. In addition he had many second cousins and great aunts and uncles he adored.

Born in Baltimore, Md., he moved with his family to Alexandria where he attended Stratford Landing Elementary School. He was a sixth grader in Edith Giffear's classroom.

Jackson was an athlete in the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association, participating in sports like lacrosse

SEE GRIEVING, PAGE 20

OBITUARY

William B. Taylor

William B. Taylor, Sr., 86, who lived in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria, was an innovative engineer and research manager, immersed in efforts ranging from the Apollo space exploration to alternative energy, long after his career as an army officer ended. His roles as family man and community member were most important to him. Mr. Taylor died April 3, 2011 from respiratory failure due to post-polio syndrome.

The most intensive period of his career came after polio forced his retirement from active duty in the 1950s, first as a research manager for the Army Corps of Engineers and later for NASA in the 1960s. Following a second retirement, he explored alternative energy in the 1970s, and spearheaded efforts in his church to address the needs of young people and people with disabilities. He also turned his longstanding interest in people to write histories, mainly biographies and his own autobiography, as well as an account of his church's first 50 years.



Despite decades confined to a wheelchair, Taylor always communicated vitality and interest in others. Active in his church and humanitarian activities for over a half-century, he helped launch many individuals and organizations, and was always interested in catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Over a long career, he worked to rebuild an occupied Austria after World War II, develop U.S. capability in nuclear power, advance technology in military systems for soldiers in combat, and pioneer the exploration of space. His abilities to work with and inspire people helped to improve the management of the Army's laboratories and bring innovation to alternative energy in the United States and abroad.

Born March 11, 1925 in Norfolk, Va., to Lewis Jerome Taylor, a World War I veteran and insurance salesman, and Roberta Page Newton Taylor, poet and granddaughter of an Episcopal bishop, Taylor grew up with a sense of duty to God and country. In high school, he played varsity tennis and track, community-league football and sailed small boats. After

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 20



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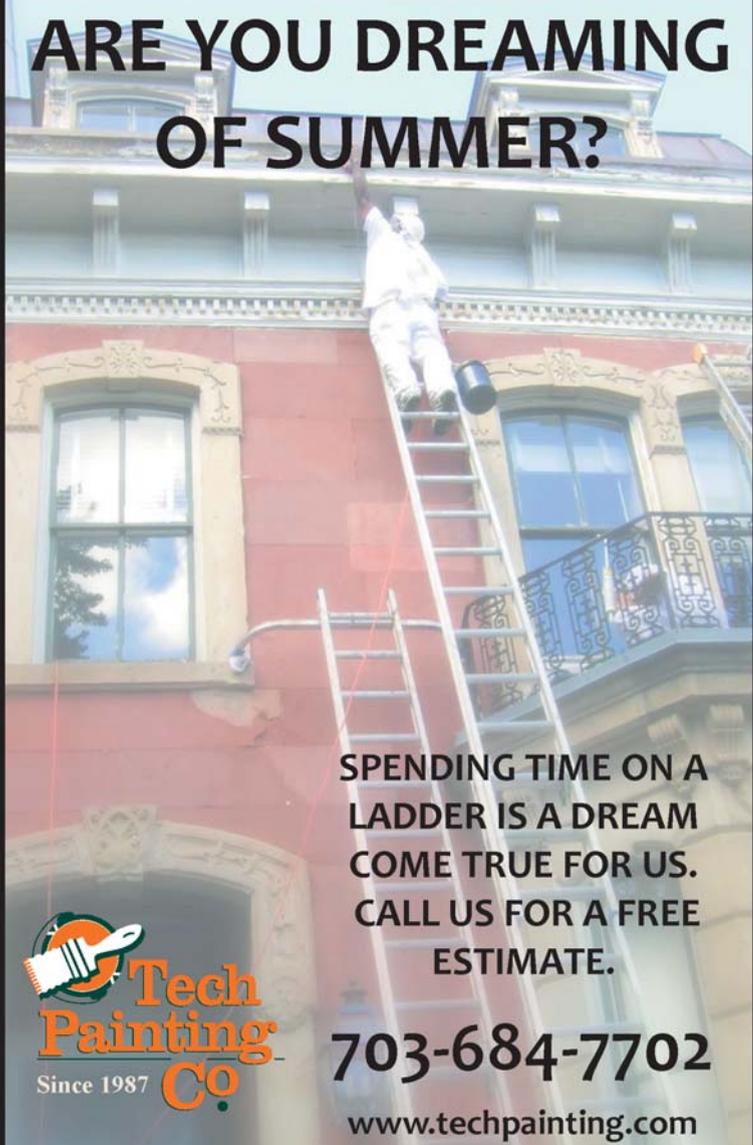
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PEOPLE

Paula Waters Puts Her Money Where Her Heart Is

Offers scholarships for “diamond-in-the-rough” students.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

During the day, Paula Waters works for Portal Dynamics, Inc. on Richmond Highway. She is a member of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and active in the Mount Vernon area.

Waters joined Portal Dynamics as the human resources director working with senior management to build and manage the human resources function. Prior to joining Portal Dynamics, she worked for ETS, a nonprofit organization, as well as a number of Fortune 500 companies such as Schering-Plough, Johnson & Johnson, Hershey Foods and Xerox.

In her spare time, however, Waters devotes much of her time to the non-profit organization that she founded a few years ago called the Paula E. Waters Diamond in the Rough Scholarship Fund.

An organization dedicated to providing college scholarships to senior high school

African American male students from selected schools that plan to continue education at an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational-technical school program,

Waters founded the group because she believes in the importance of education. She feels so strongly about the mission that to date, she has funded the program herself.

“I decided that I wanted to give back,” said Waters. “Education is very important to me.”

Waters felt that there were a lot of scholarships for smart students, but not many for average students, and even fewer for African American male students.

Unlike other scholarships requiring GPAs of 3.5 and above, the criteria for her scholarships is for a student to have a GPA of 2.0 to 2.9; attend a public charter school in Prince Georges County; or attend Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, Pa. (Waters’ alma mater).

Another way that these scholarships differ from others is that the application process is very simple — no need for lengthy application form.

All that Waters requires is a statement about why they want to go to college.

“That’s good enough for me,” said Waters.

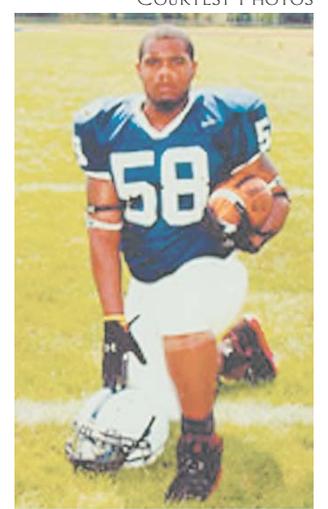
Scholarships also apply to trade schools,



Paul Akinrotoye from Mount Rainier, Md., attended Northwestern High School, and is now attending Bowie State University.



Tyrome Miller II from Upper Marlboro, Md., attended Oxon Hill High School, and is now attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



Keith Downs, from New Brunswick, N.J., is now attending Wilkes University.

COURTESY PHOTOS

which Water refers to as “good honest living.”

Waters is an advocate of education and has worked with student interns throughout her career. She was an adjunct professor for Central Pennsylvania College (formerly Central Penn Business School) in Summerdale, Pa., and for Middlesex Community College in Iselin, N.J. where she

taught recruitment and selection, and human resources management. Most recently she taught a class for the SPHR/PHR Certification at Mercer County Community College in Trenton, N.J.

“By sponsoring and raising funds for this program to provide financial assistance, it

SEE HELPING, PAGE 20

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SCHOOLS



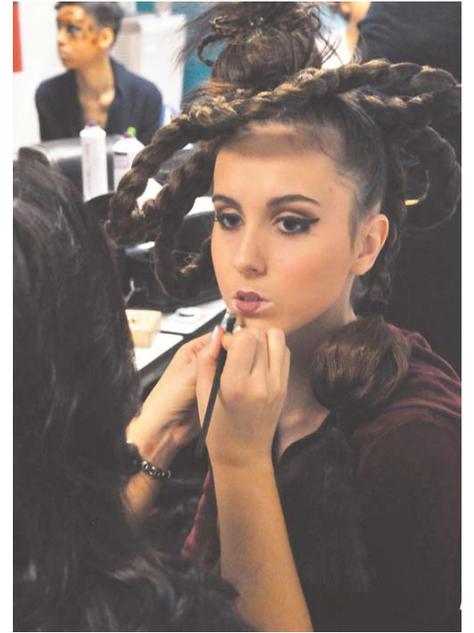
Justin White holds still while Leigh Bauer adds a painting to her face.



Anne Francis Davis tries out dresses to go with her new hair.



Alexis Pitts by Meg Redrup.



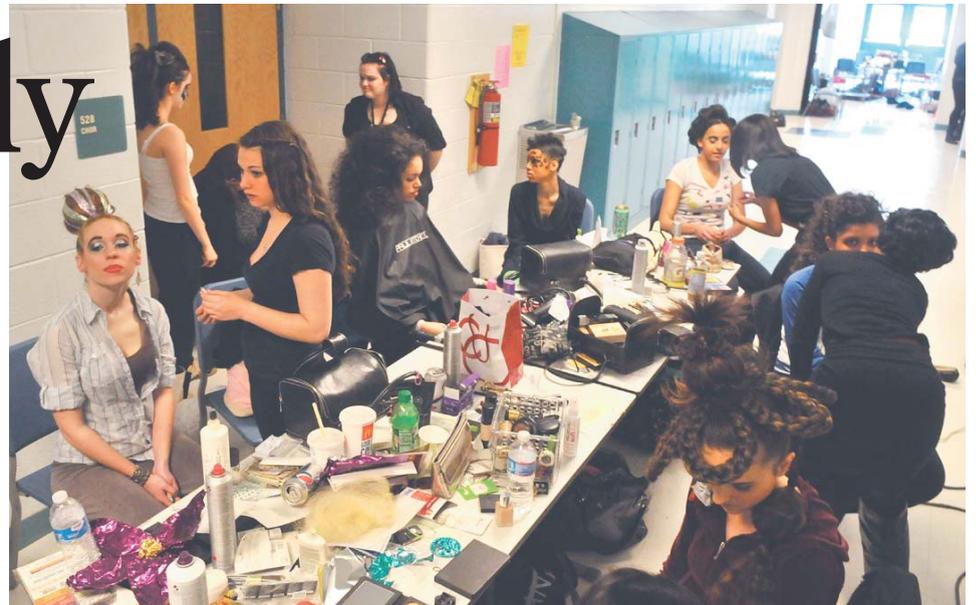
Moon Nguyen applies makeup to Alicia Underhill outside of the auditorium.

