

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 16, 2011



Home Life Style

Ready for summer house guests? This Alexandria home has a carriage house; here, the view out the carriage house window onto the Holland House gardens.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

TIPS AND MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 19.

Going Hungry

Patchwork of services leaves thousands of children malnourished.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Some times that's especially true even for those who deserve one.

According to the Washington Area Boards of Education, Fairfax County has more than 45,000 students who meet federal poverty guidelines. Some are fed in the county's schools. Others are fed at recreation centers. The county also has a patchwork of churches and social-service organizations. But county and school records can't account for what happens to all of children who live in poverty, a gap that concerns many social-service advocates.

"I would find it hard to believe that some of these children aren't falling through the cracks," said Mary Anne Weber, chairwoman of the Alexandria Community Services Board. "How are the kids going to get to the program? Who is providing transportation? There are a lot of factors to consider."

Poverty has gripped Northern Virginia for many years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a program known as the Summer Food Service Program to jurisdictions where more than half the student population lives in poverty. Alexandria, for example, has participated since 1979 because the city's high percentage of students who qualify. But sprawling Fairfax

SEE PATCHWORK, PAGE 3

Fairfax County Honors Sandburg's Yarborough Named First-Year Principal of Year.

BY CD BROWN
THE GAZETTE

As a former seventh grade science teacher, first-year principal of the year Terrance Yarborough knows young people. As a former Marine he knows discipline. And he knows that young people need discipline.

When Yarborough took on the job as principal of South Alexandria's Carl Sandburg Middle School that boasts a diverse student body, he readily saw areas that lacked discipline. Since his arrival he's made it his mission to correct those areas.

Explaining his methodology,

Yarborough said, "For me, that means having structure, being organized, and being able to make decisions and sticking by that."

Yarborough began the school year by meeting with teacher leaders, administrators, and PTA members to establish a clear vision for school improvement. He's been praised for putting the school on a solid foundation, reducing school tardiness and truancy, and for improving the overall morale of the teacher and student body.

Named First Year Principal of the Year, Yarborough greets Carl Sandburg Middle School students

SEE YARBOROUGH, PAGE 7

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Babs Beckwith
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www.Babsbeckwith.com
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ALEXANDRIA

\$385,000



Beaugard Heights

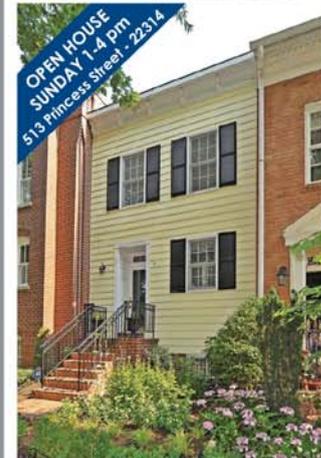
A great value in a convenient location. Three-level brick townhome in a mews setting. Three bedrooms, three and a half baths, large rec room with fireplace and wet bar. Eat-in kitchen, separate dining room. Entertain this summer on the large brick-walled patio. Easy commute to Pentagon, DC, and Old Town.

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ALEXANDRIA/ROSEMONT PARK

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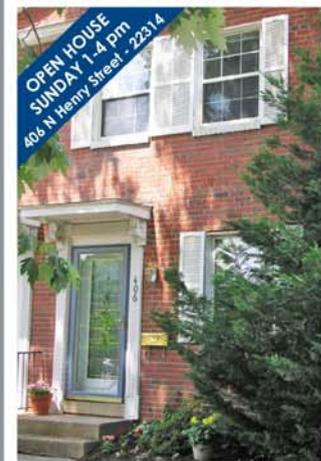
In the heart of Rosemont offering welcoming front porch, living room with gas fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood flooring, and convenient main level powder room. Totally updated kitchen featuring granite counters, maple cabinetry, three bedrooms, extra storage, relaxing deck and beautiful gardens, a short stroll to fun on "The Avenue."

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Patchwork of Services Leaves Children Hungry

FROM PAGE 1

County has a much lower population of students who meet the standards, which means that fewer services exist even though the number of students in need is much greater.

"The reality is that child hunger isn't just an educational issue or a health issue, it's a moral issue," said Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell. "We must do everything we can to make sure our most vulnerable children are getting regular, nutritious meals, especially during the summer when they are most at risk."

LAST WEEK, McDonnell joined forces with Academy Award winner Jeff Bridges and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to announce a new campaign against child hunger in Arlington. Dubbed the Virginia No Kid Hungry campaign, the VIPs assembled at Barcroft Elementary School on South Wakefield Street. The public-private partnership hopes to connect low-income children to nutrition programs, including the Virginia Summer Meals for Kids Program.

The idea is simple — parents can simply call 211 to find summer meals sites near them.

"Our children are hungry because we have lacked a big-picture strategy to connect them to the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive," said Bridges, star of "Tron: Legacy." "The No Kid Hungry Campaign provides that strategy."

In Fairfax County, school officials and county leaders are unable to say how many

Students In Poverty

Division	Students eligible	Percent of enrollment
Alexandria City	6,264	54 percent
Arlington County	6,515	32 percent
Fairfax County	45,276	26 percent

SOURCE: Washington Area Boards of Education

of the county's 45,000 children who live in poverty receive nutritional support. Enrollment records show that a small fraction of those students are probably enrolled in summer school. And county officials were unable to identify how many children receive meals from recreation centers or other county programs at press time. Community leaders say they wouldn't be surprised to learn that tens of thousands of children don't get the nutritional support they need during the summer months.

"It's a serious problem," said Judy Harbeck, chairwoman of the education committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. "The need kids have for nutrition doesn't end when the school year ends."

A NEW STUDY published last week by the Food Research and Action Center shows that jurisdictions across America have been letting children fall between the cracks for years. The report concludes that only one in seven students who have access to the National School Lunch Program during the



Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell, center, speaks with Academy Award winning actor Jeff Bridges, right, at Barcroft Elementary School in Arlington to launch the Virginia No Kid Hungry Campaign.

school year has access during the summer. And despite record numbers of children being eligible for free and reduced-price lunches during the 2009-2010 school year, participation in summer nutrition programs fell in 2010 nationally.

"If low-income children are going to have access to the healthy food they need during the summer months," the report concluded, "aggressive steps must be taken."

A slumping economy drove increased demand for services across Virginia just as state officials were looking to slash budgets, leaving many children caught in the middle. Nationwide, according to the Food Research and Action Center's analysis, 83,000 fewer students were served by the program in the

summer of 2010 than the previous year. That's why Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States, the Sodexo Foundation, the Walmart Foundation and Dominion Resources have committed to offer more than \$300,000 for the Share Our Strength Program, which operates in 12 other states and will launch in five more next year.

"Our hope is that no Virginian ever has to worry about where they'll get their next meal," said Leslie Van Horn, executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks. "These programs are in place to protect our most vulnerable children, and we're thrilled to be working with our partners to make sure that families know these programs exist year round."

Pastor Delivers 'Call To Serve'

West Potomac high seniors attend Baccalaureate.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
FOR THE ALMANAC

"Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm," said Rev. Keary Kincannon with a smile to 451 graduating West Potomac High School seniors at the Class of 2011 Baccalaureate on Sunday, June 12.

He was quoting Winston Churchill, and the Wolverines, seated in the sanctuary of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, responded with laughter.

Then Kincannon, who is pastor of Rising Hope Mission Church which serves the homeless and needy of the Route 1 corridor, grew more serious.

"Ultimately, life is not about getting a big house or an expensive car, nor wealth,

power or fame," he said from Aldersgate's pulpit. "Life is about staying true to our highest ideals and principles."

Explaining, he continued, "I believe the purpose of your education is for you to determine how you will serve the greater good of the world with your greatest gifts and talents."

Afterwards, senior Sarah Slichter said, "I felt what Rev. Kincannon's simple, clever speech said to me most

was to put my education to good use. His emphasis on service to the greater good especially had a large impact on me." Sarah, who performed on violin for the service with the West Potomac String Ensemble, will attend Vassar next year.

Her classmate Leah Naidorf, who delivered a Judaic prayer for the service, also was moved. "I took a lot away from Rev. Kincannon's advice. His words were especially meaningful." She heads to The University of Virginia next year.

An Islamic prayer was also offered by her fellow student Remaz Abdelgader.

For Chris Breen, who plays the snare in the Wolverine marching band and is headed

to NOVA next year before going on to George Mason, Kincannon was "the best speaker ever in motivating me."

And Kyle Parker, a student at Virginia Tech next year, took strength from the pastor's remarks which "reaffirmed my beliefs in never giving up. You are never 'out of the game' no matter what others say or think."

Kincannon, who began his ministry 16 years ago offering the homeless food and clothing out of the back of his station wagon, now has a three-story church building on Russell Road, just off Route 1, with a skylight-lit chapel, kitchen and dining hall, food pantry, clothing closet, children's wing and offices for staff.

"My whole career," he had told the Wolverines, "has been feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and advocating that the marginalized members of our society not be excluded from any of the rights and privileges of the mainstream."

Rev. Keary Kincannon preaches regularly at Rising Hope Mission Church on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. accompanied by his choir and his Christian rock group, The Rising Hope Jesus Christ Band.



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR.

"Ultimately, life is not about getting a big house or an expensive car, nor wealth, power or fame," Rev. Kincannon told the West Potomac High School Class of 2011 at their Baccalaureate on Sunday.

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Del Ray \$525,000
 Bright updated end town house with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 3 finished levels and off-street parking. Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants on "The Avenue".
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Old Town \$639,000
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Christine Garner 703-587-4855



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Alexandria \$590,000
 Pristine 2-level Old Town building! May be used commercially down with apartment up. Formerly medical use. Walk to King or Braddock Metro. Ample free parking.
1000 Queen St.
Scott Elkins 703-725-8901



Alexandria \$429,000
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Scott Elkins 703-725-8901



Alexandria \$400,000
 What a Low price for Pristine! 3-lvl TH w/bells & whistles. New AC, NEW WINDOWS, NEW KITCHEN w/Silestone counter-tops, MAPLE cabinets, tile backsplash & flr, & new appls. PRIVATE fenced backyard w/no neighbors behind. Kit. features fantastic pantry cab. like no others! Bedrooms have closet organizers & ceiling fans. Baths updated w/new fixtures, cabinets, lights & mirrors.
3762 Keller Ave. #138
Julie Hall
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Alexandria/Rosemont \$769,750
 Fabulous Rosemont Colonial with spacious family room, 2 sunrooms, breakfast room. Open floor plan, gleaming wood floors, high ceilings and wide baseboard trim. Off-street parking for 2 vehicles, but just a short stroll from both King St. and Braddock Rd. Metros.
118 Walnut
Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



South Alexandria \$600's
 Cool off by a pool surrounded by lush, blooming plants. With an open floor plan & new gourmet kitchen, you'll entertain with ease. Two levels of wood floors, generous room sizes & updated baths. Finished LL for family fun plus 2-car garage. Call for your private tour.
9317 Boothe St.
Joni Koons 703-209-7277 • Greg Koons 703-209-7678



Old Town Alexandria \$569,000
 Live a charmed life in an historic 1900 detached home - while enjoying a new state-of-the-art kitchen. Relax in your private, fenced yard under a cool canopy of Catalpa trees. Reap the benefits of a 90% efficient HVAC system - lower utility bills. Off-street parking spot & 4 blocks to Braddock Metro. Call for a private tour.
1012 Pendleton St.
Joni Koons
703-209-7277
Greg Koons
703-209-7678



Alexandria \$234,500
 Are you renting when you should be buying? Large, bright & airy unit just two lights from D.C. Beautiful new kitchen w/maple cabinets, granite counters & SS appliances; renovated bathroom; huge custom closets; wood floors. Turn-key home! <http://1636abingdondrw102.com>
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ME & MY DAD

A gallery of photos submitted for Father's Day.

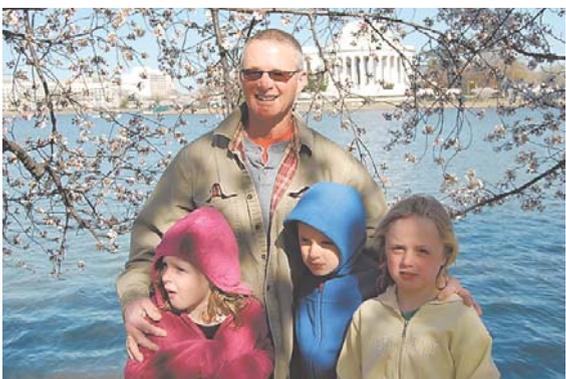


Fred Harbin and son Sam in their living room in Riverside Estates. Fred is taking a break from his Sunday morning guitar playing to help Sam with a piano number.



Elizabeth FitzGerald's son Evan FitzGerald and his son, Owen FitzGerald, age 5, of Fairfax taken on Feb 6, 2011 in her home on Waywood Boulevard. They are celebrating her daughter Erin's birthday. Owen had spent most of the weekend at her house and missed his Daddy.

Todd Foley, a Mount Vernon resident, and his sons Chase, 9, and Carson, 7, enjoy a Caps game. All three share the love of the sport.



Bradley Veney and son Kai on one of their many father and son days. They enjoy hitting the trails on their four-wheelers and spending quality time relaxing.

Native Alexandrian Robby White with his children Ella, Jack and Cecilia.



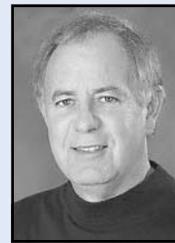
Daryl Mull of Alexandria enjoys a day at the beach with son Brady, 4, and daughter Mary Kate, 7.



Dad takes his boys to see the Army - Air Force Game: Bret, Cole, and J.R. Newman in November of 2010.



Mike Sloper of Alexandria walks his daughter Katie Sloper Johnson down the aisle on her wedding day, May 7, 2011.



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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 sunroom addition. Hardwood flrs main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kit.

