

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 28, 2011



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Successful Hunt

Kevin Pacious returns from the Easter egg hunt at Wellington Heights through the tall grasses of the baby bunny trail.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3

Route 1 Ripe for Development

SFDC Retail Summit panelists share thoughts on corridor.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

John Collich, Saul Centers, Inc.; Tom Maskey, Potomac Development Company; and Bruce Leonard, StreetSense all agree — you can't think mixed use with a floor area ratio of 1.2 — you need a 4.

The floor area ratio (FAR) is the principal regulation controlling the size of buildings. FAR is the ratio of total building floor area to the area of its zoning lot. Each



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Tom Maskey, Potomac Development Company.

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE 24

Visioning Task Force Makes Recommendations

Committees suggest ways to improve Mount Vernon District.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

On Feb. 5 at the Mount Vernon District Town Hall Meeting, the Visioning Task Force, made up of approximately 75 volunteer citizens selected by Supervisor Gerry Hyland, and assigned to eight different subject area committees, concluded months of deliberations and made public their detailed reports with recommended actions to improve the quality of life in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District and the region.

Final reports were recently completed, and plans are now underway to have them published and available to the public. Hyland now plans to establish an implementation Task Force to follow up on the recommendations.

Copies of each of the final Visioning Task Force reports are available through Hyland's District Office at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, by contacting his office through the internet, or by calling

SEE VISIONING, PAGE 26

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Meet the Neighbors!

This finely-detailed, quietly-stylish cottage in popular Rosemont is close to two Metros, Del Ray and Old Town. Its terrific curb appeal will not disappoint - you'll find a great kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, fabulous outdoor entertainment space, parking, and recently updated systems, as well as terrific storage and gorgeous landscaping.

Susan Anthony
703.795.9536
www.susanbruceanthony.com
MLS ID# AX7578257



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$829,900



W - I - D - E !

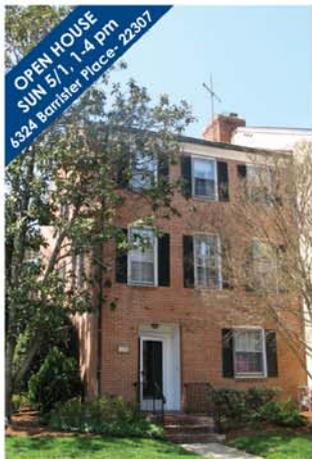
Architecturally-unique, sun-drenched end townhome lives like single-family, formal living room and dining room, chef's kitchen with polished granite counter & GE Profile stainless steel appliances, family room with gas fireplace, three master suites and private den, two-car garage, THREE summertime decks; walk to Metro, PTO/Carlyle complex, historic district!

Deborah Manarin
703.571.5005
www.McEneaney.com
MLS ID# AX7577480



ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN

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Elegance and Space

This three-bedroom/three-bath, end unit townhouse is just flooded with light. It comes with a beautifully renovated kitchen, updated baths, hardwood floors, and almost a quarter acre lot in coveted Belle Haven just outside Old Town!

Ann Yanagihara
703.725.2346
www.relocatewithann.com
MLS ID# FX7579055



ALEXANDRIA/BEVERLEY HILLS

\$1,299,000



Stunning Views

Stunning Beverley Hills home offers an exceptional haven for entertaining in comfort and style. Boasting sophisticated finishes throughout including three fireplaces, butler's pantry, gourmet kitchen and huge deck with screened porch. Expansive 43-ft x 19-ft master bedroom with radiant heat floors in the en suite bath, his/hers dressing rooms and Juliet balcony.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.lizluke.com
MLS ID# AX7570079



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

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Location, Location

All-brick, four-level, classic townhouse just a skip and a jump to the river! Two bedrooms (with third bedroom potential) and three and a half baths. Family room with walk out to private fenced patio. Elevated dining room and bright, south facing kitchen with eat-in area. Deck with river views off living room. Hardwoods. Two fireplaces. Fully carpeted upper level den with deep closets. Converted garage and driveway parking. Great spaces in a wonderful location!

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LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

Easter Bunny Arrives at Wellington Heights

On Saturday morning, April 23, the Easter Bunny arrived at the Harriman's house for the 59th annual Easter Egg Hunt. Since 1952, the hunt has gathered Wellington Heights neighbors together on Easter Saturday.

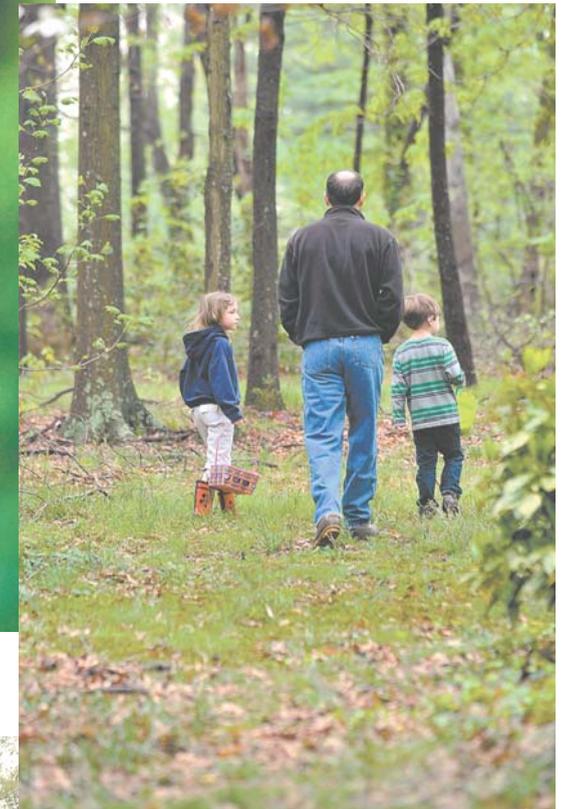
The woodland garden was divided into three sections, the first for baby bunnies aged 0-4, the second for young bunnies aged 5-7 and the third for the racing rabbits 7-plus years. The Easter Bunny called the start and the children were off. The parents set up a potluck brunch on the patio. Prizes were given to all the children who participated.



Jimmy Schull spies an egg in the ivy.



The Easter Bunny arrives for the annual hunt.



The eggs were scattered high and low.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE

William O'Connell and Nicholas and Peter Greve trade up on their full baskets of Easter treats.



Fiona Pacious walks with neighbors through the young bunny trail.

Kay DiCicco cuts open a large chocolate egg for the children returning from the hunt.

The Drama Mamas

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Never underestimate how a little gumption can change the world. And never tell a bunch of stage moms that the spring musical is off.

That's the lesson of West Potomac High School, where the drama program began to suffer after the retirement of longtime

instructor Kathie McCormally retired after more than 30 years on the job. Fewer and fewer students signed up for the class, which led to administrators reducing the position to a part-time position. That led the teacher to announce that the program would have no extra-curricular activities — no fall play and no spring musical.

"Like hell," said Amy Solo, parent of two West Potomac students.

Along with four other concerned parents,

Solo formed a group that has become known as the "Drama Mamas" to revive the school's moribund drama program. First they acquired the services of English teacher Colin O'Grady to direct "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which, incidentally, did not need money for royalties. With little time and a shoestring budget, the Drama Mamas pulled together a fall play that was considered a smashing success.

"The show must go on," said Solo. "And we were determined to make it happen."

For the spring musical, the mothers raised \$1,500 for the services of Frank Pasqualino,

noted director who has worked with the Little Theater of Alexandria and the Port City Playhouse. Next week, the students will open "Bye Bye Birdie." The performance will represent a full culmination of efforts by students, teachers and parents to rally in response to difficult circumstances and challenging times.

"You have to credit these mothers with recognizing what needed to be done and going after it," said Pasqualino during one recent rehearsal. "It's a testament to what you can accomplish if you set your mind to it."

Concerned mothers breath new life into West Potomac High School drama program.

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Tobin Bergen-Hill, St. Aidan's CROP leader, and Ian Roberts, chairman of the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk, gather with St. Aidan's children to plan for this year's Walk on Sunday, May 15.

PHOTO BY
DARIA BERGEN-HILL

Join in CROP Hunger Walk on May 15

“Because they walk, we walk” is the theme of the 31st annual Church World Services CROP Hunger Walk on May 15. Beginning at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, the CROP Walk winds through the local community for 1.5 miles. Registration begins at 12:30 at St. Aidan's and the Walk begins at 1:30.

“Everyone is invited to participate in the CROP Walk which raises funds to end hunger at home and around the world,” according to Walk chairman Ian Roberts. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised stay in the community, assisting UCM and New Hope Housing and other local hunger-fighting initiatives. “The rest goes to countries where people have to walk

miles a day to get their food, water, fuel or medical care,” said Roberts.

Walkers on May 15 will return to St. Aidan's for a celebration with music from a local band, snacks and juices available for a donation, and T-shirts, hats, and plants for sale.

Sponsor forms for walkers are available at local churches. Funds can be raised by walking with sponsors, by sponsoring someone else, by sponsoring work on-site on May 15, or by on-line gift giving at www.cropwalkonline.org, ref: Mt. Vernon Walk.

The Walk is in support of Church World Services, an interfaith response to disasters around the world since 1947.

Celebrate!

Mount Vernon
At Home

Reception and Silent Auction

Thursday, May 19, 2011

4:30 to 7:00 pm

Remarks by Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County
Board of Supervisors

George Washington's River Farm
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22308

Members \$30
Guests, Non Members \$35

To reserve tickets please call *Mount Vernon At Home* at 703-303-4060 or email at info@mountvernonathome.org by May 5, 2011.



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Alex/Hollindale \$568,500
1908 Shannon Court

Stunning 4 level brick split w/garage on a lovely cul-de-sac backing to the privacy of woods. Meticulous 5BR, 3BA home w/updated kitchen & baths, replacement energy efficient windows & family room w/gas fireplace. Lower level has game

room w/conveying pool table & beautiful wet bar. Lovely screened porch & deck overlook a private & serene setting backing to woods. Great location: 3 mins to GW Pkwy, 8 mins to Old Town (N) and 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S). This is a Gem!!



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

Stunning 5BR, 3BA, 2 Level Rambler with WATERFRONT in prestigious Wessynton. Loaded with updates: roof, HVAC system, baths, kitchen, windows, refinished hardwood floors, electric panel, plus 2 gas FPLs and a garage. Perfect! At \$825,000 the best price you'll find for a waterfront property in Mt. Vernon. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir! Don't miss this-call Rex for Details!



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

Beautiful 4BR, 3BA Brick, Split level home in Hollin Hall (Wayne Wood Elementary) w/lovely landscaping. Vaulted ceiling in living and dining areas. Spacious rooms, solid construction,

replacement windows, wood floors on 2 levels, two fireplaces. Lower level walks out thru French doors to extensive ground decking and patio in backyard. Ideal for entertaining. Well-maintained inside and out. This is a great value!



Alex/Riverwood \$709,900
3712 Carriage House Court

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



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

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



Alex./Woodland \$599,000
3232 Woodland Lane

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



Woodbridge \$1700
The River Club
830 Belmont Bay Drive #502

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The Bradcovich family, from left, are Steven, Zury, Isabella, Steve, Joseph, Daniel and Ariel.