Red Carpet Ready

A fashion show collaboration by the West Potomac Academy students and the students at Paul Mitchell the School in Tyson's Corner took place April 3. Paul Mitchell the School and the West Potomac Academy Design program have been working together for the past few years in support of each other's activities. Stylists from Paul

Mitchell the School arrived just after noon and went to work on the West Potomac Academy students.

Both schools share the same philosophy of providing students with real life learning opportunities. Proceeds from the event benefit the West Potomac Academy's fashion program and organizations supported by Paul Mitchell.



The hallways were thick and busy with curling irons, false eyelashes, a rainbow of make-up.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Nicole Doxsee gets her hair done and body painted by Paul Mitchell students Lauren Kiser and Amy Rutledge.



Maggie Lararcinore waits in line to take a trial walk down the runway.



California girls Haven Frye and Hannah Benusa.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ONGOING

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is in need of donations of furniture. UCM will pick up furniture, as well as other larger donations, or they can be dropped off at the back of the store Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for pick-ups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Religious Trends. An Evening with Dr. Diana

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

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Credit Card Rules. 10:30 a.m. Mount Vernon Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) presents "What you Need to Know about the New Credit Card Rules." Now that the credit card rules are in place, credit card issuers are changing the way they market, bill and advertise credit cards. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.



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

Celebrating 25 years in private practice, Dr. Cavallo has turned his passion for dental care into an expert and comprehensive clinical practice. Focusing on each patient's total dental system - joints, muscles, gums and teeth - Dr. Cavallo is guided by the principle that both children and adults may be educated to maintain their oral health and keep their teeth for their lifetime. His continuous studies with The Pankey

Institute, The Dawson Academy, and as a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry enables him to provide his patients with the latest innovative techniques in achieving his patients' restored oral health. While patients appreciate his vast experience, they also enjoy the personal time and attention he and his staff are able to provide, explaining each and every option available to them.

Please call today for an appointment to discuss your own personal questions and concerns regarding your dental health.

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—Abraham Lincoln

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SATURDAY APRIL 30, 2011

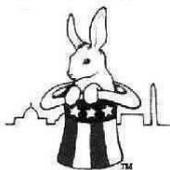
\$12 admission in advance
\$15 admission at the door

Location: Bishop Ireton High School
201 Cambridge Rd, Alexandria, VA

Door opens 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

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Military in uniform admitted free.



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United Community Ministries Food Pantry

accepts donations of food Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & the first Sunday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306. People dropping off donations should enter through the gates on the right side of the building, drive around to the back of the building and ring the bell at the green door.

Most Commonly Needed Items:

- Canned soup
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned beans
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tomato sauce
- Cereal & oatmeal
- Macaroni & cheese
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Dry milk
- Baby food
- Diapers
- Paper shopping and grocery bags



OPINION

Striving to Tell Community Stories

The Connection Newspapers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Centre View, won dozens of news awards for work published in 2010. Awards were announced at the Virginia Press Association annual conference in Norfolk on April 9.

Michael Lee Pope won nine awards writing for the Arlington Connection, the Alexandria Gazette Packet and the Mount Vernon Gazette, including investigative writing, public safety writing, education writing, breaking news writing, business and financial writing, obituary writing, feature writing and headline writing. Pope also reports for WAMU radio and authored a book, "Ghosts of Alexandria," in 2010. Pope's award-winning writing included local police departments' lack of transparency and refusal to share information that is public in almost every other state.

Alex McVeigh garnered awards for public safety writing for his coverage of the burglary spree in Northern Virginia, and for feature writing in the Reston Connection.

Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her coverage of Fairfax County School Board decision-making and communication on redrawing school boundaries and decision to close Clifton Elementary School.

Bonnie Hobbs, longtime reporter with the Centre View, won first place for her well-known public safety writing, and also for feature series for her compelling coverage of 3-year-old Rachel D'Andrea's struggle with neuroblastoma; Rachel died in January.

Managing editor Mike O'Connell won two awards, one for page design and one for overall newspaper design.

Mary Kimm won two awards for editorial writing, including editorials on police power, remembering on Memorial Day, Virginia's challenge to the health care law, transportation, budget and breast cancer.

News Awards

- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Obituary Portfolio, Personal Service Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Creating a Police Oversight Board, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Public Safety Writing: Price of Justice; Seeking Complaints; The Buoy Draggers; Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing: Killing Yields Five Years; Child Molester Sentenced to Prison/Parents of Pedophile's Victims Speak Out; Fireworks Lead to Death, Jail, I Just Wanted Him Held Accountable, Centre View Southern Edition
- ❖ First place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing: Tolls and a Transportation Fix; Police Power Demands Transparency; Breast Cancer Awareness; The McLean Connection
- ❖ First place, Julia O'Donoghue, General News Writing, School Board Email Communication, Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection
- ❖ First place, Louise Krafft, Picture Story or Essay, Elementary School Track Meet, Mount Gazette
- ❖ First place, Craig Sterbutzel, Sports News Photo, Spartans Repeat as Region Champions, Springfield Connection
- ❖ First place, Reed Albers, Sports Writing Portfolio, Springfield Connection
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Rachel D'Andrea, Centre View Southern Edition, second place
- ❖ LaShawn Avery-Simons, Sports Feature Photo, Inaugural Bridge Half Marathon, Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Breaking News Writing, Snowmageddon Grips Alexandria, Crushing, Money Down the Drain; Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, General News Writing, Controversy Along The Waterfront; Alexandria

Our photographers, whose work is so important to community coverage and Connection style, won many awards. Louise Krafft won three awards for picture story and essay, and for her photographic contributions to Alexandria's Talk of the Town page. Craig Sterbutzel won first place for sports news. Deb Cobb won for her epic Day in the Life of Chantilly and her contributions to the Burke Connection. LaShawn Avery-Simons won first place for sports feature.

Jeanne Theismann, who joined the Gazette and Connection staff well into the contest year

- Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, In-depth or Investigative Reporting; Police Transparency Blackout, Alexandria Gazette Packet, second place
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Sports News Photo, Celebratory Splash, The Burke Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Headline Writing, Arlington Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael O'Connell, Page Design, Springfield Connection, second place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, \$7 Billion Stimulus; Fewer Services, More Taxes; Board Raises Taxes, Arlington Connection, second place
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing: Adding Painful Cuts; Cuccinelli Misleads on Costs, Remembering on Memorial Day, Fairfax Connection, second place
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Public Safety Writing, Series of burglaries hits McLean, McLean Connection, second place
- ❖ Julie Ferrill, Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Specialty Pages or Sections, Talk of the Town, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Headline Writing: For Whom the Bell Tolls; Ghost Writer; Plaid Tidings; Love on the Docks; Anchored in Alexandria, Alexandria Gazette Packet, third place
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann and Louise Krafft, Picture Story or Essay, Plaid Tidings; Alexandria Gazette Packet, third place
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Picture Story or Essay, A Day in the Life of Chantilly, Centre View Northern Edition, third place
- ❖ Michael O'Connell, Julia O'Donoghue, Jon Roetman, Rich Sanders, Deb Cobb; General Makeup, Burke Connection, third place
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Education Writing: Behind the Cafeteria Wall; Racial Divide; Instruction Versus Administration, Arlington Connection, third place
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Feature Story Writing, Family, friends reconnect 20 years after teen's death, Reston Connection, third place

in 2010, nevertheless won two awards, one for her feature photography and one for headline writing.

Nick Horrock, who covers BRAC and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors after a distinguished national career, will be inducted into the Maryland-Delaware-DC Hall of Fame on April 21, 2011.

Jon Roetman, Ken Moore, Laurence Foong and the staff of the Potomac Almanac won awards in the Maryland-Delaware-DC press association news contest; the specific awards will be announced next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Value to Police Review Board

To the Editor:

This country is built on checks and balances yet the Fairfax County Police believe that they should be beyond this basic American principle. I'm a professional with a graduate degree living in an affluent neighborhood. My personal encounters with Fairfax County Police have been benign, yet the hostility they expressed towards me was shocking. This made me wonder how they interact with citizens much less likely to assert their rights. For instance, when I sent a letter to the county executive to express concern that an animal control officer had left her vehicle door open (not just unlocked but wide open) with the vehicle running and the rifle inside accessible to anyone passing by, I was called by a police supervisor and berated. The officer was hostile, upset I had written the county executive and not open to the possibility that perhaps I

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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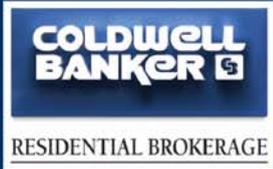
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Special Assistant to the Publisher
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A Connection Newspaper

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Snapshot 2:58 p.m., March 25, Mount Vernon Estate



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Wellington \$3,555,000
8708 Southdown Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

Potomac River Access. Stunning colonial overlooking the Potomac River. Close in location to Old Town Alexandria. River access, new 120' pier & dock, 6 BR, 6+BA, elevator & large gourmet kitchen.



