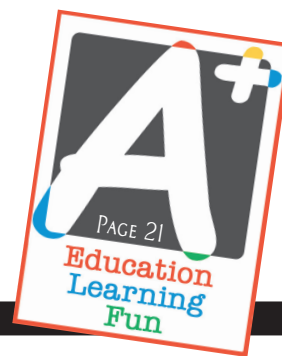


Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011



In Jeff Todd's Memory

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



During a pregame ceremony on Friday, Sept. 16, the field at Mount Vernon High School was rededicated and renamed for the late Jeff Todd. His sister Judi Todd is joined by family members Hannah, Kimberly, Tyler and Natalie Todd and Ella and Margaret Darnell in announcing the continued commitment by the family to help raise money for the new field turf for the Majors.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 21

Under or Over?

Does Richmond Highway need underground Metro or above-ground light rail?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Metro's Yellow Line terminates at the Huntington Station, but that's not necessarily the end of the line. Like a movie that ends with a cliffhanger, the back wall of the station was configured in a way that would allow for the line to extend south. That means that the Yellow Line could extend south underneath Richmond Highway through Fort Belvoir into Lorton. "It could be a game-changer for Route 1," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "When I survey constituents, a majority of them always say they would prefer to see an under-

ground Metro as opposed to light rail."

Burrowing tunnels underneath seven miles of the Route 1 corridor could cost anywhere from \$5 billion to \$9 billion, give or take a few billion dollars. Surovell said that he's hopeful that Virginia's new member to the Metro board could mean that the state might be willing to make more of an investment. And because Fort Belvoir could be a stop on the extended Yellow Line, the federal government might be willing to kick in a few billion dollars to make it happen — if there was the political will to support it.

"Why would it need to go un-

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 3

Rolling Up Their Sleeves

Volunteers gather to help clean up Dyke Marsh.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE GAZETTE

Mid-Saturday morning and Dyke Marsh is flooded — flooded with bikers, joggers, walkers, Boy Scouts, litter collectors and people experiencing nature close up.

More than 50 years ago, Congress set aside Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as "irreplaceable wetland." In 1976, Friends of Dyke Marsh was organized and dedicated to preserving and restoring the area as a viable wildlife habitat.

Friends of Dyke Marsh members Lewis Cabe, Julie Callahan and Ned Stone arrived for the weekly work session. The task at hand is to collect litter deposited by wind, tide and people.

"I came out, simply, to help keep this beautiful place clean."

— Karen Wilder, volunteer

"Apart from trash pickup, one of our primary objectives is removal of invasive species," said Callahan. "The way mankind undermines nature is a travesty. Removing alien plants is a way to 'fight back' and undo the harm they do."

Erik Oberg, biologist with the National Park



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE GAZETTE

No refuse can hide from Julie Callahan.

Service, handed out litter bags, gloves and other supplies while reciting the safety lecture that is part of every activity under the Volunteers-In-Parks program.

"I frequently run and walk on the adjacent Mount Vernon Trail and often see trash," said volunteer Karen Wilder. "I came out, simply, to help keep this beautiful place clean."

Several hundred yards away, Eagle Scout candidate Ben Luce of Troop 135 has assembled Scouts, Scout Leaders and friends for some heavy duty work. Oberg had erected wayside displays along the Haul Road Trail explaining how a tidal marsh works. Luce's Eagle Project is to install permanent benches at the waysides for the comfort of visitors.

SEE HELPING, PAGE 3

Colonial Market Abounds With Crafters and Rogues

Tents and spectators cover Mount Vernon lawn.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

The lawn at Mount Vernon was transformed Saturday and Sunday into streets of tents housing an array of early-American crafters for the Colonial Market and Fair, with 43 booths in all.

Adorned in colonial garb and demonstrating their crafts were potters, weavers, chocolate makers, artists, silhouette makers, jewelers,

SEE A DAY, PAGE 6



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

Otto the Swordswallower downs a 25-inch blade.

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Transit Options

FROM PAGE 1

derground?" asked U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) when asked about it this week. "I don't think it needs to go underground."

WITH REVITALIZATION stalled on Richmond Highway, many are looking for solutions to traffic gridlock and suburban sprawl. Creating an underground Metro could be a solution that would encourage development along the corridor, but Metro wouldn't approve it unless Richmond Highway had much higher density. Short of that, adding light rail or bus-rapid transit along the corridor would be a less expensive way of adding transit to the traffic clogged area.