A Mission To Build Churches

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Steve Bradcovich, leader of Washington Community Church has been a pastor for 26 years. He has lived in four countries in the past three decades. He speaks five languages: English, Russian, Spanish, German and Latvian, and has traveled to many countries spreading the word of Christianity. He inspires his followers to raise money not to build a church of their own, but to build churches in different foreign countries in areas where none exist. In this cause he inspires his congregation to make a difference in the lives of others and, in so doing, in their lives as well.

By the time Bradcovich returned to the U.S. in the 1990s from his work in the former Soviet Union, he had overseen a church "planting" (construction and organization) movement that resulted in the creation of over 400 churches and 11 Bible schools. Also, over the years he started eight churches by the time he arrived in the Wash-

ington metropolitan area. After searching for the right place to begin his ninth church, he settled in the Sacramento area of Fairfax County along the Route 1 corridor. Most recently he and his congregation now meet at the Carl Sandburg Middle School.

Reflecting Bradcovich's personality and background of living and working in various countries, he points out that his local congregation is made up of a variety of different racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds.

"Our goal is to help people find their life's destiny and purpose and show them that there is something special in each of us, and that there is something that each of us can do to make our world better," Bradcovich said.

"Each year we go to a foreign country and 'plant' a church. Our congregations have planted churches in Africa, Europe, Central America, and Haiti. This year we will be planting a church in the Dominican Republic. We will be traveling there in two waves: our youth will be going in July, and the adults will finish building the church in October."

For more information, see www.wcchurch.com.



Steve Bradcovich

PROFILE

NEWS NOTES

Fatal Crash in Fort Hunt Area

The driver involved in a single-car crash on Sherwood Hall Lane near the intersection of Midday Lane on March 31 died Monday, April 4.

According to police, a 2008 Lexus was headed west on Sherwood Hall Lane and failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway. The Lexus continued straight, off the roadway and struck a tree head-on. The 75-year-old driver and the 49-year-old passenger were both transported to a local hospital.

The driver, August M. Cianciolo, of Mason Hill Drive in Alexandria, died from injuries sustained in the crash.

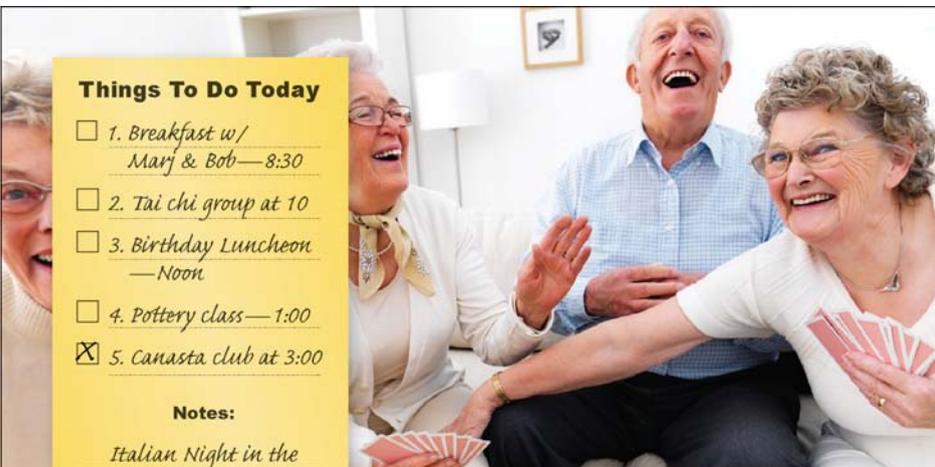
Neither speed nor alcohol were factors in this crash. Both occupants were wearing lap and harness restraints.

Sobriety Checkpoint Results

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Saturday, April 23 from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Sunday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were checked to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 770 motorists passed through the checkpoint in the southbound lanes of Richmond Highway near the intersection of Fairhaven Avenue. No arrests were made for DWI; four summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses, and two people were charged with minor criminal offenses.

Ten auxiliary officers and eight police officers participated in the operation.



Things To Do Today

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

Notes:

Italian Night in the dining room!

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CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through April 22.

BURGLARY

Police responded to a burglary in the 1900 block of Glen Drive around 9:40 p.m. on Friday, April 15. An investigation determined the suspect stole two guns from the home.

BURGLARY/ ARREST

Police arrested a man for burglarizing the Citgo gas station at 8158 Mount Vernon Highway around 11:11 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. A 23-year-old male of the 4600 block of Lawrence St. in Alexandria, was charged with burglary, destruction of property and drunk in public.

ROBBERY

Two men robbed three women, ages 29, 34 and 37, as they entered a building in the 8400 block of Graves St. just after 2 a.m. on Sunday, April 17. One suspect displayed a knife and the other a gun; they stole property from the victims and fled. One of the victims chased after one suspect and held him until police arrival. At this time no charges have been placed but police continue their investigation. The three victims were not injured.

SHOOT OR THROW MISSILE

INTO AN AUTOMOBILE

An officer was driving a police car in the area of Old Mill Road and Pole Road on Monday, April 18 when someone threw a beer bottle at the car around 11 p.m. The bottle struck the officer; he was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Police searched the area for suspects but did not locate any.

ROBBERY

A teenaged boy robbed a 17-year-old boy while they were inside the Wal-Mart located at 7910 Richmond Highway around 5:38 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20. An investigation determined the suspect forcefully stole cash from the victim's pocket. He was described as black, about 16 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 155 pounds.

ROBBERY

A man entered the Exxon Gas Station at 1800 Belle View Boulevard and robbed an employee, a 30-year-old woman, around 9:15 p.m. on Friday, April 8. The suspect displayed a knife and stole an undisclosed amount of cash. He was described as black, between 18 and 25 years old, about 6 feet tall and 145 pounds. The victim was not injured.

ASSAULT ON A LAW

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ ARREST

Police responded to a fight in the 8500 block of Richmond Highway around 10:23 on Saturday, April 9. One man allegedly resisted arrest and assaulted an officer. A 32-year-old male of no fixed address was taken into custody and charged with assault on a law enforcement officer. The officer did not require medical attention.

BRANDISHING A FIREARM/

ARREST

Police arrested a man for brandishing a firearm at an acquaintance, a 25-year-old man, after a confrontation that occurred in

the 6200 block of Richmond Highway around 2:13 a.m. on Sunday, April 10. A 27-year-old male of the 14000 block of Big Crest Lane in Woodbridge was charged with brandishing a firearm. The victim was not injured.

ROBBERY

Two men robbed a 40-year-old man in the 3700 block of Rolling Hills Avenue around 1 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12. The suspects stole his wallet and fled. They were described as black, between 20 and 25 years old and both were wearing white T-shirts. One suspect was about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 165 pounds, with dreadlocks. The other was about 5 feet 10 inches tall and 180 pounds, with short hair. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

Police responded to a home in the 7100 block of Park Terrace Drive for a burglar alarm around 11:05 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13. An investigation determined a door had been forced open; there was nothing missing from the home.

LARCENIES

7900 block of Central Park Circle. Jewelry stolen from residence.

2400 block of Fairhaven Ave. Medicine stolen from business.

2200 block of Huntington Ave. Credit card stolen from residence.

6200 block of North Kings Highway. Passport stolen from vehicle.

8100 block of Norwood Drive. Tools stolen from vehicle.

2500 block of Richmond Highway. Computer stolen from school.

6700 block of Richmond Highway. Wallet stolen from business.

7600 block of Richmond Highway. Merchandise stolen from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway. MP3 player stolen from business.

6900 block of South Kings Highway. Cigarettes stolen from business.

8300 block of Brockham Drive. Handgun stolen from residence.

3500 block of Buckman Road. Bicycle stolen from residence.

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square. Beer and meat stolen from business.

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square. Cart of beer stolen from business.

2500 block of Parkers Lane. Lug nuts stolen from vehicle.

7200 block of Rebecca Drive. License plate stolen from vehicle.

6700 block of Richmond Highway. Two cartons of cigarettes stolen from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway. Cell phone stolen from vehicle.

8600 block of Richmond Highway. Wallet stolen from business.

8600 block of Richmond Highway. Two bottles of wine stolen from business.

8200 block of Russell Road. Bottle of wine stolen from business.

5700 block of Telegraph Road. Dog stolen from residence.

9100 block of Volunteer Drive. Two guitars stolen from residence.

5900 block of Richmond Highway. 2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

8100 block of Richmond Highway. 2001 Nissan Sentra.

3900 block of San Leandro Place. 1989 Nissan Maxima.

VEHICLE THEFTS

5900 block of Richmond Highway. 2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

8100 block of Richmond Highway. 2001 Nissan Sentra.

3900 block of San Leandro Place. 1989 Nissan Maxima.

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OPINION

Tolls, Rail, Ridership

Why do private companies collect biggest tolls?

\$34.50: That's what I estimate I spent this past weekend on five full trips the entire length of the Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway, plus an additional trip on the Dulles Toll from the Beltway to Hunter Mill Road and back. (Remember when you could buy a tank of gas for that?)

Almost all of that money, at least \$22.50, went to the private owners of the Greenway, contributing not one penny to rail or any other local infrastructure. I don't mind the \$12 that might help pay for rail nearly as much.

How will the design of the Metro stop at Dulles Airport affect its use?

Research demonstrates, along with common sense, that the more convenient transit is, (frequency, proximity, continuity) the more people use it. It also has to be clean and safe, but we're going to assume those features will be included.

We've planned for decades (Dulles opened in 1962) not for rail to Tysons or for rail to Reston, but for rail to Dulles, to serve a portion of the 24 million passengers a year that fly through the airport; eventually the number of passengers could more than double.

Saving \$330 million is a worthy goal, the amount extra that putting the Dulles stop underground would cost. Making the rail easy to use is also important. The fact that drivers on

the Dulles Toll Road pay for a significant portion of construction of the rail line adds to the controversy.

There might be more than one way to shorten the walk from getting off Metro to the terminal (where we know that there are more trains, shuttles, corridors and escalators waiting). Perhaps an above ground station could be designed on the current hourly parking lot, conveniently a hop, skip and a jump into the terminal. Let the people who drive walk a few extra minutes instead.

EDITORIALS

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, demonstrated that the walk from the

above ground station to the terminal would be four-to-seven minutes. We know that navigating once inside the terminal also takes time.

Meanwhile, we need more scrutiny and intellectual power on the tolls we already pay and the tolls that are coming, and how those could be used to advance transportation for everyone.

No entity, private or government, should collect tolls without displaying clearly how much they are charging. It's not easy to figure out what you spend using your EasyPass transponder. At least on the Dulles Toll Road, there are signs letting you know what you are paying. No such luck on the Greenway. It might be good for everyone who uses it to have one day a year (not the same day please) when

they must pay by cash, just as a reminder of how much money it is.

Construction continues on the high occupancy toll lanes on the Beltway, where again, a private company will collect 100 percent of the tolls for at least 50 years, and the cost of one trip from near the American Legion Bridge to the Mixing Bowl in the HOT-lanes (remember, T for toll) could be as much as \$12. This is for infrastructure built on public property.

There are benefits to the construction of the HOT-lanes including rebuilding dozens of aging bridges over and around the Beltway. But the state could have paid for the project with bonds based on tolls. Or the contract could have required revenue sharing.