Wil Roberts 703-447-6556



Gunnell Estates \$875,000
5582 La Vista Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

Exquisite 5BR, 3.5BA colonial offering high-end quality craftsmanship & custom details throughout. Featuring gourmet kitchen, home theater, morning room & luxury master suite. Minutes to Metro, shopping, dining & more.



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



Old Town \$3,175,000
712 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Circa 1802, this magnificent 5BR & 5BA residence boasts a grand entrance hallway with keystone archway, a 40 foot living room, exquisite moldings, 12.5 foot ceilings & 5 fireplaces. Reasonably priced.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Mt. Vernon Forest \$619,000
4105 Tidewater Court, Alexandria, VA 22309

Under Contract. Renovated inside and out! This 4BR, 3BA and 2 car garage home sits on a landscaped half-acre lot in a quiet cul-de-sac. Updates include new kitchen, baths, patio, windows, roof & siding.



Cindie Fish 703-201-4451



Potomac Greens \$799,000
1719 Potomac Greens Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed! Luxurious EYA 4 level townhome in Potomac Greens with 3BR, 3.5BA, den with French doors, living room with built-ins, upgraded kitchen, family room, upper level deck, plantation shutters & 2 car garage.



Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



Beverly Hills \$875,000
3103 Edgehill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

Open Sunday 1-4pm! Beverly Hills listing, beautifully renovated with 2 level addition. Kitchen open to family room, main level den, hardwood floors and all located on a professionally landscaped yard.



Rita McCauley-Redmond 703-447-9114



Plymouth Haven \$535,000
8713 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22308

Just Listed! Open Sunday 1-4pm. Charm, space, location and value. Over 1/2 acre with sunlit cottage featuring big front porch, 3 spacious BR, 2.5 updated BA, 2 car detached garage, fenced backyard and deck. Wayneswood School!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Fort Hunt \$684,000
8311 Crown Court Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

Great Value! This spacious 4BR, 3BA home with 2 car garage, sunroom, new hardwoods, deck, and fenced-in rear yard. Move in ready. Located on a cul-de-sac around the corner from Stratford Elementary. Feels like Mayberry!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Belle Haven \$559,000
2328 Windsor Road, Alexandria, VA, 22307

Exceptional Value! Delightful 4BR, 3BA brick and siding split level in Belle Haven! Freshly painted interior, updated kitchen, lovely screened porch, private patio & professional landscaping.



Jeanne Warner 708-980-9106



Harbor Terrace \$249,000
1409 E. Abingdon Drive #3, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday 1-4pm. This charming 1BR, 1BA condo has been lovingly updated with new kitchen cabinets, countertops, refrigerator & newer appliances. 725 sq ft of sunny, open space with replacement windows, balcony, fireplace and two parking spaces.



Jane Cole 703-598-6198



Princess Royal \$995,000
320 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Secret Garden. Rarely available townhouse situated in private mews. 4BR, 3 full & 2 half baths. Kitchen with granite & stainless. Renovated baths, recessed lighting, hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, ample closets & large walled patio.



Gayl Warman 703-309-8792



Collingwood Springs \$549,000
2009 Rampart Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308

This lovely, bright and spacious 4BR, 2BA home has much to offer! Many charming features and updates. Includes large level and fenced lot plus garage in popular close-in community.



Karen Leonard 708-328-7041

703-518-8300 • 310 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314



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Just Listed in Tower House Place



Simply Stunning!! 7000 sq ft of living space 2 Master suites-main level and upper level. 5-6 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, family room off kitchen w/ 18 ft coffered ceilings, 3 fireplaces, hw floors, custom cabinetry



w/ commercial appliances, lower level with recreation, game, exercise, and study rooms plus an entertainment area. Flagstone patio w/ fountain! One of a kind! ~ \$1,595,000

9060 Tower House Place Alexandria, VA 22308

Fabulous in Wellington



Charm and character abound in this Williamsburg home built in 1989 just steps to bike trail and stone bridge. 3



bedrooms, 2.5 baths on 2 levels with main level master suite. Stone walls, English gardens, hardwood floors, family room opens to quiet patio, living room with French doors in garden, private and sunny office. Large eat-in kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel

appliances. Immaculately maintained by owner/builder. ~\$695,000

7911 Washington Avenue Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday in Kings Cloister



Flawless retreat! Bright and open in cul-de-sac backing to trees. Cooks kitchen w/ island and sunny breakfast room opens to tiered deck with landscape and exterior lighting. 4 bedrooms, library, large dining room,



foyer and living room, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage. A car lovers DREAM with heat, flooring and built-ins. Wood floors on main and upper levels, plus 2 custom staircases w/ iron railing. Recently finished rec room ~ \$1,550,000

624 Kings Cloister Circle Alexandria, VA 22302

Turn Key in Mt. Vernon



Turn key! Big, bright, beautiful on cul-de-sac! 4 spacious bedrooms with large closets, 3.5 updated baths. Large kitchen w/ granite countertops and island, Viking 6 burner cooktop, new stainless steal appliances. Kitchen opens to large TREX deck w/ spectacular back yard! In-ground sprinkler system, playset and cute shed. Luxury owners suite w/ jacuzzi & sep shower. Walk out lower level. Great flow for family and easy outdoor entertaining. ~\$885,000



8355 Justin Road Alexandria, VA 22309

Custom Built Home along GW Parkway



To be built custom home on 1/2 acre by Boucher Building. 2 models to choose from! 4+bedrooms, 3.5+ baths. Driveway will be on Ridgecrest and home backs to cul-de-sac. 5000+ square feet of living space, custom finishes. Starting at ~ \$1,495,000



7812 West Boulevard Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

3 Years Young in Plymouth Haven



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

8839 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Under Contract in 7 Days!



Versatile open floor plan with 2 MBR's. Striking renovation overlooking private lush lawn w in-ground pool. Chefs kitchen w/ breakfast bar & sunny breakfast room opens to stunning 2 story great room and library w/ double sided fireplace. 3 bedrooms on main level! Tree top luxury master suite on upper level w/ 2 (9x9) walkin closets plus additional room. Lower level rec/game or exercise room ~ \$899,000

7602 Ridgecrest Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

UNDER CONTRACT in Mt. Vernon



Shows like a model! 4BR 3 BA, 2 car garage, Renovated kitchen and baths, new cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite. Beautiful hardwood floors. Sunny master bedroom w/ 3+ closets. Separate inlaw apartment w/ private entrance and bath, Large living room w/ fireplace, huge recreation room w/ builtins, sweeping deck w mature trees. Recently replaced roof, furnace, HWH, washer/dryer+ more. Community waterfront lot for boating. ~ \$650,000

9216 Patton Boulevard Alexandria, VA 22309

Coming Soon in Tauxemont



Completely renovated and almost new. One level living! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths on half acre. Large eat-in kitchen



with vaulted ceiling, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, cherry cabinets, glass backsplash and gas fireplace. Spacious great room with stone fireplace, master bedroom suite with top of the line bathroom with 2 sinks, walk in closet + 2 additional closets.

Backs to neighborhood tennis courts. ~ \$789,500

1401 Namassin Road Alexandria, VA 22308



With a volume of \$38 Million in 2010, why turn anywhere else?
See the difference I make in selling your home

The Market is Moving... Are You?

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

might have pointed out a legitimate safety concern.

It is therefore with great concern I have followed the stories of two apparently unarmed citizens being shot and killed by Fairfax police without any indication they were armed let alone threatening police. Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in the country without a citizen review board. Police Chief Rohrer and County Executive Griffin have stated they do not believe a citizen review board would provide additional value to a review process. Really? No value by having impartial citizens learning the facts? Isn't that one of the basic tenets this country is founded on?

Pam Donaldson
Mount Vernon

Meals Tax For County?

To the Editor:

Thank you for your article regarding the recent Legislative Update sponsored by the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce ("Legislators Address Chamber" March 31, 2011). I was impressed by the agenda and the professional conduct of the interchange, and sincerely thank all the representatives for coming out, as well as the Chamber for holding the event.

I do believe, however, that your paper

missed the high point of the evening, and in doing so failed to alert our community to one of the most energetic initiatives being undertaken by our local representatives. Your article failed to mention the question and topic that elicited the most excited response from Senators Puller and Ticer and Delegate Surovell; that is, their desire to raise our taxes in Fairfax County.

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) Budget and Finance Committee (on which I sit) recently submitted a Resolution that calls for tax increases in Fairfax County. I opposed that resolution, and recommend all Neighborhood Associations do the same, as it does not address fiscal discipline, but instead contains an exclusive concentration on revenue raising — including recommendations for a BPOL tax increase and a new Meals Tax.

And that Meals Tax issue is what got our representatives really excited at the Chamber meeting. No question got as enthusiastic a response as when it was asked whether they would support giving the Board of Supervisors the power to institute a Meals Tax without the currently required referendum. Except for Delegate Dave Albo (R-42), all who responded enthusiastically said they would do just that. Delegate Surovell even revealed that he was actually a Chief Patron of such a bill in the House of Delegates (HB 830).

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

YOU'RE INVITED TO A PROGRAM

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- Understand VA benefits and the application process.
- What mistakes to avoid when completing the VA benefit application.
- What benefits you are entitled to for residing at an independent and assisted living community.

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Williamsburg was just named one of the nation's best places to retire by *Money Magazine*. And who was voted the best retirement community in Williamsburg for the last three years? We were. Enjoy the best of life every day at Williamsburg Landing:

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



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JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$625,000

One Level Luxury - No Stairs!
Rare opportunity-Spacious 1 level home on gorgeous lot in premier Yacht Haven location! This special home has been updated and offers many fabulous features: large room sizes, open floor plan, updated kitchen and baths, stunning master suite w/cathedral ceiling and luxury bath, sunroom and 2 car garage. If you are looking to eliminate stairs without sacrificing size and luxurious amenities-this is it! OPEN SUN 4/17, 1-4. GW Pky S, Past estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd.