"I don't think it's realistic for anybody to take a position on underground Metro or above-ground light rail until we have more information," said Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. "

Determining the economics of transit on the Route 1 corridor could prove to be a sticking point. Some efforts have looked at the entire region rather than focusing on the Route 1 corridor, such as Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland's visioning task force. Others have looked at specific parcels along the corridor rather than looking at how the properties might work together, such as Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay's task force examining the Penn-Daw shopping center.

"Instead of letting the developer tell us what to do or having county officials come up with a plan in a vacuum, we want to get a sense of what the economy will support," said McKay. "This is unprec-

edented, at least in my experience."

DRASTIC CHANGES could be on the horizon for the corridor, where many have longed for revitalization for years. Earlier this year, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) was able to secure \$150 million to widen Richmond Highway from Telegraph Road to Woodlawn. And state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) was able to pass legislation calling for a transit study. Although Puller's legislation did not have a specified amount of money, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell later set aside \$3 million for the review.

"I think our long term goal should be Metro," said Puller. "But it's going to have to be a long-term goal because right now the area doesn't have the density that will support Metro."

Things are likely to get worse before they get better. Route 1 is already one of the most congested roads in the region. And the coming months will see 20,000 additional workers at Fort Belvoir and 6,000 additional commuters to Quantico as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. What's yet to be determined is the appetite for neighborhood residents to accept the kind of high-density development that would be needed to justify underground Metro stations. And there's always the ever-present concern about cost.

"In a perfect world, it would be much better to have underground Metro along the corridor," said Kahan Dhillon, a member of the Tysons Corner task force. "But in the current economic climate we would be lucky if we could get the light rail."

A view of the 9/11 Memorial Garden in Wilton Woods.



PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE

Memorial Garden Rededicated

Members of the Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association and the community gathered on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Memorial Garden in the 3800 block of Ivanhoe Lane in Wilton Woods to rededicate the garden and to pay tribute to all of those who were lost in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

A plaque in the rear of the garden thanks all of those who made the garden possible: Inspiration and design by Lynn Hiltajczuk, Christy Beal and Butch Whitton; created and maintained by neighborhood volunteers supported by the Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association, The Shadow Walk at Wilton Woods Community and the Wilton Woods Garden



The memorial plaque is adorned with a patriotic bunting and flowers following the rededication ceremony last Saturday.

Club. Help and contributions from A & A Wholesale, Burke & Herbert Bank, Campbell & Ferrara Nurseries, Diamond Tile and Marble, Edmonds Nursery, Fastsigns Alexandria, Garden Angel Designs, Hard Time Café, Holly Woods and Vines, Hybla Valley Nursery, Hydro-Tech Irrigation Company, Landscapes and Associates, Meadows Farms, Merrifield Garden Center, Moore & Wright Tree Service, Nall's Produce, N/Syst Corp., Rock Stone and Sand Yard, Shell Oil Company, Shirley Contracting Company, Smith & Hawken, Smitty's Building Supply, Springfield Topsoil, Sutton Place Gourmet, Vulcan Materials, Wild Bird Center of Alexandria and Yards Are Us Inc.

County Workers To Receive a Raise

County revenues were 1.5 percent higher than anticipated, yielding a \$49 million surplus.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE GAZETTE

Despite numerous appeals to give Fairfax employees a 3.5 percent salary increase, the Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday, Sept. 14, to extend a 2 percent increase and to save some \$28 million from the county's "carryover" funds to defray costs in the 2013 budget. Some of the carryover funds could cover flood damage.

The pay raise will take effect on Sept. 24.

According to a report by County Executive Anthony H. Griffin, county revenues in 2011 came in "\$49 million or 1.5 percent higher than anticipated," giving the Board of Supervisors additional funds to distribute. The saving came from conservative budgeting, higher than expected sales tax revenue, the easing of a federal mandate and the settlement of a lawsuit that could have cost the county.

Last spring when Fairfax adopted its 2012 budget,

it voted that if it had a sufficient overage at the end of the 2011 fiscal year, it would provide a 1.5 percent salary increase for county employees.

The size of the savings allowed the board to raise the salary hike to 2 percent. This is the first salary increase for county employees since 2009. But last year, the School Board gave school employees a 3.5 percent increase, raising the cry that there was unfair treatment for employees of county government.

Virtually every leader of an employee group or county union urged the supervisors to provide 3.5 percent to reward the county employees for their role in holding down costs and to allow the attraction of top flight personnel.