As Virginia seems intent on going forward with HOT-lanes on 395-95, public officials owe Northern Virginia commuters better representation.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER, @MARYKIMM

Send in Mother's Day Photos

The Gazette will print a gallery of Mother's Day photos, email in your pictures to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Be sure to identify everyone in the photo and let us know when and where it was taken.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accountability Overdue

To the Editor:

I read with interest the comprehensive article by Gerald A. Fill concerning the future of develop-

ment on the Route 1 corridor. I recently served as second vice-chairman of the Land Use Committee on Supervisor Hyland's Visioning Task Force. The committee included the past and present Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner, a current At Large Planning Com-

missioner, the current Mount Vernon Park Authority representative, and a number of other community leaders well-versed in land use issues.

The Land Use Committee reaffirmed the correctness of the vision set forth in the Comprehen-

sive Plan, that development on Richmond Highway should consist of nodes where commercial activity is concentrated and, between those nodes, residential development. The priority identified as number one on the list of committee priorities was taking appropriate steps to make development on Richmond Highway more easy to accomplish for prospective developers. In this vein, we recommended that steps be taken proactively to pave the way for future development. Examples of such steps include amending the Comprehensive Plan and rezoning parcels so that prospective developers do not have to go through these expensive and time consuming steps.

Unfortunately, despite all best intentions, the one factor stifling development on Richmond Highway that has not been adequately addressed is the role and influence of umbrella civic organizations such as the MVCCA. Obviously, future development on Richmond Highway should proceed in accordance with community wishes. How does one ascertain the wishes of the community?



PHOTO BY KERRY L. MILLER

Snapshot A bald eagle spotted flying over Stratford Landing Park.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

When I was chairman of the MVCCA's Planning & Zoning Committee, I instituted measures to assure accountability of representatives to my committee with respect to the communities that appointed them to represent community interests. Every vote that was taken was done by calling the roll from an attendance sheet signed by attendees. Those attendance sheets were maintained in a file, available for neighborhood community presidents to review upon request so that they could be assured representatives to the P&Z Committee were voting in accordance with the community's desires, as opposed to the personal desires of the representative. I am unaware that any MVCCA committee before or since has implemented such a measure of accountability.

During the existence of the Visioning Task Force, on Jan. 2, 2011, I proposed the following statement be incorporated in the Land Use Committee's report:

"We must improve the advisory role of community umbrella organizations by more closely scrutinizing the extents of the neighborhoods and citizenry they claim to represent and ensuring that positions they take in their advisory capacity are representative of the mainstream of community thought rather than the personal views of those who serve on their Committees and Boards."

The Land Use Committee chairman declined to incorporate this statement into the Land Use Committee's report and no vote was ever taken by the committee as to whether this decision was appropriate. Unless accountability is introduced into MVCCA procedures, the community as a whole can never be assured that resolutions enacted by the MVCCA are representative of the views of the community as a whole as opposed to the personal views of MVCCA volunteers. Until this issue is resolved, politicians such as County Supervisors cannot possibly know the mainstream of community thought on any issue, particularly how the community feels about proposals to upgrade Richmond Highway. This is an issue that must be addressed and resolved before we can even think about proposals for development on Richmond Highway. It must be resolved now.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

The Buck Stops Here

To the Editor:

As the only candidate for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors residing in South County, I read Supervisor [Jeffrey] McKay's commentary ["When a Plan Is Not a Plan," The Gazette, April 21] with special interest. He is correct that the state under Governor Kaine should have done more to help the region prepare for BRAC. We will suffer the consequences of inaction beginning in September.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Snapshot

10:56 a.m., April 23, Holiday Drive.

While Supervisor McKay emphasized the lack of leadership we have had during the past five years, I want to commend Democrats and Republicans for the accomplishments of the 2011 General Assembly session. The age of politicians passing the buck is over.

The General Assembly funded a study of U.S. Route 1. Thanks to leadership from Delegate Surovell, the composition of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is being reviewed and will likely be modified to better represent Virginia's regional population distribution moving forward. The CTB makes important decisions about the funding of transportation projects. This change will lead to lasting positive benefits.

The Board of Supervisors going forward will strengthen our advocacy. My government plan increases local resources for education and transportation priorities by \$193 million without increasing taxes. With my plan, Fairfax County taxpayers will stop subsidizing other taxpayers by over \$501 million annually to meet state mandates. Working together we will create effective, sustainable solutions for the challenges confronting our community.

Will Radle

The letter writer is a candidate for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Reach him at FairfaxAdvocates@gmail.com.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette

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The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Education Partnership Scholarships for 2011 graduating high school seniors, pursuing further education in a business related field, are now available.

Six scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each.

These scholarship are made available through the generous contributions of our local business community.

Apply for this scholarship online at

<http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/EdPartnScholarshipForm.html>

Or call **703-360-6925**
for more information.

Application deadline is Friday, May 6.

Mount Vernon-Lee
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 2000, more than \$84,000 in scholarships awarded to local high school graduates.

PEOPLE



24th Annual MVCCA Gala

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church members gather with Citizen of the Year Rev. Jeri Fields. The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations held its gala on April 9 at the Laurel Hill Golf Club, Lorton.

Accomplishments Of the MVCCA Awardees

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Rev. Jeri Fields helped form the hypothermia outreach program for homeless; open a preschool at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church; volunteer chaplain for the Mount Vernon Dist Police Station; coordinated Ventures in Community MLK concert for five years; helped the homeless through Agape Meals and Families in Transition.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Mount Vernon High School student Cristalyn Solomon is a member of the Key Club, selected for the Young Women's Political Leadership Program and to travel to Costa Rica by the World Affairs Council; formed the high school group, Lovely Accomplished Ladies, a discussion forum to discuss issues affecting young women.

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Mason Neck Lions Club: Collected and recycled used glasses; volunteered for Potomac River and Bay cleanup, adopt-a-highway, graffiti removal, tree and flower planting in parks, marking storm drains, and overall efforts to keep Mason Neck beautiful and healthy.



Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year and MVCCA Co-chairs, from left, Al Bornmann, Citizen of the Year Rev. Jeri Fields, Queenie Cox, Bob Reynolds and David Plummer.



Mount Vernon District Student of the Year and her parents, from left, Norman Solomon; Student of the Year Christafyn Solomon, Mount Vernon High School, and Cheryll Solomon.

PEOPLE 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.

MILITARY NOTES

Navy Midshipman Timothy Galvin, a 2009 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Alexandria, was recently awarded the All-Around Performance ribbon by the Boston University - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) consortium.

The All-Around Performance ribbon signifies outstanding performance in the field of academics, physical fitness training, community service and military criteria.

Galvin, who has received this award once before, said his motivation is supported by a diverse unit and his fellow midshipmen.

Maj. Gen. John M. Bednarek was nominated by President Obama for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as the commanding general, First U.S. Army, Fort Gillem, Ga. Bednarek is currently serving as the commanding general, First Army Division East, Fort Meade, Md. Bednarek grew up in Alexandria and graduated from Bishop Ireton High School.

Navy Seaman Rudy W. Picardo, a 1993 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Alexandria, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

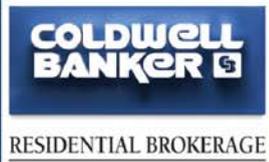
Army Pfc. Conrad A. Colby has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. Colby is the son of Kelly Colby of Sheridonna Lane, Alexandria, Va., and grandson of Stacy Colby of Easton Drive, Fairfax, Va.



Mount Vernon District Organization of the Year, Mason Neck Lions Club: Queenie Cox, MVCCA Consumer Affairs Committee chair, and Joe Chudzik, Lions Club representative.



From left: Dave Plummer; Catherine Voorhees, Transportation Committee; David Voorhees, Budget & Finance Committee, and Bob Reynolds.



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Old Town/Chelsea \$639,000

203 West Street South, Alexandria, VA 22314

Beautiful 3 level, 3BR, 2.5BA brick TH with off-street parking. Blocks to King St Metro & the heart of Old Town. Brand new kitchen, SS appls, updated baths, HW, crown molding, freshly painted, private rear garden & more!



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



Old Town/Parker Gray \$564,900

322 Payne Street North, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday 1-3PM. Located blocks to the heart of Old Town, this light-filled 2BR, 1.5BA TH features a gourmet kitchen with new cabinets, granite & SS appls. Newly renovated baths, new HW, peaceful rear garden & off street parking for two.



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



Old Town Village

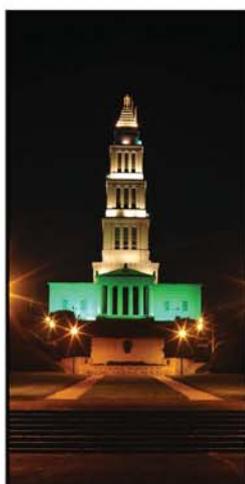
\$819,500

319 South Fayette Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

This beautifully maintained 3 bedroom and 3.5 bath brick end TH overlooks professionally landscaped courtyard and is located only several blocks to the King St Metro. Enjoy the many community amenities including pool, gym and bike trail.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Carlyle Towers

\$495,900

2121 Jamieson Ave #1001, Alexandria, VA 22314

Carlyle Towers Favorite Floorplan. Largest 2BR! Great eat-in kitchen opening to glass enclosed balcony. Separate DR, 2BA, foyer plus 2 car garage parking and storage. Great views of Masonic Temple! www.CarlyleTowers1-1001.com



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Captain's Row/Old Town \$1,250,000

126 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

One Block to River! Located on Captain's Row along the cobblestones and elegance of the 18th century. This sunny semi-detached home has been completely restored with amenities of the 21st century, yet captures the essence of 1783.



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Canal Place/Old Town \$289,900

1113 North Pitt Street #2B, Alexandria, VA 22314

2nd floor unit overlooking manicured grounds & pool. Freshly painted and cleaned. Washer and dryer included in unit. Woodburning fireplace, eat-in kitchen & secure entrance. Located just three stop lights to DC.



Michael Bergin 703-927-4554



Mount Vernon Forest \$574,900

9214 Cherrytree Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309

Updated and Modernized. Beautifully updated with over \$100,000 in upgrades. 5BR, 3BA, family room and den on fenced half acre corner lot. Minutes from Ft. Belvoir. Updated baths, kitchen, dark hardwoods, two fireplaces and windows.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Collingwood Estates \$599,900

1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Very large five bedroom, three bath and two level rambler located in Waynewood School District. New roof, newer windows and HVAC. Upgraded insulation, hardwoods, den, deck and gazebo.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Mt. Vernon/Fort Hunt \$835,000

8024 Holland Road, Alexandria, VA 22306

Sold! New construction! 4BR, 3.5BA, 3 car garage and backs to trees. HW flrs, custom cabinets, granite, SS appls, crown moldings and partially finished basement.



Clay Schoeffel & Sherry York 703-863-3945



Old Town

\$519,900

506 North West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Comfort, convenience and charm in Old Town. Only steps to Braddock Rd Metro, shopping, dining and more! Bright, spacious 2BR, 3BA and 3 level updated townhome. Features hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, brick patio and parking.



Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



George Washington Park \$879,900

607 West View Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22314

Delightful & gorgeous home, just blocks to the King St Metro! 4BR, 3BA, recent expansion & kitchen renovation. Nicely finished lower level, lovely deck, large lot, long driveway & garage. Pristine condition.