Wood FP in living rm. Lovely kitchen w/corrian counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfn bsmt: ample storage. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



Alexandria
Hollin Hall Village \$514,900
1501 Alexandria Avenue
 Beautiful 4BR, 3BA Brick, Split level home in Hollin Hall (Waywood 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./Mt. Vernon \$519,900
8505 Wagon Wheel Road
Riverside Estates

Large beautifully updated 5BR, 3BA split w/2 car garage. Spectacularly remodeled kitchen w/bump out, hdwd floors, granite, SS appliances, new cabinets, and recessed lights. 3 remodeled baths.

Stunning two-tiered decks over look a brick patio, terraced back yard and privacy fence. Front yard is beautiful landscaped! Wonderful neighborhood. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Old Town, 35 to Ntl Airport/Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Southwood \$599,900
9011 Nomini Lane

Large stunning 5BR, 3BA split w/ oversized 2 car garage. Updated from top to bottom: kitchen, baths, windows, maintenance free exterior & freshly painted interior. Large bedrooms plus in-law suite on lower level. Professionally landscaped yard. Huge, warm & cozy sunroom & family room for entertaining. 2 wood burning FPLs. Premium location: 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Metro & Old Town, 25 to National Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon & D.C. 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!



Alex./Woodland \$573,500
3232 Woodland Lane

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



Alex./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!!



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Congratulates the Class of 2011

We salute the 105 members of the Class of 2011 who graduated Saturday, June 11. Here are just a few of their accomplishments, both as individuals and as a group.

Academics

- ◆ Accepted by more than 130 colleges and universities in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.
- ◆ Academic honors program offers and academic scholarships, including:
 - Four National Merit Scholarship Finalists
 - One National Achievement Scholarship Finalist
 - 21 inducted into the Cum Laude Society
 - More than one-third of the class was offered college scholarship or merit aid
- ◆ 98 enrolled in 23 Advanced Placement courses - a total of 93 percent of the class.
- ◆ Two selected to serve as U.S. Green School Fellows for their dedication to sustainability.
- ◆ Selected to participate in such prestigious programs as the Presidential Classroom, Virginia Governor's Schools, the Junior Science & Humanities Symposium at Georgetown University, the Student Climate & Conservation Congress, Model OAS, Model UN, and Model Judiciary.

The Arts

- ◆ Placed third in the Best of the Independent Schools Art Competition, selected to show in the Jim Moran Congressional Art Show, and in the *Alexandria Gazette-Packet*.
- ◆ Six were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.
- ◆ Received a rating of excellent for the seventh straight year in wind ensemble at the Virginia District X Band Festival, including two superior duets.
- ◆ Received a rating of superior for the six straight year at the District X Orchestra Festival.
- ◆ Performed in the District X Honors Jazz Ensemble and the District X Chorus.
- ◆ Placed second and third in the Alexandria Rotary Club Music Competition.
- ◆ Performed in all drama productions, Evening of the Arts, and at Multicultural Night.

Community Service

- ◆ Prepared and served monthly dinners for wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- ◆ Helped prepare more than 22,000 sandwiches for Martha's Table, collected more than 1,000 food items for the Salvation Army, delivered toys, and raised money for local people in need.
- ◆ Donated hundreds of mittens and coats for the needy of Northern Virginia.
- ◆ Walked, jogged, and ran for breast cancer, cystic fibrosis, brain cancer, and epilepsy research, homelessness and domestic violence.
- ◆ Participated in international causes in Romania, the Philippines, and Costa Rica.
- ◆ Sent letters to veterans, candy to the troops, supported efforts in Haiti and Darfur, and spent more than 1,000 hours with a wide variety of local organizations in support of senior citizens, preschool children, the hungry, the homeless, the environment, animals, and others in need.

Athletics

- ◆ 16 playing their sports next year at some of the country's top colleges and universities.
- ◆ Earned All-American status in girls lacrosse.
- ◆ Recognized as Athlete of the Year in baseball, boys swimming, ice hockey, and football by the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.
- ◆ Led the girls lacrosse team to ISL league and Tournament Championships and the VISAA State Championship.
- ◆ Participated in VISAA State Tournaments and Championship meets in field hockey, boys soccer, girls tennis, swimming and diving, girls basketball, wrestling, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, and track and field.
- ◆ Set new school records in track and field, swimming, girls lacrosse, and softball.
- ◆ Many individual athletes were named to Academic All-American, All-American, All-State, All-Met, and All-League teams for their performances throughout their upper school athletic careers.



The members of the Class of 2011 have distinguished themselves in all areas of school life and in our community. As they leave us to attend some of the world's finest colleges and universities, we salute them for a job well done. We know they will use their talents to become respected and worthy citizens of the global community that awaits them. Best wishes and congratulations!

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING ADMISSION TO THE CLASS OF 2011

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Yarborough Named First-Year Principal of the Year

FROM PAGE 1

before the morning bell.

"He's a unique educator with a passion for caring about kids and education," said Vicky Kagan, Sandburg's substitute student services staff member. "But that passion doesn't get in the way of knowing that kids need structure. He plays by the book and by the rules because he knows that's what kids need and that's what helps the school function at a high level."

Yarborough, admitting that he loves his job, has already been referred to as the "Joe Clark" of Sandburg Middle School. "Love the movie," said Yarborough, referring to "Lean On Me" starring Morgan Freeman as the nonsensical-baseball bat-carrying principal.

"People call me Joe Clark all the time," said Yarborough, pointing to the baseball bat lying against the wall in his office. The bat was given to him as a joke by a Sandburg PE teacher and other staff members shortly after he received his award.

Has he ever had to use the bat?

"No", laughed Yarborough, who explained that when he first got to Sandburg he didn't understand why people didn't always find him approachable.

"I'm not a natural born smiler, but I'm easy to talk to."

"Too often, I think, people are more concerned with being friends or being liked, and we all we all want to be liked; but I want to be respected more than being liked," he said.

During an early morning tour into the hallways of the middle school, a staffer approached him for advice, while another thanked him for his assistance on a personal matter. Students came up to him saying



PHOTO BY CD BROWN/THE GAZETTE

Principal Terrance Yarborough congratulates student Jerome Kennedy on his 14th birthday.

"Hello, Mr. Yarborough," briefly chatting with him minutes before the morning bell rang.

Student Jerome Kennedy was one of those students. On this day, Kennedy looked especially dapper, wearing dress pants, a tie and vest. It was his 14th birthday, and he stopped to tell Yarborough.

"I'd been planning for this all week," said Kennedy, on what he was going to wear on his special day.

A testament to the school's strict dress code: No baggy pants for the boys. Even on a hot June summer day, no spaghetti strapped shirts for the girls. No hats. No iPods. School policy.

Recounting his days as a 7th grade science teacher in his hometown in North Carolina, Yarborough talked about laying down the law, and helping students realize their full potential.

"No matter who it was, if they weren't doing something they needed to do, I would

address it," the principal said. "Whether it be running in the halls; if they weren't dressed properly; if I heard them saying something they should not be saying, I'm not going to tolerate it because they're better than that. And if they don't know it, I'm going to let them know it."

On receiving his Principal of the Year award, Yarborough admits he was "pleasantly surprised. It's great for me, I won't minimize that at all," said Yarborough. "But I tell you what. The honor truly is for Sandburg."

Though crediting Sandburg, Yarborough also credits teachers in the entire cluster of Alexandria schools, especially those along the Route 1 corridor. "We are a level one 'priority school,'" said Yarborough. Schools in this category often include students with external factors that may inhibit student achievement such as dealing with homelessness, students with English as a second language, being from low income, and single-family households.

"We can't expect our students to leave those things at the front door when they get to our school and act as though everything is fine. We love and care for them and we help them understand they are better than their circumstances," said Yarborough.

Yarborough says the school is working on focusing more on science, engineering, technology and math courses. Sandburg took First Place in this year's Virginia's state Odyssey of the Mind tournament for their "Extreme Mousemobile" project. The school was the 2002-2003 Science Olympiad state champions. Sandburg currently ranks high in preliminary English SOL testing.

Upcoming renovation plans include four courtyards around the school.

"I'd like to see four distinct things happening in each courtyard," said Yarborough. "Perhaps a science courtyard, one for social studies, another for math, and so on."

Yarborough is one of a handful of African American male educators. The newly awarded principal wants to ensure African American students see educators that look like them. "Everyone of us goes to school, and so our kids need to see someone who represents them," said Yarborough. "Not only that, my majority of white students need to see people of color and know that I don't have to fit any type of stereotype."

On what message he would like impart to his students he describes as "intelligent" and "athletic" as the school year comes to an end, Yarborough said he wants the students to "have fun," but also admonishes them to "do their best, be respectful to their parents and other adults, and be the best person they can be."

"We love them, and look forward to seeing them in the fall." To the eighth grade students becoming rising high school freshmen, Yarborough wants them to know, "We'll be in touch. They'll see me."

Yarborough joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 2005 as a subschool principal at Hayfield Secondary School and served in the same role at Robinson Secondary School from 2007 until being selected as Sandburg's principal in 2010. He began his career as an educator by teaching seventh grade science in Greensboro, N.C., and served as an assistant principal and principal in North Carolina before being hired by FCPS. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Scherrer Returns from Volunteer Tour of Duty

Wife organizes welcome home party.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

While the President and U.S. Congress debate if, when, and how to pull out our troops in Afghanistan, and the country is sharply divided over what is one of the longest war commitments in American history, one Mount Vernon area soldier, upon completing his tour of duty in Afghanistan, had this to say: "Please don't forget our troops who are risking their lives every day to protect U. S. interests in the middle east. You may or may not support the decision to keep troops in Afghanistan or Iraq, but that is a decision made by our elected representatives. Just don't forget that our soldiers get up every day dedicated to fulfilling our mission with professionalism and a sense of purpose, so please continue to sustain support for our troops in the middle east."

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Kevin Scherrer, a West Point graduate, came out of retire-

ment to volunteer for a tour of duty in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His wife, Suzanne Scherrer, saying, "He is my hero," organized a welcome home party Sunday, June 12, along with neighborhood friends, family, and a local band, "Breakaway." Their son Scott and fellow West Point classmate Joe Durso were also present.

"I was searching for a way to show my husband that I'm so proud of him and that our community is behind our troops, including him," said Suzanne Scherrer. Calling the welcome home party "The eagle has landed ... for good," she said, "It has been a long scary year waiting for him. To me he was and is the hottest soldier over there ... and to me I will always be his bride, so I guess I will keep him."

Asked why he volunteered for a tour of duty in Afghanistan Scherrer replied, "I am dedicated to the U.S. Army, and I wanted to make a difference. I also wanted to prevent the need for someone else to have to go back, be separated from their family, and place their life at risk."

Scherrer returns to his job as aviation analyst for the U.S. Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington.



Colonel Kevin Scherrer (in black T-shirt) and his wife Suzanne Scherrer surrounded by friends at their home Sunday, June 12 at the Welcome Home Party.

OPINION

Amazing Teens

Time to celebrate their talents and accomplishments, and to keep them safe.

It's a time to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of area teens.

They're graduating from high school, many after completing college level work in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, for more than a year, earning scholarships and entry to college.

Some are accomplished athletes, ending high school careers as leaders on the field, demonstrating the benefits of practice and discipline, understanding more about what it means to work in a team than many adults ever will.

Some have excelled in theater, learning stage management, teamwork of different kind, complex tasks including lines, music, and more. High school students excelling in theater were celebrated Sunday, June 13, at the Kennedy Center, with awards going to (among others) Madison, Marshall, Mount Vernon, Westfield and Falls Church high schools in Fairfax County; Wakefield in Arlington; Walt Whitman in Montgomery County.

Local high school students pursue all sorts of music with passion. They are involved in many other arts, including photography, painting, sculpture.

There are teens who devote themselves to community service. Students in McLean have packaged literally tens of thousands of meals for the hungry. Others volunteer at homeless shelters, work on environmental projects, help in hospitals, animal shelters and nursing homes. Some have raised money for relief ef-

forts in Haiti or Japan or the Gulf Coast.

It's not surprising that some of these teens are celebrating in a variety of ways. You can see photo slide shows of many area proms at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

Now the word of caution.

Many, many high school students consume alcohol, usually to excess.

EDITORIAL

Responding to the 2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey, nearly half of high school students reported drinking alcohol. Twenty-three percent of high school seniors reported binge drinking in the two weeks before the survey, and 39 percent of them had consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days. Among 10th graders, 22 percent had consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days.

Twenty-two percent of students said they had used marijuana.

While those numbers are eye-opening, consider this: Twenty percent of students reported they had driven a car when they had been drinking. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey

It's easy to forget, when high school students present themselves with maturity, with discipline, with intelligence, that they are, in fact, high school students. Their brains are not fully developed. They are not fully equipped to make what could turn out to be life and death decisions, especially in group settings. They still need guidance, protection, reminders, safeguards and safety nets, mostly from their parents.

During the summer, nearly twice as many

teenagers die in traffic crashes than at other times, according to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program www.wrap.org. There have been some devastating examples of this locally.

The most important thing for parents to do for their teenagers is to talk to them. Even if your teen tries to deflect what you're saying, the information is still working its way into his or her brain.

Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been too much work to get them to this point to risk losing them. Tell them not to text and drive. Tell them not to drink and drive. Tell them not to get in a car with anyone driving who has been drinking. Tell them you'll come pick them up anytime that they need a safe ride home.

WRAP offers tips, facts and strategies on their website.

Correcting a Mother's Day Error

Because of an internal communications error, The Gazette didn't receive many of the Mother's Day photos submitted to us by readers until late last week. We're so sorry we missed Mother's Day, but you'll find those photos at <http://bit.ly/iCiJcS>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

Appreciates Letter-Writer

To the Editor:

For more than a year I have been following the comments of Jay Spiegel — whom I had never met until late last year — about the lo-

cal governmental process in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

Like most residents of this area, I had only a passing interest in local issues, but was struck — and increasingly disturbed — by Jay's observations about the power of a few unelected individuals in an organization (the MVCCA) that seemed to have little relation to the people it claimed to represent. (And as a former board member of my neighborhood civic association, I am well aware that few people in this District have any idea of what goes on at the MVCCA.)