OPEN SUN

9316 Allwood Dr
\$489,500
Super Value!

Only home currently on market in general Yacht Haven area for under \$500,000! Fabulous property with dramatic cathedral ceiling, hdwd flrs, FP, replacement windows, finished Lower level & garage. Gorgeous setting on magnificent level 1/2 acre lot. Sub \$500k price provides unique entry level opportunity to this community. OPEN SUN 4/17, 1-4. GW Pky S, Past estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; L-Allwood Dr.

JUST LISTED

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

Custom colonial on gorgeous large lot in fabulous setting on one of area's nicest streets. Numerous special features include: recently updated kitchen with light maple cabinets, granite and stainless. Family room off kitchen, home office, refinished hdwd flrs, 4BR including master suite with private bath and sitting room. Spectacular second floor family room addition and oversized 2 car garage. Expansive outside decking overlooks custom pool and spacious grounds.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2005 CLARK ST
Alexandria
\$550,000

Not your usual Hollin Hall home! 2-story addition offers huge family rm w/brand new hdws, master bedroom w/rooftop deck. 3BR/3BA & landscaped yard, 2,400+sf living space - SPECIAL!!

www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton & Mindy Brubaker
571.242.9913

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

7657 AUDUBON MEADOW WAY
Alexandria
\$393,900

Conveniently located, close to Metro, shopping & schools this graciously appointed 3 fin lvl, 3BR/2.2BA TH has a spacious kit(w/granite)/family rm combo which opens to a deck. LL has w-out to brick patio. 1 car garage. So much more!

Anne Hambley 703.946.7266

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

8101 CARLYLE PL
Hollin Hall Village
\$417,000

Classic, updated & expanded, 1 level brick rambler w/a basement for storage plus a dining rm, laundry & half-bath addition. Perfect location in Wayneswood School District, flat 1/4 acre lot w/fence, & just a few blocks to shopping, pool & tennis club.

Call for more information:
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

JUST LISTED

9005 Cherrytree Dr
\$625,000
Classic Colonial-Major Updates!

Classic center hall colonial with great floor plan and large room sizes. Most major components have been recently updated. Renovations include: plumbing, electrical, brand new custom kitchen, refinished hdwd flrs and upgraded ceramic tile. Work performed under the direction of professional interior designer with fabulous results! Spacious, updated colonial is priced to make it one of the area's best values!

JUST LISTED

4502 Phylliss St
\$565,000
Huge Home - Little Price!

Most home for the money in Mt. Vernon area today! Incredibly spacious property with major additions including family room, master bedroom and oversized 2 car garage. Other fabulous features: 5BRs, 3.5BAs, hdwd flrs, updated insulation and 2 decks. Library can easily be converted to main level bedroom. Prime location on large lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac. Over 3,000 sq ft of beautifully maintained living area at a price that appears to be too good to be true! Don't be left out!

JUST LISTED

8705 Yardley Dr
\$555,950
Redecorated Inside and Out!

One of Stratford Area's Best Values! The wallpaper is gone-the interior is freshly painted. No distractions to fully appreciating this fabulous home! Numerous special features include: great room with exceptionally large window wall, eat-in kitchen with gas cooking, large master suite with private deck, finished lower level family room with fireplace, covered parking, magnificent grounds with private backyard.

926 PRISCILLA LN
Wayneswood
\$729,000

Large 5BR + den/office on a great street. Fabulous French country kitchen w/table space & fireplace. Lower level could be au-pair or in-law suite, elementary school, swim & tennis club, ball fields & playground all w/in the community.

www.WayneswoodRealtors.com
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633

NEW PRICE!

6733 W WAKEFIELD DR
#A-2 / Belle View
\$225,000

Fabulous first floor condo - best location & quiet courtyard. Large 2BR, w/laundry & storage in building. Updated kit w/extra cabinets & DW. Updated BA, lighting & hardware. Dramatic DR. Wood flrs thru-out. Mins to shops, Metro, Bway & Pkwy Parkway.

Ellen Young 703.518.8769

NEW PRICE!

4331
Mt Vernon Memorial
\$719,900

One acre of George's land just south of Mt Vernon Estate w/fully updated brick colonial. Features new gourmet kitchen w/ granite, cherry cabinets, SS appliances, all new baths, new wood floors, Sunroom, large, 2 car garage, move in perfect, close to Ft. Belvoir. Call Renee!

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

NEW PRICE

2205 Basset St
\$698,500
Total Renovation! Prime Location!

SELLER MOVING-REDUCED PRICE MAKES THIS FAB 3VL COLONIAL BEST VALUE IN AREA! Totally renovated and updated from top to bottom. Custom features include: brick exterior, bright, open floor plan, hardwood floors, 3.5 updated baths, 4 bedrooms w/luxurious master suite, 2FPs and fin LL. Prime cul-de-sac location. Fenced level lot. Move In Ready!

NEW PRICE

8919 Union Farm Rd
\$549,900
Updated Home - Tranquil Location!

New Price! Made for entertaining! Shows like a model home! Remodeled inside and out! New kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters, baths with new fixtures and ceramic tile, designer paint and new carpet. Pool and deck were redone in 2009. Upper deck and lower patio create a wonderful outdoor space for all seasons. Quiet street overlooking golf course and backs to woodland.

JUST LISTED

1907 Rampart Dr
\$675,000
Stunning Addition!

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

NEW PRICE!

6108 REDWOOD LN
Alexandria
\$599,000

IDEAL LOCATION!
• if you work at Ft. Belvoir, Pentagon, Old Town, Downtown
• if you require Metro

or very easy access to I-495
• 3 lvl brick home w/new siding, roof & 2 car gar.
• new kit, renovated BAs, great fam. rm & rec rm
• 4 bedrooms / 2.5 baths Call for Appt!

Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

NEW PRICE!

2932 AMERICAN EAGLE BLVD
Woodbridge
\$455,000

Stately Colonial w/dramatic 2-story foyer. Kitchen has granite, SS, & center island opening into spacious family rm w/gas flpl. 1st flr also boasts a library & sunroom. Upgraded molding thru-out, tray ceiling in Master w/columns defining sitting rm. 4BR/3.1BA/2-car gar. A Short-sale!

Gulnevare Jones-Wood 240.417.8055

6108
BEECH TREE DR
Alexandria
\$569,000

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

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

JUST LISTED **CONTRACT**

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

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

JUST LISTED

4214 Dandridge Ter
\$545,900
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.

JUST LISTED

4408 Tarpon Ln
\$598,000
Yacht Haven-Near River!

Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.

WATERFRONT ESTATE
Alexandria / Mt Vernon
\$4,500,000

This Luxurious Waterfront home is located on 2.3 acres on the banks of the Potomac River. Custom built with breath-taking interior. Features include elaborate millwork, 20 foot ceilings, formal rooms and a gourmet kitchen / family room designed with entertainment in mind. Walls of glass over look the landscaped grounds, heated pool and 140 foot boat dock with 2 lifts.

www.maryfousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

5826 WYOMISSING COURT
Alex / \$385,000

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

Susan Haughton & Mindy Brubaker
571.242.9913

SOLD! **SOLD!** **JUST LISTED** **CONTRACT** **JUST LISTED** **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!** **SOLD!**

8949 Fort Hunt Rd 8826 Camden Rd 8310 Riverside Rd 2335 Creek Dr 7106 Colgate Dr 8714 Bluedale St 4117 Robertson Blvd



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

It seems odd to me that our representatives, given all the economic issues plaguing our County, would get the most excited about taking away the public's right to vote on a major tax increase. Clearly this power is what they want. I hope everyone realizes that this previously defeated referendum is back, and our representatives, including the MVCCA, are doing all they can to pass this tax increase regardless of the public's desire.

Our County needs fiscal discipline and a little more belt tightening. The Board of Supervisors needs to live within the expected 3 percent revenue increase this year. What they do not need is the ability to raise our taxes against the public will.

Jay McConville
Mount Vernon

Follow Through On By-right Plan

To the Editor:

In my letter to the Gazette last week, I expressed the prediction that the MVCCA would find a way to pass a resolution supporting increased density and mixed residential housing at North Hill as a means to trigger public hearings that would be used by opponents of affordable housing, some of whom populate the MVCCA leadership, to try to kill even the by-right scenario currently being pursued by the County (67 affordable homes on 11 acres). I hope I am proven wrong.

The MVCCA's Planning & Zoning Committee (P&Z) met on April 4 and voted against proceeding with the current by-right plan in a close vote, a tie that was broken by P&Z Chairman David Dale, an outspoken opponent of affordable housing at North Hill. However, the P&Z committee did not recommend any of the higher density residential options proposed by Supervisor Hyland in his letter to the MVCCA dated March 4. On April 6, the MVCCA's Environment & Recreation committee met and unanimously approved the following statement:

"Without more specific information, the Environment and Recreation Committee is concerned that alternative scenarios with higher densities would have negative environmental consequences, including additional loss of tree canopy and more stormwater runoff, and therefore the committee is opposed to them."

If this trend continues, I'll be happy to be proven wrong, however the jury is still out.

As Supervisor Hyland pointed out in his letter, the Comprehensive Plan "envision[s] more intense residential development between commercial nodes." He also pointed out that this vision of the Comprehensive Plan has been reaffirmed in the draft pa-

pers of the recently constituted Visioning Task Force. In the March 24 Gazette, Kahan S. Dhillon, Jr. was quoted as favoring a commercial aspect to any development at North Hill, stating the following concerning the current plan for development of the 33 acre property:

"It certainly doesn't add to revitalization. I would rather see a mixed-use development here that incorporated commercial, office and residential — including affordable housing and workforce housing."