Sherry York 708-625-3377



Heritage Hill of Alexandria

\$387,000

5793 Heritage Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

Commuter's Dream. 3 bedrooms, 3 levels, 2 full & 2 half baths. Nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac close to Huntington Metro. Lower level walkout to private patio, new windows & immaculate. AHS Warranty.



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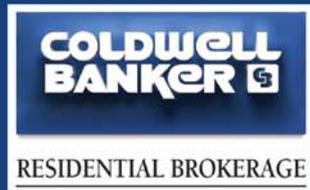


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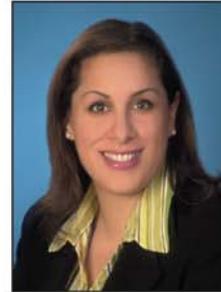
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JOLEE RUBIN



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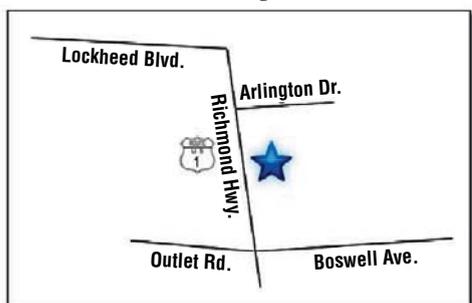
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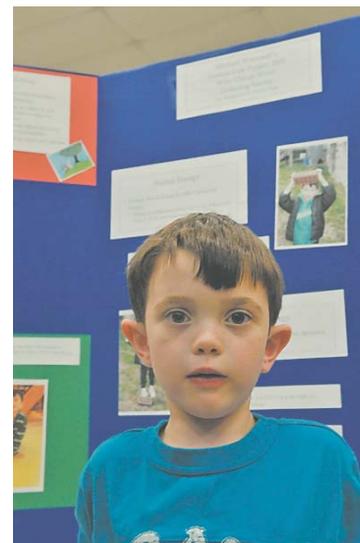


Jessica Rocabado-Arnez looked at the effects of liquids on flowers using coke, orange juice and water.

For Science's Sake

Stratford Landing Elementary School's student science fair hosted 170 projects displayed April 12 in the school cafeteria. Two preschool classes participated in projects involving shadows and color mixing. Student participation in the fair is optional. Those choosing to participate were given a choice on projects: science art exhibit, science demonstration, observational design, invention, and experimental design. Projects are not judged though visiting scientists go from table to table speaking individually to each participant.

During the evening, students from George Mason University Chemistry Club provided hands-on demonstrations for the students. To reward participating in the science fair, each student participant received a raffle ticket for a chance to win science kits, science-related inflatable toys and a gift certificate for Fairfax County summer courses.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

First grader Michael Weinraub looked at "Why Things Move: Defeating Inertia."



Hypothesis: If the density of the soda in the can is greater than water then it will sink. The hypothesis proved correct.



Second grader Amanda Hail chose the effects of sound for her science project.



First grader Harper Wolff explored whether or not you could learn the age of a tree and the weather by studying the rings of a tree.

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The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House

Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horsehair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~ \$1,950,000



611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

Elegant Belle Haven Home



Stately 7 bedroom, 5.5 bath 1940's brick colonial. Renovated in 2006, this home offers lovely moldings & architectural detail, hardwood floors, slate roof, copper gutters & downspouts, light filled living room, spacious formal dining room w/ fireplace and French doors leading to a private patio, gourmet chef's kitchen, cozy family room, luxurious master bedroom & walk in closet, master spa bath, fabulous rec room w/ stone fireplace, wet bar and 600 bottle wine cellar, and a large brick patio overlooking a rolling lawn. ~ \$1,670,000



1906 Belle Haven Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Just Listed in Tower House Place



5 bedroom, 5.5 baths, two Story Great Room w/ Palladian Windows & coffered ceiling overlook stone terrace w/fountain. 10' ceilings on first floor. 2 MBR's main & upper floor w/ balcony and steam shower. Open Kitchen w/ center island, commercial appliances, breakfast rm. Custom Laundry rm. Concrete counters and rustic bar in lower lvl exercise, office ~ \$1,595,000

9060 Tower House Place Alexandria, VA 22308

The Best of Kings Cloister



Flawless retreat! Bright & open in cul-de-sac backing to trees. Cooks kitchen w/ island & sunny breakfast room opens to tiered deck w/ landscape & exterior lighting. 4 bedrooms, library, large dining room, foyer & living room, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage. A car lovers DREAM w/ heat, flooring & built-ins. Wood floors on main & upper levels, + 2 custom staircases w/ iron railing. Recently finished rec room ~

624 Kings Cloister Circle Alexandria, VA 22302

Open Sunday 1-4 in Wellington!



One level living! Owners have spared no expense in updating home. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, plantation shutters, custom built-ins, renovated eat-in kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances, granite countertops & family room and study off kit. Neutral bathrooms, 3 large bedrooms +office/den, 3 full baths, tons of closet space, large patio and deck great for entertaining! ~ \$775,000



1117 Woodcliff Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 1-4 in Mount Vernon!



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



8355 Justin Road Alexandria, VA 22309

Great Buy in Belle Haven!



Spacious, light filled 4 bedroom, 3 bath, split level, freshly painted interior, updated kitchen, large family room, lovely screened porch and private patio, 2 fireplaces. New windows, gutters, washer/dryer, and siding. ~ \$549,000

2428 Windsor Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Like New In Plymouth Haven



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



8839 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Charming in Old Town

Delightful 2BR, 2BA brick townhouse featuring



crown molding and chair rail, hardwood floors updated kitchen with granite counters, rec room with full bath on lower level with outside entrance to lovely private deck, stone patio and garden ~ \$539,000

912 South Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven



Beautiful, light filled colonial perfect for elegant entertaining as well as comfortable family living. Offering a two story foyer, tall ceilings, gracious formal rooms, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces beautiful master suite with a vaulted ceiling, six bedrooms, five and one half baths, exceptional built-in bookshelves and cabinets, wonderful family room and recreation room with fireplaces, two private decks, and two car garage. ~\$1,599,900



1912 Glen Drive Alexandria, VA 22307

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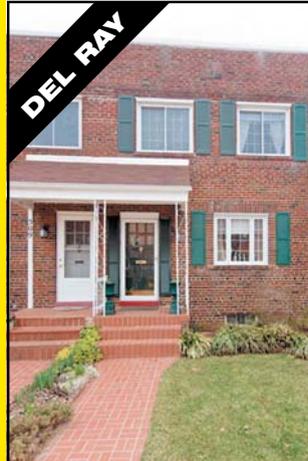
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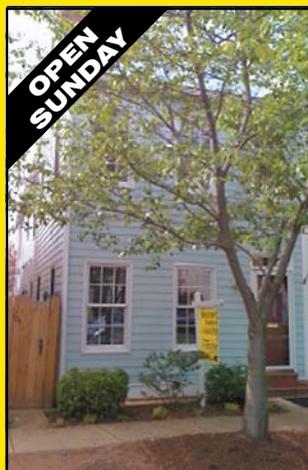


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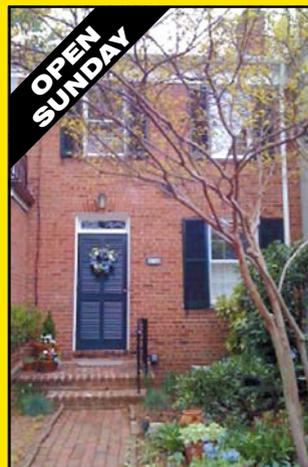
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THEATER

Stoppard Comedy Sends Up Mysteries & Critics

MetroStage offers "The Real Inspector Hound."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The life of a theater critic can sometimes be a strange thing as evidenced by this Saturday when I attended two shows to review. One was a musical about two young men writing a musical. The other one found me watching a show and taking notes for a review of a show about theater critics watching a show and taking notes for a review. The musical was "[title of show]" currently playing at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The other was "The Real Inspector Hound," which opened at MetroStage, on North Royal Street.

MetroStage has a superb cast for its highly enjoyable send up of both the English whodunit mysteries, like the ones Agatha Christie is so famous for writing, and of the pretensions of certain theater critics. As one of the later, of course, I find the effort to ridicule critics must be directed toward some of my colleagues — they couldn't be referring to me. (Could they?)

"The Real Inspector Hound" is a one-act play written in the early 1960s by Tom Stoppard, the master wordsmith who gave us "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," "Arcadia," "The Coast of Utopia" and "The Invention of Love" as well as the screenplay for



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BAILEY

Most of the cast of "The Real Inspector Hound" — Kimberly Gilbert, Catherine Flye, Emily Townley, Michael Tolaydo, Ralph Cosham, John Dow and David Elias.

"Shakespeare in Love" for which he won the Oscar for Best Screenplay. He wrote this one in the early 1960s, before any of the above had been seen on stages here or in Britain.

Theater lovers frequently look forward to a production of a Tom Stoppard play with great anticipation. This one was even more eagerly awaited because of its casting and its director, John Vreeke. It was Vreeke who suggested doing the play at MetroStage in order to have the chance to work again with three actors with whom he'd staged the little-known play "Heroes" in 2009, Michael Tolaydo, Ralph Cosham and John Dow. For that play at MetroStage they earned the Canadian Embassy Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Play presented by the Helen Hayes Awards.

This is no sequel to "Heroes" however. Where that gentle human drama touched a sentimental nerve with its portrait of veterans at the end of life, "The Real Inspector Hound" is a no-holds barred send up, reaching for every joke the outlandish premise allows. Also, Tolaydo, Cosham and Dow aren't alone in the company. They are joined by five colleagues who are familiar to local theater-goers and one newcomer who plays the corpse in the mystery-with-the-play.

Tolaydo is unabashedly funny as one of two second-string theater critics assigned to cover an equally second-string mystery play while Cosham is more subtle but no less funny. The tone of the piece is evident even before the house lights go down as Cosham takes one of

two theater seats located at the back of the set and stares out at the stage and the real audience beyond. Soon, Tolaydo enters the auditorium scampering up and down the aisles in search of his seat. Cosham calls him over to take the seat next to him and they exchange pleasantries as they await the beginning of the mystery, a typical whodunit set in a manor in the middle of the marshes of middle England. Just as you might expect, the room has a radio (for news flashes of a murderer on the loose) a telephone on a stand (where, of course, in the course of the play it is announced that the wires have been cut) and a corpse.

While Catherine Flye, as the maid, Emily Townley, as the lady of the manor, John Dow, who appears as her wheelchair-bound brother, Kimberly Gilbert as her friend, Doug Krehbel as a new gentleman in the neighborhood and David Elias as the character for whom the play is titled, perform the mystery "The Real Inspector Hound," the two critics at the back of the stage pay attention more or less, take a few notes for their reviews and continue their conversation in soto-voice snippets. (Of course, no real critic would talk during a performance! But we must allow Stoppard this slight deviation from reality in pursuit of humor and drama.)

The mystery turns out to be a three-act play, so there are opportunities for even further conversation between the two critics as the audience discovers details of their private lives and careers that seem to tie in to the mystery on the stage. Soon, the connection is un-

Where & When

"The Real Inspector Hound" plays at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria, through May 29. Performances are Thursday - Friday at 8 p.m. Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45 - \$50 with student tickets available at \$25. Call (800) 494-8497 or log on to www.metrostage.org.

mistakable and the lines between on-stage fiction and off-stage reality blur beyond control, a situation that is rife with opportunities for a good laugh and this cast takes full advantage of every one.