I had no opinion one way or the other about his views until Fairfax County's dog cops began their raids on Westgrove Park — the largely hidden, unidentified, (and after a decade of Park Author-

ity ownership) still-unplanned former sewage plant along Fort Hunt Road, making criminals out of hapless dog owners throwing a stick to their dogs and socializing with new-found friends — not threatening public safety.

Concerned and increasingly-angry dog owners, who have no other place to run their dogs within a reasonable distance, then banded together as the Westgrove PACK, first reaching out informally to our supervisor and our then-Park Authority representative, and then, more than a year ago, petitioning the County to let us continue to use this area as an interim OLDA at least until a master plan is completed (yes, a "no-brainer"). Well over 500 residents have supported this petition — not just dog owners, but hundreds of taxpayer residents outraged by the waste of taxpayer money and the County's misplaced priorities.

When the story of our efforts first broke in the local media, Jay — who acknowledged he had no dog in this fight — nevertheless weighed in with numerous letters supporting our request, for the simple reason that is reasonable.

The ensuing (and still-ongoing) nightmare journey of the PACK and its supporters through the County's official and unofficial bureaucracy has reinforced Jay's observations — in spades

It is thus sad to see that our few but vocal opponents, whose repeated efforts to kill or cripple this simple request were eventually

SEE APPRECIATES, PAGE 11



'Judges Choice'

Three girls won "Judges Choice" awards in the Fourth Annual Habitat Northern Virginia Building Block Blitz sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. The winners are Sydney Himes and Lucy Helmlinger who attend Belle View Elementary, and Anna Rizzi who attends Stratford Landing.

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Congratulations Seniors

BY DAN STORCK
MT. VERNON DISTRICT MEMBER
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

This week we will see the graduation of more than 12,500 seniors from Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) 27 high schools. More than 90 percent of our students beginning high school four years ago will be graduating, an achievement along with Montgomery County Maryland schools, that ranks as the highest in the nation for large school districts! Added to that great success is that more than 90 percent of those same students will continue onto higher education and to some of the best academies and universities in the country. In addition to these general graduation successes, we will be awarding thousands of advanced diplomas and career certifications. These are truly remarkable achievements that deserve celebration (in moderation of course!) by all of us. Our future depends upon their continued hard work and success.

Why have we been so success-

ful?

The School Board has implemented over the past six years broad goals and measures to ensure that our student expectations are high and that they are being prepared, as Deputy Superintendent Moniuszko has said, "for their future and not our past." Our three overall Student Achievement Goals for Academics, Essential Life Skills and Responsibility to the Community, provide a clear direction for what our students are expected to accomplish during their 13 years of schooling. These goals are grounded in what we believe are essential 21st century skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. These skills will be essential for any occupation in their future from medical assistant to engineer.

Challenging Curriculum, Willing Students

The School Board has not settled for the minimum competency or academic floor of the Standards of Learning (SOL) or No Child Left Behind. Yes, these standards re-

main difficult to attain for about 10 percent of our students, and our focus will continue to ensure that they get the support they need to attain them. But for the almost 50 percent of our students who now achieve "pass advance" status on these tests, we are focused on making sure that they have far richer challenges. In addition to the SOL required fundamentals, our schools have always provided enrichment in music, drama and the arts, and programs like Young Scholars, AVID and advanced academic enrichment in most subject areas. These curriculums provide opportunities and serve as gateways to our open access honors classes and advanced courses in middle and high school.

At the high school level, particularly Mount Vernon District schools, we need demonstrable assurances that the quality of our standard college preparatory classes are meeting the same standards as all other FCPS high schools. Where there is only a choice of a standard or Advance Placement (AP) class and no hon-

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 24

COMMENTARY

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Virginia Department of Transportation

Change in Limited Access Control Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) Fairfax County

The Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) established the Fairfax County Parkway between Route 7 (Dranesville) and Route 1 (near Fort Belvoir) as a limited access highway. This designation defined the use of these roadways for through traffic and restricts (or controls) the allowable access breaks for abutting property owners.

A break in the limited access for Route 7100 is requested to provide a new road connection for access to the proposed National Museum of the U.S. Army on the north side of Route 7100. This portion of the Fairfax County Parkway is operated by the Commonwealth of Virginia under an easement granted by the Secretary of the Army. Per this easement the Army has a right to connect to Government lands from the Parkway, provided that such rights shall be used in a manner that will not create unnecessary interference with the use and enjoyment of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The break in Limited Access will be located approximately 1,070 feet to the east of the westbound exit ramp to Telegraph Road and approximately 1,750 feet to the west of J.J. Kingman Road. This request has been endorsed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access change at a future meeting.

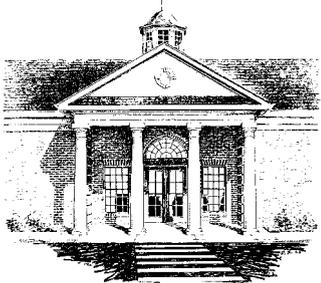
Preliminary design plans can be reviewed at the VDOT District Office at the address listed below. Written public comments regarding this proposed change in limited access control are encouraged and welcomed and should be forwarded to:

Tom Fahrney
VDOT Commonwealth BRAC Coordinator
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

All comments must be received by the Virginia Department of Transportation on or before July 7, 2011.

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OPINION

Appreciates Letter-Writer

FROM PAGE 8

defeated at the MVCCA, can't let sleeping dogs lie (or play in the park).

The latest salvo from MVCCA E&R Chair Betsy Martin, now challenges Jay on the specious grounds that he is making "ad hominem" attacks on Harrison Glasgow, an at-large member of the Park Authority. Like far too much in this discussion, this is just another red herring.

Stating facts about a person's position on an issue under discussion is not an "ad hominem" attack. Even before we knew he was aware of our request, Mr. Glasgow made no bones about his opposition to an OLDA — interim or not — on that site, nor did he show any interest in hearing directly from the PACK. His position has not changed, as he made clear at a Park Authority committee meeting last week (which, thanks to our new Park Authority representative) was finally addressing the matter.

Jay Spiegel has done a great service to this District and its residents by shining a light on a situation that has prevented this District from getting needed services for far too long.

For Ms. Martin and Mr. Glasgow, who represent themselves as spokesmen for the residents of this county but can't seem to get their heads above the weeds in Dyke Marsh, I would add a caution: if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

Mary Tracy

Speaking for Self or Group?

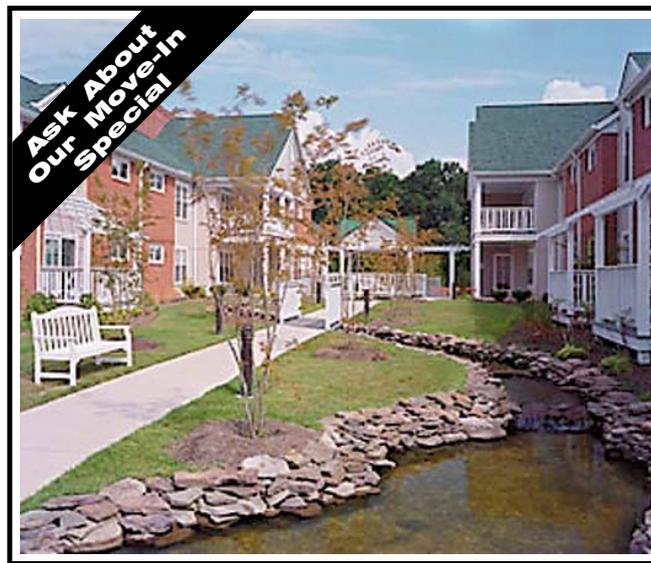
To the Editor:

Betsy Martin's letter published in last week's Gazette (to respond to my letter published the prior week) leveled a number of personal attacks against me (I never mentioned Ms. Martin in my letter). I'm writing to set the record straight.

Ms. Martin accused me of engaging in "ad hominem attacks on those who oppose allowing a portion of Westgrove Park to be temporarily used as an off-leash dog exercise area [OLDA] until a master plan for the park is developed." She criticized me because, allegedly, "Instead of addressing the reasons for their opposition, Mr. Spiegel impugns their credibility and standing." When I read Ms. Martin's letter, I found myself wondering if she

SEE SPEAKING, PAGE 24

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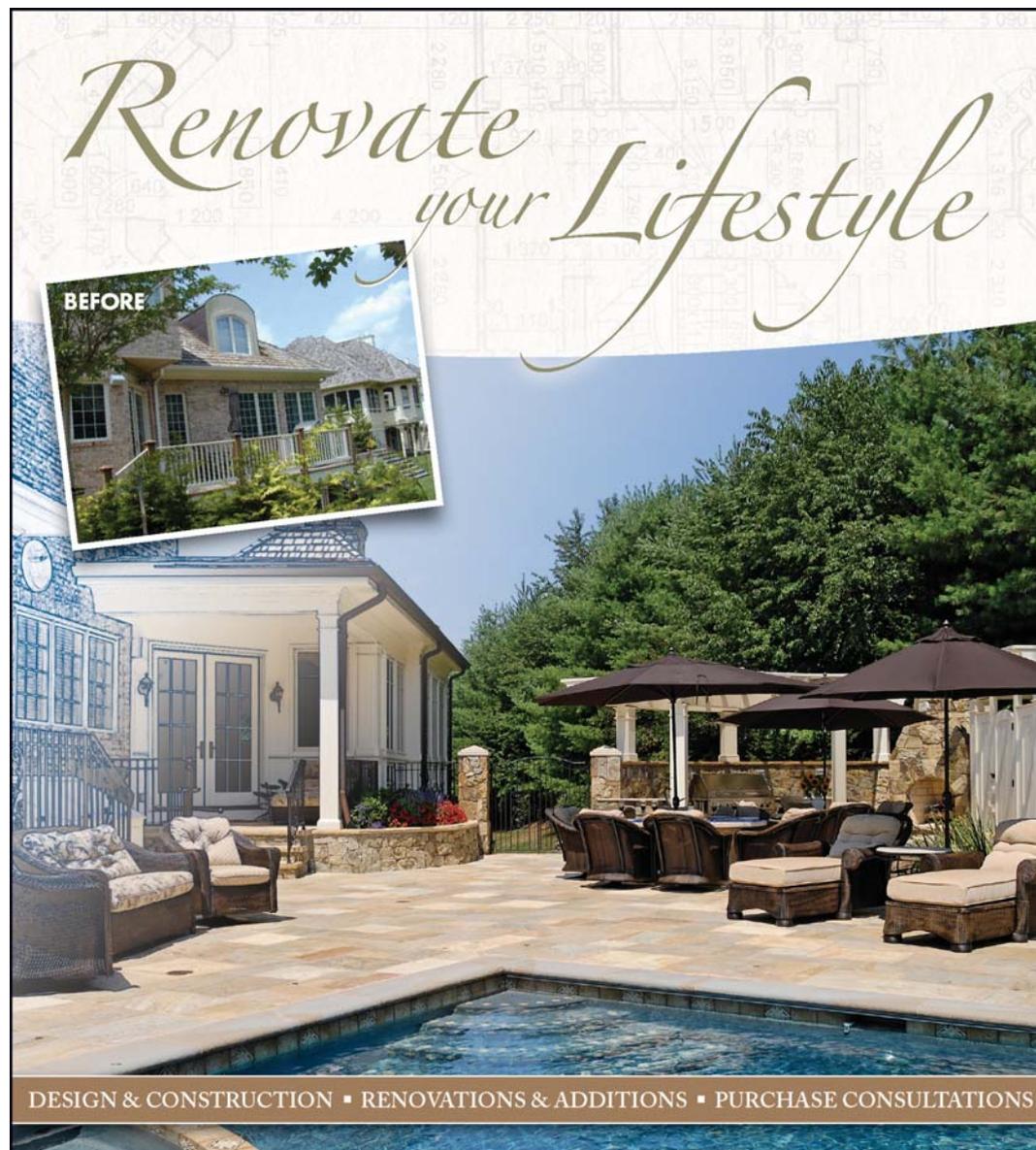
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Institute, The Dawson Academy, and as a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry enables him to provide his patients with the latest innovative techniques in achieving his patients' restored oral health. While patients appreciate his vast experience,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

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OBITUARIES

Maureen D'Angelo

Maureen Patricia D'Angelo, longtime resident of the Mount Vernon area, died on June 1, 2011 with family by her side at the assisted living facility in Brighton, Mich., where she had been living since 2005. She was 77. Maureen was the wife of Donald D'Angelo (1934-1990), loving mother of Christine, Greg, Jamie and Dave, and grandmother of Tori and Levi. Maureen was a die-hard Republican, loved gardening and enthusiastically competed in Riverside Garden's yearly Christmas decorating competition. After the birth of her fourth child in her 40s, she went back to work, and retired from the consulting firm A.T. Kearney in 2003 with lots of pride and many friends. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Friday, June 17, at 10 a.m., with a graveside service to follow at Mt. Comfort Cemetery.



Maureen D'Angelo

Major Gen. Robert Wesley Green

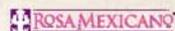
Major Gen. Robert Wesley Green, M.D., U.S. Army retired, died in his Mount Vernon home on June 6, 2011 of natural causes. He was born in Vandergrift, Penn., on May 30, 1918. He obtained the B.S. degree in chemistry at Pennsylvania State University in 1940, where he participated in ROTC. He entered the Army as a lieutenant of Infantry with the 1st Infantry Division, and participated in the invasion of North Africa at Arzew; Sicily at Gela; Normandy at Omaha Beach, second wave, and the Battle of the Bulge. He served successively as a company commander, regimental staff officer, civil affairs and military government officer with the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division. Returning to the United States he served on the faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, until his release from active duty in May, 1946, as a lieutenant colonel. During his period of wartime overseas service he was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, and eight battle stars.

