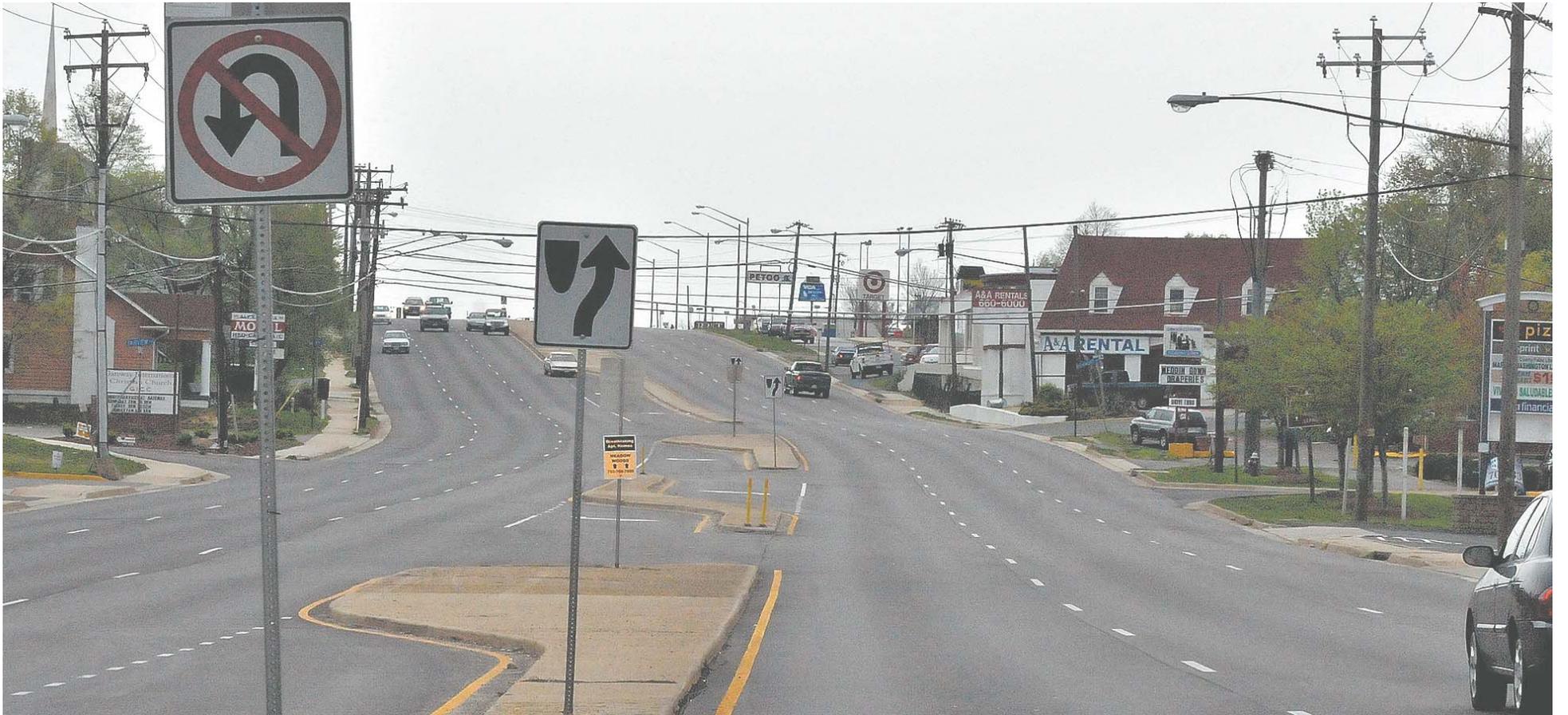


Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

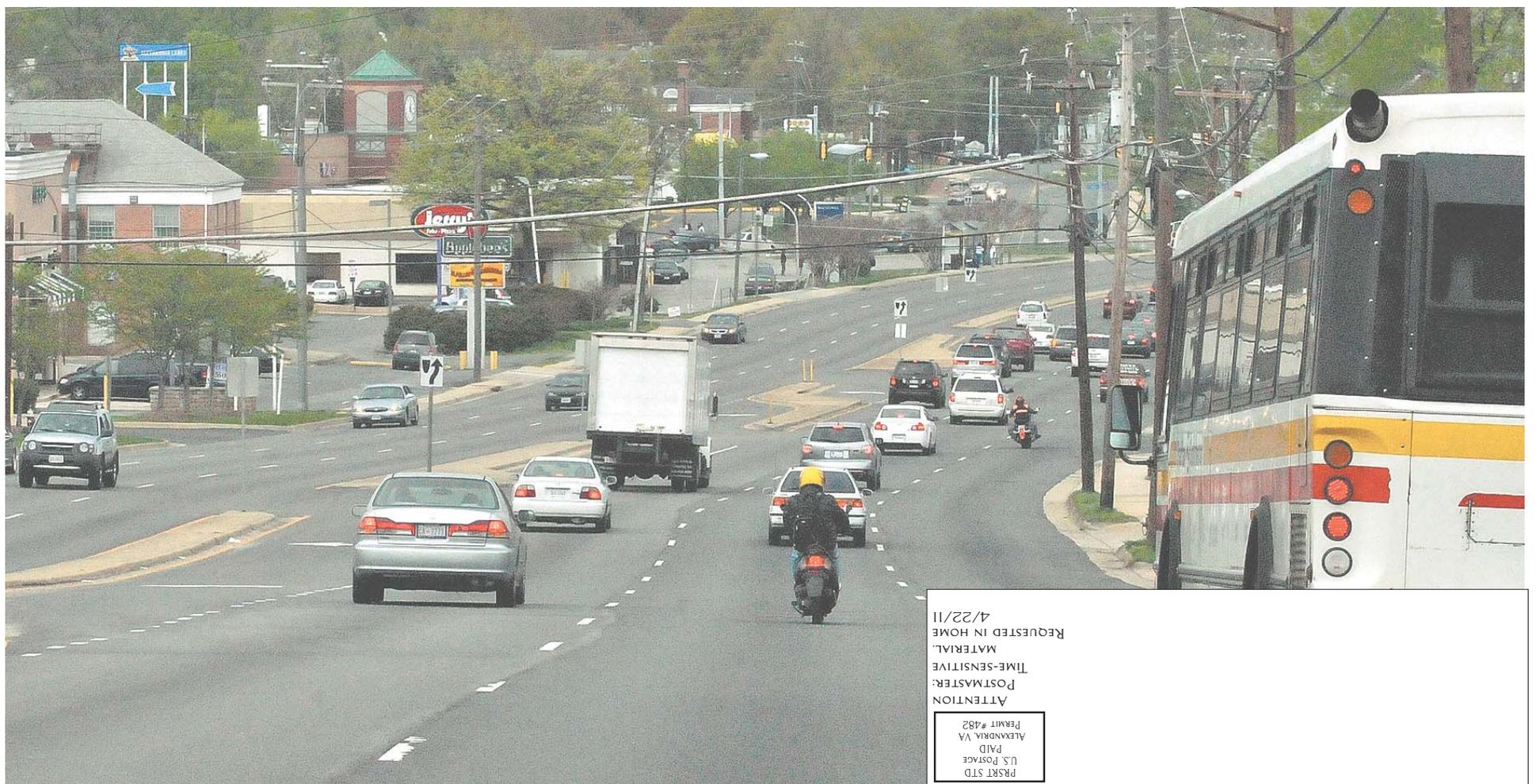
APRIL 21, 2011



What Does Route 1 Corridor Need?

Money? Political Consensus on a Vision? A Plan? Someone To Take Responsibility?

SEE PAGE 3



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

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Pressure Mounts for Action on Route 1 Corridor

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

For decades the Route 1 Corridor has become synonymous with strip malls, mobile home parks, fast food shops, a high crime rate, and traditionally unable to attract the kind of quality commercial development long enjoyed by Tysons Corner and elsewhere in the region.

Compounding the difficulty of revitalization is the lack of federal and state funding to plan and construct road and other transit improvements necessary to accommodate Fort Belvoir's expansion that is estimated to add thousands of new employees and visitors to the military base.

The image that Route 1 continues to be the stepchild of Northern Virginia is rejected by those who have been working to change the image, manage change, and gain the support of local residents and developers west and east of the corridor.

Despite good intentions and a flurry of recent activity, all agree that not much will change unless money from both the federal and state government becomes available. Another complexity is the dichotomy between what investors and developers would like to see happen juxtaposed with those local residents who resist "commercial creep." This, some planners say, is inimical to the long-term viability of the corridor as a place to be, and not merely a place to travel through to somewhere else.

Some are calling on local officials to design a plan to slow traffic, build light rail transit systems, and take steps to make the area more pedestrian friendly and attractive.

Fort Belvoir's expansion has others calling for road widening, and systems to more efficiently move traffic through the corridor.

TO UNDERSTAND the magnitude of the

issues facing the Route 1 Corridor, one has to come to grips with a host of questions beginning with: What is an accurate representation of the current state of Route 1 revitalization? What constraints need to be overcome? Who is in charge after more than a decade of study and debate? Is the Route 1 Corridor still the strip mall commercial corridor it has been for the past 30-plus years? Or is the corridor embarking on a new era of planning and management? Are the outside critics wrong and the corridor is already experiencing the positive change commensurate with the long-term needs of the region? How can transportation and economic development planners meet the

Map of Route 1 Corridor from I-495/Capital Beltway to Old Mill Road/Mount Vernon Highway, generally extending 1,000 feet on each side of Richmond Highway.

competing interests of creating more efficient transit systems to move a projected higher volume of traffic brought on by the Fort Belvoir expansion while also creating the conditions for the area to serve as a magnet for people to live, work, and stay in the corridor? It all depends on whom one asks.

Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the non-profit Coalition for Smarter Growth, referred to Daniel H. Birnham, (1846-1912) the iconic Chicago architect of Union Station, in his response to development and planning in the Route 1 Corridor: "Without a clear vision and plan, the



DIGITAL IMAGE FROM
FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE
GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/GAZETTE

type of transit, and public funding for infrastructure, the private sector will not respond with the level of investment that the community desires.

"Yes, there have been various studies, but no unified approach to all of the issues. A parcel-by-parcel approach to development applications will fall short of generating the level of economic investment and the quality of design and sense of community that the corridor needs.

"The county should give clear authority to a designated senior staff person to oversee an integrated team from the various county departments and to ensure intergovernmental coordination with federal and state agencies, Metro, and other regional agencies. The Board of Supervisors, Congressional delegation, and elected state legislators will need to work closely together to ensure that the corridor receives the attention and funding it deserves."

RECENT PASSAGE of transportation planning funding by the Virginia General Assembly hints at a change in heart in Richmond toward the transportation needs of Northern Virginia by legislators and Gov. Robert McDonnell, himself a former Mount Vernon area resident.

Some say for transportation planning to be appropriate to the needs of the area there should first be a vision and plan in place encompassing the entire 7.5 mile corridor. Those same observers caution however, that there needs to be the political will to resist attempts by some to incrementally frustrate present and future plans.

Those calling for a unified vision also want an organization with the authority and visibility to manage the overall effort over

SEE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR. PAGE 6



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NEWS

Blocked from View

Police Department wants \$3.7 million for digital cameras, but video will not be public.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When Fairfax Police officer David Ziants shot and killed an unarmed driver on Richmond Highway in 2009, cruisers at the scene recorded the event on VHS videotape — a system that has since been removed from service. Public release of that video footage might answer many questions that have been raised about the shooting, including why force was necessary and whether or not the unarmed driver was shot from behind. But Fairfax police have consistently denied access to the footage, even when it was requested in a Virginia Freedom of Information Act request.

Now the Fairfax County Police Department is seeking \$3.7 million

to add digital cameras in all the county's cruisers. But police officials say they have no plans on making any of that footage public. Instead, according to spokeswoman Mary Ann Jennings, the plan is to add the cameras and then determine if any of the footage will ever be made public. In a memorandum outlining Police Chief David Rohrer's opposition to a citizen review board of his officers, the chief said existence of the cameras is one of the reasons public oversight should be considered unnecessary.

"The very fact that the citizens know that the encounters are being videotaped is a way to reassure the public that they have some measure of protection of what happened," said Jennings.

But don't expect that reassurance to ever be public. When
SEE RESTRICTING, PAGE 11

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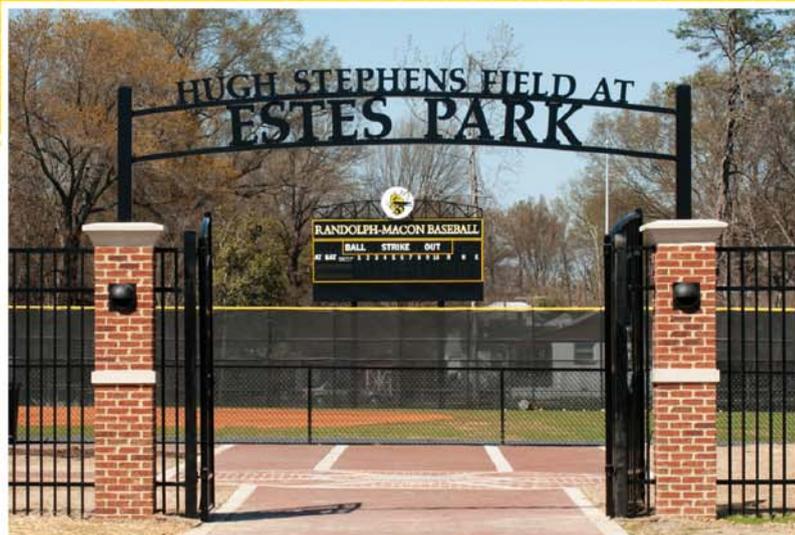
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Shooting Shocks Community

One barber dead and another injured after workplace shooting.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

The first time that Hung T. Nguyen entered Belle View Barber Shop, located at 1608 Belle View Boulevard in the Belle View Shopping Center, last Wednesday, it was ostensibly to pick up a tax form. However, when he re-entered, he allegedly opened fire, killing one barber and wounding another.

A massive search ensued that same afternoon for Nyugen, who later surrendered at the county's Sully District police station about 11 p.m. According to authorities, Nguyen, 44, of the 7800 block of Heritage Drive in Annandale, was charged with murder in the fatal shooting of barber Le D. Hoang, 39, of Staghorn Court in Alexandria, and he will soon be facing other charges in the shooting and wounding of Hoang's 38-year-old co-worker.

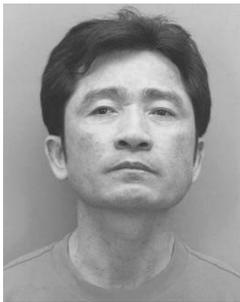
Hoang was pronounced dead at the scene and the other victim, a 38-year-old co-worker, was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and

is expected to survive.

Officer Tawny Wright, a Fairfax police spokeswoman, said Nguyen used to work at the barber-shop, but left voluntarily within the last few months. It is believed that the shooting occurred because of a dispute with employees at the shop.

Cell phones and the internet were all abuzz as people tried to determine what was going on in this normally quiet area of Alexandria.

Fairfax County Police quickly cordoned off the area as they interviewed witnesses and investigated the shooting.



Suspect Hung T. Nguyen

Fred Flynn was in the area shortly after the shooting and said, "It happened seconds after I walked by. I knew right away that something big had happened. You could hear the police cars coming from all over. I've never seen anything like it."

Another man walked by the barber shop immediately after the shooting and caught a photo of the barber as he lay on the floor.

Sandra Thai, who works in an adjacent store, is friends with one of the employees at the barber shop and said that they were all very upset.

"I saw him every day. He [Le Hoang] was such a nice man," said Thai.

Amy Ahmadzai, speaking for her mother, Anna Le

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 11



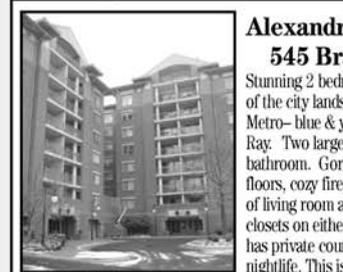
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ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR

Build Higher Volume Roads or Emphasize Mass Transit?

FROM PAGE 3

the long run.

"We are moving in the right direction, but we need to make the area more attractive to developers," said Janet Gregor, former interim executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. "For instance, we need tangible plans for transportation improvements, the option for higher density, and mechanisms to streamline parcel consolidation. Parcel consolidation and an improved transportation network will help create an environment for new office space.

"Also, higher density and higher quality residential projects will lead to economic support for a better mix of retail uses.

"Furthermore, an updated planning study of the Route 1 Corridor integrating land use and transportation conducted by the county similar to what has been done for Bailey's Crossroads and Annandale would be useful to guide and encourage development."

Barbara Byron, director of the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment, said, "Recent signs of Route 1 revitalization are encouraging, but more needs to be done. We are working with the SFDC to identify commercial and residential opportunity sites such as the St. Clair site and the Penn Daw site among others to create prototypical visioning plans that meet the corridor's economic and transportation needs and which can be replicated elsewhere in the corridor.

"In addition, we are hopeful that this will lead to a willingness by all concerned to transfer the knowledge gained to amend the Comprehensive Plan when other opportunity sites become available."

Former Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan, agrees that progress has been made: "For example, we have changed from a county that allowed strip retail development for the entire length of Route 1 in Fairfax County to one that now encourages residential zoning between community business centers like Beacon Hill and Hybla Valley shopping centers. This will be critically important in the long run in our effort to upgrade the image of the corridor as an attractive business location.

"What is needed now is a continued vigilance and commitment by everyone to rezone and redevelop existing land sites, when they become available, that are not being effectively utilized in conformance with the Route 1 CP [Comprehensive Plan]. Development and redevelopment is a never-ending process. But, if we have a plan, and stick to it, we will slowly move the Route 1 Corridor into the position it deserves as a vibrant, productive, and attractive place for business and people to locate.

"Also, I believe we should promote the



Stewart Schwartz, executive director, Coalition for Smarter Growth

creation of a 'Downtown at Mount Vernon' development in the Hybla Valley shopping center, similar to the downtowns which I and other older generations grew up with that were attractive for people of all ages to visit regularly to shop, meet existing and new friends, attend entertainment events, and patronize the small businesses in the downtown area. This would have the effect of creating commercial incentives for businesses to locate here, and economic incentives for developers to build residential developments in the Route 1 corridor."

FLANAGAN'S VIEWS are consistent with those of Ian Lockwood, a transportation engineer consultant in the northern Virginia region.

"For the Route 1 Corridor to be revitalized one needs to create incentives for people to live and work in the area, and not for the corridor to merely serve as a suburban transportation route to somewhere else. Planners going back to the second World War have unfortunately historically designed roads to move cars faster, and created incentives for people to get into cars to go somewhere else, and not to stay in place in their neighborhood where one can work and enjoy community interaction and support," Lockwood said.

"The car has been a source of escape and has bred social isolation, and not social interconnectedness. We need to promote mass transit, pedestrian-friendly sites, and reduce the reliance on cars to move people quickly from one place to another. Unless transportation and economic development planners work collaboratively to attract people and business to stay in the corridor, and not continue to come up with schemes to push them through the corridor in their

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die, but long after we are gone be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistence. Remember that our sons and our grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty."