Daniel Pinha designed a very workable set with the on-stage representation of a manor house which recalls many a small theater production of an Agatha Christie play but with a picture of a full audience sometimes projected on the screen behind Cosham and Tolaydo's theater seats. Ivania Stack, Brian S. Allard and Steve Baena continue that recreation with a light touch in their costume, light and sound designs. Baena's snippets of classical music to punctuate the mystery's plot points are particularly fun.

In his role of a theater critic, Cosham has a line that pronounces the mystery "a good clean show without a trace of smut." My review gives it much more credit than that. It is a delightful show with marvelous performances and if you've seen a few English manor mysteries you'll enjoy it all the more.

Notes from the Producer

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
FOR THE GAZETTE

Eclectic theatre in an intimate theatre space is our "mantra" here at MetroStage. We love our small musicals, our quirky little plays, our parodies of Broadway composers and, of course, Tom Stoppard, the playwright who has been called the "master of the English language." Several years ago we produced a little gem of a play called "Heroes." Although only translated by Stoppard from the French, it had Stoppard's signature style and language. The three old soldiers played by Ralph Cosham, Michael Tolaydo and John Dow, captured the hearts and imagination of our audience, as well as the

Helen Hayes judges who attended. Our brilliant little ensemble of three received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Resident Production, in a field of over 180 eligible professional productions in the Washington, D.C., metro area, and the award is proudly on display on our box office counter.

This spring our "heroes" have returned to MetroStage for another Tom Stoppard play — this time with five supporting actors (if you include the corpse) to help solve this classic English manor murder mystery. Over 40 years ago Stoppard wrote "The Real Inspector Hound," which is a send up of a murder mystery best exemplified by Agatha Christie's long running play "The Mousetrap," but also

skewers the classic overbearing theatre critic so it is really grand fun on many levels. Since we have all been skewered at one time or another by theatre critics, it is particular fun for theatre producers and playwrights to turn the tables on the critics on occasion.

John Vreeke, a favorite MetroStage director, is back to direct another Stoppard with a remarkable cast of characters played by some of Washington's favorite actors. Every English mystery has to have a Manor, in this case Muldoon Manor, and, of course, it is "secluded" and surrounded by "desolate marshes." In fact, it is said that there are "no roads leading from the manor, though there are ways of getting to it, weather permitting." Theatre critics Moon



Ralph Cosham, John Dow and Michael Tolaydo — the award-winning ensemble from MetroStage's production of "Heroes," who are returning this week in "The Real Inspector Hound."

and Birdboot review this "play within a play" and unwittingly become involved. The audience will get to know the Lady of the Manor, Lady Cynthia Muldoon, and her younger friend, Felicity Cunningham, Major Magnus

is a mystery to be solved. It is quite a collection of characters and a wonderful cast. MetroStage will be hosting this house party through May, and you won't want to miss it because how else will you find out the true identity of the Corpse!

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THEATER

Loving Spoof of Musical Comedy

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

There is a reason that the short, funny and tuneful musical with the strange title of "[title of show]" keeps showing up in new productions: It is both a lot of fun for theater folk to mount and a lot of fun for theater audiences to watch.

Last year it was a professional effort at Signature Theatre that introduced local audiences to this delectable delight that pokes gentle fun at musical theater fanatics. This year, the Little Theatre of Alexandria gives it a community theatre production that proves the one-act script with its 18 musical numbers is a goldmine of nifty notions that talented performers can sink their teeth into.

The performers this time out are Scott Harrison and Josh Goldman as two young men writing a musical (yes, it is that kind of a show!) and Sharon Grant and Anne Marie Pinto as the two young women they cajole into helping them. They appear to be having a great time on the stage with both the spritely songs detailing each step in the writing of a musical and the self-referential jokes of the dialogue scenes. As a result, the audience has a great time too.

There is a fifth member of the cast. Francine Krasowska, the music director of the show sits on stage at her keyboard and is drawn into the dialogue a few times in a clever routine involving union rules about musicians speaking in shows.

Harrison and Goldman establish a sense of rapport while bantering back and forth that makes the idea of the two of them writing a musical together ring true. Both have youthful charm and energy. Harrison has the stronger voice for the Broadway-style songs and Goldman's droll delivery of many of the gag lines gets the biggest laughs as they chat on their cell phones, gather at one or the other's apartment or at a rehearsal hall decorated with show posters going back to "Aspects of Love" to write a musical to submit to the New York Musical Theatre Festival.

Grant and Pinto add more than just two additional voices. Each adds a distinct character which makes the foursome much more than just a quartet. Grant's character has actually performed on Broadway although just as a replacement chorus member. Her sense of awe when commenting that there's nothing like standing on a Broadway stage during a curtain call makes the devotion of all four of the characters to the concept of musical theater touching.

One reason the show seems to work so well is that it was actually written by two young men, Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell, who wanted to write a show for the 2004 festival. Not knowing what to write, they decided to write about the experience of writing. When their submission was actually chosen, they added scenes and songs about being selected and performing at the festival. Then, when the highly unusual happened and a producer wanted to do their show in an Off-Broadway theater, they added more. Finally, when the unthinkable happened and their Off-Broadway show transferred to Broadway, they added some more. It ran for over 100 performances and now is being produced around the country.



PHOTO BY SHANE CANFIELD

Starring in "[title of show]" are (from left to right): Sharon Grant (Heidi), Anne Marie Pinto (Susan), Josh Goldman (Hunter), Scott Harrison (Jeff), and Francine Krasowska (Pianist).

Where & When

"[title of show]" plays at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street through May 14. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 - \$22. Call (703) 683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

Michael Kharfen directs this slightly over-produced version with the assistance of choreographer Catherine Oh. They establish a high energy level from the start and it is clear that attention has been paid to making sure the audience gets a chance to catch a majority of the many laugh lines that come so close together that there is always a danger of one canceling out another. Pacing is important in scenes where lines appear to be simple throw-aways, but which carry plot or character information the audience needs in order to fully understand the story. Kharfen gets that element right. Although he's not able to keep the play from beginning to drag a bit about two thirds of the way through, it picks back up and ends on a high.

Ken Crowley has provided a bit more set than seems necessary, with walls that role on and off to mark changes of location, causing pauses in the performance that contribute to the delay and add a good deal of noise, but he also shows a nice touch with retractable window panels to present a dream sequence. Alan Wray's sound system fully amplifies the four principal characters. The balance between their voices and Krasowska's accompaniment needs a bit of adjustment to avoid having the keyboard drown out the vocals from time to time. There is also a balance problem with the sound of the answering machine on the left side of the stage that is used to make transitions from scene to scene. It is probably loud enough to be understood by those sitting on the left side of the audience but is hard to catch on the extreme right.

The charm of the play comes through. On its surface it seems a spoof of fanatical fandom but underneath there is a touching element paying tribute to the strength of friendship.

FINE ARTS

Call for Instructors for Art Camp 2011 (7/25-7/29). Projects should combine educational elements with hands-on and engaging opportunities for creativity and relate to a current or historic craft founded in cultural tradition. Ages 8-14. www.theDelRayArtisans.org.

APRIL 26 TO JUNE 26

Paintings of the Potomac Valley

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

NOW THROUGH MAY 15

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

APRIL

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

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

"Flowers & Garden: Outdoors and In." This



MAY 5 TO JUNE 6

Baa-merica! Icons Revisited. Leslie Blackmon's Solo Exhibit of Fiber Sculpture. She has created intricate crochet sculptures of sheep posing as American popular culture icons. A Meet-the-Artist's reception is Thursday, May 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org

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

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

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

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

River Views and Moldau Visions. Watercolor paintings by Helen Dilley Barsalou. Barsalou's exhibition is comprised of four parts: River Views, Moldau Visions, Florals, and Animals. Watercolor painting demonstration on Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m. Closing reception is Saturday, April 30, from 4 - 7 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH MAY 2

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

TUESDAY/MAY 3

"New Modes of Consciousness: Time and the Work of Art." 6 to 8 p.m. Free admission. Torpedo Factory artist CMDupré will discuss art theory involving the role of time-place in contemporary art with reference to her own artwork. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. www.torpedofactory.org

NOW THROUGH MAY 15

Artist Linda L. Anderson. Dimensional Landscapes: New Perspectives of our Natural World. At the Schlesinger Center's Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Campus, Alexandria.

MAY 4 TO MAY 29

Laura A. Clerici and Dennis Crayon. New Members Show. Laura Clerici is a Byzantine iconographer. Dennis Crayon uses color and position to convey Modernist composition with a classical painting technique. Meet the Artist's reception is Saturday, May 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

Spring Open House: Flora & Fauna. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Artful flora and fauna abound with a festive garden party at this year's annual Spring Open House. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

MAY 6-8

St. Paul's Art Show. Exhibit hours are Friday, May 6 from 1 to 8 p.m.; Artist's reception, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, May 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria.

MAY 6-15

Fifteen T.C. Williams High School students selected as this year's National Art Honor Society inductees will exhibit their work at Del Ray Artisans. Many of these students will continue their art studies at the college level, and much of the work on exhibit was featured in their winning college admission portfolios. Come celebrate these rising stars at an opening reception on Friday, May 6, 7-10 p.m. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

MAY 7

Alexandria Art Market. Your monthly dose of art in the heart of Del Ray. Grand opening of second season is May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colasanto Park in Alexandria. Free and open to public. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com to apply.

NOW THROUGH MAY 7

Artist Horace Day. "Style and Identity: Black Alexandria in the 1970s, Portraits by Horace Day." The exhibition of more than 30 paintings by Horace Day (1909-1984) features Alexandria street scenes and portraits of African American Alexandrians from the early 1970s. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street in the heart of Alexandria's historic Parker-Gray District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: photoMV@connectionnewspapers.com Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Mount Vernon Gazette, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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 slippers, crinolines, and veils. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Call 703-683-5544 or thewig.org. At 106 N. Columbus Street (near King Street), Old Town 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.

Yappy Hour. 5 to 8 p.m. Paws, Purrs, and Exotics Animal Hospital and Anytime K-9 will host a "Yappy Hour." At Pat Troy's Ireland's Own, 111 North Pitt Street, Alexandria.

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.



SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Mainstreet Brass. 7:30 p.m. Mainstreet Brass, a Pennsylvania-based brass quintet, will present a concert. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The group 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. Call 703-765-4342.

Event kicks off at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

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.

Spring Gala. 6 p.m. to midnight. The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's 25th Anniversary Spring Gala. Features a live band, dancing, sit-down dinner and silent auction. For tickets, call 703-824-6730 or visit alexandriascholarship.org.

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.

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.

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.

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.winorch.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

Founding Gardeners. 3 p.m. Garden historian Andrea Wulf will be lecturing on her new book. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck.

Stories and Music in the Garden. 4 to 6 p.m. Free.



British classics on display at Collingwood Library and Museum.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Car Show at Collingwood. The show is open to all British Marques and features participants' choice judging, food and merchandise vendors, a silent auction, and children's activities. At the Collingwood Library and Museum, just south of Alexandria. Visit www.capitaltriumphregister.com.