Following the war he was awarded the M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and reentered the Army in June of that year as a first lieutenant, Medical Corps. Following his internship and residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center he served a year as Chief of General Medical

SEE GREEN, PAGE 15



★ WATERFRONT DINING ★



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★ UPCOMING ★ EVENTS

- American Market – Now thru October 29
- Movies on the Potomac – Now thru Sep. 30
- Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival – June 17 & 18
- Uncle Sam Jam – July 2
- Red Bull National Wake – July 23
- Cruisin' on the River Classic Car Show – Aug. 6
- Chesapeake Crab & Beer Festival – August 20
- Abbey Road on the River – September 1 thru 5
- Das Best Oktoberfest – September 24 & 25
- Wilson Bridge Half Marathon – October 2

Located along the Potomac River next to the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, easily accessed from the Capital Beltway and I-295, by water taxi from Alexandria, Georgetown, and Mt. Vernon, or by shuttle bus from Washington, D.C.

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Old Town **\$819,000**
 403 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Fabulous community with swimming pool & tennis court. Short distance to Old Town's shops & restaurants. 3BR, 3.5BA, 12' ceilings, gleaming HW flrs, off street parking & abundant natural light. Gourmet kitchen and bsmt storage.



Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697



Old Town
\$775,000
 804 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Circa 1880, this recently renovated brick Victorian features three bedrooms, two baths, two fireplaces plus lovely pine floors. Two off-street parking spaces! Property can be used commercially. A great value!



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Old Town **\$3,175,000**
 712 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Circa 1802, this exceptionally grand 5BR, 5BA home features a 38ft entrance hall with keystone archway, 12.5ft ceilings, elaborate moldings, original pine flrs & 5 fireplaces! Loads of storage, wine cellar plus off-street parking! Reasonably priced.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



River Towers **\$249,000**
 6621 Wakefield Drive #408, Alexandria, VA 22307
 Great opportunity to own a 2 bedroom & 1.5 bath condo with new kitchen. Light, bright with a view of the trees and landscaping. Ample free parking and more. Convenient location to shops, Old Town, GW Parkway and Fort Belvoir.



Denise Davis 571-332-8531



Fort Hunt **\$749,900**
 8601 Cotswold Court, Alexandria, VA 22308
 This 3 level colonial on .29 acres offers updated kitchens and bath, formal living and dining rooms, 4 large bedrooms, 2.55 baths, fully finished basement, and a fabulous back yard oasis!



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Del Ray **\$1,195,000**
 1600 Hancock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301
 Close to Everything! 4 fully finished levels offer high ceilings, welcoming wrap porch and open flr plan. Large chefs kitchen, great deck, patio & main level BR with full BA. LL play room with full bath. Upstairs offers luxury MBR, 3BR & finished loft.



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



New Alexandria **\$585,500**
 6407 15th Street, Alexandria, VA 22307
 New Listing! Charming Cape Cod. 3BR & 1.5BA shows like a model home. Updated kitchen & baths. Hardwood floors, sunroom, family room, formal living & dining. Extra large Treed yard with slate patio perfect for entertaining.



Terry Ann Stevens 757-647-4705



Hollin Hall **\$499,900**
 1911 Ingram Place, Alexandria, VA 22308
 A Best Buy in the FT Hunt Area! Fantastic 4BR, 2BA, 2 level Brk Rambler on cul-de-sac w/fabulous Fenced yard. Gourmet kit, newer windows, updated baths, fam rm and den. Wayneswood School District.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Sulgrave Village **\$1,195,000**
 1912 Prices Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
 Fabulous New Listing. Beautiful, nearly new brick 4BR & 4.5BA colonial with 3 car garage. Close-in Mt Vernon location. All the amenities one would expect as well as a wall mounted 61" plasma TV with sound system and back-up generator.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Port Royal
\$145,000
 801 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Delightful studio with balcony in the midst of Old Town! Freshly painted, new carpet, new appls and granite. Ready to go! Close to Dash bus, metro, restaurants, shops & Potomac River. 24 hr desk & 1 onsite parking spot. Visit www.PortRoyal314.com



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Brenton/Del Ray
\$499,000
 429 East Luray Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301
 Outstanding townhouse with gourmet kitchen/dining combo, handsome cabinetry & top-of-the-line appls. Short distance from Braddock Metro and "downtown" Del Ray. 3 levels, 2BR, 1.5BA, lower level FR & plenty of upgrades!



Jane Cole 703-598-6198



Mason Neck **\$5,995,000**
 11521 Potomac Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079
 Escape to Eagles Landing. Waterfront manor in a country setting. Just 18 miles to DC. Perfect for grand entertaining and comfortable living. Sited on 11 secluded acres with 440 ft of river front. www.MasonNeckHomes.com



Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900

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



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ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL Celebrates the Class of 2011



Back Row L-R: Annika Papke, Andrew Vallaster, Julia Bucholz, Madison Muldrow, Hannah Smythe, Daniel Bonnit, Charlotte Simmons, Neil Kenney, Laura Conner, Cameron Heyder, Stephanie Santizo-Bonilla, Charlie Schonberger.

Middle Row: David Milligan, Lexi Magnuson, Jack Rodgers, Nina Davila, Angelo Leitner-Wise, Lizzie Wood, Ben Dunbar, Lara Al-Laham, Wellington Goddin, Katie Gallagher, Andrei Enache, Kate Miller, Lucas Gomez-Acebo.

Front Row: Paul Bearman, Kelly Bauer, Noah Abbe, Ny'a Palacio, Matt Moscoso, Ava Scott, Alex Muldrow, Grace Girard, Christian Muckerman, and Emily Siegfried.

The graduates will be attending the following schools in the fall: **Bishop Ireton, Bishop McNamara, Christchurch School, Edison High School, Episcopal High School, Field School, Foxcroft School, Friendly High School, Gwynn Park High School, George Mason High School, Gonzaga College High School, Potomac High School, Sidwell Friends School, St. Albans School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, T.C. Williams High School, West Potomac High School, and Woodbridge High School.**

About Alexandria Country Day School:

Alexandria Country Day School is an independent K-8 school serving the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Founded in 1983, the community school serves 240 students in one building, promoting interaction among the grade levels and fostering leadership principles. For more information, visit the school's website at www.acdsnet.org. Stop by over the summer to see our new gymnasium, dining hall, and performing arts center! We are proud of our growth and continued support of the ACDS community.

OBITUARY

Major Gen. Robert Wesley Green

FROM PAGE 12

Service there. He was next assigned to Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii as Chief of Gastroenterology, during which he achieved certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Following assignment at Tripler, he returned to WRAMC as Chief of the General Medical Service from September, 1958, until January 1962, when he enrolled at the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon completing the Associate Command and General Staff Officer course, his next assignment was Walson Army Hospital, Fort Dix, N.J., where he served concurrently as Chief of the Department of Medicine, Assistant Chief of Professional Services (later Chief), and Director of Professional Training. While there he was responsible for streamlining the admittance procedure for sick soldiers, as well as facilitating and participating in research surrounding the treatment of pneumonia and meningitis.

He attended the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. By this time he had been awarded the "A" prefix to his military occupational specialty of Internist, in recognition of outstanding achievements and preeminence in this medical specialty. There followed a tour in the Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. as Chief of the Operations Division, Directorate of Plans, Supply and Operations, and later as Deputy Director of PS & O.

In 1969, he went to Panama as director of Gorgas Hospital, becoming health director of the Canal Zone Government in 1970.

In 1972 he was promoted to Brigadier General and named Commander of Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1973 he was promoted to Major General and became Deputy Surgeon General of the Army under General Taylor. In 1978 he retired from the military. He entered Civil Service at DeWitt Hospital, Ft. Belvoir as an internist. He retired in 1986.

General Green was preceded in death by his beloved wife Alicia Leeney Green who tirelessly supported him through his dynamic career and the many moves it entailed. He was a devoted husband and loving father. He was a devout Catholic and an extraordinary example of a true Christian, showing through example how to love those around him. He loved the pursuit of knowledge and actively cultivated that love in his children and grandchildren. Though his career numbered many accomplishments, he considered his family to be his greatest gift and accomplishment.

He is survived by his four children, Joanne Janssen, Barbara Romyn, Douglas Green, and Sandra McCorkle; Sons-In-Law Ronald Romyn and Terence McCorkle; seven grandchildren, Carrie Dewey, John Robert Janssen, Andrea Romyn Stephens, Hannah Romyn, Catherine Gibran, Stephanie Romyn, and Michael Romyn, as well as 12 great grandchildren.

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Managing Brokers
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

2005 Westfield St
\$639,500
Fabulous Home-Great Location!
A few blocks from River and GW Parkway, this fabulous home has been updated and expanded! Over \$60,000 in top quality updates have been recently completed! Features include: family room with cath. ceiling, updated kitchen, top of the line cabinetry, appliances and Virginia soapstone countertops, 4BR, 2.5BA, spacious lower level. Private landscaped grounds on quiet cul-de-sac **OPEN SUN 6/19, 1-4!** Dirs: GW Pky S; R-Vernon View; L-Westfield.

OPEN SUN

4502 Phylliss St
\$565,000
Huge Home - Little Price!
Most home for the money in Mt. Vernon area! Incredibly spacious property with major additions including family room, MBR and oversize 2 car gar. 5BRs, 3.5BAs, hdwd flrs, and 2 decks. Lib. can easily be converted to main lvl BR. Prime location on large lot fronting cul-de-sac. Over 3,000 sq ft of beautifully maintained living area! **OPEN SUN 6/19, 1-4!** Dirs: GW Pkwy S, past Estate; R-Old Mill Rd; R-Badger Dr; L-Phylliss St.

JUST LISTED **RIVERFRONT!**

4003 Belle Rive Ter
\$1,895,000
River Front Opportunity!
Owner wants immediate sale and has priced home accordingly. Previously listed at \$4.8 mill! Spacious custom home designed to capitalize on breathtaking river views from every corner of the home. Open floor plan with app. 11,000 sq ft of luxury. Extensive balconies, patio & roof deck embrace the majestic setting of this elevated lot overlooking the Potomac River! **OFFERS INVITED!**

\$ 699,999
Fairfax
"JUST LISTED"
Pristine colonial on a premium lot backing to parkland. Sparkling home boasts 3 finished levels of custom updates & upgrades. Formal living & dining rooms, 4BR/3.5BA, family room, media & game rooms, 2 car garage. Exquisite...

www.homesbykatalin.com
Katalin Melamed 703.819.9787

OPEN SUNDAY 1- 4!
\$735,000
Waynewood
1200 CROTON DR
Fabulous expanded "Saratoga" in sought after Waynewood. 5BR/3BA, updated kitchen, 2-sided fireplace for living room - dining room addition. Gracious family room addition with wood stove. Set on corner lot, the generous screened porch overlooks a bocce ball court in the back yard.

Steve Crime 703.625.5836

OPEN SUNDAY 1- 4!
\$ 419, 000
Alexandria South
6910 COLUMBIA DR
Eclectic "Bohemian Haven" w/ 3BR/2BA Cape Cod expanded w/updated kitchen, windows, siding, HVAC & HWH. Hdws on both levels. Prof. landscaping/lighting in/out. Gardener's delight - a true "MUST SEE!"

Louise 703.795.9944
Glenn 703.518.8708

JUST LISTED

5421 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$825,000
Modern Home-Magnificent Setting!
Large colonial with bright, open floor plan in prime location on 1/2 acre lot backing to gorgeous parkland. Fabulous home with all the bells and whistles including: high ceilings, dramatic two story foyer, gourmet kitchen, first floor study, large family room, sumptuous master suite, full walk-out lower level and two car garage. Amazingly beautiful, private setting.

JUST LISTED

8723 Bluedale St
\$540,500
Super Value!
Great price for large 5 bedroom home in prime Stratford location. Many features include: high ceilings in major rooms, gorgeous hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen and separate dining room. Finished LL with 2 bedrooms, family room with masonry FP and direct outside entrance. Ideal floor plan for home office. Large deck overlooks fabulous level lot.

NEW HOME

1205 Cedar Dale Ln
\$1,250,000
Pre-Construction Value!
Rare new home opportunity just off GW Parkway! Fabulous price on spacious Fairfax model by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading custom builder. Craftman architecture with full front porch to enhance natural beauty of gorgeous 1/2A lot. Home is loaded with upgrades and custom features and located in Waynewood School Dist. Priced thousands below other new homes in area! (Pic is similar home)

OPEN SUNDAY 1- 4!
\$ 439,000
Hollin Hall Village
7922 BAINBRIDGE RD
Beautifully remodeled rambler w/an amazing kit that opens to a fam rm add., new windows, new roof, newly painted, renovated BA & hdwd flrs thru-out. Best of Hollin Hall, beautiful landscape - Don't miss this one!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.587.7841

OPEN SUNDAY 1- 5!
\$ 239,900
Woodbridge
2843 N BOWES LN
Great 3BR/2.55 end-unit home. Upgrades including: all new SS kit appliances, new bathrooms, new hardwood floors in foyer/hallway, & new carpet thru-out. Finished walkout basement w/newly finished den/study. EZ access to I-95, Potomac Mills & commuter bus. Home warranty.

Lauren Leggett 703.582.7354

\$ 584,900
Mt Vernon
"GORGEOUS SITE"
Beautiful Southwest custom colonial, meticulously maintained & updated located on a private .42 acre lot. 4BR / 2.55BA, formal living & dining rms, 3 fireplaces, family room off eat-in kit, huge LL rec rm w/FP plus walkout to a delightful backyard. 2-car garage. HVAC (2010).

Virtual Tour: www.bobskinnerhomes.org
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279

CONTRACT

8705 Yardley Dr
\$530,000
Redecorated Inside & Out!
One of Stratford Area's Best Values! The wallpaper is gone-the interior is freshly painted. Numerous special features include: great room with exceptionally large window wall, eat-in kitchen with gas cooking, separate dining room, large master suite with private deck, finished lower level family room with FP, magnificent grounds and private backyard.