— Daniel H. Burnham, 1846-1912, Chicago and Union Station Architect

cars, the area will never catch up to the goal of achieving a quality of life and attractive business climate," he said. "The Route 1 Corridor as presently configured is a remnant of the past, when cheap land and low density fostered suburban sprawl and roads designed to accommodate higher traffic volume that created unanticipated conditions of social isolation which cars help to preserve even today. This is universally true across the U.S. To change that phenomena will require thoughtful planning that promotes mixed use development, transportation that is pedestrian friendly, light rail transit, and people-friendly sites which will encourage them to work, live, and thrive in the area."

LEE DISTRICT Supervisor Jeff McKay, a native of the area he serves, expressed some concerns about the pace and status of Route 1 revitalization: "I am not happy with the pace of development but at the same time a lot of progress has been made in the past several years."

He added, "Importantly, we don't need more studies, we need action on a plan to put together good things that fit. We need to be more flexible in our vision; it should be based on market-based realities, and should be flexible so that we can waive marginal issues that don't fit the plan exactly, but if approved will not be destructive to our overall objectives.

"We need to also look to creating larger land parcels to create better conditions for business and residential developers to invest in the corridor. In addition, we should not do for the state that which is their responsibility. The state has not met its re-

Under Study

A list of Route 1 Corridor Planning Studies:
1994: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Study. Completed in 1997. Following this report, the Board of Supervisors approved a 6-lane road from the Beltway to Route 235, including two HOV lanes each way from Route 235 to the Alexandria City Line.

August 1997: Charles Lesser Report; under the auspices of the Department of Housing and Community Development, RHA, Fairfax County government.

October 2000: ULI, Washington Technical Assistance Panel Report; Revitalizing the Richmond Highway Corridor [Route 1, Northern Virginia]. Fairfax County government

Fall 2004: Route 1 Cross-Section Analysis Study. Recommended light rail transportation within the same right of way as a 6- or 8-lane cross-section on Route 1 by eliminating two travel lanes, i.e., either two additional lanes or a light rail option within the right of way cross-section. Board of Supervisors requested VDOT funding for a long-term transit study. VDOT committed to funding a \$1million study in 2006 but placed a hold on the location study and eventually the money was reallocated. This year (2011) the Virginia General Assembly approved funding for a VDOT long-term transit study. In addition, the Board of Supervisors approved a transportation study in 2009 for the section of Route 1 and 235 to south of Fort Belvoir.

Fall, 2007: Growth Trends to 2030: Community Forecasting. Fairfax County government

responsibilities in transportation infrastructure. The recent approval by the General Assembly of long overdue transportation planning legislation is a good step in the right direction; however, the state is deficient in its maintenance and new construction commitments and we need to hold them accountable, and not bail them out by funding state responsibilities with county money. If we do that we will never see state transportation money.

"We also need to take care of our existing affordable housing stock before going for more. Finally, we need an attitude change. The Route 1 Corridor has been and continues to serve the local population's needs and we should be proud of the services our businesses provide. Change to the Route 1 Corridor is coming but we should achieve the change in such a way that we are sensitive to the needs of the business and residential community now present in the Route 1 Corridor. By being positive, flexible, and working cooperatively to make the good things happening fit into an overall vision even more progress will be made."

Veteran Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland recently received the final report of his Visioning Task Force Committees' on Land Use, Housing and Community Development, and Business and Economic Development among others. All three committees recommended actions intended to improve the residential and commercial viability of the Route 1 Corridor: Expand affordable housing opportunities, establish Class A office space development, promote higher density residential development, and establish light rail transportation.

"While the pace of Route 1 revitalization has recently slowed because of the down

SEE ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR, PAGE 24

NEWS



And They're Off

The George Washington Parkway 10K Classic kicks off 8 a.m. Sunday April 10 outside the Mount Vernon Estate.



Runners make their way up the parkway.

PHOTOS BY
LASHAWN AVERY-
SIMONS
/THE GAZETTE



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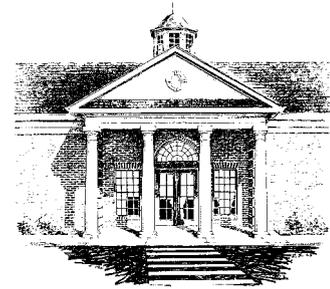
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OPINION

Please Share

Call for Mother's Day Photos, and Father's Day; prom photos also.

Every year at this time, the Gazette puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive a photo or two that includes four generations, great-grandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8, and once again the Gazette will publish a selection of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, businesses, communities, schools and other institutions in local neighborhoods.

EDITORIAL

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

Father's Day is June 19, so a few weeks from now it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren.

PROMS AND ... While Gazette photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alterna-

tive activities) and send in photos in jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

Send photos and text to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Share Your Poetry

April is National Poetry Month, and we're extending an invitation a little late in the month this year, but we invite poets to send in submissions for inclusion in our papers and/or online. Are you a poet? The Gazette will print poetry submitted by readers this spring, and occasionally throughout the year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alleviating Two Backups

To the Editor:

The Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for designing and maintaining our main roads. Two of the most-traveled roads are Boswell Road and Fordson Road, both of which intersect with Richmond Highway from the east. The design of the intersections of these two roads with Richmond Highway is both maddening and frustrating.

Fordson Road at the intersection with Richmond Highway appears wide enough for three lanes, two entering Richmond Highway and one entering Fordson Road. However, only two lanes are provided. Thus, during a red light facing Fordson Road, if someone at the front of a line of cars wants to proceed across Richmond Highway to turn left or enter the shopping center across the highway, drivers behind them wishing to turn right on red are blocked from doing so. If two lanes could be provided, the left hand lane could be marked to

limit to left turns and those crossing the highway with the right hand lane limited to right turns. Significant traffic congestion and backups on Fordson Road could thus be alleviated.

Boswell Road has two lanes entering Richmond Highway from the east but both of them allow drivers to go straight across the highway. If the left hand lane were kept the same (left turns and straight across the highway only) and the right hand lane were changed to right turn only, significant traffic congestion and back-

ups on Boswell Road could be eliminated. Nothing is more frustrating than being in the right hand lane on Boswell Road early on a Sunday morning with no traffic on Richmond Highway but being behind a driver who wants to cross Richmond Highway. That driver should be in the left hand lane but, based on the current markings, is in a correct location.

These simple fixes could significantly reduce driver frustration at those intersections. Perhaps VDOT should be asked to look into these issues.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Consider Schools' Surplus

To the Editor:

The Board of Supervisors can reduce the FY 2012 county transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) by at least \$100 million from the amount provided in FY 2011, and FCPS will still have enough funding for any and all expenditures in their proposed budget. That is because FCPS is likely to carry over at least \$100 million more in unobligated funds from FY 2011 than the amount estimated in the FY 2012 budget, i.e., they will have \$100 million in additional FY 2012 revenue. I offer three reasons for that assertion. First, FCPS historically underestimates the budgeted carryover from the previous fiscal year. For example, their estimated carryover in the FY 2011 advertised school budget was \$53.5 million; it was actually \$189.8 million, a difference of \$136.3 million. Their estimated carryover in the FY 2010 advertised school budget was \$20 million; it was actually \$119 mil-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



There's no elephant on a bicycle but there are the Greek Geeks and have they got a story or two to tell at Sandburg Middle School's Circus Olympus April 29-30. More specifically, a myth or two: Pandora's Box, Persephone and the Underworld, King Midas, Athena and Arachne, and don't forget the Mythapalooza Slam Jam! Above, from left, are Marge Lingenfelter, Jensen Wainwright, Alexis Nobrega, Meghan Crimmins, Emma Norville and Ray Navarra (sitting in front).

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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A Connection Newspaper



2nd in Odyssey of the Mind

A team of fifth-graders from Fort Hunt Elementary School came in second place in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition recently at West Potomac High School. The team earned the highest "long-term solution" score for its skit out of the 28 teams who chose to do that problem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

lion, a difference of \$99 million. Previous fiscal years have similar differences.

Second, a common sense look at FY 2011 "disbursements" (i.e., costs) indicates they are significantly overestimated in order to reduce budgeted carryover. In the FY 2012 budget, FCPS is now estimating total FY 2011 costs of \$2.277 billion, \$109 million more than the total \$2.168 billion in costs included in the approved FY 2011 budget. What has changed since the School Board approved their FY 2011 budget last May that would require \$109 million more in costs? There has not been an increase in the number of positions (or students), and employee com-

pensation constitutes approximately 90 percent of FCPS costs. There is no explanation in the FCPS budget to explain any increase, most likely because it won't actually occur.

Third, a more detailed analysis of actual FY 2011 expenditures to date provides further evidence that FCPS is significantly overestimating its costs. Actual costs through the first half of the year (obtained from FCPS through a FOIA request) are \$920 million, which prorates to \$1.957 billion for the full year based on historical trends, \$320 million lower than the FY 2011 estimated costs of \$2.277 billion. No matter how you slice it, FCPS is not going to spend anywhere near \$2.277 billion in FY 2011, leaving \$100-

\$300 million in funding that will carry over into FY 2012. The Board of Supervisors could (conservatively) reduce the county transfer by at least \$100 million and still provide FCPS more than sufficient funding for FY 2012 proposed costs, including well deserved pay raises for its teachers. The \$100 million could be used by the Board to also provide pay raises to non-school county employees, make funding available for programs eliminated in the County budget, and/or provide much needed tax relief to County residents, without impacting FCPS' ability to continue delivering high quality education to our children.