Performers will present stories and songs in an enchanting walled garden. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church and Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-5950 or visit www.mvuc.org or www.forthuntpreschool.com.

Basket Bingo. 2 p.m. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Fund-raiser 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.carpentershelter.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.

MAY 5 TO 7

Spring for Alexandria. Celebration of giving and service. ACT for Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria, the Alexandria Jaycees, the City of Alexandria, and Kids Helping Kids Lemonade partner to put on this three-day event, which recognizes and honors giving and service in our community. Volunteers are needed to clean parks and schools, to attend fun events and donate to charities. There is something for every skill set and schedule. Visit www.springforalexandria.org or call Volunteer Alexandria at 703-836-2176.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

U.S. Army Strings in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. Chamber Music for Strings: Duos and Trios. At the Lyceum in Alexandria. Call 703-696-3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

National Train Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Whistle Stop Hobbies in Alexandria is celebrating National Train Day with free kids activities, model train displays, promotions on toy trains and more. At 130 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4912

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church BBQ. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. North Carolina-style pork and chicken BBQ with hot dogs, beans, cole slaw and soft drinks. Dinner is \$8. All are welcome. Proceeds support church activities and community outreach. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Hollin Hall/Wellington section. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

American Balalaika Symphony. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. Peter Trofimenko and The American Balalaika Symphony present "Spring Mood – Musical Fare for the Fair Season" — with romantic works by Andreyev, Dimitriyev, Doga, Gavirin, Kalinnikov, Rubinstein, Strauss, Trostiansky and more, including two original compositions by ABS musicians Vladimir Rozenblat and Michael Kholodov. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.ABSorchestra.org or www.InstantSeats.com.

Riverside Gardens Swim and Tennis Club Gets Facelift

BY JEFFREY AARON
FOR THE GAZETTE

Carolyn Schiffres thought that when she won the bid to renovate the clubhouse at Riverside Gardens Swim and Tennis Club, off Fort Hunt Road in Mount Vernon, it was going to be an easy fix. A little paint here, some tile there, and voila, she was done. But the veteran project manager of kitchen and bath designs had no idea what she had gotten herself into.

Backtrack four years. The club's board had envisioned enlarging the clubhouse by increasing the men's and women's bath and changing rooms and increasing the size of its canopied area. An architect was hired and renderings of what was to come was displayed for members to see. A credit line was secured from a local bank, and the process of permitting with Fairfax County began. Board members, who work nine to five jobs, had taken days off, volunteering their time, to represent the club while helping to usher through the permitting process. But times had changed during last four decades, particularly the permitting process. A project originally thought to cost under \$300,000 escalated to about \$500,000. The escalation was based upon what the board wanted versus what permitting would allow. It was a figure "we simply couldn't afford," current board president Sean Todd said.

With the board's agreement and with permits in hand, Schiffres adopted to a



Riverside Gardens Swim and Tennis clubhouse before renovation ...



... and after .

\$250,000 budget of giving the clubhouse a facelift without the originally envisioned extra square footage.

She first began by excavating the existing concrete around the clubhouse, adjacent to its pools. Concrete has a lifespan of 30-40 years. But what she and her excavators found wasn't pretty under that concrete: Orangeburg pipes, a popular drainage piping during the post-war era, had crumbled and disintegrated, preventing adequate water runoff. Further investigation proved that the pipes needed to be replaced in the bath and pump rooms.

"We pretty much had to rework everything," she said. "When you're just thinking about a remodel you don't anticipate these additional cost, but it had to be done," she said.

Drainage for water and sewage was re-

worked. New concrete was laid over it, ensuring that there would be no issue with uneven paths.

Still within budget, Schiffres began concentrating on what she enjoys most about her job: selecting the cosmetics.

"The columns [supporting the canopied area] wouldn't have withstood another winter storm," she said. The lally columns had to be encased for additional support. Lumber, vinyl faux-cedar singles painted in beige outlined in white did the trick.

Additional vinyl faux cedar singles, also in beige, was used on the sides of the clubhouse, coupled with a large stone inlay against the wall at the concession stand which doubles as the club's office.

An additional shower was installed in the men's room, bringing the total from one to two. Two new sinks as well as two new com-

modes were also installed there. The women's room has the identical features but now comes with two private changing rooms. New 12-inch by 12-inch tile was laid in both bathrooms. All products that are subjected to water come with a 15-year warranty.

Worn patio furniture that left a showroom decades ago will be replaced. On order with an arrival date before the May 1 grand opening are 75 chairs, 40 high back chairs, and 35 chaise lounges.

Fannon Heating and Cooling donated a 80-gallon water heater, Lowes gave some table umbrellas, Home Depot threw in a microwave, and Bray and Scarff a new refrigerator.

On April 15, the clubhouse passed inspection, Schiffres said, and the board plans to hold a grand opening on Sunday, May 1. Memberships are available. For more information, log on to www.rgstc.org

"I'm hoping that they don't have to spend another nickel on this place unless it's to replace the pergolas," Schiffres said. And that too is in the five-year plan.

Jeffrey Aaron is a member of Riverside Gardens Swim and Tennis Club and a freelance writer.



ServiceMaster employees were recognized for their accomplishments at the company's 25th anniversary celebration April 9.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ServiceMaster of Alexandria owners Jane and Greg Gandee celebrated the company's 25th anniversary April 9 at the Hotel Monaco in Old Town.

ServiceMaster Celebrates 25 Years

Employees honored for outstanding service.

ServiceMaster of Alexandria, a disaster recovery company serving Northern Virginia, Ft. Washington, Md. and Washington D.C., celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday, April 9, at the Hotel Monaco in Old Town. Owners Jane and Greg Gandee gathered with 72 employees

and guests to commemorate the occasion and recognize the outstanding achievements of employees.

Located on Richmond Highway, ServiceMaster of Alexandria was the model for the Quality Restoration Vendor (QRV) Program that determines standards of ex-

cellence for ServiceMaster franchises nationwide. ServiceMaster of Alexandria was first on the scene during the Sept. 11 attacks at the Pentagon and is the regional area manager responsible for organizing all local franchises in the event of a catastrophic loss.

"Every job is an opportunity to serve others," Jane Gandee said. "To provide peace of mind during an otherwise traumatic event — what could be more rewarding?"

Reception with The Governor

Susan Bradley, president of the Mount Vernon Republican Women's Club, meets with Gov. Bob McDonnell. The Governor and his wife had invited the women attending the Virginia Federation of Republican Women's Convention in Richmond to a special reception at the Governor's mansion.





The audience listens to the panelists at SFDC's Retail Business Summit.



John Collich, Saul Centers, Inc.



Bruce Leonard, principal, StreetSense.

PHOTOS BY CALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Richmond Highway Corridor Ripe for Development

FROM PAGE 1

zoning district has an FAR control which, when multiplied by the lot area of the zoning lot, produces the maximum amount of floor area allowable in a building on the zoning lot. For example, on a 10,000 square-foot zoning lot in a district with a maximum FAR of 1.0, the floor area of a building cannot exceed 10,000 square feet.

FAR was recently upgraded in the Richmond Highway Corridor from 1.2 to 2, but the panelists at last week's SFDC Retail Business Summit all agreed that isn't enough to attract the kind of development needed to revitalize the corridor.

Leonard said, "Zoning was the problem with redeveloping Richmond Highway. We need more density and much more aggressive development."

The panelist agreed that "The Richmond Corridor, located just 15 miles south of Washington D.C., is an up and coming market poised to take advantage of the next major growth cycle."

Bruce Leonard, principal of StreetSense, said, "With new urban development, strategy has to be key."

He spoke about how Route 1 in Greenbelt was transformed from a blighted corridor to a bustling area.

Developers started building townhouses with promise to bring in retail. Then they started bringing in high-quality restaurants like Busboys & Poets, Chipotle and Elevation Burgers.

They currently have high lease rates and building continues in that area with a multifamily project.

"Getting into the market and doing due diligence is key," said Leonard, as he moderated SFDC's "Retail Trends and Opportunities: National, Regional and the Richmond Highway Market" April 13 that was held at Hampton Inn & Suites, Alexandria South.

Leonard also chairs SFDC's CAPT (Community Appearance Planning and Transportation) committee.

He was joined by Collich and Maskey — both of whom have been heavily involved in projects across the Northern Virginia region including National Harbor, Fair Lakes, Park Potomac and the redevelopment of Beacon Center on Richmond Highway.

Among other things, the panelist explained the shift from Baby Boomers to the "X and Y" generation as major market drivers and the competitive impact of the internet on traditional bricks and mortar retailers. The forum also explained where the Richmond Highway retail sub-market stands on a regional scale.

Maskey said that shoppers are looking for a "Retail Experience" and gave examples like Wegmans supermarket stores and Apple stores.

"People don't want to just shop," said Maskey. "They want an event."

Maskey and other former Peterson Companies executives formed Potomac Development Company and started a major project during the recession.

"We saw this as an opportunity," said Maskey. "The time to start is when the market is down."

Potomac Development Group is currently the joint venture partner for a \$5M project called 'One Loudoun.' The Downtown section of One Loudoun will include retail, restaurant, theater, office, hotel and residential uses. Phase I of the project will consist of 220,000 SF and focus on theater, retail, restaurant and office uses.

Maskey spoke about how Silver Spring was developed, then Germantown, then Frederick, Md.

"The 270 corridor was ripe for development and it made sense to march up the corridor," he said. "I see the same thing happening on a renewal basis on Richmond Highway."

Shopping malls have become outdated and he expects "something good" to happen at Springfield Mall.

He spoke about the success of National Harbor, saying that when developers did research, they realized that 30 million people hung out at Beltway hotels and ordered pizza. They were ready for a new experience.

Maskey said that grocery-anchored centers are "still the darling of the investment group as people still have to eat."

He explained the difference between Mixed Use (National Harbor) — uses staked on top of one another — versus Multi-use — not staked on top of each other.

"Mixed Use is hard to do and expensive," said Maskey.

He closed his comments by saying, "This region is still dominated by Tysons Regional shopping. It sucks wind out of other places.

Collich spoke about the challenges that Saul Centers, Inc. had redeveloping Beacon Center several years ago.

He said that they took a functionally obsolete retail trade diminishing older mall and started redeveloping the properties.

"Initially we were trying to bring in Target and Caldor," said Collich. "However, Lowes convinced us that they were the right fit."

Collich said that they then added small stores between Giant and the mall and moved Merchant Tire to the back of the center.

"It has been very successful," said Collich. "They had a 220 percent jump in sales the first year and have had consistent retail growth since. Even during the recession, sales stayed steady. For Beacon to remain so strong is a shining star.

He mentioned that retail spending is the greater Washington, D.C. area is \$45 billion, 25 percent (\$11.6 billion) of which is in Fairfax County.

Developers look for population count, household income, college degrees and traffic count.

"Demographics fall off as you go down the corridor," said Collich.

"Retail should not go up and down the corridor — they should be grouped into nodes," he said. "There is a diminishing success of each of the retailers if they are spread out. In between nodes, residential and other commercial enterprises should be added."

Leonard summed up the session, saying, "This is a healthy and strong market and this area is poised for redevelopment. The tried and true strategy series of business nodes, residential and retail needs creates critical mass and codependency.

He gave Ballston Rosslyn as example, saying, "They pulsed the nodes and redefined public space to create successful retail restaurant environments.