Mr. Dhillon's "vision" does not comport with that of the Comprehensive plan as reaffirmed by the Visioning Task Force of which Mr. Dhillon was not a member. North Hill is not located in a commercial node. Moreover, it is likely that incorporating "commercial, office" aspects at North Hill would trigger close scrutiny by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As oft reported and well-documented, the North Hill property was acquired by Fairfax County in 1981 using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds — the total expenditure was \$5,811,164. As reported by the County Attorney in a memo dated May 18, 2001:

"The primary purpose of the Woodley-Nightingale Redevelopment Plan was to eliminate conditions of blight and deterioration within the then-existing 550-unit mobile home park and to redevelop the land with a mobile home park that would provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing opportunities for the residents of the Woodley-Nightingale Mobile Home Park."

This is what the County told HUD it would do with the North Hill property to secure the CDBG acquisition funds. Any radical departure from these representations made to HUD would introduce the risk that the County would be required to reimburse HUD at today's fair market value, a significant sum (reputed to be in the neighborhood of \$60,000,000) for the 33-acre property fronting on Richmond Highway. In my view, (1) the current "compromise," affordable housing on 11 acres and a 22-acre park approaches the limit of what the County can do without triggering HUD scrutiny; and (2) introducing commercial aspects would not be favorably viewed by HUD and would also depart from the vision of the Comprehensive Plan.

While Supervisor Hyland attempts to sort out whether to proceed with the current by-right plan for development of North Hill or to seek increased residential density there, the last thing that should be considered is any proposal that might trigger the requirement to reimburse HUD at today's fair market value. One wonders which meritorious County programs would have to be cut to fund HUD reimbursement.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Easter Sunrise Service

Aldersgate Church Front Lawn at 7 a.m.
Music provided by
Big Hillbilly Bluegrass Band
(Bring your neighbors and lawn chairs! Rain or shine.)

Additional Easter Services at Aldersgate:
Sunday, April 24 at 8:30, 9:45, & 11:15 a.m.
(Nursery & nursing room available for these services)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd • 703-765-6555 • www.aldersgate.net
At the corner of Collingwood & Ft. Hunt Roads
Alexandria, VA 22308



Capital Hospice

Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette

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Rummage Sale

The Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool spring rummage sale was held Saturday, March 26.

PHOTO BY
LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/
GAZETTE

GARDENING

Garden Events Sprout Throughout Alexandria

April 16, 2011

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.

78th Annual 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.

Surrounding Events

Friends of Carlyle House Annual Herb Sale

Plus hands-on activities for children.

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



A vista of the dining room through a mirror at 210 Wilkes Street.



Russell Murray designed and built the dining room table, including making the inlaid cherry trim.



A conservatory kitchen was recently added to the home at 210 Wilkes Street.



A hand-carved chandelier created by the owner's mother holds court in the front parlor.

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 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 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.

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Starting Monday April 18, open 7:00 am M-F for Coffee and Breakfast Seating Now Available

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1522 Belle View Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22307
(703) 765-7575

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.

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. Gardening expert/radio host Andre Viette will be broadcasting his weekly show "In the Garden with Andre Viette" live on April 16 between 9 and 11 a.m. At the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Call 703-768-5700.

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



Dead Men's Hollow

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Bluegrass/gospel group 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.

Birchmere. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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. Tables 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

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 — CANCELLED.

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,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

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 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.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

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, 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



Carrie Newcomer

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

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.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation Seder — Second Night. 6 p.m. Cost is \$25/adults; \$15/children ages 4-13. At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

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, Alexandria.

APRIL 22 THROUGH MAY 4

Bridal Gown Boutique Sale. The Twig Thrift Shop's first bridal gown boutique sale. Beautifully priced, nearly 4 dozen new, vintage or gently worn gowns in styles from traditional ballerina with long beaded trains to slinky Jean Harlow sheaths to Princess Leia sheer—from petite size 2 to XXL—accessories including slips, crinolines, and veils. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Call 703-683-5544 or thetwig.org. At 106 N. Columbus Street (near King Street).

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Earth Day Celebration. 9 to 11 a.m. Join representatives from the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve for a presentation and up-close look at hawks, falcons and owls. Sponsored by Friends of Dyke Marsh. At Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven picnic area parking lot, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Petting Farm. 10:30 to 12:30 a.m. 15-plus pettable animals: llamas, donkeys, goats, sheep, ducks, pigs, calves, chicks and bunnies. Free pony rides for the kids. Sponsored by Washington Community Church, meeting the house at the entrance to Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Email Steve Bradcovich at washingtoncommunity@msn.com.

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, Alexandria.

Cat and a Bird Concert. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$5. Hip kid's music phenom, Cat and a Bird, an innovative, international musical collaboration will

perform their original, jazzy, silly, world-beat songs about animals for kids. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or nvfaa.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Charity Golf Outing. 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. shotgun starts. Cost is \$50/person. Benefit fundraiser for UCM. At Hilltop Golf Club, 7900 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. To sign up, visit www.hilltopgolfoutings.com or call 703-719-6504.

Quilting Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Free. North Carolina quilt artist Annette Ornelas will present a lecture on "Dimensional Curved Piecing." At Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited, which meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact MVQUPresident@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

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.

Become a Foster Parent. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Information session for prospective foster parents. Agency reps will be on hand to answer questions. At UMFS, 6335 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. RSVP at 703-941-9008 or visit www.umfs.org.

Take a Deep Breath. 7 p.m. Free. By Jane Franklin Dance. At the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

An Evening of Music for Solo Tuba. 8 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil

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5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

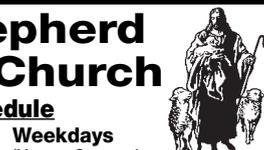
2:00 pm (en Español)

6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)

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10:15 am - Holy Eucharist - music

Wednesdays 12:00 noon: Bible Study

Holy Week Services:

April 17 - Palm Sunday

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, distribution of blessed palms

10:15 am: The Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist

April 21 - Maundy Thursday

7:30pm: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 22 - Good Friday

12:00 noon: Station of the Cross (outdoors)

12:00pm, 1:00pm, 2:00pm: "Seven Last Words of Christ", 15 min. each hour on the hour.

2:30pm: The Stations of the Cross (inside)

April 24 - Easter Sunday (one service)

10:15am: Holy Eucharist followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt

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Gregor Leaves Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation

Second director to leave SFDC in past year.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation's (SFDC) acting executive director Janet Gregor is leaving to accept another position at the end of April. Her departure is the second staff director to leave SFDC in the past 12 months.

SFDC Board member Katherine Ward said Gregor's departure was not unexpected since she was part of a short-term contract designed to serve the board on an interim basis while the board examined its priorities and set in motion a plan for the new fiscal and calendar year.

Gregor's business partner, Agnes Artemel, will take over her responsibilities in April to provide a transition while the SFDC looks

for a permanent executive director.

During Gregor's tenure, she initiated the establishment of a data base for use by businesses thinking about investing in the Route One Corridor, initiated several business promotional seminars such as the Retail Trends and Opportunities Seminar at the Hampton Inn on April 13, and guided the board in the development of a long range plan.

"Janet has been an invaluable asset to the SFDC," said SFDC board member Kyle Talente. "In the short six months since she has served the board she helped to clarify

our mission and establish a new business plan. She exceeded our expectations [and] will be deeply missed."

The SFDC is funded by the Fairfax County government. The Board of Directors is composed of community and business leaders who serve on a volunteer basis.

SFDC's role is to promote the economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor by assisting businesses in identifying and procuring property to suit their needs.

Grieving for Jackson Casey

FROM PAGE 6

and basketball. Team members and coaches alike said he exhibited both great athletic prowess and considerable sportsmanship.

Funeral services were held last week at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and there was standing room only as hundreds came to pay their final respects.

Bruce Shriver coached Casey in 2008 and said, "He had a pint-size body with a huge heart. Jackson was on my FHYAA 2008 'Va. Tech' basketball team. His dad Sean was my assistant. He was the 'Spark Plug' of our team all year long. He could barely get the ball to the basket but he sure could play defense.

"He was quick, fast, aggressive, and he always did it with a smile. If he would foul someone he would look over at me and when I would say that was OK he would just smile so big. Then I would

tell him not to guard so close and he would smile again. He was always a happy kid. When we would do drills in practice he was always eager to be the first one to try a new drill. He was smart and picked up things very quickly. He was our team's 'Energizer Bunny.'

"He never ran out of gas in practice or in games. He would make me tired sometimes just watching him play (all over the court — wherever the ball was Jack was there too). A little boy 'Small in Stature - Big in Heart.' He wanted to please his coach by doing whatever was asked of him. Jack was a true athlete. He loved sports, all of them and played them to the fullest. I will never forget my little # 2."

The family has requested donations be sent in lieu of flowers to the Fort Hunt Youth Association (FHYAA) in the name of Jackson Casey Memorial Fund. Checks may be sent to: FHYAA, P.O. Box 6031, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Helping 'Diamonds in the Rough'

FROM PAGE 7

helps to empower 'diamond in the rough' African American male youth who have potential and academic and leadership qualities that would not be sought out by a college, university or vocational-technical school," Waters said.

To continue her high school support, Waters participates in the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED) Adopt-A-Student Program. Through this program, a student meeting the donor's criteria is selected. A student from Westinghouse High School was selected for Waters. As a donor, she provides an annual grant of \$1,000 for each year the student completes college.

Waters holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from University of Pittsburgh, with a graduate degree from Villanova University in human resources development, and a certificate in training and development from Seton Hall University, and has completed the Rutgers Mini-MBA: Business Essentials program.

To date, 18 recipients have received scholarships and a total of \$9,000 has been

awarded.

This year up to four recipients will be awarded a Paula E. Waters Diamond in the Rough Scholarship and will receive up to \$4,000 in scholarship awards.