Mark T. Welch
Alexandria



Easter Sunrise Service

Aldersgate Church Front Lawn at 7 a.m.

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When a Plan Is Not a Plan

BY JEFFREY D. MCKAY
SUPERVISOR (D-LEE DISTRICT)

Those of us who live or work in the South County are at ground zero for BRAC. For months, we have been braced for the coming disaster in September when thousands of BRAC workers, military, and hospital patients relocate to Fort Belvoir and the Mark Center.

COMMENTARY

There is some good news. The April 13 passage of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 that appropriates \$150 million to widen Route 1 adjacent to Fort Belvoir is an important first step in addressing the added traffic congestion that BRAC will bring. This appropriation moves us a few inches from ground zero. We can thank

Congressmen Moran and Connolly and Senators Warner and Webb for their recognition that BRAC's success is tied to local infrastructure improvement.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the state — with the largest responsibility for our transportation infrastructure — still hasn't noticed the existence of Route 1. That's hard to imagine when Route 1 will be home to home to a good chunk of the impending BRAC moves to Fort Belvoir.

As the May date for the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to act on Governor McDonnell's transportation plan is less than a month away, it's one minute to midnight for Route 1. The things we don't do now will have an impact far beyond the seven miles of potholed, unimproved road that is the front door to Fort Belvoir. Route 1 has suffered from an unfair allocation of state transportation dollars for far too long.

Just how operationally ready and protected do you think Fort Belvoir is going to be when something as routine as a traffic accident today can close Route 1 in both directions and jam up traffic on all the alternate routes. We don't have to look any further than the March 14 and 21 accidents with fatalities and numerous injuries that closed the road in both directions. Now imagine Route 1 once the new community

hospital on the Post opens this August with all the BRAC employees, along with the contractors that will come with them. And this on a road that hasn't been widened since 1971 and relies on only buses for public transit. You have only to experience the daily log jams on the highway around the base now to realize the critical need to upgrade Route 1. It's going to be hard for our military to use that impressive new hospital if they can't get to it.

So how does the Governor's plan address this critical need? First, of its 900 projects, only 31 of them are in Fairfax County, representing 6.65 percent of the total plan. We need to do much better if we are going to begin to address BRAC impacts.

If the state is really serious about addressing its infrastructure needs with a multi-million dollar transportation plan, then it can't ignore the emergency situation that's already at its front door. It's time for the CTB to take a hard analytical look at how the Commonwealth allocates its transportation dollars and then match real-time needs to real dollars. Route 1 needs widening, it needs better transit, and it needs it now. The longer we delay, the harder and more costly the fixes will be.

Now is the time for the state to step up to its responsibilities and become a true partner.

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.

Two new Girl Scout troops are meeting at the Creekside Village community center after school on Monday afternoons — Troop 716 and Troop 922. The Brownie and Junior troops meet together on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The troop members are working on the "Write All About It" badge and plan to earn the "Looking My Best" badge as well as the "Theater" badge. The Girl Scouts also hope to go camping this spring. Contact troop leader Kathy Lehner at kathy.lehner@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Wartime Veterans Benefit. 6 p.m. Learn about the Aid & Attendance Benefit for Wartime Veterans. A monthly tax-free benefit available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses to help with special care in assisted living settings. At Hermitage Senior Living, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call Sandy Taylor at 703-797-3815.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

The Nexus Spring Conference. 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Best Practices in Prevention-Intervention for Children and Youth — Working together to reduce mental health problems for the young. At the Virginia Hills Administrative Center, Multipurpose Room #1, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

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One Barber Dead and Another Injured in Shooting

FROM PAGE 5

who owns the barber shop, said that Hoang had worked there for the past four years.

"He was very well liked by customers," she said. "Everybody had great conversations with him. He was very intelligent and kind. He was a great friend to everybody and brought something different to the shop."

Nguyen had worked for the barber shop on and off for four to five years, but hadn't worked there since December of last year.

Ahmadzai said that Hoang was single, and they met a girlfriend of his at the funeral. He also had a lot of extended family that they had never met; he was very professional and didn't talk about his personal life at work.

Anna Le decided to open after being

closed for one day.

"Everyone is trying to stay strong," said Ahmadzai. "They [workers] are still mourning the loss of Le [Hoang], as well as dealing with the traumatic events of the day. Everybody is extremely shocked and we just want to move on. The workers who weren't here that day are able to provide strength and everybody is trying to support each other."

Anna Le is very thankful for how much support has been provided by both the community and the other shop owners.

"The other store owners told us to keep on going; that they're glad we're here," said Anna Le. "So many customers have stopped by to offer their condolences."

Le and her daughter, who was not there when the shooting happened, were not able to discuss the events of the day, but just said, "It happened so fast that nobody knew exactly what happened."



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Police cordon off the area at Belle View Shopping Center last week as they investigate the shooting at Belle View Barber Shop

Restricting New Digital Cameras for Cruisers from Public

FROM PAGE 4

video footage from a separate incident was requested under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, police officials responded that they had no legal obligation to confirm or deny the existence of video footage in that case. The Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau responded that video footage of the 2008 shooting in which Fairfax officers shot and killed 19-year-old Hailu Brook was "not releasable."

"I don't know if there's video footage of that or not," said Second Lieutenant Timothy Field. "And I wouldn't be able to justify the staff time of researching it see if the tape exists or not."

FAIRFAX COUNTY police are one of the least transparent departments in Virginia, going so far as refusing to release the names of officers who shoot to kill. Ziants' name only became part of the record when the Washington Post reported it, and the department continues to shield the names of the officers who killed Brook. Now that the department is seeking \$3.7 million from the Board of Supervisors for digital cameras in

all the county's cruisers, civil rights advocates say the money should come with strings attached.

"Cameras in police cruisers are good ideas

"Cameras in police cruisers are good ideas if there's a protocol that requires that they be on all time and they are available to the public."

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

if there's a protocol that requires that they be on all time and they are available to the public," said Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "But even then, it is not a substitute for a citizen review board."

The movement to create a citizen review board to examine police misconduct was sparked by Ziants killing the unarmed

driver. Former District of Columbia detective Nicholas Beltrante formed the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability specifically to press the Board of Supervisors to create a panel of citizens that would have some kind of oversight over the police. In the case of Ziants, Beltrante believes the official story of events — that shots was fired because the suspect was moving toward an officer — is deceptive.

"I dispute the police version of events," said Beltrante. "I find it strange that they would never make the video available, especially when their actions have been called into question."

UNLIKE EVER OTHER state in America, Virginia police agencies enjoy broad exemptions that allow them to shield basic information. Local jurisdictions use their exemption in all cases, regardless of what the case is about or whether the case is open or closed. During the recent General Assembly session, one senator from Roanoke tried to introduce legislation that would have increased availability of documents in cases that are closed. But the ef-

fort died when police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth showed up in force to lobby against the measure.

"It's a mindset that I just don't understand," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "If an investigation is closed, there's just no reason to protect those people."

Virginia's Freedom of Information Act dates to the late 1960s, a time when most states were crafting some kind of public records law. Unlike other states, Virginia chose to craft a provision that shielded criminal records from public view. But the lack of transparency in Virginia isn't necessarily a good thing for cops and prosecutors. According to law enforcement officials in states that share garden-variety police documents, the release of information is beneficial to public safety.

"I think it's made us better agencies," said Gerald Bailey, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "We proceed knowing that our work product is going to be reviewed by the press or the public or the people who are actually involved in the cases."

Forum To Focus on Mental Health

The Advisory Board for The Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health is sponsoring a forum on "Best Practices in Prevention-Intervention for Children & Youth" on April 29, 8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m., at the Virginia Hills Administrative Center, Multipurpose Room #1, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria.

The forum will share information through team building among families, professionals, and community leaders to assist in reducing mental health problems for children and youth.

Register by contacting Nexus Coordinator Lainge Bailey at laingebailey@earthlink.net. Lunch is available.

Morning panelists will include:

- ❖ George Braunstein, executive director, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB)
- ❖ Del. Scott Surovell
- ❖ Benedetto Vitiello, M.D., chief, Child & Adolescent Treatment & Preventive Intervention Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health

- ❖ Elizabeth Hinkle, M.S., Inova Health Systems

- ❖ Abigail Levrini, Ph.D., Psych Ed Coaches
- ❖ Laura Yager, M.Ed., CSB

Afternoon panelists will include:

- ❖ Gary Lupton, M.A., CSB
- ❖ Scott Brabrand, Ed.D. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- ❖ Kim Dockery, M.S., FCPS
- ❖ Mary Ann Panarelli, Ed.D., FCPS
- ❖ Allan Bloom, Ph.D., Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- ❖ Cyndy Dailey, M.P.A., Northern Virginia Family Service.

— GERALD A. FILL

Gorham Appointed to Park Board

Linwood Gorham of Lorton replaces longtime Park Board member Gil McCutcheon on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. The appointment is for a four-year term.

Gorham has served on Supervisor Gerry Hyland's Mount Vernon Visioning Task Force Land Use Committee, and formerly served on several Area Plan Review Task Forces. He has also served on the South County Federation since 1992, and is past chairman of the Mason Neck Citizen Association. In 2010-2011 he was named a Lord Fairfax honoree in the Mount Vernon District and was the recipient of the Northern Regional Park Authority's Walter Mess Volunteer Service Award in 2009.

— GERALD A. FILL



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JUST LISTED

8705 Yardley Dr
\$555,950
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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.

8202 HINSON FARM RD
Alex. / \$385,000
Wow this one's fantastic! Completely remodeled 3 lvl TH near Mt Vernon Hospital. Gourmet kit w/bay window, SSA, sep DR, 3 large BRs w/new carpet, remodeled BAs w/custom tile, & fully fin. bsmt. Private patio & 2 assigned prkg. Pool & Tennis. Stratford Landing Elementary Sch.