JUST LISTED **NEW HOME**

8313 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$749,000
New Home-Resale Price!
Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes. Custom building with many modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Pre-construction sales price provides unique opportunity to purchase brand new home for the same price as a 40 year old resale! Model available to walk through by appointment.

9005 Cherrytree Dr
\$595,000
Major Updates!
HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Best price for classic center hall colonial in area! Great floor plan! Most major components have been recently updated to include plumbing, electrical, brand new custom kit, refinished hdwd flrs, upgraded ceramic tile. Work was performed under direction of professional interior designer with fabulous results

\$ 322,500
Alexandria
"NEW PRICE"
Move right into this impeccable 3lvl, 3BR/3.5BA TH in convenient Woodstone; minutes to Metro, OT, Ft Belvoir & DC. Brick front 3 level end TH w/updates thru-out. Newly updated kit, BAs, new HVAC. 3BR/3.5BA, windows galore; overlooks parkland Fabulous deck. Move-in ready.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

\$ 409,000
Alexandria
"EXQUISITE"
Prime lot in close-in community of Huntley Meadows; minutes to Metro, OT, Ft. Belvoir & DC. Brick front 3 level end TH w/updates thru-out. Newly updated kit, BAs, new HVAC. 3BR/3.5BA, windows galore; overlooks parkland Fabulous deck. Move-in ready.

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Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

\$ 335,000
Montebello
"NEW PRICE"
You will feel at home in this stylish & sophisticated unit. Beautiful hardwood floors, W/D, French doors lead to enclosed east facing glass balcony w/great view of pool/tennis courts. 1 parking space conveys. 2BR/2BA. All the amenities of resort living.

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8890 McNair Dr
\$749,500
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition on gorgeous professionally landscaped lot.

4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$625,000
One Level Luxury!
Rare opportunity-Spacious one level home in premier Yacht Haven location! This special home has been updated and offers many fabulous features: open floor plan, updated kitchen and baths, stunning master suite w/cathedral ceiling and luxury bath, sunroom and 2 car garage. If you are looking to eliminate stairs & not sacrifice size and luxurious amenities-this is it!

1907 Rampart Dr
\$655,000
Stunning Addition!
One of the most truly spectacular properties in Ft. Hunt area! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Back of home was expanded resulting in breathtaking, glass walled, open kitchen/family room and main level master suite. Fabulous features include: updated gourmet kitchen with granite and custom cabinets. Expansive deck! Great location!

\$ 406,000
Fairfax
"NEW PRICE"
Stunning kitchen, new stainless appliances, granite counters - Huge bay window, 3 finished levels, 3BR, updated 2 full & 2 half baths - Ext maintenance-free, Brick / Siding & PVC wrap deck, Patio, Garage - Great location off Rte 66 & Rte 50.

The Powers Team
Paula & Sheryl 703.472.6925

\$ 1,250,000
Yacht Haven
"NEW PRICE"
Stunning waterfront property w/dock on Dogue Creek lagoon. Elevator, 2-car garage, in-ground pool on 1/2 acre lot. 6BR/4.5BA + 5,501 sq ft of beautifully updated living space. Call...

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

OPEN SUNDAY 1- 4!
\$ 924,000
Mt Vernon
4106 FERRY LANDING RD
NEW PRICE! 6BR, 4FBA home w/open floor plan. Master suite w/priv BA on ML, library, LR, DR, brkfst & fam rms + fantastic Chef's kit w/SS, cherry, ctr island & tile w/porcelain inlay. 2nd mstr suite has tray ceilings, frpl & fabulous BA. Beautiful landscaped yard + deck & 2 brick patios.

Randy Bender 703.906.1749



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Alexandria & Mount Vernon

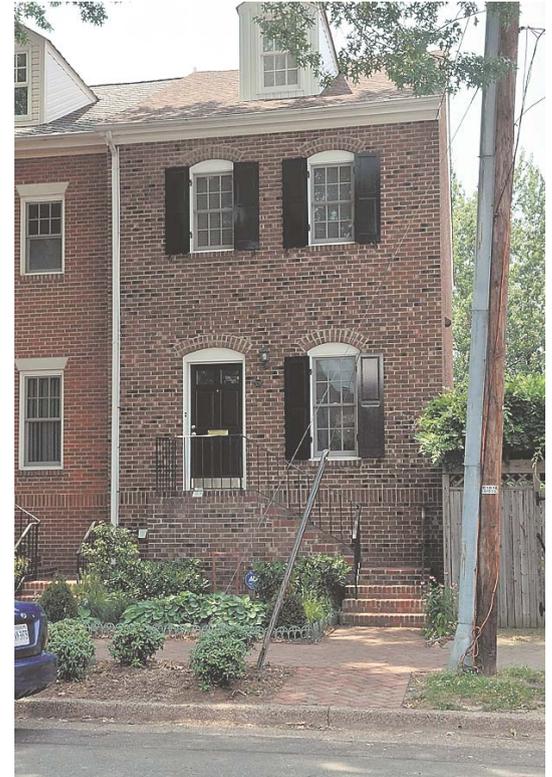
REAL ESTATE

April Sales between \$832.5K and \$935K

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



2 211 Howell Avenue East, Alexandria — \$925,000



5 528 Columbus Street North, Alexandria — \$900,000



6 3912 Rive Drive, Alexandria — \$899,000



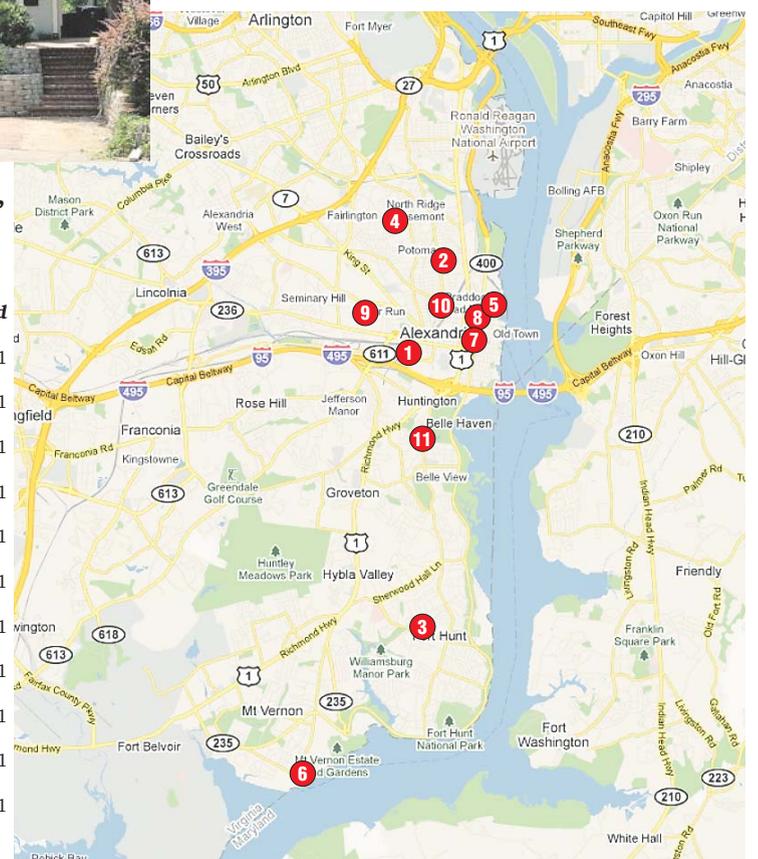
3 8141 Stacey Road, Alexandria — \$918,000



4 3104 Old Dominion Boulevard, Alexandria — \$915,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 2181 JAMIESON AVE#1108-1109	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$935,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0.13	CARLYLE TOWERS	04/15/11	
2 211 HOWELL AVE E	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$925,000	Detached	0.13	DEL RAY	04/08/11	
3 8141 STACEY RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$918,000	Detached	0.50	TINKLE A H	04/29/11	
4 3104 OLD DOMINION BLVD	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$915,000	Detached	0.17	BEVERLY HILLS	04/11/11	
5 528 COLUMBUS ST N	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04	OLD TOWN	04/29/11	
6 3912 RIVE DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$899,000	Detached	0.97	BELLE RIVE	04/05/11	
7 814 CAMERON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$890,000	Townhouse	0.03	CHURCH SQUARE	04/22/11	
8 426 ALFRED ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$855,000	Detached	0.05	OLD TOWN	04/13/11	
9 301 CLOVERWAY DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$851,600	Detached	0.26	CLOVER	04/22/11	
10 206 OAK ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$840,000	Detached	0.11	ROSEMONT PARK	04/29/11	
11 1911 WINDSOR RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$832,500	Detached	0.48	BELLE HAVEN	04/30/11	

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM



© Google Map data

Home Life Style

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE



Old Town resident Tamara Saltonstall browses a binder of local information she keeps for visiting houseguests.

Tips From An Expert

Old Town resident Tamara Saltonstall is known for her gracious entertaining and home design skills. Here, she shares her personal tips for entertaining overnight guests.

1. Fresh linens on the beds and an extra blanket. I always dry my linens with a lavender sachet for a great fresh scent.
2. Stocked mini-bar/refrigerator with water, juice boxes for the littles, beer and wine for the olders.
3. In this day of airline restrictions I completely stock the bathroom with everything. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, personal care products, Tylenol, sunscreen, sewing kit, etc.
4. The new coffee machines are the best, especially if you have a guest that is an early riser. I like the Kuereg and the Tassimo as they both can make an espresso, latte or Earl grey in seconds.
5. A basket of snacks is a necessity. Fill it with nuts, chips, mints, hard candy, etc. When your visitor isn't familiar with the area, be sure they aren't hungry at midnight with no idea where to go.
6. On that note, I have a binder that has local area restaurant menus and to-go menus. I also have flyers of all of the area attractions, metro maps, regional maps, etc. that they can peruse through. This is an easy thing to pull together by visiting the Visitors Center on King Street in Alexandria.
7. I also put a \$20 metro pass in the binder since they might be going to museums and the metro is sometimes difficult to navigate.
8. I always put a candle and matches in every room.
9. On the bedside table, I put out a bottle of water, new Chapstick and a flashlight for emergencies.
10. Updated magazines. It's so much fun to be traveling and reading magazines. I have Time, Sports Illustrated and People.
11. And then, of course, flowers everywhere. I tend to cut them from my garden, but the safest bet is to purchase an orchid from your local grocer.

Guest Relations Creating a home away from home for overnight guests.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are upon us again, and for many people, that means entertaining a steady stream of visiting family and friends. Some hostesses relish the opportunity to turn entertaining into an art form, but for those without the Martha Stewart gene, some advanced planning and a few easy tips go a long way to making any guest feel welcome and comfortable in your home.

"I learned so much from my mother," said Old Town resident Tamara Saltonstall, whose entertaining skills were passed down in her family. "And my grandmother and great-grandmother wrote weekly home and design articles for the Bermuda Sun going

back as early as the 1920s."

Saltonstall, who lives in the historic Vowell-Snowden home on South Lee Street, is known as one of Alexandria's most gracious hostesses and frequently opens her home and garden for fundraising events and home tours.

"I spent the majority of my childhood traveling with my parents," said Saltonstall, whose mother was Miss Bermuda and father a Navy aviator. "I think much of my design and entertaining wisdom comes from these experiences."

A busy wife and mother of three, Saltonstall enjoys hosting overnight guests in a two-bedroom guest cottage that was once the carriage house on the property that boasts expansive gardens, tennis court and pool.

"I have a checklist of things that I do be-

fore my guests arrive," Saltonstall said. "Most are easy but just require a little extra thought, like having lots of toiletries on hand for anyone traveling to visit by plane because of all the TSA regulations."

A trademark of Saltonstall's hospitality is a large binder she keeps of area attractions and restaurant menus for guests to use to help plan their visit.

"I also keep a basket of snacks in the guest rooms and put out fresh flowers, usually from my garden, in all the rooms in the

SEE GUEST RELATIONS, PAGE 20



A view from the office/living room of the Holland House carriage house.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

A Unique Retreat

Looks can be deceiving when approaching the Holland House's guest home, located in Old Town next to a seated bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson. With a beautiful, green landscape full of flowers, pathways and a medium-sized gazebo, no eye would guess that what seems like a garage-sized home holds two stories with a full office, kitchen, bedroom and two bathrooms.

Owners Grace-Marie and Douglas Turner allow friends and family members to stay in their guest home, which includes a parking lot on what used to be a swimming pool.

Interior designer Stephanie Dimond painted the walls in cool colors such as light mustard yellow, mint green and grey to bring space into the rooms. Not only is the home comfortable, but is full of surprises such as a shower made of brick with stucco and a glass brick sink.

The bedroom contains two colors: a dark grey that brings depth to the room, and a light grey that changes hues depending on the location of the sun. With the perfect shading and chirping birds, any guest will feel like they are at home.

- SVETLANA AVELLAN



Stainless steel appliances gleam in the soft light reflected through the windows from the carriage house garden of Holland House.

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Built in 1890, this charming Victorian townhome is available for full house rental. The B&B is operated by Kathryn Huettner and includes innkeeper services. Continental breakfasts of sweet and savory pastries plus snacks and coffee, tea and juices are provided. 216 opens into a front parlor suitable for dining or office work, a galley kitchen soaking with light from a skylight in the roof, a step down and into living room that opens up to a terraced, walled garden. A "Snuggery Suite" is just below deck and accessible by way of a spiral staircase. Two bedrooms and a full bath are located on the second story.