Applications continue to be accepted for 2011 and the deadline is May 1; winners will be notified in July.

Waters said, "For 2011, we have enhanced the scholarship program by giving up to four awards and have increased the amount of the award from \$500 to \$1,000 each. In addition to inviting eligible students to participate from my alma mater, Westinghouse High School, in Pittsburgh, Pa., we have expanded the schools for participation to any public and chartered school in Prince George's County and Washington, D.C."

She is hoping to extend the program by getting other people involved in the funding and the awareness of the program. Waters is also hoping to put together a board of directors comprised of leaders from the cultural, political and social arena.

For more information, visit www.diamondintherough.com or email Waters at info@PAULAWATERS-DITR.ORG.

OBITUARY

FROM PAGE 6

graduation from Granby High School in 1942, he won a competitive appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he did well in academics and athletics.

On graduation from West Point in 1945 at the close of World War 2, he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers and married Nancy Dare Aitcheson, of Alexandria, Va. Taylor served in Austria for nine months, until he received secret orders to report to New Mexico. On arrival there, he learned that he was assigned to the Manhattan Project as one of the young officers to preserve the knowledge of nuclear weapons developed during the war. Taylor served in New Mexico and participated in nuclear tests in Eniwetok Atoll until 1948.

In 1948 he pursued graduate studies, receiving an M.S. in engineering from Johns Hopkins in 1951. For two years he worked with nuclear weapons testing and reactor studies in the Pentagon, and with the Chief of Engineers office in Washington, D.C. He

quickly was promoted to major.

In the fall of 1953 he contracted polio after a stretch of hard work, evenings spent clearing tree stumps from a new home site, and a day of sailing. He spent almost a year in an iron lung at Walter Reed Army Hospital, and was retired for his disability in August 1954. At the age of 29, after a promising start, his career appeared to be over. In later years, Taylor would call this period a "bent vector," using a term of his trade to describe how unexpected forces changed his life in many ways," he wrote later, "not all of which were bad. But the initial appraisal seemed pretty bleak."

He would also observe later that his adjustment to the aftermath of polio "would never have been possible without the daily support and love of my wife, Nance." After intensive physical therapy, Taylor returned to work in 1955 as a civilian engineer in the Army-AEC nuclear power reactor program in Washington and Fort Belvoir. He created new solutions to adapt to everyday life, including an innovation to the steering column of the family car years before

Detroit installed power steering in most models.

In 1960 he became Deputy Director of Geodesy, Intelligence and Mapping R&D Agency (GIMRADA), at Fort Belvoir, where he received the Army's Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

In 1962 he was made Director of NASA's Apollo Applications, at NASA Headquarters, and later received NASA's Superior Achievement Award. Positions after that included scientific adviser to the Chief of Army R&D, Pentagon; technical director of the Army Mobility Equipment R&D Center (MERDC), at Fort Belvoir; and director of R&D for the Army Corps of Engineers, Washington.

After retiring, he worked as an engineering consultant with Planning Research Corporation (PRC) and other firms. He explored alternative energy technologies in countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Taylor was an active Episcopal layman in local parish, regional, diocesan and national church activities. He loved genealogy research and family travels, and remained an

avid sports fan. He read voraciously and authored technical articles for professional journals as well as a 1998 memoir, "My Life and Times: From Stillwaters to Belle Rive" (Tabby House Press, Fla.).

In later years he was proudest of his family, encouraging the paths of his children and grandchildren. Taylor wished to be remembered as a competent professional soldier, engineer and manager; a trustworthy and loyal friend; a devoted husband, father and grandfather; and a faithful Christian.

He is survived by his wife Nancy Aitcheson Taylor, his five children (William B. Taylor, Jr., Anne Taylor Cregger Patterson, Paul Kenneth Taylor, Katharine Clarke Taylor, and David Aitcheson Taylor) and their spouses, and 10 grandchildren (Daniel Cregger, Zachary Cregger, Jacob Cregger, Samuel Cregger, Christopher Taylor, Mary Morgan Taylor, Maxwell Taylor, Dana Taylor, Taylor Nace, and Ian Nace) and spouses. The family is grateful to the dedicated care and friendship of Joshua Elliott, Thomas Ashiagbor, and Mohammed Turay, among many others.

Home Life Style

If These Walls Could Talk

Custom builder brings life to local architecture.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Growing up in Joplin, Missouri, Murray Bonitt never dreamed the long summers spent doing construction work to earn extra money for school would lead to his success as a custom builder in Northern Virginia.

"I never intended this to be a career," said Bonitt, who moved to Alexandria 34 years ago to take a job working on Capitol Hill. "But after a year on the Hill, I had the opportunity to go to work for some guys who were starting a construction company. I always liked the idea of doing something that at the end of the day you could look at and say 'I did that' and things just took off from there."

Bonitt, who founded Bonitt Builders 30 years ago, appreciates the challenge of working with the various styles of architecture throughout the region.

"Trends are a matter of personal taste," Bonitt said. "Working in Mount Vernon, Belle Haven and Fairfax County, people sometimes go for more modern, sleek contemporary looks while Old Town Alexandria tends to have the preservationist types. We love both and the variety keeps us on our toes."

Bonitt and his team, who have done work for Sen. Mark Warner and his wife Lisa Collis and Marvin and Maggie Bush, are known for their meticulous work, whether in historic restorations or contemporary projects.

"I've always had an eye for seeing that things get done with attention to detail and am fortunate to have clients that appreciate that," Bonitt said. "Whether it's a traditional home or a contemporary design, I like projects where the architects and homeowners appreciate high-quality finishes and workmanship that challenges my guys and challenges me."

Latest Trends

The downturn in the economy over the last few years has shaped the current trends in home building and renovation, Bonitt said.



The rear exterior leads to an expansive yard in a Seminary Hill home built by Bonitt Builders.



PHOTOS BY DAVID COLEMAN

Alexandria custom builder Murray Bonitt loves challenges, including historic, contemporary and traditional. Here, a kitchen in the home of an Alexandria couple executed by Bonitt Builders.

"The recession has reset everybody's expectations," he said. "The days of just spending money and having the biggest and baddest are gone. People are downsizing the scope of their projects and spending money wisely, investing in things that are of good quality and value."

In particular, Bonitt has seen a shift from the master suite to audio-visual integration.

"The days of the big old crazy master bath have gone by the wayside," Bonitt said.



The Cameron Street office of an Alexandria businessman.

"They're still very nice but not nearly as big. Instead, audio visual is the indulgence that people haven't given up. Not so much theater rooms like you used to see but TVs in every room. Generation Xers — those who grew up with technology — are the ones building houses today and they want to integrate their iPhones and iPad's into their homes."

Going Green

"People are willing to spend again but they want to invest in things that will bring energy efficiency," Bonitt said. "R-values, geothermal energy and solar power are big as people refocus their homes on things that matter and will have lasting value."

Interior finishes are also inspired by the environment.

"Green' interiors continue to be in demand," Bonitt said. "Reclaimed lumber for

"The days of just spending money and having the biggest and baddest are gone. People are downsizing the scope of their projects and spending money wisely."

— Custom home builder
Murray Bonitt

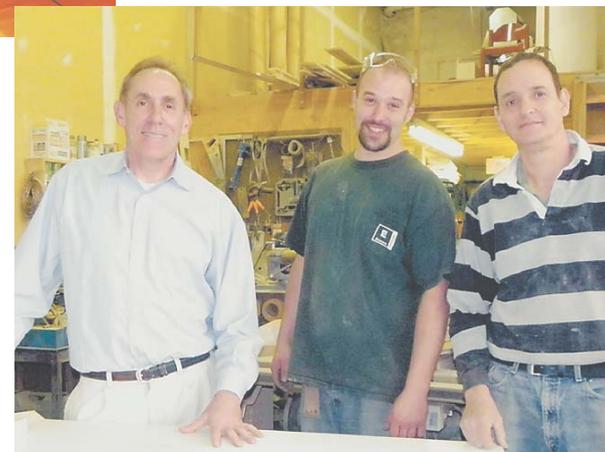
flooring or renewable products like bamboo are popular and concrete countertops are a favorite choice among homeowners today."

Bonitt's favorite project is a 10,000-square-foot home, complete with pool, on Frost Street in the Seminary Hill area of Alexandria that took two years to complete.

"I am really proud of that house," said Bonitt of the home he built for a family with four kids. "I had a great design, a great team of craftsmen and great clients, a young couple who were so engaged and enthusiastic and made the right decisions at every turn when it came to materials and products. It was a real delight to work with them and know I was building a home that will be in their family for many years."

Bonitt, whose commercial projects include the Majestic Café and the soon-to-open Virtue Feed and Grain in the former Olssen's building in Old Town, credits his success to his talented craftsmen.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE



Murray Bonitt, left, with master craftsmen George Mills and Carlos Gomez in the shop where they create custom millwork and specialty items.

"I've been lucky to have an eye for people who want to work hard and have a passion for what we do," said Bonitt, who recently adopted the company tag line "We build it better."

"Our tag line is really a testament to my crew and I am very fortunate to have these guys."

For more information on Bonitt Builders, visit www.bonittbuilders.com.