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SELLER MOVING-REDUCED PRICE MAKES THIS FAB 3LVL 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!

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.

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!

1627 HUNTING CREEK DR
#B / Alexandria
\$539,000
Immaculate - w/lots of custom touches - wainscoting, brick accent wall, custom bookcases & gas log fireplace in family room, crown molding. Open floor plan, eat-in kit that opens to sunny deck. Brand new Carrier HVAC. 1-car gar. Close to everything!

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350

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

Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

301 S REYNOLDS ST
#212 / Alex.
\$245,000
2-level 1,034 sq ft condo w/2BR/2BA on lower level. New replacement windows thru-out enhance high ceiling of this sun-drenched condo. Separate dining room w/sliding glass door to balcony. Convenient to Van Dorn METRO, shopping & entertainment.

Guinevere Jones-Wood 240.417.8055

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 uplating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.

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.

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, hardwood floors, 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.

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Rose Mary Cousins 703.627.0404

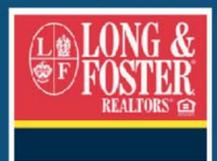
3171 WOODLAND LN / Mt Vernon
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Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012

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SCHOOLS

Earnest at 'Being Earnest'

BY AMBER HUGEE
MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

What's in a name? While a rose by any other name may smell as sweet, two men find out that their names get them into a ghastly scrape. "The Importance of Being Earnest" was written by Oscar Wilde, and premiered in London, 1895. It is about two men, Algernon Moncrieff and Jack Worthing, who make their lives easier by creating false identities. Both men pretend to be a man named Ernest Worthing, and while pretending to be Ernest, propose to the women they love. The women confess they always wanted to marry someone named Ernest, which neither of the men truly are. The truth comes out in a witty way that convinces the audience that being earnest is just as important as being Ernest.

Marshall High School's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The consistent British accents added to the authenticity of the play and characterization. Neil Wilcox-Cook (Algernon Moncrieff) and Charlie Belt (Jack Worthing) had brilliant chemistry and comedic timing; memorable bits like a struggle for muffins and reaching for a cigarette case were obviously thought out, but it was in a way that didn't take one out of the story. As the story pro-

gressed Wilcox-Cook's reactions were spot on, and kept the energy consistent during longer scenes.

The romantic relationships were charming; Melissa Goitia (Gwendolyn Fairfax) and Belt made an adorable pair. Goitia's facial expressions set the tone for each scene she was in, especially when she and Lily Roth (Cecily Cardew) met and thought (mistakenly) that they were engaged to the same man. Roth played Cecily with endearing characterization; her adoration for Algernon radiated from the stage. Sarah Chapin (Lady Bracknell) commanded the stage when she burst on

it in a fluster of social omniscience. Her adamant stance against the marriage of Gwendolyn to a man of little social stature made her seem silly; thusly Wilde makes fun of the aristocracy's insistence on "marrying well" instead of for love.

Presented in three acts, the show had a beautiful set, in Act Two, a running fountain was placed in a very colorful garden. The color schemes were beautiful, and the pleasantries continued through to the props.

With its wit and message, "The Importance of Being Earnest" was a show that stood rather strongly on the stage of Marshall High School's auditorium; it was well-delivered, and well-received. The question: What's in a name? The answer: nothing, and everything, depending on the circumstance, but always be earnest.

CAPPIES REVIEW

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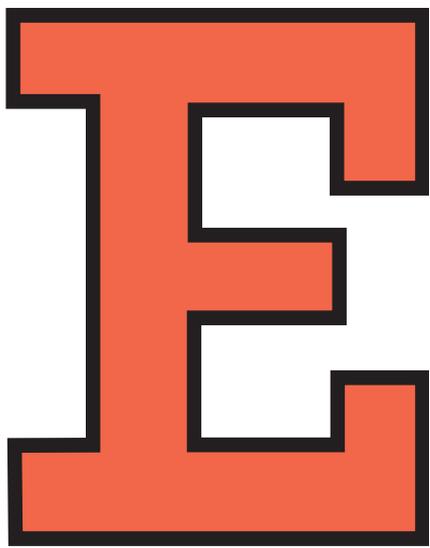
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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Alexandria's Gastro Pub Opens

Located one block from the Potomac River, the RailStop Gastropub (901 N. Fairfax; Alexandria, VA, 22314; 703-683-8793; www.railstopgastropub.com) is the place to meet your Alexandria neighbors. With views of the historic river and monuments of the Capital city, this gastro pub was created with the local neighborhood in mind as a place to gather for a relaxing pint or a bite to eat.

Located on the second floor of the Crowne Plaza Old Town, the 76-seat restaurant channels the British philosophy of gastronomy in pub fare. A step above bar or pub grub, this gastro pub specializes in high-quality food including house-made sausages of both pork and seafood.

Alexandria has a long history with the railroad, dating back prior to the civil war with the Orange and Alexandria (O&A) Railroad. The RailStop Gastropub derived its name from the close proximity to the current active railroad and a recognized need for local crafted beer and cuisine.

The atmosphere is relaxed with comfortable extended, leather pin-cushion banquettes separated by etched glass partitions to cabaret table and bar seating set atop dark stained hardwood floors. The style is artful with walls decorated by vintage posters highlighting train destinations around the United States and oversized mirrors that reflect the amber light given by filament bulbs in pendant lighting. The bar top gleams as the copper inlay reflects the lighting.



The RailStop Burger

Chalkboard menus surround the bar displaying the pub's menu created by Executive Chef Mark Henry. Divided into palatable sections, bar snacks include Tots and Fried Pickles; main courses range from Steak Frites to Vegetarian Strudel; and the menu offers a tribute to classics such as the RailStop Burger with a Touch of "Smoke" to Old Dominion Lager Battered Fish and Chips offered as nightly specials.

The menu compliments the beer and wine list that stays true to pairing with the cuisine in refreshing style. The beer menu is expansive, typical of a gastro pub, specializing in micro and local brews.

The RailStop Gastropub is open 7 days a week 11:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; and offers a daily happy hour from 5-7 p.m.

The style is artful with walls decorated by vintage posters highlighting train destinations around the United States.

MVUC Enjoys History, Produce

The Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (MVUC) occupies historic ground – its home on Mason Hill was once part of Founding Father George Mason's home site. The Green House is managed today by volunteers who provide horticultural information, plants, vegetables, herbs, and flowers to visitors and gardening enthusiasts. The MVUC Green House is especially well known for the variety and quality of their tomato plants. The operation of the Green House is in keeping with MVUC's commitment to the environment and to local food sources. Sale of these items sustains the preservation and operation of the Green House. Visitors are always welcome. Plant sales are under way now and will continue through the end of May, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Email: info@mvuc.org

Inocencio Headlines NYC Improv Show

Iliana Inocencio, a native of Mount Vernon, opened her own comedic improv headliner show, Day Camp Kids Present Tug of War, at the People's Improv Theater (The PIT) in New York City last Saturday. The PIT boasts such performing luminaries as Ellie Kemper ("The Office"), Kristen Schaal ("Flight of the Conchords"), and Ali Farahnakian ("Saturday Night Live").

Ms. Inocencio studied improv at The Second City: Chicago in its Summer Intensive Program on scholarship. She is finishing up her improv studies at The People's Improv Theater. While living in Virginia, she did a variety of productions spanning from Reston to Fredericksburg to Baltimore, including Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" as Belle, "The King and I" as Tuptim, "West Side Story" as Maria, and "A Christmas Carol" as Fred's Sister at The Ford's Theatre. She attended Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, and moved to New York City to complete her collegiate studies in Theater.



Mount Vernon native Iliana Inocencio

Volunteers Sought for 'Spring for Alexandria'

The fourth-annual Spring for Alexandria three-day event is scheduled for May 5, 6 and 7, 2011. ACT for Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria, the Alexandria Jaycees, the City of Alexandria, and Kids Helping Kids Lemonade all partner to put on this event, which recognizes and honors giving and service in our community.

The WEBA board voted at its most recent meeting to match up to \$500 in support of "Spring for Alexandria 2011." If your business is interested in joining with WEBA to support this event, contact WEBA President, Mike Barber by email or by phone at 703-370-9600.

ACT for Alexandria kicks off the festivities with its annual 'Generations of Giving Gala' the evening of May 5. This year's event, the ACTlympics, has a sports theme and will honor Alexandria car dealer Jack Taylor for his legacy of service to the community. The event will be held on the campus of Episcopal High School in the Flippin Field House where dress will be sports casual.

Sponsorships are still available.

Friday, May 6, brings Volunteer Alexandria's Business Philanthropy Summit, which will be followed by the Day of Service, where teams from throughout the city complete in over 80 pre-identified service projects at various nonprofit sites in our community. Everyone reconvenes at Market Square in the afternoon to celebrate service and giving. Round up some of your colleagues and business associates to help paint up, clean up, fix up, and boost up sites in Alexandria. Create your own team and go for it! (You can volunteer under the WEBA umbrella or through your own business).

On Saturday, May 7, the Alexandria Jaycees will host Contributions Day at the First Baptist Church at 2932 King Street where donations of clothes, food, furniture and other items will be accepted by nonprofit organizations in the community. Kids Helping Kids Lemonade stands will also be set up at the site and around the city with proceeds going to two predetermined charities in town.

ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY THURSDAY

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

FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS

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

NOW THROUGH 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 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), Old Town Alexandria.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Easter Celebration. 9:30 a.m. Easter Egg and Scavenger Hunts: 11 a.m. for children under age 5; 11:30 a.m. for children over age 5. Other activities will include face painting, games and crafts. Hosted by DC Metro Church at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Contact Gary Ritterstein,



SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Springtime on the Rhein. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25/person. Spring Concert of the Washington Saengerbund "Kinderchor." Following the concert, dancing to the tunes of the "Heidi and Heimat Echo Band." At the Durant Recreation Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call Rudy Becker, 540-308-5965 or online at www.saengerbund.org.

Cleve Francis & Friends. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-573-7328.

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. 10 a.m. is a Wetlands Walk. Sponsored by Friends of Dyke Marsh. At Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven picnic area parking lot, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Alexandria.

Celebrate Trees. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tree Commissioner Eleanor Quigley tells you how to nominate your favorite tree. 11:15 to noon,

Champion Swamp Chestnut Oaks. Tree Commissioner Bob Vickers leads guided walk to these towering giants. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Visit www.mvcca.org.

Eco-Tour. 2-2:45 p.m. At 6303 Richmond Hwy. Meet Martin Tillet on the north side of Walmart parking lot at Kings Crossing for a tour of the unique ecological features of Quander Brook. Visit www.mvcca.org.

Eco-Friendly Landscaping. 3-3:45 p.m. At 7713 Tauxemont Road. Learn about "Landscaping for Birds" from Cliff Fairweather, Audubon-at-Home. Visit www.mvcca.org.



FRIDAY/APRIL 22

"I Dream of Bettie." 7:30 p.m. A Burlesque Tribute to the Queen of Pinups. Tickets are \$25. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500, www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

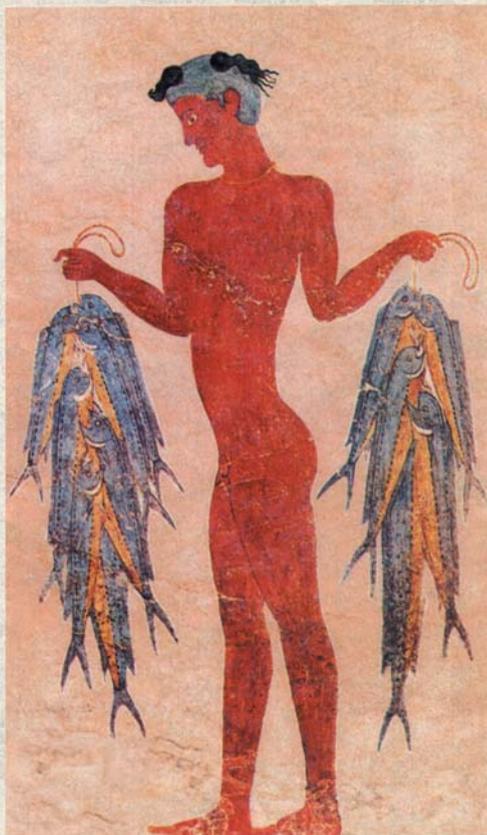
Petting Farm. 10:30 to 12:30 a.m. 15-plus pettable animals: llamas, donkeys, goats, sheep, ducks, pigs, calves, chicks and bunnies. Free pony rides for the kids. Sponsored by Washington Community Church, meeting the house at the entrance to Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.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

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Easter Cruise. Aboard the Odyssey or Spirit of Washington. Extensive buffet, champagne or mimosa, live entertainment and an appearance from the Easter Bunny. Earlybird at 9:15 a.m. for boarding; 10 a.m. to noon cruise. Cost is \$65.95 for adults; \$32.95 for children age 3-11. Late brunch boards at 1:15 p.m.; and cruise from 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$69.90/adults; \$34.95/children age 3-11. Call 866-306-2469 or www.EntertainmentCruises.com.

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 and Good Shepherd Housing. 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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

"HAZE" Film Screening. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Documentary on underage drinking. The movie will be followed by a panel discussion. Sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. At Minnie Howard, 3801 W. Braddock Road.

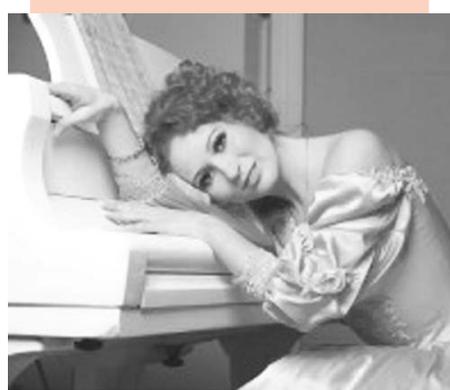
Princess Party. 6 to 8 p.m. Mystique Jewelers of Old Town Alexandria is throwing a Princess Party to celebrate the nuptials of Kate Middleton and Prince William. Guests will don tiaras, adorn jewelry and toast the royal couple with champagne and cupcakes. To RSVP to the April 28 event, visit: mystiqueprincess.eventbrite.com or visit www.mystiquejewelers.com.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Rebuilding Together Alexandria. 8:15 a.m. Nearly 1,000 volunteers will help repair and maintain 60 homes for low-income homeowners and veterans during National Rebuilding Day. Teams of volunteers will make home improvements, such as repairing windows and doors, replacing cabinets, installing grab bars and safety rails, painting, doing yard work, installing smoke detectors, and weatherizing. Event kicks off at First Baptist Church,



SATURDAY/APRIL 30

The Art of the Balalaika. 7:30 p.m. The program will feature Olga Orlovskaya, the orchestra's balalaika concertmaster, Andrei Saveliev, formerly with the legendary Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia. Tickets are \$25/door; \$20/advance. For tickets, call 240-314-8690. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria.

2932 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

Mainstreet Brass Concert. 7:30 p.m. This Pennsylvania-based brass quintet will present a varied and fun program of music ranging from compositions of Bach and Rimsky-Korsakov to Gershwin and Jelly Roll Morton. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students, and \$5 for those under 13. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342.

Spring Book Fest. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thousands of used books, DVDs, CDs. Sponsored by the Friends of Duncan Library. In the parking lot between Duncan Library and the Mount Vernon Community School. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., in Alexandria.

Earth Day Celebration, Plant and Rummage Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, May 1). Eat and drink, spread a mountain of mulch, build a recycled CD sculpture, paint a globe, huge rummage sale and more. At Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in DC Metro Area hosts 14 vendors from 5 states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic Parkfairfax. At 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.

Chamber Recital. 4 p.m. Free. Recital celebrates the retirement of Senior Master Sergeant Andrew Wilson, Principal and Solo Cornet of the United States Air Force Band, after 20 years of service. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 202-258-0822.

Concert. 8 p.m. Winchester Orchestra presents "Beethoven and Blue Jeans Side By Side Concert." Benefiting Lyme Disease research. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Tickets at www.winroch.org or www.winorch.tix.com.

Appraisal Day. 1 to 5 p.m. Ben Hastings of the International Society of Appraisers, will be doing free verbal appraisals of your artwork. Limit 3 items per person. At Broadway gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-354-2905.

Huge Rummage Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books, toys, housewares, clothes and more. Proceeds from the sale help to provide school supplies, shoes, warm clothing, and books for students in-need. At Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria.

Carl Sandburg Pantherlon 5K. 8 a.m. The 22nd annual Carl Sandburg Pantherlon 5K Run and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact: Rebecca Bostick

at 703-768-2250 or rbarch@mindspring.com.
Stephanie Mills with Kenny Wesley. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. To purchase tickets log onto: www.Birchmere.com or go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-745-3000.

Civil War Spotlight Talks. 30-minute talks from 10 a.m. to noon; and 2 to 4 p.m. Free. The uniform, accoutrements and equipment of Fort Ward's artillery exhibit figure will be discussed. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Basket Bingo. 2 p.m. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Fundraiser for the senior class all-night grad party. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. Call 703-618-5104.

Grand Finale Concert. 4 p.m. Featuring Elisabeth Adkins, Beethoven Violin Concerto. Tickets are \$18/adults; \$12/seniors and groups. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-758-0179 or visit www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

Sundays@Heritage Concert. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Featuring trumpet prodigy Geoffrey Gallante and piano extraordinaire Jean Baptiste performing choice standards from the Great American Songbook. Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Rd., Mount Vernon. Call 703-360-9546.

Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off. Noon to 3 p.m. Cook-Off showcases 20-25 of Alexandria's best restaurants. Tickets are \$40/adults; \$35/early-bird before April 15; \$5/child. Guests will also enjoy music by the Melonheads, a live auction, children's entertainment and more. To purchase tickets online, go to <http://www.carpentersshelter.org> and click on the Buy Cook-off Tickets link. Or call the Carpenter's Shelter, 703-548-7500, ext. 226. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

NOVA Community Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Free. Spring concert in conjunction with NVCC Alexandria Campus Music Department. NOVA Community Chorus will perform Beethoven Ninth Symphony, 4th movement ("Ode to Joy") and selections from Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes, under Dr. Mark Whitmire's direction with 4-hands piano accompanists Christine Hagan and Ja-Hye Koo. At the Schlesinger Center for the Arts, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire, 703-845-6097 or mwhitmire@nvcc.edu.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

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

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Schlesinger Concerts. 7:30 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Army Concert Band. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria campus. Call 703-696-3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com.

Generations of Giving Gala. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Theme of ACTlympics with fun and games to support ACT for Alexandria. This is the kick-off event for Spring for Alexandria, a three-day celebration (May 5, 6, 7) of giving and service. At Flippin Field House, Episcopal High School. Contact Henrietta LaMotte at 703-739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org.

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Mount Vernon Re-Focused by Loss to W-L

Kargbo, Majors decide to practice during spring break.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon sophomore Simond Kargbo, reduced to tears, told his teammates there would be practice during spring break.