One bedroom features two twin brass beds overlooking the terraced garden. The second bedroom features a queen size bed with reading lamps built into the headboard posters. Huettner visited many restaurants within walking distance, trolley distance and metro transport, collecting menus which she arranged in binders for the guests. The house is not set up for children under 10 or pets. There is also no smoking in the house. The full house rental is suitable for up to five guests. For more information visit www.216BandB.com

— LOUISE KRAFFT

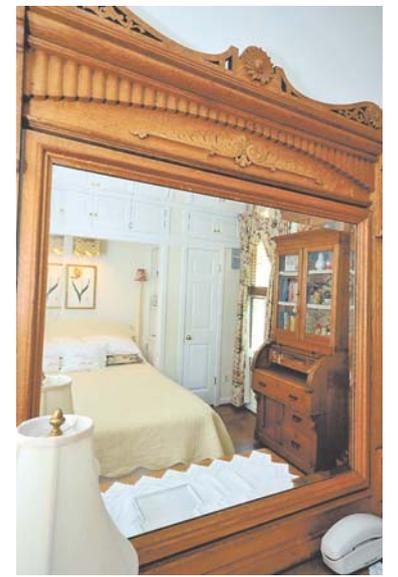


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

A Victorian mirror reflects the front bedroom on the upper level.

Guest Relations

FROM PAGE 19

house," Saltonstall added. "And don't forget a cafe of water on a bedside table."

If possible, designate a bathroom for your guests' use. Put out clean towels and be sure there is soap and shampoo readily available. Liquid shower soap is best for guest bathrooms and a nice touch is to have a hair dryer and a stash of unopened toothbrushes and toothpaste on hand.

And don't be shy about asking in advance what your guests like — or are unable — to eat.

"We are lucky to live in an area with so many choices when it comes to restaurants," Saltonstall said. "But it's always a nice touch to put some extra thought into what to prepare or suggest for dinner options based on your individual guests' needs."

If your guests will be bringing children, be sure to childproof your home as best as possible and safely store fragile items or heirlooms. If your own child's room will be used as a guest room, be sure to remove anything your child will need easy access to and clear some room in a closet or dresser for clothing.

"I love living in a home that has seen such glorious entertaining in its history," said Saltonstall of the property once owned by longtime Alexandria Gazette editor Edgar Snowden in the 1800s and more recently by Supreme Court justice Hugo Black, who purchased the property in 1939 and lived there until his death in 1971. "It's a privilege to share this wonderful property with family and friends when it comes to entertaining visitors."

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Fifth Annual Del Ray Music Fest

Celebrate the rich diversity and talent of the community at the Fifth Annual Del Ray Music Festival on Saturday, June 25. Scheduled from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Fields at 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, the Del Ray Music Festival will include music, food, games, and a chance to ring in the summer with friends and neighbors, no admission fee required.

Chaired by Kate Moran, longtime Del Ray resident and lead singer in her own band, the festival is organized with the support of an all-star group of Del Ray citizens. The festival will feature a variety of music including jazz, blues, folk, country, Celtic, Reggae and rock. The majority of the musicians who will take the stage are residents of the neighborhood as well — something that makes this an extra special show for the performers and gives everyone a chance to hear some wonderful local talent. This year's festival, headlined by Emmet Swimming, also features local favorites like the Justin Trawick Group, Johnny

Grave and the Tombstones and the Walkaways.

"When you look out into the crowd and see friends and neighbors, it reminds me that, even though we live just outside of a big city, the small town vibe is still alive and well here in Del Ray," said Dave Dodd, front man for the local band Elroy Jenkins.

The festival will be continuing its collaboration with the National Capital Area Affiliate of Guitars Not Guns, which will be raffling off a signed guitar and will have the Harley String Band performing on its behalf.

Two additional activities will be occurring in conjunction with the festival this year. The first is Del Ray Music Week, taking place from June 20-24, which will host local musicians as they perform along "The Avenue" at local Del Ray businesses. The second is a Thumb Wrestling Tournament, to occur at the festival, and will be a fundraising activity to raise money for purchase of a mobile stage to be used at Del Ray activities held throughout the year.

The day will also feature games for children and food from neigh-



The Del Ray Music Fest is Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Fields at 2701 Commonwealth Ave. in Alexandria.

borhood favorites Evening Star, Pizzeria Del Ray, Taqueria Poblano, and Pork Barrel BBQ.

This festival is made possible by

the support of its sponsors, most notably Jennifer Walker and Bobi Bomar, both Alexandria Realtors.

For information on sponsorship

opportunities, e-mail info@delraymusicfestival.com. Visit the Web site at

www.delraymusicfestival.com.

Live Music Line-up for 31st Arts & Crafts Festival

Artists and nonprofits in Alexandria are kicking off the summer in style at Market Square June 18-19. Artists, musicians, crafters, artisans and food vendors will take over the Square for the 31st Old Town Arts and Crafts Festival and Volunteer Fair on Saturday, June 18 from 1-6 p.m.; and Sunday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Old Town Arts and Crafts Festival features live acoustic performances by local musicians. Alexandrians Peter and Alison Lattu have been arranging the festival's entertainment for 31 years and note that "many (festival performers) have been nominees or winners of Wammies — the Washington Area Music Association Awards."

Volunteer Alexandria is honored to include these featured musicians:

SATURDAY, JUNE 18:

Alexandrians Suzanne Ives and Michael Dunkley of Bump-

kin Pie, joined by even more Alexandrians David Kitchen and Scott McKnight, dish up some Americana goodness to get the festival going.

Jean Bayou, president of the Songwriters Association of Washington, joins with Ron Goad to sing her own Blues-inspired Folk and Folk-inspired Blues.

Sense of Wonder plays an inventive concoction of Contemporary Folk tunes. The duo is also known throughout the area as Rick & Audrey as they entertain kids and families.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19:

Lisa Taylor, singer/songwriter, guitarist, drummer, Wammie winner and popular area performer, plays it once more with feeling to start off the festival's second day.

Austin Ellis, a North Beach, Md., native now in Nashville via D.C., comes back home to deliver his soulful R&B grooves.

Janine Wilson, Wammie award winning singer/songwriter joins Kevin Dudley of rockabilly group Atomic Hillbilles renown, to wrap

up the festival on a striking sultry roots-rock note.

The event is sponsored by Sue and Marty Goodhart of Sue Goodhart and the Goodhart Group, St. George Gallery of Old Town Alexandria and HonestAire. Local artist and art activist Leisa Collins is also a supporter and Bittersweet Catering~Café~Bakery provides gift donations. For more information on sponsorships, contact Susan Townsend, stowntsend@volunteeralexandria.org.

The event is free and open to the public. Locals and visitors can enjoy the sunshine and tunes while perusing artist's wares. It's a place to find unique items, creative hostess gifts for summer travels, last-minute Father's Day gifts as well as updated information about emergency preparedness, alternative transportation, and volunteer opportunities. For more information about the musicians and the festival, visit www.volunteralexandria.org.

Pretty People Vintage Grand Opening

Pretty People Vintage — helmed by Annie Lee, formerly of Annie Creamcheese — will celebrate its opening in historic Old Town with private parties and special promotions June 30 through July 3.

Visitors to the store will receive special discounts, treats inspired by the store's playful animal theme, and the chance to win a surprise designer item, to be revealed via the store's Facebook page on June 29 at noon; commenters to that post receive an extra chance to win the item. Those who "like" Pretty People on Facebook will be the first to know about discounts, giveaways, and new items from Pretty People.



Annie Lee

SCHEDULE

❖ Wednesday, June 29: Designer giveaway item revealed via Pretty People's Facebook page

❖ Thursday, June 30: Private VIP party: Party Animals

❖ Friday, July 1: Private VIP party (evening): Vintage Gone Wild

Public Grand Opening begins (store hours): Wild card sale (draw for 15 to 30 percent off one item, excluding some designer items), gifts with purchase and

animal-themed treats and jungle juice all weekend long, plus chance to win designer item.

❖ Saturday, July 2 – July 3: Public Grand Opening continues: Wild card sale (draw for 15 to 30 percent off one item, excluding some designer items), gifts with purchase and animal-themed treats and jungle juice all weekend long, plus chance to win designer item.

Pretty People Vintage is located at 108 N. Patrick Street in Old Town Alexandria; call 703-739-2522. Go to www.prettypeoplevintage.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY THURSDAY

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

NOW THROUGH OCT. 30

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 17

Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$4/door. Dancing to a live band led by conductor Owen Hammett. Light refreshments provided by Paul Spring Retirement Community. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Olympic Day. 5 to 8 p.m. Features planned sporting activities, a visit from an Olympian, coordinated by the National Recreation and Parks Association, and a performance by NU ERA. At Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria.

JUNE 17 AND 18

“Setting Sail” Concert. Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Part of the Alexandria Singers’ Spring Pops Concert. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$5 to \$20. Call 703-941-7464. Visit www.AlexandriaSingers.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Hooray For Books! Birthday. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hooray For Books! Children’s Bookstore is turning 3 this month. Balloons, face painting, and three visits from the fabulous Froggy (11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) At 1555 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092.

African Heritage Cultural Festival. Noon to 6 p.m. Featured performers include Sandra Johnson, contemporary jazz; SAMO’O and the band JFC, with Caribbean sound; Elikeh, Afro funk music; and the Michael Stephens Project (MSP) R & B. Additional performers include the Alexandria Community Children Theater (ACCT); Hot Topics All Stars Cheer Group; Recreation Center youth performances; and performances by the Alfred Street Baptist, Roberts Memorial United Methodist and Shiloh Baptist church groups performances. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation, or call 703-746-5592.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Father’s Day Cruise. Celebrate Father’s Day aboard the Odyssey and the Spirit of Washington, offering musical entertainment, dancing and cuisine. Cruises are priced at \$69.90 per adult and \$34.95 for children ages 3 – 12; sailing from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and again from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. To book, call 866-404-8439 or reserve online.

Free Father’s Day Tours. Three Alexandria museums will offer free tours on Father’s Day for all visiting fathers — Gadsby’s Tavern, Apothecary and Friendship Firehouse Museums. Gadsby’s Tavern, from 1 to 5 p.m.; at 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, from 1 to 5 p.m.; at 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. The Friendship Firehouse Museum, from 1 to 4 p.m.; at 107 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.historicalalexandria.org.

Family Tour Day. 1 to 4 p.m. Special tours hosted by Junior Docents who will be stationed at each stop on the tour, including the taproom, bedchambers, ballroom, assembly room and dining room. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Waterfront Walking Tour. 12:30 to 4 p.m. Meet at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Event takes place on the waterfront at foot of Cameron Street near Gazebo and Food Court. Sponsored by Alexandria Archaeology.

Fairfax Elderhostel Alumni Assoc. Meeting. 2 to 4 p.m. Ambassador David Newton will speak on “Yemen: The Middle East’s Latest Hotspot.” At



THURSDAY/JUNE 16

“In Black and White.” 6 to 8 p.m. Photography by Nina Tisara and Peggy Fleming. “In Black and White” highlights two different aspects of African American life and culture. Tisara’s series “United in the Spirit” focuses on worship in Alexandria’s African American community, while Fleming’s work “Crown Me!” looks at the social life of one group of African American men and a traditional American pastime. Meet the artists at the opening reception on June 16, 6-8 p.m. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria.

George Mason Public Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call Rebecca Prather on 703-534-2274.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

Mt. Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. Features a presentation on “Introduction to the Library of Congress Manuscript Division” by Bruce Kirby. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Harold McClelland at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 22

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/JUNE 23

Music at Twilight Concerts. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Featuring the Alexandria Citizens Band - The City’s Oldest Performing Arts Organization. At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

JUNE 24 THROUGH JULY 10

“The Solid Gold Cadillac.” Presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater. Show dates are June 24, 25, July 1, 2, 8, 9 Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; June 26, July 3, 10 Sunday Matinees, 3 p.m. Advance tickets are \$14/adults; \$11/youth/senior. Tickets at door are \$15/adults and \$12/youth/seniors. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd., Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org or call 703-660-2611.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Barbershop Bonanza. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Featuring The Harmony Heritage Singers Barbershop Chorus. Also featuring Fo Pas, Sliders and Cliché. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria.

Alexandria Citizens Band Concert. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The City’s Oldest Performing Arts Organization. At Market Square, 301 King St., Old Town Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

Charity Cruise to Aid Foster Children. 7:30 p.m. dockside reception; 8:30 p.m. departure. Tickets are \$75/person. Fostering the Future Cruise for The Fund for Alexandria’s Child. Aboard the Cherry Blossom paddle wheel boat at the City Marina at Cameron and Union Streets in Old Town. To reserve your space, call 703-746-5663 or visit thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov.

“Glee.” 7:30 p.m. Featuring Cadence, a quartet of singers from Canada; ethnic music and dance from the Indonesian Youth Choir-Cordana; and Pan-African music from South Africa’s Wits Choir.

Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Purchase tickets by calling 703-683-6040 or visit www.classicalmovements.com/dc.

Golf Fundraiser. 2 p.m. Mount Vernon High School will host the first annual Michael M. Skinner Golf Classic. Shotgun start on the Woodlawn Course of Fort Belvoir. Cost is \$125/person and proceeds go to fund student programs at Mount Vernon High School. Registration forms can be downloaded on the MVHS website <http://www.fcps.edu/MtVernonHS>.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Chantry presents music of William Byrd for Saints Peter and Paul. Tickets are \$30/\$15. At St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342

Civil War Sharpshooters. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Reenactors representing Civil War “Brady’s Michigan Sharpshooters” come to Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site for a special living history program. Featured activities will include a rifle display and presentation, skirmish drills, camp life scenarios, and a bugle call demonstration to illustrate how riflemen moved and fired by signal calls. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Del Ray Music Festival. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Headlined by Emmet Swimming, also features local favorites like the Justin Trawick Group, Johnny Grave and the Tombstones and the Walkaways! Includes jazz, blues, folk, country, Celtic, Reggae and rock music. In addition to the music, the day will feature games for the kids and food from neighborhood favorites Evening Star, Pizzeria Del Ray, Taqueria Poblano, and the award winning Pork Barrel BBQ. Along Mount Vernon Avenue and at the Mount Vernon Recreation fields at 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.delraymusicfestival.com.