"Partnership that is streamlined is key. Development is very costly and risk-inten-

sive. We all need to work together to make this happen."

For more information on Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, call 703-360-5008 or visit or www.sfdc.org.

SFDC Projects

Status of SFDC projects and issues as of March 2011:

❖ Fort Belvoir Community Hospital – The new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, on Richmond Highway, is a \$747 million project with 1.2 million square feet in six stories. The hospital will have 120 in-patient beds and employ 3,100 staff. The hospital will also have 2,600 parking spaces and 500,000 visitor trips are expected annually. The Warriors in Transition Unit will be built south of the new hospital. The transition unit will support 276 wounded warriors and 130 administrative staff. The hospital must be completed by September 2012 under requirements stipulated under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. The Warriors Transition Unit will be completed in 2012.

❖ Multiplex Site – The Lee District Land Use Planning Committee recently approved the request for re-zoning to allow construction of a Costco at 7940 Richmond Highway. Costco representatives presented their site plan to the SFDC Board of Directors in February and are continuing to reach out to the surrounding communities for feedback. Costco estimates that the redevelopment of the site will be a \$24 million investment in and will bring 250 jobs to southeast Fairfax County.

❖ A.J. Wright – Improvements have begun at the A.J. Wright merchandise store in the Mount Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center. The store is now closed and will be converted into the home décor retailer HomeGoods. This location is one of the 91 stores nationwide being converted to one of the three retail entities of TJX, Inc, which also owns T.J. Maxx and Marshalls. The property manager of Mount Vernon Crossroads said the existing A.J. Wright store will close by the end of February and reopen for business as HomeGoods by June 1. Improvements of the shopping center are also underway. A new pylon sign was completed at the end of January 2011, and landscape enhancements will take place later this spring. Estimated costs for the enhancements are \$231,000.

❖ The Heights at Groveton - The Redbrick Development Group and Wood Partners, LLC plan had a ground-breaking ceremony on Feb. 9 for its 290-unit luxury apartment complex. Phase I of the project will also include 10,000 square feet of ground floor retail. Cassidy Turley will provide \$68 million in financing for the project, while JP Morgan will grant a senior debt construction loan worth \$40 million. The second phase of the project, which is pending Fairfax County approval, plans for 50,000 square feet of office space and 10,000 square feet of ground floor retail in an adjacent

SEE RETAIL. PAGE 26

BUSINESS



It's Official

Doctors Express Mount Vernon held a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 15 to celebrate the opening of its new location at 5609-B Richmond Highway. Earl Reed, franchise owner, cuts the ribbon, while staff, Chamber of Commerce members, friends and patients celebrate the opening. Call 703-347-9440 or email mtvernonteam@doctorexpress.com.

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Competing in Athens This Summer

Elizabeth Klein of Alexandria will join more than 7,500 Special Olympics athletes from around the globe in Athens, Greece, for the 2011 World Summer Games from June 25-July 4. There are nine athletes from Virginia set to compete in Special Olympics World Games.

Elizabeth started swimming with Special Olympics when she was 8 years old. She has participated in the Virginia State Special Olympic Summer Games four times. Last June she won a gold medal in the 100 Freestyle and a silver medal in the 50 Freestyle. Her gold medal made her eligible for the World Games where she will swim the 100 Free and the 50 Free and a relay. She is currently swimming four days a week in preparation for the World Summer Games.

In addition to swimming, she also participates in Special Olympics Soccer and Basketball. Last summer she joined the Riverside

Gardens Tsunami Swim Team.

Elizabeth attended Woodley Hills Elementary School and Carl Sandburg Middle School. She is currently a freshman at Edison High School.

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Visioning Task Force Completes Recommendations

FROM PAGE 1
703-780-7518.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Expand mass transportation systems along the Route 1 Corridor, including light rail, bus; and establish transit centers.
- ❖ Establish an Eastern Bypass or Outer Beltway to and around the National Capital area.
- ❖ Establish a reliable transportation construction funding source.
- ❖ Establish a reliable source of funding for transportation maintenance.
- ❖ Establish a Fairfax County zoning ordinance to enable the county to assess and impose development impact fees on developers to assist in paying for transportation improvements that benefit new development as authorized by Va. Code Section 15.2-2319; and Va. Code Section 15.2-2323.
- ❖ Improve and expand sidewalks, bicycle, and pedestrian trails throughout the District.
- ❖ Establish alternative uses of high technology for rider convenience and traffic flow monitoring.
- ❖ Support metropolitan-wide efforts to promote telecommuting to reduce traffic congestion.
- ❖ Support the creation of a Potomac River Commuter Ferry Service. This should include establishing an interstate authority to regulate and manage such a service.

- ❖ Examine alternative policies on the use of a gas tax to serve to support and provide user incentives for funding transportation maintenance and construction.
- ❖ Install additional High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to relieve traffic congestion.
- ❖ Take actions to remove illegally installed roadway signs.
- ❖ Establish improved measures of performance and encourage regional collaboration in implementing the Fairfax County Transportation Plan.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Support the expansion of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's capacity to provide a full range of services: in-patient, ambulatory, medical-surgical, diagnostic, and emergency services; provide full support for the Lorton Healthplex
- ❖ Provide adequate health care for needy military veterans living in the southeastern Fairfax county region who are not retired or suffering from a service connected disability.
- ❖ Expand the number of Medicaid eligible recipients by lowering the State income eligibility standards.
- ❖ Urge that a referendum be included on the Fairfax County ballot to vote in support of a restaurant tax which, if enacted, would expand the amount of money available to fully fund human services programs for

those in need.

- ❖ Establish a comprehensive range of services for seniors who wish to "age in place."
- ❖ Explore ways to help welfare and non-welfare eligible low income families to improve their access to affordable housing.
- ❖ Establish tax incentives for builders/developers to expand the number of affordable and workforce housing units.
- ❖ Promote programs to provide assistance to needy children and youth such as, but not limited to: early childhood education; safe supervised after-school programs; opportunities for mentoring and partnerships to assist at-risk youth; develop mental health resources in support of children and youth.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Establish, as a fundamental tenet of good government policies in the District, the desirability and availability of a full range of housing opportunities, with particular focus on eliminating the shortage of affordable and workforce housing.
- ❖ Establish an Advisory Committee to recommend actions to encourage the development of new housing units of high quality, consistent with our historic past and natural environment, with particular attention to the Route 1 Corridor.
- ❖ Continue to implement Fairfax County's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

- ❖ Continue to educate residents on the connection between ready access to affordable housing and the County's economic health.
- ❖ Study best practices in other communities to learn how those communities engender support for increasing the supply of affordable housing.
- ❖ Promote development, planning, and zoning which encourages residents to get out of their cars and walk or bike to local services. This includes the creation of more densely integrated and mixed-use complexes to replace strip malls and rental properties.
- ❖ Identify properties in the county that can be renovated to accommodate affordable, workforce, and accessible housing.
- ❖ Develop a system of incentives to improve the ratio of workforce and affordable housing units to all units within new developments.
- ❖ Create an inventory of potential county-owned land sites which could be targeted for conversion to residential housing units when they come available.
- ❖ Establish a funding pool such as by replacing the discontinued Penny Fund with a Nickel Fund.
- ❖ Establish an Office reporting directly to the County Executive which will serve as an advocate for affordable and workforce housing.

Retail Summit Panelists Share Thoughts on Corridor

FROM PAGE 24

building. The development will lie at the former Groveton Elementary school site between Clayborne Avenue, Memorial and Groveton Streets.

❖ The Courts at Huntington Station/Huntington Crossing - Stout and Teague recently won comprehensive plan approval from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for up to 200 more units on the site for residential or hotel use. The company is currently building a mixed-use project consisting of 650 residential units (48 townhomes completed in 2007, 420 mid-rise apartments) for delivery in spring 2011. An additional 180 high-rise apartment building is still planned for future development near the Huntington Metro station. The project also includes 220,000 square feet of planned office and 30,000 square feet of retail, and 12 acres of land to be dedicated as a public park. Delivery for a Class-A office building is pending.

❖ Richmond Highway and Forest Place - On Jan. 11, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors approved a change to the comprehensive plan to permit land parcel consolidation along the Richmond Highway near the Forest Place intersection. 2009-2010 Annual Plan Review (APR) item 09-IV-19M* was modified by Planning Commission to allow 16 to 20 dwelling units per acre, permitting as many as 396 townhouse style homes to be built on the site. The plan change will also allow for the remaining land to be developed for office and retail use up to a .50 Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The changes will allow for a better mix of uses while maintaining a similar level of intensity currently recommended for the property in the Comprehensive Plan. This combined area includes the Engleside Trailer Park, Ray's Mobile Colony and several commercial uses fronting on Richmond Highway, including the former Smitty's Lumberyard.

❖ Kings Crossing -The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Wal-Mart Grand Opening was held on Oct. 27, 2010, marking the completion of Phase I of the project. Capital Jiu Jitsu Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Chuck E Cheese opened their doors the following month. Phase II will have up to roughly 19,000 square feet of leasable small store retail in pad buildings. JBG Rosenfeld Retail has started leasing space on the future pad sites. After the completion of both phases, the total gross leasable area of the shopping center will be approximately 126,000 square feet.

There is also a Phase III planned for this project which will include a mixed use component of additional shops as well as a new multi-family building. The APR task force approved a change in the comp plan language concurrent with recommendations made by JBG to support a mixed use zone on the Phase III parcels.

❖ AutoZone - Construction has begun for a 6,786 square-foot AutoZone at 7415 Richmond Highway. The interior and exterior construction of the building has been completed. Paving of the parking lot is in progress, and the store will be opened upon completion which is scheduled for the end of March. The site sits on 2.06 acres and is zoned C-8.

❖ Engleside Plaza - Fashion Tubs and Neibauer Dental are the two newest tenants in the Engleside Shopping Center near Lukens Lane. Fashion Tubs provide custom design and installation of sinks and bathtubs. The location has been open for business since early January. Neibauer Dental is located next to Fashion Tubs and is remodeling their interior walls and plumbing fixtures to support their practice. Neibauer Dental opened for business in mid-February.

❖ Lukens Plaza - Advance Auto Parts is renovating the former Hollywood Video space in the shopping center at the intersection of Cooper Road and Richmond Highway. Interior and exterior improvements are underway.

❖ Mount Vernon Plaza - Over \$1 million has been invested in renovating office space in the

Mount Vernon Plaza shopping center. A new spec suite was added and lighting fixtures are equipped with motion sensors to conserve energy consumption. Approximately 15,000 square feet is available for lease. The office is located at 7868 Richmond Highway and can be found between Michaels and Capital Discount Merchandise.

The Mount Vernon Plaza office in Hybla Valley is located in one of the two designated HUBZones in Northern Virginia. The HUBZone Program is an initiative from the Small Business Association (SBA) to promote job growth, capital investment and economic development in a historically underutilized business zones by establishing preferences for government contracts in those areas. For more information about HUBZones, visit the SBA website at <http://www.sba.gov/hubzone/>.

❖ Cooper Center - The owner of CT Nails reopened for business in January 2011. The nail and skin care salon closed after the roof collapsed on their old store during last February's winter storms. There was more than \$450,000 in structural damages throughout Cooper Center as a result of heavy snow last year. The new facility boasts four state-of-the-art QSpa massage-style pedicure chairs, four new manicure stations, as well as a new relaxation room available for skin care and body treatments, including facials and waxing services.