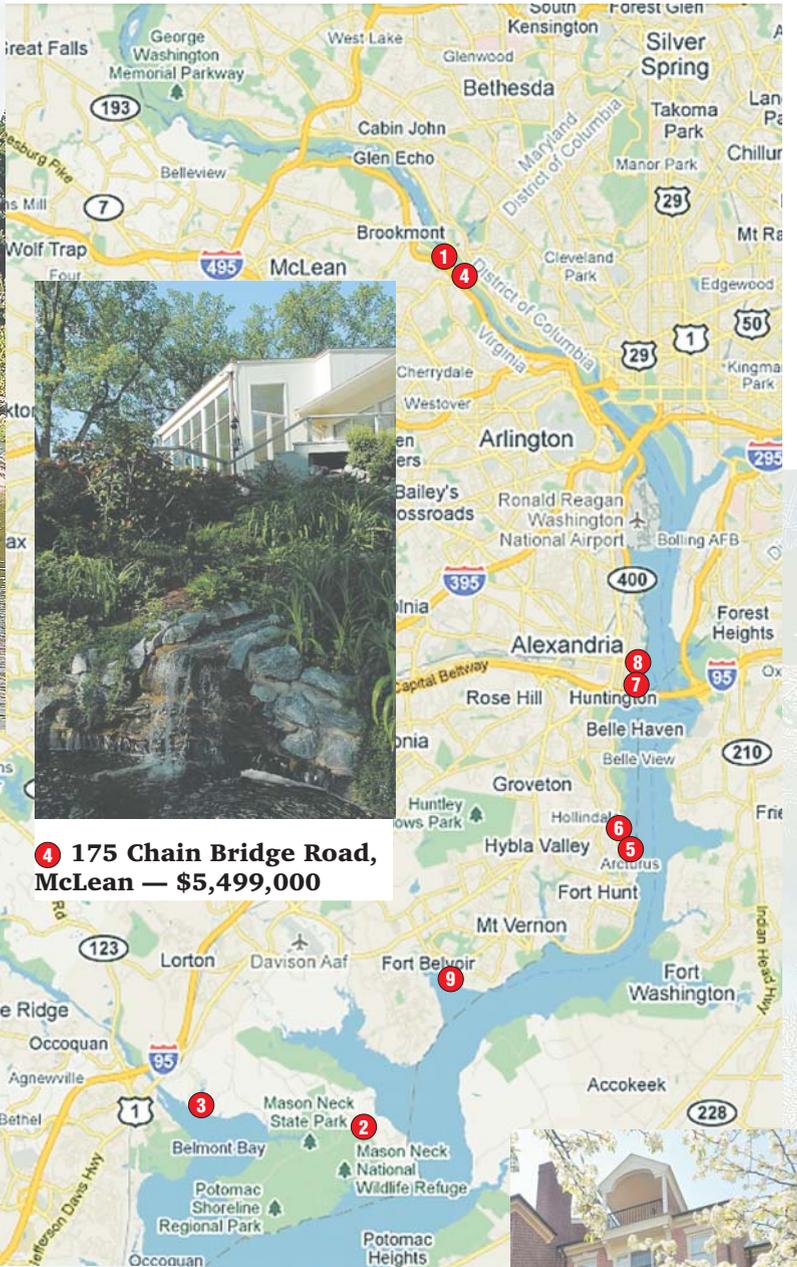
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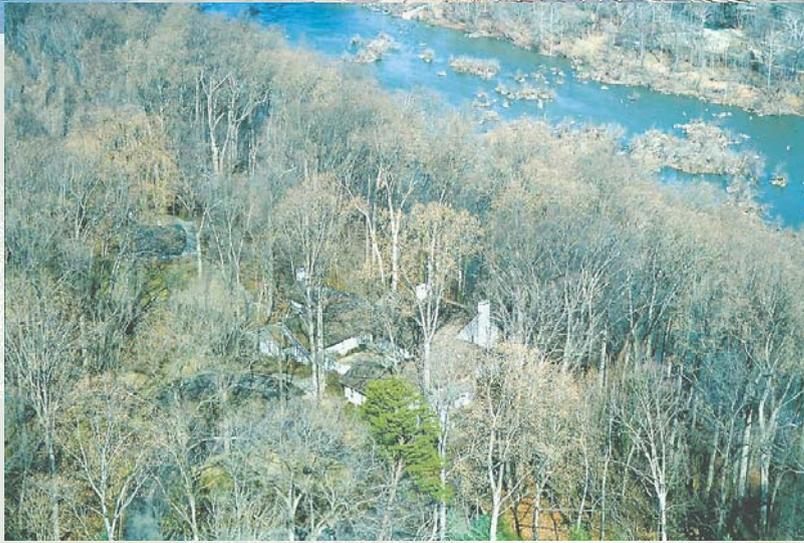
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



1 636 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$10,995,000



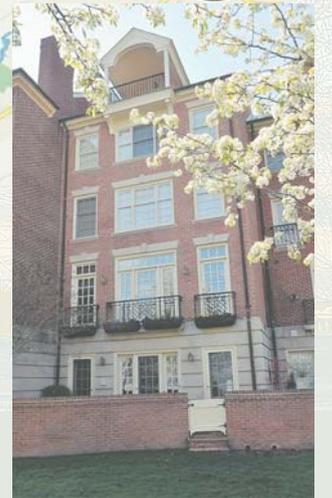
4 175 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,499,000



6 7608 Southdown Road, Alexandria — \$2,750,000



5 7808 Southdown Road, Alexandria — \$3,555,000



8 6 Wolfe Street #22, Alexandria — \$2,550,000

Address	MLS#	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Listed by	Agent
1 636 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	FX7544964	10	8	1	MCLEAN	\$10,995,000	Detached	6.52	MCLEAN'S GOLD COAST	Washington Fine Properties LLC	William F. X. Moody
2 11201 GUNSTON RD	FX7324475	6	8	2	MASON NECK	\$7,995,000	Detached	5.131	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	McEneaney Associates	Sue Goodhart
3 10606 BELMONT BLVD	FX7469424	4	3	1	LORTON	\$7,000,000	Detached	7.735	BELMONT BAY	Long & Foster	Pascale Karam
4 175 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	AR7568928	4	3	1	MCLEAN	\$5,499,000	Detached	2.299	ARLINGWOOD	Long & Foster	Jack Spahr
5 7808 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7260580	6	6	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,555,000	Detached	0.645	WELLINGTON	Coldwell Banker	Wil Roberts
6 7608 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7523353	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,750,000	Detached	0.416	ARCTURUS ON THE POTOMAC	Keller Williams Realty	Bob Kuletz
7 12 WOLFE ST #52	AX7549012	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,695,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	TTR Sotheby's	Michael Rankin
8 6 WOLFE ST #22	AX7557493	4	4	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,550,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	McEneaney Associates	Babs Beckwith
9 8516 MOUNT VERNON LNDG	FX7022897	6	5	-	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,900,000	Detached	0.535	MT VERNON ON THE POTOMAC	Long & Foster	Chris White

SOURCE: WWW.HOMESDATABASE.COM

The Family Foyer: Essential Space

The front entryway. The mud-room. The all purpose room for shoes, backpacks, mail, mobile phones, keys and gym equipment.

Whatever your name for it, this space is essential for every homeowner. At BOWA, we call this important room the "Family Foyer" as it often includes spaces to help organize the way today's modern family lives. Here are four tips to help your family optimize (or create) a useful Family Foyer.

1.) Transforming a Space into a Family Foyer: If there is no space currently allocated as a Family Foyer, the first step is to understand what the space is currently being used for and if those functions can be moved elsewhere or incorporated into the new family foyer space.

2.) Protect from Wear and Tear: To protect floors from wear and tear, utilize tile or stone flooring. These materials are much easier to clean and protect than carpet or wood flooring. For walls, we recommend a quality grade of paint with a more durable finish like eggshell or satin, which makes clean up easier. We see a lot of

wainscoting used in family foyer renovations, which has the added benefit of being a more durable surface to protect walls from the scuffing of kids' backpacks and the dog's scratching.

3.) A Space for Everything: From a space for mail organization, to mobile phone charging, to shelves for storing backpacks and shoes. We have also seen dog showers and storage for Fido's leash, toys and food. Small space storage organizers used to be seen only in boats and RVs but are now being used in residential spaces.

4.) Provide Personalized Spaces: Consider designating individualized spaces for family members to help ensure their personal items are actually put away. For children, consider creating individual lockers or cubbies designed to meet the needs of the particular child. For example, the ballerina needs space for her dance bag while the budding baseball player might need a taller cubby for his bat bag and cleats.

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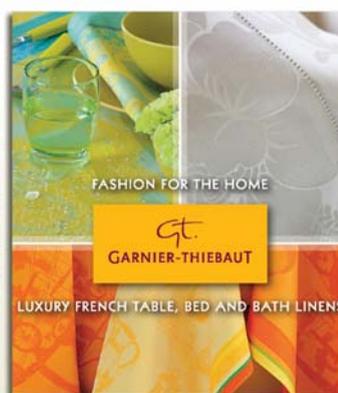
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Mount Vernon Boys Soccer Ranked Nationally

The Mount Vernon boys soccer team knocked off four-time defending National District champion Yorktown 2-1 on April 5, improving its record to 7-0. Erik Rodriguez scored both goals for the Majors, receiving assists from Simond Kargbo and Hatzael Diaz. Five days later, in the April 10 edition of the FAB 50 spring soccer rankings on

ESPNRISE.com, the Majors were ranked No. 40 in the nation. According to the Web site, spring soccer states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

Mount Vernon will host McLean at 7 p.m. on April 27.

Mount Vernon Track Excels

The Mount Vernon track and field team traveled to Stafford to compete at the 11th Annual Wolverine Invitational at North Stafford High School.

Scattered rain and strong winds did much to derail the Majors' efforts but the boys team finished eighth overall (10 points away from fourth overall) out of 23 teams in a tightly contested team race that saw Northwest Region powers Stafford, Mountain View and Brooke Point control much of the day's competition.

Mount Vernon's Johnathan Anderson won the boys shot put with a mark of 49 feet, 5 and a half inches, good for tops in the Northern Region. Julien Randolph captured the discus crown with a region-best toss of 143 feet.

The Majors' 4x100 relay team of Bashan Williams, Randolph, Michael-Thomas Brown and Jamal Smith placed second with a region-best time of 44.28 seconds.