Brady’s Michigan Sharpshooters. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Reenactors representing the Civil War “Brady’s Michigan Sharpshooters” come to Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site for a special living history program. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Northern Virginia Housing Opportunities Expo. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. The City of Alexandria will host the first Northern Virginia Housing Opportunities Expo at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. The Expo will feature more than 70 exhibitors and workshops in five languages on a range of issues related to renting, homeownership, and home improvement. Visit www.nvaha.org/EXPO2011.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Villa Sinfonia. 3 to 4 p.m. Featuring the San Francisco, CA (String Orchestra). At Market Square, 301 King St., Old Town Alexandria.

Contact: Maureen Sturgill, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5420.

TUESDAY/JUNE 28

Hands-On Civil War Activities. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Try on Civil War clothing, decode secret messages, learn about life in a Civil War hospital and more. For ages 3-12 and their caregivers. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or e-mail carlyle@nvrpa.org

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

Author Talk. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. “Crash Into Me” author Liz Seccuro will speak about her new book. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria.

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

Summer Concert Series. 8 p.m. Free. The U.S. Air Force Band — The Airmen of Note perform at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Lunch Bunch Concert. Noon to 1 p.m. With Folk by Association (Eclectic Acoustic). At Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Old Town Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

JUNE 30

Christmas in June. 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Candlelight Service for military families and friends. The church service at 7:30 p.m. will be a traditional Christmas Eve Service with candlelight, carols, and communion. This event is for all military families and friends who were unable to spend the Christmas holidays with their loved ones. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500. Make reservations at www.trinityalexandria.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The market boasts amazing artwork from local artists, music from multicultural musicians and great food from local restaurants. At Colasanto Park in the heart of Del Ray. Free and open to public. www.TheDelRayArtisans.com or DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com to apply.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

Family Tour Day. 1 to 4 p.m. Special tours hosted by Junior Docents who will be stationed at each stop on the tour, including the taproom, bedchambers, ballroom, assembly room and dining room. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

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

SATURDAY/JULY 9

Meade Skelton. 8 to 10 p.m. At St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub in Del Ray, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-739-9268.

“Reconciliation and the Elaine, Arkansas Race Riot of 1919: Forgive or Forget.”

Film screening at 4:30 p.m. Free. Part of Movies With a Mission program. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org

THURSDAY/JULY 14

Michael DeLalla in Concert. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Part of the Second Thursday Music. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Civil War Spotlight Talks. Free. Explore Civil War Artillery Projectiles. 30-minute talks from 10 a.m. to noon; and 2 to 4 p.m. Learn about a variety of Civil War-period ammunition, from a 100-pounder Parrott shell to a Ketcham hand grenade. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

SUNDAY/JULY 24

Family Tour Day. 1 to 4 p.m. Special tours hosted by Junior Docents who will be stationed at each stop on the tour, including the taproom, bedchambers, ballroom, assembly room and dining room. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

FINE ARTS

JULY 1 TO 22

Made in the U.S.A. Del Ray Artisans will be celebrating Independence Day and the month of July with artwork inspired by U.S. people, places and/or things. Show Opening and Artist Reception: Friday, July 1 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. At the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

JUNE 2 THROUGH JULY 10

Philosophy of Nature. With artist Kurt Godwin. Through the paintings in 'Philosophy of Nature,' Kurt Godwin attempts to understand the universe by layering scientific diagrams that explain natural phenomena with alchemical symbols, emblems, and other icons — both contemporary and ancient. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

JUNE 9 TO JULY 5

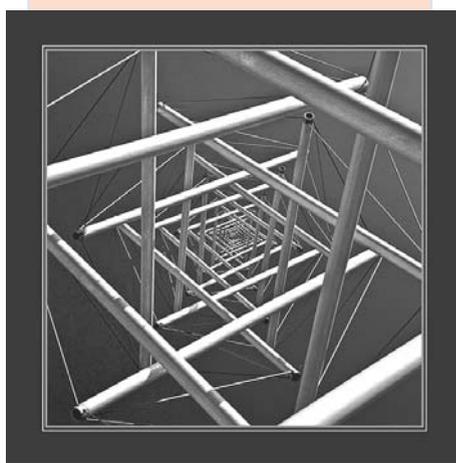
The Gravitational Pull of Memory. Free. Prints and Collages by Veteran Printmaker Ann Zahn. Opening Reception & Meet the Artist: Thursday, June 9, 6:30 – 8 p.m. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 18

Four Seasons: A Photography Exhibition. Exhibition by photographers Fred Eberhart and Joseph Romeo at Broadway Gallery, 5641B General Washington Drive, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 20

Artist Pam Rogers. "The Germination Project: Emerge." Mixed media including handmade natural pigments. Opening reception is Saturday, June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Alexandria campus. **Call for Instructors for Art Camp**



Concentric Angles, a multi-award winning photograph by Master photographer **Joseph Tessmer of Alexandria,** has been chosen by the Arts Council for display at the Dulles Airport Gateway Exhibition. The photograph was taken at the Hirshhorn museum and sculpture garden as part of the portfolio presented to the Professional Photographers of America to obtain the coveted degree of Master of Photography.

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.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 26

Birds & Beasts. Creature-centered clay creations. At the Torpedo Factory's Scope Gallery; hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 26

In the Flesh 3. In the Flesh 3 examines contemporary figurative art, showcasing the work of 21 artists while exploring the deep-seeded relationship between humanity and art. Reception is June 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 26

Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

JULY 6 TO JULY 31

Poetry of Light. Pastels by artist Rachel Estrada. Artist's Reception: Saturday, July 9 from 5-7 p.m. Closing Reception: Saturday, July 30, from 5 – 7 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call at 703-549-6006.

MONTH OF JULY

"Artistic Visions." Twenty artists in multiple media will showcase their recent artistic expressions. A summer show and sale at the Gallery at Convergence. Meet the artists reception is July 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org.

NOW THROUGH JULY 31

Exhibition of Commemorative Wares. Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community's keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

are expected to attend. Mayor William Euille and members of the City Council will be arriving around 3 p.m.

In terms of food, Lawrence said there will be "all the good stuff" from BBQ sandwiches to ice cream to hot dogs and hamburgers.

"We hope people walk away empowered and with a little more knowledge about African culture," said Lawrence. "It's about understanding our differences but how we are all the same. How it evolved into how we are today and looking at the future."

The City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the African Heritage Cultural Festival Committee are cosponsoring the festival. The Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria helped plan the festival.

The festival will take place rain or shine. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be moved inside the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

To learn more, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call the City's Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592.

Featured performers include Sandra Johnson, contemporary jazz; SAMO'O and the band JFC, Caribbean sound; Elikeh, Afro funk music, and the Michael Stephens Project, R&B. Additional performances will include the Alexandria Community City Theatre, Hot Topics All Stars Cheer Group, Recreation Center youth performances, and performances by the Alfred Street Baptist, Roberts Memorial United Methodist and Shiloh Baptist church group performances.

There will also be a film festival in the Alexandria Black Museum, a showcase of traditional arts and crafts, and various exhibits and workshops.

"We asked vendors to be really creative," said Lawrence. Guests will have a chance to "win door prizes or just walk away with some keepsake."

Between 500 and 1,000 people

African Heritage Cultural Festival

Saturday, June 18, 12-6 p.m.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET

The African Heritage Cultural Festival is taking place on Saturday, June 18 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria.

"It's one of the oldest festivals, next to the Irish Festival," said Cheryl Lawrence, regional program director for the Department of Marketing, Public Relations and Special Events for the City of Alexandria. "It's been around since the 1970s."

This year's theme is "Reaching Back Moving Forward," and it highlights African American history from the Civil War to the present.

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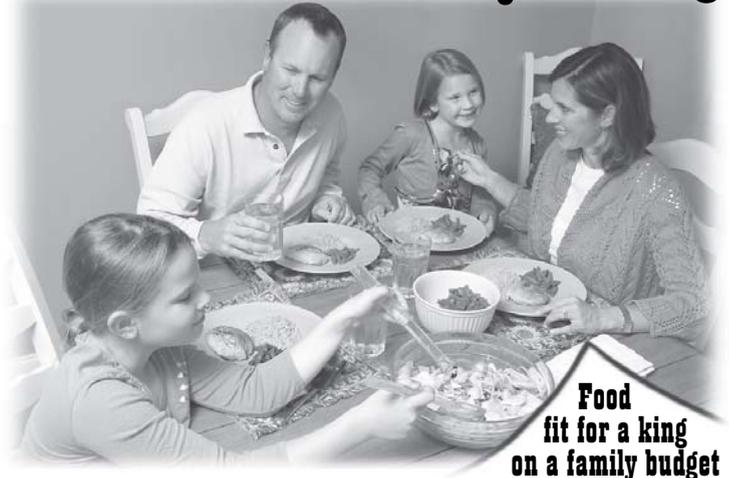


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Advice for West Potomac High School Baccalaureate

BY REV KEARY KINCANNON

RIISING HOPE UNITED METHODIST MISSION

The following Baccalaureate address was prepared for the 2011 West Potomac High school graduating class on Sunday, June 12 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

What do you get when you cross a Tiger with a Federal? You get a Wolverine.

Twenty-six years ago the Groveton Tigers merged with the Fort Hunt Federals to become the West Potomac Wolverines.

Having graduated from Fort Hunt High School (back in 1967), speaking with you this afternoon is much like coming back to speak at my alma mater. It is an honor to be included in your baccalaureate service this afternoon. I want to thank the PTSA for inviting me and my daughter Kaitlyn for introducing me. This is so nostalgic for me I kind of feel like I'm here to turn in a really late assignment for my speech and drama teacher.

I even considered preparing for this talk like I prepared for everything in High School. I'd stay up late at night typing on an old manual typewriter and listening to a transistor radio with an ear plug so as not to wake my parents (We had ear plugs – headphones weren't invented yet).

About 11:30 at night I'd freak because I wouldn't have anything of substance yet. I'd stir up my resolve to knuckle down and would promptly turn on the Tonight Show.

After Johnny Carson – (no one had heard of Jay Leno yet and Conan and Jimmy Fallon weren't even born yet) After Johnny Carson, refreshed and ready to get to work, I'd eat a few cookies, write the title page, and promptly go to sleep.

I'd wake up about 4:30 in the morning and start writing. I'd just really be getting into it when it was time for classes to begin. So I'd skip out on the morning classes, continue writing and finish what I was sure would be an "A" paper. I'd rush off to class and turn it in just in time.

So here I am!

Now, since I am a pastor and the father of a graduating senior I don't recommend this method of completing assignments. I was, after all, invited to share some inspirational thoughts to help you reflect on your accomplishments and motivate you to step out in the next phase of your life.

The nature of Baccalaureate is very simple. It is the place where you sit and I stand, where you listen and I speak, and if you finish your job before I finish mine, I trust you're well brought up enough to wait. I will catch up with you.

In many ways I consider a Baccalaureate Service to be a time of far greater depth and reflection than the Graduation Ceremony; although I do not want to take away from the significance of the Graduation Ceremony. I know all your parents will be filled pride and

joy as you walk up to receive your diploma. I know I will be when Kaitlyn's name is called. I'll have a full range of emotions; shedding tears of delight and tears contemplating how much my wife will spend on redecorating her room once she's gone!

Graduation/Commencement is just that: It's done; it's over; all those years of hard work have paid off and brought you to this great moment in your life. The Graduation Ceremony marks the end of your High School years and launches you out into the world. I doubt that you are going to remember much about your Graduation speaker no matter how excellent or profound the speech may be. This coming Friday at 3 o'clock your minds will be filled more with celebration and relief than contemplation and reflection. You're going to be more in the mood to "party"; well-deserved party; a party 12 years in the making.

So tradition and experience sets the Baccalaureate Service before Graduation in the hope that you might hear what the preacher has to say and the prayers we say over you might take root.

The Baccalaureate Service is a religious service that recognizes you didn't arrive at this moment alone. You are here because you were given the strength to get here; you are here because you were supported in those hours of struggle; you are here because a higher power held you in the palm of their hand. Thanks Mom & Dad!

Even though we are in a Christian sanctuary, we live in a pluralistic society. Whether you pray to Adonai, Jesus, Allah, Buddha, or Gaga, you did not arrive at this moment without inspiration and help.

Your parents were there encouraging you to do the best you can. Their faith and values have shaped you as a person. Hopefully you have come to understand that there is a higher power, a greater purpose to live for, than yourself. What we learn in school is important but what we learn from our family about the meaning of life is more important; because our values give direction to where we put our formal education to work in the world. Whether your formal education ends with High School or you go on to learn a trade or earn a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree ... your education is meant to serve a greater purpose than yourself. It is meant to make this world a better place to live for everyone.

My first word of advice to you as you go out into the world is to "Make Big Choices" early and often. Dream big; the sky's the limit. Set the bar high for yourself. If you really enjoy what you do in life, chances are you'll have a greater impact on the world. Use your college years to explore what you really want to do with your life. That what it's for.

Take classes that sound fascinating to you.

SEE ADVICE, PAGE 26

Congratulations Seniors

FROM PAGE 9

ors class, our area students are left with choices that don't enable them to be appropriately challenged or achieve their full potential. For that reason, I have been urging county staff to reinstate the honors classes at West Potomac that were removed from the class offerings last school year. Our students need that option.

Great Teachers and Principals

They really are that good and if anyone has any doubts, just look at our per school and system-wide results for the past few years — increases, with very few exceptions, in student performance by every available measure, SOL, SAT, AP, IB, and other less quantifiable areas of academics and the arts. All this has occurred while staff's compensation has been frozen or shrunk, class sizes and student populations have grown, support staff has been cut, teacher collaboration time has had to increase and other duties assigned. While we have a highly successful recruiting and hiring process, our performance evaluation process ensures that we keep only the best. Over the next year, we will be revising our performance evaluation system to ensure that we keep the best staff.