Head coach Robert Garza, originally planning an off day, called a team meeting on April 14. He issued personal letters he had written to each player about self motivation and overcoming adversity. In the letters, Garza wrote about his mother's battle with breast cancer, a fight Brenda Garza eventually lost 16 years ago. It's a personal topic for the coach, one Garza said he had never used when speaking with a team.

"I was stunned, but stunned in a good way."

— Mount Vernon head boys soccer coach Robert Garza

Little had fazed the Mount Vernon boys soccer team during the first month of the season. The Majors used what they felt was a lack of respect from local media as a driving force en route to an 8-0 record, while outscoring opponents 14-3. But after a strong start, Mount Vernon's first loss delivered a new batch of motivation heading into spring break — and the team's first taste of adversity since losing captain Amardo Oakley to injury prior to the season opener.

Mount Vernon lost to Washington-Lee 2-0 on April 13 in a battle for first place in the National District. Prior to the game, Garza said the team had played its worst game of the season two days earlier during a 1-0 victory against Stuart. Mount Vernon's struggles continued in Arlington as the Majors surrendered a goal to W-L standout Eric Schmidt in the 27th minute and never recovered.

"We did have a bad game against Stuart after coming off wins against Yorktown and Centreville," Garza said. "It wasn't like we were big-headed, but we knew we were a better team [than Stuart]. ... Somehow, we just came out flat. ... We were worried about that going over into the W-L game."

The loss left the Majors emotional and searching for answers. Garza spoke with the team the day after the defeat in an attempt to motivate and address issues. Kargbo announced there would be practices at Woodlawn Park during spring break for those who weren't leaving town. It was also determined the practices would be players only.

Last year, Mount Vernon started 6-0 before losing to Yorktown. The Majors struggled to bounce back, going 0-1-2 in their next three games. This season, the Majors appear to be handling adversity through hard work.

"I was stunned," Garza said of the team's desire to practice during spring break, "but stunned in a good way."

Mount Vernon will return to action on April 27 at home against last season's region runner-up McLean. The Majors will host district opponent Hayfield on April 29.

Through nine games, Kargbo, a forward, leads Mount Vernon with five goals and four assists. Sophomore forward Erik Rodriguez has four goals and junior defender Bryan Castellon has three assists.

Prior to the W-L loss, the Majors received some of the respect they were looking for. ESPNRISE.com ranked Mount Vernon No. 40 nationally in the April 11 edition of the Powerade FAB 50 spring soccer poll. The Majors dropped out after the defeat, but were still ranked No. 10 in Virginia in the April 18 ESPNRISE.com rankings.

Garza said being ranked nationally is a tribute to coaches getting students at Whitman Middle School interested in soccer and ready to play by the time they enter the Mount Vernon program.

"That's huge for us," Garza said. "Mount Vernon soccer has never seen the likes of this before. ... It's a true testament to the players, digging down deep and playing well as a team."



Mount Vernon junior Damaro Dacosta defends Washington-Lee senior Carlos Dellagostino on April 13.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT BECKMAN



Sophomore forward Simond Kargbo leads Mount Vernon with five goals and four assists.

SPORTS BRIEFS

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 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.

SPORTS

Wolverines Roll in Spring Break Baseball Win

Lefty pitcher Murray fans seven Rebels in the non-district win.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac High's baseball team started play at the McLean/Woodson Spring Break Tournament in winning fashion this past Monday, April 18 with a convincing 11-1 win over Fairfax High. The non-district game between the two Northern Region teams took place at McLean High School, one of the two host sites (the other being W.T. Woodson) of the tournament.

The Wolverines were scheduled to continue spring break tournament play later in the week with games versus South Lakes on Wednesday and Washington-Lee on Thursday, both 10 a.m. contests set to take place at Woodson.

West Potomac, over the first half of the season, was 5-5 following the win over Fairfax. The Wolverines have struggled so far this season to win within the tough Patriot District, which includes teams such as defending state AAA champion West Springfield as well as perennial Northern Region power Lake Braddock. West Potomac, at this point, is only 1-5 in district games this spring, while it carries a 4-1 record against opponents outside the district.

"We still haven't played [district opponents] West Springfield and T.C. Williams because of rainouts," said West Potomac Manager Jim Sullivan, who said he believes his team is capable of playing much better against district foes over the district schedule following spring break.

The Wolverines' lone district win came on April 11 at Lee High, a resounding 15-7 win over the Lancers that snapped a four-game losing streak after West Potomac had begun the season 3-0.

It marked the second time West Potomac had beaten Lee this spring. The first time came in an early season Ice Breaker Tournament home game on March 19, a 16-1 win that did not count towards district play. That win over the Lancers in the first meeting between the two teams made West Potomac 3-0 at the time. Earlier that same day, the Wolverines had beaten non-district opponent Edison High, 15-6, in its first game of the Ice Breaker tourney.

West Potomac, four days earlier, had won its season opener at cross-town rival Mount Vernon High, 15-6, on March 15.

West Potomac, after its nice 3-0 start to the season, hit a rough patch, losing four straight district games — at home March 28 versus South County, 15-4; at Annandale, 10-0, the following day; at home versus Lake Braddock, 8-1, on April 4; and a 7-0 home loss to Woodson on April 6.

The most recent win over the Lancers on April 11 got West Potomac back into the victory column before the team, in its final game before the spring break, lost a well-played 3-2 decision at district foe South County, its second meeting against the Stallions, last Friday night, April 15.

MONDAY'S SPRING BREAK tournament win over Fairfax evened the Wolverines' record to .500 on the season. In the contest, West Potomac received a stellar outing from starting pitcher Jayme Murray, a sophomore left-hander, who went the distance (6 innings) in a game-shortened due to the 10-run mercy rule. Murray, over his six innings and 80 pitches of work, allowed just one run and five hits, while striking out



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Jayme Murray has two pitching wins thus far for the 5-5 West Potomac High baseball team.

seven and walking one. It was his second win of the season.

West Potomac's offense broke through for 10 hits versus Fairfax. The Wolverines took control of the game early with nine first inning runs. At one point during the signature inning, West Potomac hit seven consecutive singles.

"They were hitting the ball hard — no real bloop hits," said Sullivan, of his team. "There were some hard groundballs through the infield."

Sean Trenchard, a junior shortstop/pitcher who hits in the heart of the West Potomac batting order, had three hits in the win, including a pair of doubles. Josh

Belanger, a junior outfielder/shortstop who also has a couple of wins on the mound this season, added two base hits as well.

West Potomac's top hitters this season have been Trenchard, who is batting over .500 with a couple of home runs, and Murray, hitting at a .500 clip with three long balls.

In West Potomac's one-run loss to South County last Friday, junior pitcher Dan Jarrell gave the Wolverines an excellent starting pitching outing over six innings of work. West Potomac held a 2-1 lead before the Stallions rallied for a couple of runs in the bottom of the sixth.

"It was a very encouraging game when you can hold South County to three runs and four hits," said Sullivan, of the loss to a Stallions' team that was selected in a recent weekly poll by coaches as the top team in the region.

Sullivan said his team has played excellent defense this season. The key to West Potomac's success as the season moves forward, he believes, will be its pitching. The Wolverines have some good pitchers in Murray, Belanger, Trenchard, and junior Nick Cordone, who also plays third base.

NOTES: The McLean/Woodson Spring Break Tournament was scheduled to begin last Saturday, but rain wiped out the slate of games. West Potomac did get one inning of play in versus Washington-Lee before the contest was postponed and re-scheduled for Thursday of this week.

The following is the Baseball Top 10 Northern Region Coach's Poll for the week of April 11. The top 10 is as follows: 1. South County; 2. Westfield; 3. Lake Braddock; 4. WT Woodson; 5. Stone Bridge; 6. Madison; 7. Oakton; 8. West Springfield; 9. McLean; 10. Marshall and Hayfield (tied). Other teams receiving votes: Chantilly and Yorktown.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Mount Vernon High School Men's Varsity Soccer Alumni will host the Mount Vernon Alumni Cup Challenge on Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m., featuring your Mount Vernon Men's Soccer Alumni vs. West Potomac's Men's Soccer Alumni. This event will be a fund-raiser for the Mount Vernon Men's Soccer Team. The two teams will be composed of MV Hall of Fame players, WP Hall of Fame players, Veteran's of US Armed Forces, captains of industry and former coaches and players of MV and WP, respectively. In order to qualify to participate, you must have played varsity soccer at either MV or WP. This event will be an annual competitive/fun event for years to come. If you are qualified and wish to participate in this event, contact Tony Garza (MV Student Activities Assistant Director) and Gerard Schwenk (MV) or Chris Gallant (WP); space will be limited to a 15-man roster for both teams.

The Mount Vernon Varsity Boys' Soccer team is now currently ranked #6 in the Top Ten of the Washington Post's Metropolitan Area's high school rankings.

Taylor Snyder, 9th grader at MVHS, was selected as a People to People Student Ambassador. As a result of her selection she will be visiting Australia this summer.

Logan Beveridge, Jenna Kraynak, and Amber Huges (CAPPIE Journalist) are having their work published on www.showbiz.com.

Rashidat Omotosho is a senior at Mount Vernon High who participated in the Minority Student Business Awareness Day (MSBAD) essay contest and applied for the achievement award for high school seniors. On April 13, she attended the annual MSBAD event at the ExxonMobil Headquarters in Fairfax and was given an opportunity to shadow an ExxonMobil executive for the day.