Randolph also placed third in the long jump (19-9) and Brown finished ninth in the 100-meter dash with a region-best time of 11.66.

The girls team recently defeated Yorktown, Falls Church and Stuart. As of now, the Majors have a slew of top-10 regional marks and district auto qualifiers (top three).

Nichole Parker is second in the region in the 200 and third in the 400. She is No. 1 in the National District in both events. Erikka Kirk is fourth in the region and third in the district in the 200. Mfon Emah is sixth in the region in the 200 and fifth in the region in the 400. Karissa Cameron is fifth in the region and second in the district in the discus. Rashidat Omatosho is seventh in the region and third in the district in the discus. Bria Patnett is sixth in the region in the 400. The 4x400 relay team of Kirk, Patnett, Emah and Parker are third in the region.

Emah is also a district automatic qualifier in the 100 and long jump. Patnett (400), Jayla Smith (100) and Jade Winslow (shot put) are also district automatic qualifiers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Mount Vernon High School crew team participated in the Baltimore Invitational Regatta Saturday, April 9 where the women's lightweight 4 finished first, earning a gold medal. From left: Stephanie Restifo, Ginna Doss, Helen Sudhoff (coxswain), Raven Woody and Heiomy Beltran.

WP Boys Lacrosse Wins

The West Potomac boys lacrosse team defeated National Academy Foundation 12-5 on April 9 during the Wolverine Invitational, improving its record to 4-2. The Wolverines will host Annandale at 7:15 p.m. on April 14.

MV Baseball Falls to Edison

The Mount Vernon baseball team lost to Edison 6-5 on April 7, falling to 2-5 on the season. The Majors will travel to face Stuart at 6 p.m. on April 14.

WP Baseball Drops Fourth Straight

The West Potomac baseball team lost to Woodson 7-0 on April 6, giving the Wolverines four straight losses. West Potomac will face Washington-Lee at 10 a.m. on April 16 at Woodson High School.

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.

This year's race will feature professional runners and coaches offering free 20-minute clinics before both the 5K and 1 mile fun run to all registered kindergarten through eighth-grade runners. Topics will include proper stretching, warm-up techniques, race

SCHOOL NOTES

The Mount Vernon High School Ecology Club is hosting "211 in 2011," where it is organizing the planting of 211 trees on campus in celebration of Earth Day on April 20. Some 250 to 300 community volunteers will be helping with the effort. Volunteers include several school clubs and organizations, sports teams, Boy Scout troops, community organizations, church groups, and ecology groups from nearby middle and elementary schools.

Mount Vernon High School senior Mirab Sampong won second place in the College Partnership Essay Contest sponsored by the Northern Virginia Women Attorneys Association. She was recognized for her essay that had to address the theme, The Color of Justice, and won a cash prize of \$75.

The Mount Vernon Pyramid held its Pyramid Art Show on Friday, April 8

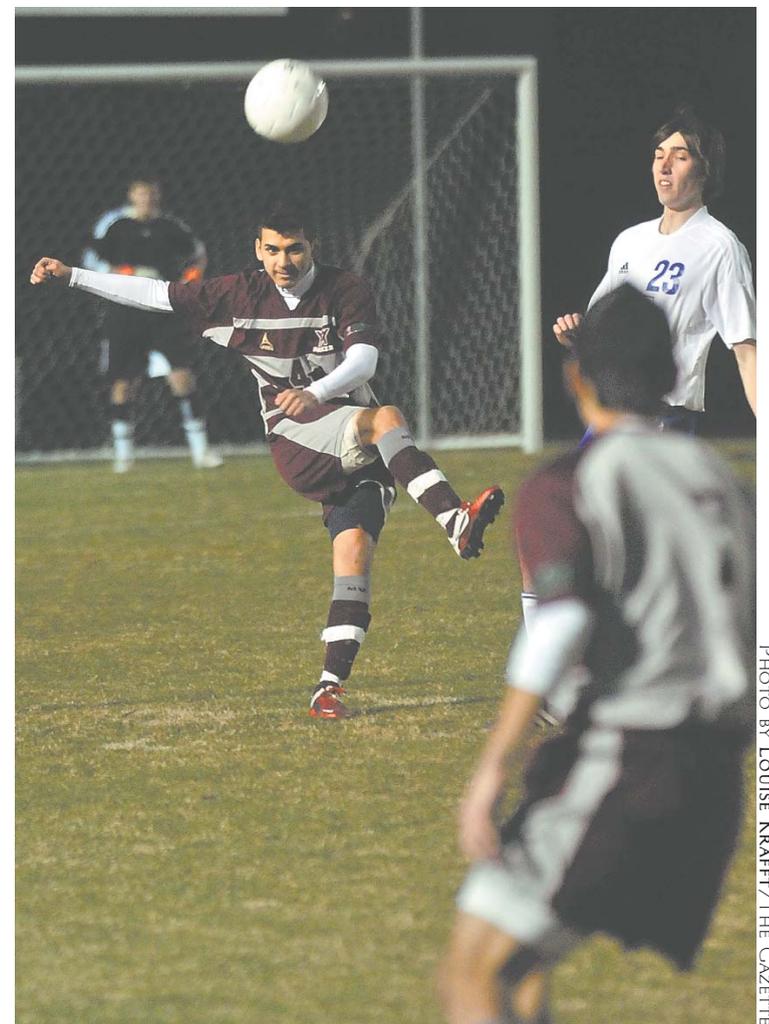


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Bryon Castellon and the Mount Vernon boys soccer team were ranked No. 40 nationally in the April 10 edition of the ESPNRISE.com FAB 50 spring soccer poll. The Majors were 7-0 when the poll came out.

form and race strategy, each targeted to the various age groups. After the race, runners and families may visit kiosks manned by many of the D.C.-area running clubs and running stores to discuss nutrition, find age appropriate follow-up races and ask questions.

For more information, contact Rebecca Bostick at 703-768-2250 or rbarch@mindspring.com.

Sports Updates On Twitter

Follow sports editor Jon Roetman on Twitter at @jonroetman for sports updates around Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Md.

at Mount Vernon High School. The art show featured artwork from each school in the pyramid and from artists of all levels, Kindergarten to graduating seniors.

Congratulations to the Mount Vernon High School Culinary Arts Program, which, along with the programs at the Marshall Academy and South Lakes High School, have been approved for an articulation agreement with Johnson & Wales University. Each of these three programs put together comprehensive packets that were submitted to the university for consideration. The university approves such agreements on a school by school basis. Culinary students completing the program may earn up to nine credits at the university.

The Northern Virginia Football Officials Association Inc. has se-

lected Mount Vernon High School to receive the 2010 Northern Region National District Sportsmanship Award. Varsity football game officials selected Mount Vernon for this award "based on actions by your team, your student body, the coaching staff, spectators, and other aspects of hosting or participating in varsity high school football games."

Mount Vernon High School junior Meron Gosaye was elected President of the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Region Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA) on March 9. She will also reside as State Vice-President, NOVA Region. Meron has served as president of the Mount Vernon High School FLBA for the 2010-2011 school year, and she served as secretary the previous year. Meron is actively involved in many honor societies, the Debate Team, and the Model United Nations Club.

Fatal Crash in Hybla Valley

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, according to the Mount Vernon Police District. 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, 38-year-old Todd Sterling Hein of Woodway Drive, was pronounced dead on the scene. The details of the crash are still under investigation.

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

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through April 8.

BURGLARY

A home in the 8100 block of Keeler St. was burglarized some time between 11:55 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29 and 1 p.m. on Friday, April 1. An investigation determined a window was left open and a television and video game system appear to be missing.

DANGEROUS DOG/ OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE/ UNRESTRICTED DOG/ NO VALID RABIES LICENSE/ NO COUNTY DOG LICENSE/ ARREST

A man and woman were arrested after their two pit bulls attacked a 26-year-old man and attempted to attack a 43-year-old man and a police officer in the 8400 block of Woodlawn Street just after 8 a.m. on Friday, April 1. An investigation determined the dogs were running loose. When the dogs attempted to attack the officer, he drew his service weapon and shot them. The dogs fled. One of them was located in a crawl space under the owner's home; the other could not be located but believed to have fled to the same location. A 25-year-old male of the 8400 block of Woodlawn St. in Alexandria, and a 26-year-old female of the 8200 block of Hocking Place in Alexandria, were each charged with dangerous dog, obstruction of justice, unrestricted dog, no valid rabies license and no county dog license. The recovered injured pit bull was taken to a local vet for treatment.

LARCENIES

- 8600 block of Braddock Ave.** Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.
- 3900 block of Colonial Ave.** Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.
- 2100 block of Foresthill Road.** Rings stolen from residence.
- 8400 block of Fort Hunt Road.** Jacket and earphones stolen from school.
- 3800 block of Gibbs St.** Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.
- 6100 block of Houston Court.** Bicycles stolen from vehicle.
- 7900 block of Janna Lee Ave.** Tools stolen from vehicle.
- 8000 block of Kidd St.** Medication stolen from vehicle.
- 8800 block of Menard Court.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 6200 block of North Kings Highway.** Cash and identification stolen from vehicle.
- 6200 block of North Kings Highway.** Liquor stolen from business.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** Jewelry stolen from business.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** Cell phone stolen from business.
- 1100 block of Priscilla Lane.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

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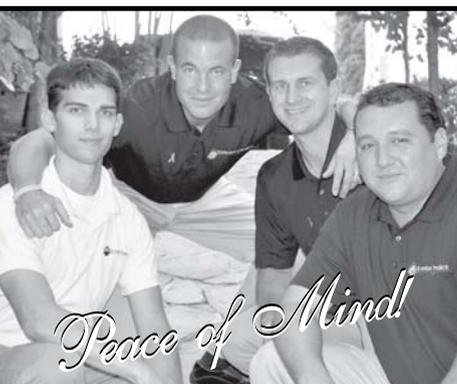
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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