Supportive Parents and Community

Schools require engaged parents and consistent levels of per pupil funding to develop and maintain our high success school system. Thankfully, our parents and community members are strong advocates for individual student and school improvements. Their challenges have helped to ensure badly needed schools are built, support for our neediest students are maintained, and key development programs continue. Their volunteer efforts have helped to limit some of the huge impact from the more than \$1,500 decrease in per student funding that has occurred the past four years. However, without increased support from the state, renewed support from the County or new sources of school funding, we will find it almost impossible to maintain our global educational leadership.

So congratulations once again to seniors for all that you have accomplished! Please make sure to recognize the amazing support that you have received along the way from your parents, teachers, principals and community members. We are very proud of each one of you! Now go make our future.

Speaking for Self or Group?

FROM PAGE 11

had actually read mine.

The thrust of my letter was not to address the arguments of opponents of the OLDA but, rather, to point out that a handful of "activists" have expressed their opposition to the proposed interim use and, in some cases, claim to be representing large organizations, yet no one can find any evidence that those organizations have taken official positions aligned with the advocacy of these "activists." Notably, Ms. Martin's letter fails to enlighten any of us on this most troubling aspect of civic activism in the Mount Vernon District. My letter did not in any way criticize the "activists" opposition, only whether their opposition is personal or, as they claim, in representation of large organizations. I have the right to question whether people in the civic community are accurately portraying who they represent.

Ms. Martin also accused me of attempting to bully Harry Glasgow of the FCPA Board, into supporting the off-leash dog area proposal. I did nothing of the sort. I merely pointed out my understanding that Mr. Glasgow lives in the Mount Vernon District and that, as such, he ought to be supporting the interim use proposal, given the overwhelming support by Mount Vernon Supervisor Hyland, the MVCCA, over 500 Petition signers, and virtually every community adjacent Westgrove Park. Presuming Mr. Glasgow lives in the Mount Vernon District, it is appropriate to solicit his support on that basis. Perhaps, that support should also be solicited without regard to the location of his residence since the proposal has the overwhelming support of the Mount Vernon community as set forth above, including by a 10-3 vote in Ms. Martin's committee.

In defending Mr. Glasgow, perhaps Ms. Martin should have mentioned his support for her ill-fated candidacy for the Mount Vernon FCPA Board position. Concerning that candidacy, Ms. Martin's letter ex-

plained her efforts in leading the E&R committee debate of the OLDA proposal, many of which occurred while she was a candidate for the FCPA position. Unmentioned is that the MVCCA bylaws required her to resign her chairmanship of the E&R committee when she became a candidate for the FCPA position. She acknowledged that obligation in writing to the committee, even citing the applicable MVCCA bylaw provision. She has never explained why she never resigned her position. The same provision applies to her tenure on the County's Wetlands Board. If Ms. Martin wants to write letters to the editor, she needs to explain her actions as chairman of a committee of an organization (MVCCA) that claims to represent our community. Apparently, the MVCCA bylaws don't apply to Ms. Martin.

Ms. Martin also disagreed with my contention that the OLDA proposal is a "no brainer." I am not dissuaded. The "activists" used every trick in the book in Ms. Martin's committee in an attempt to kill the proposal with kindness, by attaching so many conditions on approval that it would be non-feasible. These tactics necessitated significant effort on the part of proponents who, one by one, stripped away these deal-breakers until a palatable resolution emerged from the committee. Ms. Martin was one of only three committee members who voted to retain the fence requirement in the committee resolution, a feature that was the most significant deal-breaker due to the considerable expense involved, particularly for an interim use.

Finally, Ms. Martin accused me of being "undemocratic" in the views expressed in my letter. My understanding of "democratic" is that each person has one vote. What is undemocratic is when people claim to be representing the views of large groups when in fact they are only representing themselves while trying to leverage those views through claims that they are speaking for others, when in fact they are not.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac defensive back Denzel Hatch intercepted a pass for the Northern Region during the Region Rumble on June 12 at South County Secondary School.

Mount Vernon running back Emmanuel Tackie played for the Northern Region in the 2nd Annual Region Rumble Football All Star Game on June 12.

Mt. Vernon Coach Wells Leads Northern Region D

Northern Region wins Region Rumble all-star football game.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

When it comes to coaching, Barry Wells describes himself as a “defensive guy.”

After taking the head football coaching position at Mount Vernon in 2010, Wells turned his attention to the offensive side of the ball, among other tasks, and helped lead

the Majors to the playoffs one year after the team finished 0-10.

On June 12, Wells got the chance to focus on defense and have some fun.

Wells was the defensive coordinator for the Northern Region in the 2nd Annual Region Rumble Football All Star Game at South County Secondary School. Wells’ unit limited the Northwest Region to 264 yards — 169 of which came in five plays — and forced three turnovers en route to a 20-12 victory.

The Northern Region took a 14-12 lead when Hayfield quarterback Jason Stewart scored his second rushing touchdown of the evening with 37 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. The defense added the final blow when South County lineman Joshua

Butler returned a fumble 58 yards for a touchdown on the game’s final play.

“To be able to run the defense — I’m a defensive guy — so it was really fun to take charge of the defense and try to get these kids in a position where we could just be tough and competitive,” Wells said. “... With the exception of a couple big plays, we were in charge.”

Four Mount Vernon players suited up for the game, which features some of the regions’ standout seniors: running back Emmanuel Tackie, linebacker Julien Randolph, lineman Logan Beougher and lineman Steven Funk. Cornerback Deondre Wooten practiced with the team but injured himself prior to the contest.

“We had Logan Beougher play some defensive end for us,” Wells said. “He was very efficient; he was helping us keep our freshness at the defensive end position. We had a nice rotation going. ...

“I’m very happy for Emmanuel because he didn’t get all the accolades he was worthy of during the regular season.”

West Potomac had three representatives at the game: lineman Dan Carriker, defensive back Denzel Hatch and linebacker Sonpon Doe. Carriker started at left guard before suffering a left arm stinger in the second quarter. Hatch intercepted a pass in the end zone in the second quarter.

“I had a blast,” Carriker said. “It’s fun getting one more game in.”

Another Title for Mount Vernon Golfers

For the 10th time in the past 12 years, golfers at Mount Vernon Country Club have won the Women’s District of Columbia Golf Association team championship. Every spring, the association, founded in 1924, sponsors the area’s most competitive team play for women. Mount Vernon, playing in the top division of the league, clinched the title on June 8.

“Six players team up for each match,” said Mount Vernon captain Debbie Simpson. “And any combination works. We all play well together.”

Among the six who play most of the matches, there is a political con-

sultant, FBI special agent, lawyer, health insurance executive, software engineer and a Federal Reserve financial analyst. All juggle their schedules in order to participate in the weekly league play.

— MICHAEL K. BOHN

Mount Vernon Country Club won the first flight in the 2011 Women’s District of Columbia Golf Association’s annual team tournament. From left: Kim Franks, Joan Gardner, Debbie Simpson, Katie Cox and Linda Di Vall. Not shown is Susan Podolsky.



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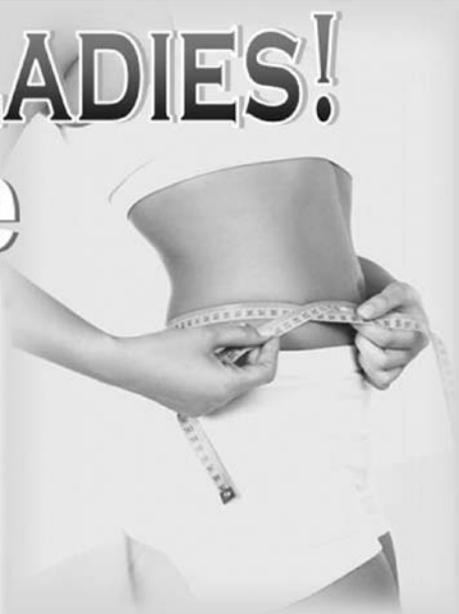
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OPINION

Advice for Seniors

FROM PAGE 24

Study a semester in a foreign country. Explore new ideas and new places. You never know what's around the corner unless you peek around the corner. Now is the time to take risks because as you grow older you become more fearful and less flexible. I know, I hurt my knee on the treadmill this week and I wasn't even on it!

Don't be afraid to think big or to shoot for the stars. Wayne Gretzky said, "You miss 100 percent of the shots that you never take." Now is the time to explore what you really want to be.

And when you find that thing that fills your heart and mind with imagination and passion, go for it. Satisfaction with life doesn't just fall in your lap. You have to work for it. Focus in on what you are good at; Focus on what you want to get good at; and focus on what you enjoy.

Make choices that will make you happy for a long time not just the next two seconds.

You are going to have tons of fun at college. But don't lose sight of the reason you are there. Reaching your life's goals is about the choices you make and your willingness to work to make them happen.

We all have our limits, and nobody is capable of doing absolutely everything — remember when Michael Jordan wanted to be a baseball player? If you find out like Michael Jordan you're not very good at baseball then you still have time to get into a different game. Now is the time to try to make your dreams come true. If you don't try you'll end up settling for less of a life than you could've had.

The second point I want to make is for you to learn from your mistakes, don't be defeated by them. I made one of the ultimate mistakes that your parents do not want you to make. I flunked out of college. Fortunately my parents did not kill me! I lost my head but I'm still alive!

Flunking out was an eye opener. It forced me to look at my life and ask myself what I wanted. You'll be much better at asking yourself that question now rather than after a big mistake. But I was determined to get back in the game; and I've done all right. But it came with a price. I had to work a whole lot harder; it cost a whole lot more; and it took me a lot of extra time to complete my degree. I don't think any of you want to spend 7 and a half years working for your college degree.

Those of you sitting here this afternoon are far too smart to make the same mistake I made. But here is my point. Failure comes to us all in a thousand different ways: you may not get into the school you

want to get the major you want; you may not win the championship game; you may get rejected by the fraternity or sorority you really wanted to join; your boyfriend or girlfriend might walk out on you calling you a jerk!

Neither failure nor tragedy has to defeat you. Assess your situation, make adjustments, and jump back into the game. After Michael Jordan's miserable year in baseball he returned to the NBA to lead the Chicago Bulls to three more consecutive championships. There is no failure except in giving up.

Winston Churchill once said, "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm." Continue to believe in yourself and your dreams.

At church we say, "A Saint is just a sinner who fell down and got up."

My final point is one I alluded to earlier: Life is not about you. There is a higher power, a higher purpose in the world than your life. You are only one small part of the world; an important part of the world, certainly, but so is everyone else.

When Jesus was asked what is the most important commandment to keep in life he quoted from the Hebrew Scriptures. First from the Book of Deuteronomy: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind soul and strength." Then in quoted from the Book of Leviticus saying the second is like the first: "Love your neighbor as yourself." He said everything you need to know about living can be summed up in these two commands: to love God and love your neighbor.

Ultimately life is not about getting a big house or an expensive car. It is not about acquiring wealth, power, or fame. It is not even about getting the best education you can get, though I hope you do.

When it comes down to it life is about staying true to our highest ideals and principles. For me and my faith that means staying true to a love that would sacrifice itself for the greater good of all. That's why my whole career has been feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and advocating that the marginalized members of our society not be excluded from any of the rights and privileges of the main stream.

There are many ways to serve the greater good of the world, with the love I believe is our purpose in life. You can become a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a plumber, a musician, an actor, a filmmaker, a computer scientist, a landscaper, a garbage man. The world needs all these jobs to get done in order to function properly. And every one of these jobs is a way to love your neighbor as yourself.

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Champions, Again

The Fort Hunt Lacrosse girls 7/8 A (U15) became the only team — girls or boys — in NVYLL history to win back-to-back-to-back championships. The team beat Annandale on June 5 to complete their three-year reign with a record of 35-0-1. The team returned four starters from last year's team: Maggie Jackson, Kaitlyn Luzik, Charlotte Sofield and Christine Macey. Sofield, who in sixth grade moved up to play at the U15 level, is the only player to play on all three championship teams.



AA Champions

For the 2011 Fort Hunt Little League spring baseball season, the Monument Title Mets placed first and won the AA Championship on Thursday June 9. They had a 14-1 record for the season. Coaches (from left) Kevin Degnan, Raul Aguilar, Manager Glen Copeland; at top (from left) Asher Ager, Steven Lott, Joe Ienzi, Nick Snell, Austin Copeland, Matt Hanley, bottom row (from left) John Degnan, Richie Aguilar, Brian Deighton and Jonah Starinchak. (Not pictured Kevin Krause)



Majors Division Champions

For the 2011 Fort Hunt Little League season, the CVS Pharmacy Rangers placed first and won the Majors Division Championship on Friday, June 10. They peaked at the end of the season and carried the momentum into the playoffs and took the title. At top (from left) Manager Rusty Ring, Brendan Knapp, Stephen Winkleman, Ryan Colbert, Jabari Resper, Josh Tyler, Jordan Hansen, Payton Menges, bottom row (from left), Halsey McHenry, Andrew Ring, Colin Ring and Christian Copeland. (Not pictured Jonathan Tucker and coaches Glen Copeland and David Tucker)

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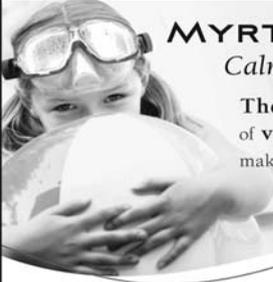
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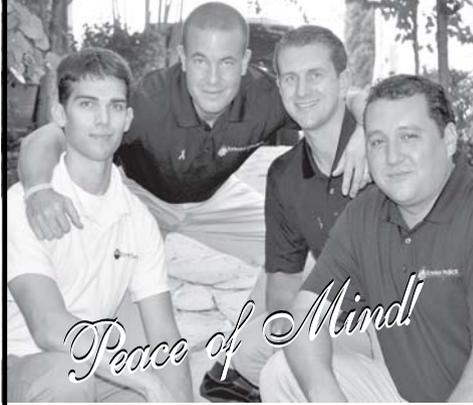
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