The Mount Vernon High School Health and Wellness Team invites community members to join its Weight Watchers group. The benefits of meet-

ing weekly have inspired some of the "biggest losers" to lose over 30 pounds each. Meets Mondays at 3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, Room H210. Membership includes access to online E-Tools for the duration of the program. E-mail Karen.Hertel@fcps.edu or call 703-619-3138 if you are interested in joining.

Peter Im, a former student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, has received a \$1,930 Undergraduate Research Opportunities grant to conduct semiconductor research at Cornell University. The award is part of a \$1.4 million grant by the Intel Foundation directed by the Semiconductor Research Corporation's Education Alliance. Im, a sophomore materials science and engineering major, is the child of Kyung So Im and Eunhee Kuh of Alexandria. His project is titled "Diffusion of Radioactive Sodium in Silicate Glasses and the Influence of Water on It."

The following students enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the dean's list for the fall 2010 semester: **Rachel H. Shapiro of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in communication in the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **Sohaib M. Ahmed of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in civil engineering in the College of Engineering; **Michael J. An of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering; **Christian B. Burnette of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering; **Jason J. Gebran of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech; **Brian S. Givens of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in economics in the Pamplin College of Business; **Julianne G. Keller of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences;

Richard D. Lee of Alexandria is a sophomore majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science; **Emily M. Long of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in human development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **Allison M. McCormack of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering; **Brittany L. Nance of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business; **Jus-**

tin A. Nance of Alexandria is a junior majoring in accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business; **John R. O'Donnell of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech; **Joseph J. Perry of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech; **Jacob W. Rogers of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science; **Brittany L. Sholes of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in animal and poultry sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Paula J. Traugh of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in psychology in the College of Science; **Marianthi R. Wallace of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in finance in the Pamplin College of Business, and **Britney L. Weber of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in international studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

The following students enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the dean's list for the fall 2010 semester: **Madeleine R. Byrnes of Alexan**

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 20

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SCHOOLS



Reading Dr. Seuss

Retired NFL star Roy Jefferson read Dr. Seuss books to four preschool classrooms at Chesterbrook Academy in Alexandria last month. Jefferson was a wide receiver who played 12 seasons in the NFL for the Baltimore Colts, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Washington Redskins, and played in Super Bowl V and VII. Jefferson's visit to Chesterbrook Academy was in celebration of Read Across America, a nationwide reading initiative created by the National Education Association to inspire America's children and build a nation of readers.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 19

dria is a junior majoring in civil engineering in the College of Engineering; **Gina R. Davis of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in materials science and engineering in the College of Engineering; **Austin C. Gage of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **Rachel A. Gartlan of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech; **Christopher J. Boucher of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **D'Elia M. Chandler of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in English in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **Andrew K. Kicinski of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in mathematics in the College of Science; **Andrew T. Rasdorf of Alexandria** is a freshman majoring in business in the Pamplin College of Business; **Conor P. Goree of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in chemical engineering in the College of Engineering; **Hannah H. Levy of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in psychology in the College of

Science; **Christopher N. Rider of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in wood science and forest products in the College of Natural Resources and Environment; **Laura A. Vilhauer of Alexandria** is a sophomore majoring in biochemistry in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Sarah K. Bosserman of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Daniel T. Bryant of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; **Torin J. Denniston of Alexandria** is a junior majoring in communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and **Cory F. McGillivray of Alexandria** is a senior majoring in marketing management in the Pamplin College of Business.

The following local students have graduated from Excelsior College: **Timothy J. Zlatich**, a resident of Alexandria has earned a bachelor of

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 21

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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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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 20

science, and **Jeffrey J. Myhre**, a resident of Alexandria has earned a bachelor of science.

Graig Hunter, a junior at Mount Vernon High School, was chosen to attend the Walt Disney World 2011 Disney Dreamers Academy, held in Orlando, Fla., March 3 - 6. Graig submitted an application to attend the academy and was one of 110 high school students from all over the country to be selected. He received hands-on training in workshops and was mentored by notable entrepreneurs and celebrities.

The following Virginia Tech students were among those honored at the university's fall commencement ceremony held Dec. 17, 2010, in Cassell Coliseum.

* **Jin Share of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree in aerospace engineering from the College of Engineering.

* **William Jernigan of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in management from the Pamplin College of Business.

* **Sergei Dubograev of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in finance from the Pamplin College of Business.

* **William Gerig of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree summa cum laude in electrical engineering from the College of Engineering.

* **Amanda Hreiz of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

* **William Whalen of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

* **Edward Fagan of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree in civil engineering from the College of Engineering.

* **Ahed Gondal of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering.

* **Satyasheel Korpe of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the College of Science.

* **Donald Clark of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering degree in ocean engineering from the College of Engineering.

* **Teresa Jones of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science degree cum laude in biological sciences from the College of Science.

* **Patricia Farley of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree summa cum laude in business information technology from the Pamplin College of Business.

* **Marissa Zoretich of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Golf Fundraiser To Help UCM, Good Shepherd

Hilltop Golf Course will host its 8th Annual Charity Golf Outing to benefit United Community Ministries and Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services on April 26. Enjoy nine holes of golf, a picnic lunch and the chance to win a new car or \$15,000 in cash. Shotgun are at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and cost is \$50 per person.

All proceeds will be donated to UCM and Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. For more information or to register, visit www.hilltopgolfclub.com/charitygolf or call 703-719-6504.

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Please take notice that the City will accept offers for a piece of surplus real estate from the time of this advertisement through the close of business on May 13, 2011. The parcel is commonly known as 401 East Braddock Road and is approximately 5,069 square feet in size. Details regarding the offer process and more information about the parcel can be found at the following link:
<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/generalServices/401%20East%20Braddock%20Road.pdf> Please contact Timothy E. Wanamaker, Deputy Director, Department of General Services, 110 North Royal Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA, 22314, phone (703) 746-3208, e-mail Tim.Wanamaker@alex-andriava.gov, with any questions.

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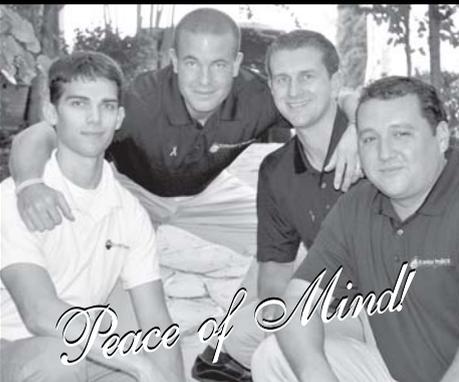
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ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR

Along the Highway

FROM PAGE 6

turn in the economy nevertheless the Comprehensive Plan [CP] and the recent recommendations of the Mount Vernon Visioning Task Force provide a unified vision of redevelopment potential on Richmond Highway," Hyland said.

"We have implemented a 'smart growth' philosophy in our planning ... by creating community business centers [CBC], including mixed-use town centers and are encouraging residential development between these nodes. We have also approved several CP plan amendments that significantly increase development densities to encourage property owners to redevelop their properties, notably for example the old Smitty's site," he said. "We have studied Richmond Highway to death with various studies, plan review processes, the Lesser report, etc., too numerous to count. The Route 1 Corridor is constrained by the depth of its commercial properties and the community's desire to prevent commercial creep.

"Nevertheless, progress is being made. Jeff McKay and I are very enthusiastic about a recent proposal by the county's Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment to host a meeting with Route 1 Corridor stakeholders, our planning commissioners, SFDC, the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and others to identify new possibilities for redevelopment on the Corridor for the long term."

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post last July, Del. Scott Surovell and state Senator Linda "Toddy" Puller called on the county to put together a task force of federal, state, local, business and community organizations to come up with a master vision and transportation plan similar to the way the county created a vision for the Tysons Corner development.

"The number one priority is improving transportation infrastruc-

ture in the corridor including the extension of the Yellow Line to Fort Belvoir or Lorton," Surovell said, "The General Assembly's recently approved U.S. Route 1 transit study [jointly sponsored by Surovell and Puller] is the first step in this process, but the completion of the improvements is probably a 10-20 year process. In the short term I am hopeful that the Board of Supervisors will require sufficient traffic improvements as part of development profers to help alleviate congestion."

Surovell cited improved school performance by Mount Vernon schools, higher density development starting at Beacon Hill and going north, and better utilization of the area's historic assets should all be a part of a good development strategy for Route 1.

FORMER CHAIRMAN of the Board of Supervisors and now U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly has had a long history of involvement with the Route 1 Corridor. Asked if he was pleased with the progress on Route 1, he said, "First, let's give credit where credit is due. The Board of Supervisors has expanded REX bus service and expedited redevelopment along Richmond Highway. It is creating a new task force to develop specific implementation strategies for transit improvement coupled with redevelopment. This locally re-planning matches my legislative effort to authorize transit extension from either Franconia-Springfield, Huntington, or both, because we ultimately need rail transit through Fort Belvoir and EPG to Woodbridge."

Connolly sees "a commercial and cultural revitalization" now underway. The Fort Belvoir expansion and the soon to be established National Army Museum coupled with existing historic assets will result in "the sort of rebirth for the Route 1 Corridor that could positively alter its personality and the perception for years to come," he said.

SCHOOL NOTES

Nine students from Mount Vernon High School auditioned for the All-State Chorus on Feb. 10. In order to audition, these students had to qualify as District Ten representatives first and be in the 11th or 12th grade.

Only 24 students are selected from Northern Virginia (District 10) as delegates. Three of nine MVHS students were selected as delegates: **Michael Amaral, Brianna Miller and Clynton Musngi.** This is the second time that Brianna has been selected as a delegate.

Another student, **Rachel Fiscus,** was selected as an alternate and will attend as a delegate if one of the original delegates cannot attend. All State will be held in Virginia Beach this year, April 28-30.