❖ Taco Bell - A brand new restaurant located at the intersection of Lockheed Boulevard and Richmond Highway is now open. Formerly the El Puerto Mexican Restaurant, the site underwent internal and external remodeling and added a drive-thru counter to the building before opening its doors in January.

❖ Accotink Village - A concept plan for a mixed-use project is being created for the Accotink Village located near the juncture of Richmond Highway and Backlick Road. The owners of 10 parcels in that area have shown interest in selling their land for the project. The developer will continue to work with Fairfax County and SFDC through the Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning

processes this year.

❖ Inova Mount Vernon - The hospital plans to spend \$43.6 million and expand its campus. The 65,000 square-foot renovation is scheduled to begin in 2012 pending regulatory approval. The project will add a new patient tower, two new operating rooms, and space for future growth and infrastructure upgrades. Medical surgery, orthopedics, joint replacement and rehabilitation services will be specifically enhanced. Mount Vernon Inova is located at 2401 Parkers Lane and serves southeastern Fairfax County in addition to the Mount Vernon community.

❖ IMP Building - JK Investments has signed a franchise agreement with IHG, for a Staybridge, Extended Stay Hotel on their property located at 8850 Richmond Highway. The Board of County Supervisors approved a request from JK Investments for a Special Exception permit to build to hotels on the current site. They have hired a new architect to help with the new design and placement of the hotels.

❖ Huntington Reserve - KB Homes restarted construction of 85 new townhouses near the Huntington Metro. The Huntington Reserve is located at Huntington Avenue and Foley Street. The expected construction completion is December 2011.

❖ Fairfield Inn & Suites - There is a site plan under review for a three-story hotel on the site of the current Fairview Hotel property at 6421 Richmond Highway. The hotel will have 108 rooms and will be 47,800 square feet. The property was sold to the Hersha Group, a Pennsylvania hotel developer.

❖ Comfort Inn - A new 60-room hotel has been approved on the site of the \$29.99 Shoe Store at 8847 Richmond Highway. A permit to demolish the existing structure was issued at the end of 2010. The developers are going through the site bonding and building permit review processes.

SCHOOLS



After the circus performance, Ringmaster Tom Mulhern and kindergarten teacher Mary Anne Hesch gather with the kindergarten class students: Carter Harris, Ashleigh Helel, Emma Tayman, Campbell Allen, Ari Anderson, Thomas Mulhern, Peter Rainey, Matthew Dunne, Jacob Tayman, Davis Van Buren, Brayden Ross, Ellie Foresman, Rosie Halford, Sofia Khalil and Olivia Myers and Sandy Boden.



The lion and tiger tamer Brayden Ross leads his lions and tigers around the ring.



Thomas Mulhern and Peter Rainey clown around the ring to the amusement of their schoolmates.

Kindergartners Create Circus

Ringmaster Tom Mulhern led the circus performers into the hall at St. Aidan's for the opening Grand March on Friday, April 8. Tightrope walkers, elephants, and clowns followed by three strong men, lions and tigers and the lion and tiger tamer paraded around the ring. The circus is an annual production at the pre-school performed by the graduating kindergarten class.



The Grand March.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE



Campbell Allen, one of the elephants, performs.



The Two Carl Sandburg teams after their win at the Odyssey of the Mind State Competition

Bound for World Finals

Some 35 students from the West Potomac Pyramid are off to the 2011 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals this May. Teams of seven students each competed at the state level on April 16, at T.C. Williams High School. About 75 teams participated from all parts of Virginia.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students in elementary school through college. Students combine building proficiency, technical skills with performance ability, humor and wit to solve a chosen problem.

Two teams from Stratford Landing Elementary School, two from Carl Sandburg Middle school and one from West Potomac High School won for their specific problem in their division and so advance to the World Finals. Students involved include: Ana Driscoll, Kylie Bostick, Bayla Bessemer,

Hannah Lombardo, Kaila Stein, Michelle St. John, Alex Bailey, Grace Kennedy, Michael Bell, Jonathan Gannon, Jade Schuab, Emily Carbone, George Wright, Alex Richwine, Mary Bell, Lukas Brokamp, Nicholas Greve, Lindsay Johnson, Jenna Mulvihill, Lily Penn, Rhys Shallbetter, Elise Bell, Katie Carbone, Meghan Mallon, Raina Pilkenton, Paige Roddey, Kate Schneider, Emma Wright, Celia Lane, Magnolia Totaro, Abbie Weissman, Cole Newman, Garrett McCown, Avery Myart and Muhammed Ali.

The World Finals take place May 27 through May 30 at the University of Maryland. Visit Odysseyofthemind.com. The minimum cost per team to go to the World Finals is \$2,500 and donations will be accepted through each school's PTA (Stratford Landing, Carl Sandburg and West Potomac).

Wolverines Beat Stallions with 'Beautiful' Effort

West Potomac girls lacrosse team ends losing streak against South County.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Players embraced one another and let loose joyous shouts with decibel levels usually reserved for postseason victory. The start of the Patriot District Tournament was more than a week away, but that didn't matter to the West Potomac girls lacrosse team, which on Tuesday celebrated snapping a lengthy losing streak to South County.

"Everyone was giving hugs," West Potomac senior Margaret Kerr said. "It's like they won a championship or something."

The Wolverines traveled to Lorton and defeated the Stallions on their senior night, 14-12. The ensuing reaction by West Potomac was the product of teamwork and a group of athletes improving over a span of several seasons.

"I think we played so well," Kerr said. "We've never beaten South County ever in our lives so this is a really big win for us. ... My freshman year we were awful. We had one sub on varsity. All these girls now were freshmen then and we had one senior. I think coming up and having that experience with everyone, we've all gotten better and it shows."

"We beat South County tonight, that's the biggest [win] that we've had."

Twice West Potomac built a four-goal lead only to watch South County come back to



West Potomac freshman Kendal Cunningham scored a game-high five goals during Tuesday's win over South County.

tie the score. The Wolverines scored the game's first four goals, but the Stallions responded with four straight. West Potomac opened an 11-7 lead with less than 15 minutes remaining in the second half, but South County tied the score at 11-11 with less than six minutes to play. But after a Stallions timeout with 5:21 remaining, West Potomac freshman Kendall Callahan scored her fifth and final goal to give the Wolverines a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"When they came back, we were second-guessing our-



West Potomac senior Adrienne Hampton scored a goal against South County on Tuesday.

selves," Callahan said. "But we pulled it together, had a talk and we were ready to play."

Callahan's five goals were a game high. Senior attack Margaret Corum scored three goals, Kerr added two, and senior defender Adrienne Hampton, senior midfielder Kelsey Donovan and junior attacks Emily Hauptle and Annmarie Wood each had one.

Third-year West Potomac head coach Lori Botha said talent hasn't been a problem for the Wolverines, but trying to play as a unit has hindered the team.

Tuesday's performance was a different story.

"This was the best game of the season by far because they played as a team," said Botha, who has coached some of the Wolverines for nearly a decade. "... They haven't beat South County in many years, so it was sort of a personal challenge for them. Individually, we have these amazing athletes, but all season long we've been waiting for it to click. ... It was just all about confidence. Tonight, their attitude was just fantastic, it was phenomenal. They had the confidence and it was fun to watch. ..."

"This was the most beautiful game they have ever played. It really looked beautiful."

West Potomac improved to 5-3, including 2-2 in the district. The Wolverines will close the regular season with home games against T.C. Williams (April 28) and Woodson (April 30) and a road game against Annandale (May 2). The district tournament begins on May 6.

access to a washer and dryer, the Aces take care of everything else. To volunteer as a host family, contact Aces Host Family Coordinators, David Cheney (Aces Club Boosters - Baseball Chairman) or Lisa Marie Cheney (Aces Club Boosters - Board Vice Pres.) by email at cheneydave@gmail.com or by phone at 703-370-2882.

SPORTS BRIEFS

WP's Kerr Headed To Marquette

On April 15, Margaret Kerr, a senior on the West Potomac girls lacrosse team signed a national letter of intent to play lacrosse at Marquette University. She is believed to be the first Division I lacrosse signee in Wolverine history. Through her junior year, Kerr had started every game of her West Potomac career and was a three-year letter winner. A midfielder, she was the leading point scorer for the Wolverines her junior year, the third-leading point scorer her sophomore year and earned all-district honors following both seasons. She had a three-year point total of 97 entering her senior year as well as a career draw control percentage of more than 60 percent. She is a member of the first Marquette women's lacrosse recruiting class. The Golden Eagles, a member of the Big East Conference, will



West Potomac junior Margaret Kerr signed a letter of intent on April 15 to play lacrosse at Marquette. Joining her at the signing were her father Stewart, her sister Leslie, head lacrosse coach Lori Botha and Director of Student Activities Aaron Helmick.

begin playing a full competitive schedule in the 2012-13 academic year and will begin Big East play the following year.

Awards Banquet

The Sportsman's Club will hold its 56th Annual Awards Banquet on May 16 at The Westin Alexandria, located at 400 Courthouse Square. Reception hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Navy head football coach Ken Niumatalolo.

Individual tickets are \$75. For more information, contact Frank Flaherty at 703-346-6525.

Aces Looking For Host Families

The Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League is looking for host families for its upcoming 2011 season. Aces players arrive in Alexandria on Memorial Day Weekend. All players need is a place to sleep and

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

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Private School Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Alexandria Country Day School has an opening for a School Receptionist available May 2. Hours are 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM. This is a year-round position.
Responsibilities include: Greeting visitors, answering calls, providing assistance to the Executive Assistant and others. Serving as a Parent Teacher League liaison and fulfilling other school and parent requests.
The ideal candidate should have prior administrative experience as well as a professional demeanor. Effective time management skills, ability to juggle multiple concurrent projects, and demonstrated dependability are also required. The candidate should also have a positive attitude, excellent verbal and written communication skills, outstanding organizational skills and a working knowledge of MS Office. Bachelors or Associates Degree preferred.
Please email cover letter, résumé, and references to: aaddison@acdsnet.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
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@alexandriava.gov, with any questions.

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LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot on proposed Bylaws amendments through ASCO's official website, www.asco.org between March 22 and May 18, 2011, to be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at the 2011 ASCO Annual Business Meeting, to be held June 6, 2011, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM at the Hyatt McCormick Place, Regency Ballroom, in Chicago, IL. Members with questions can email ASCOBylaws@asco.org or call 571-483-1316.

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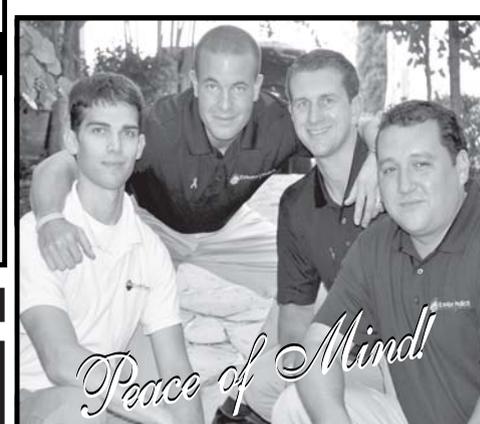
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