"County employees deserve much of the credit for Fairfax County weathering the economic storm," said Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large). But she and the other members agreed with Griffin's concern that a larger portion of the savings should be kept to assist the county in meeting what Griffin said might be a \$100 million short fall in 2013.

Helping at Dyke Marsh

FROM PAGE 1

"Projects like these are a great way to get kids involved — and away from all the electronic gadgets," said Jim Lovo, former Scoutmaster of Troop 135. "Today they are digging, hammering, mixing concrete and making something they can touch and be proud of for years to come. They also are learning that it is their parkland and their community, and they are expected to make a personal contribution to maintain and improve public resources."



Ned Stone listens to National Park Service's Erik Oberg.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE GAZETTE

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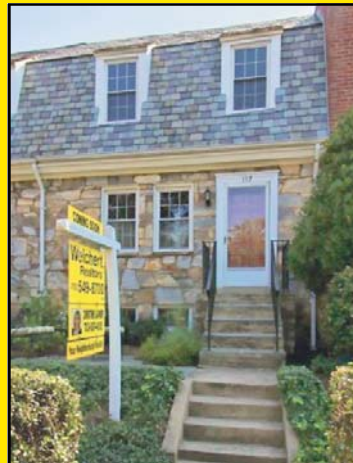
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PEOPLE

Featuring the Noise of Poetry

'Readaround' meets monthly at Sherwood Library.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

The thrust of the group is to create the sound of poetry," said Peter Lattu who leads the Sherwood Readaround, a collection of poetry lovers and writers that meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in a fluorescent-lit conference room on the second floor of Sherwood Hall Library.

"Poetry really is an oral tradition that has been marginalized in modern times by technology like television. It was once much more prevalent," he said.

In attendance, in addition to Lattu, were Ron Vardiman, Fonda Bell Miller, Norma Westwood, Linda and Stuart Nottingham, Liz Smith and Tony Bates. Also attending regularly, though not present last Tuesday, are John "Fin" Finerty, Ruth Williams and Tony and Mary Lou Lapallo.

They read, one by one, going around the conference table counterclockwise. They come ready with three or four poems, most often written by other poets, but also their own. There are no rules. After a poem is read, comments are welcome. Frequently there is simply silence. Or a chuckle might ripple around the table. Criticism, though allowed, is rare.

Often they compliment another poet present by reading one of their poems. This happened Tuesday when Lattu, leading off, reads Fonda Bell Miller's children's poem "First Garden." It begins, "I planted zinnias, one, two, three ..." and later concludes "I saved a butterfly. I saved a bee."

Later, Linda Nottingham reads Lattu's "wanderlust." It's about a yearning for a Winnebago "to criss-cross the country rolling on every day" and settling for "an old" Chrysler "going to and fro."

Some of the poets enjoy announcing their preferences. Ron Vardiman declared before reading a poem by Dana Gioia, a contemporary poet, "I'm not very enthusiastic about a lot of the modern day stuff, but he's pretty good. He does a lot of formal verse with rhyme and meter. Very few poets do that these days."

Similarly, when Tony Bates reads from Lord Alfred Tennyson, he declares with a large grin, "Tennyson writes what poetry is supposed to sound like." This draws laughter around the table.

Also fond of humor is Stuart Nottingham. He shares a poem he wrote "eight hours ago" about grim news on Wall Street. To quote a few words, he writes that "The Washington Post reports stock indexes off 5%" is actually "good news for the English Language that



Ron Vardiman and, right, Peter Lattu



Norma Westwood



Stuart Nottingham

has outgrown archaic 'indices.'"

At the end of the table sits Norma Westwood under a cloud of white hair. She is widely published, with poems printed in over 50 "little magazines," as she calls them, including Prairie Schooner, Interim, Painted Bride Quarterly and Comstock Review.

She reads her poem "Neanderthal" which includes this stanza: "An alien walked out of the tall grass:/ Sapiens. Then, a coupling. A gestation. / Metamorphosis budded, was endured: / An outcry born."

The Readaround, which welcomes visitors, new readers and new poets, was originally the creation of Lattu and Bates, who are neighbors in Tauxemont. Starting in 2007 the two would meet to read poetry aloud at Olsson's Books and Records at Union Street and King in Old Town Alexandria. In the big comfortable space with its easy chairs and rugs, the "Olsson's Readaround" grew to as many as 20 people.

When the bookstore closed in 2008, said Lattu, "we fumbled around for about six months" looking for a new location, with the group finally coming to roost at Sherwood Hall Library.

The librarians have been "very supportive," he said, "and we are loyal to them."

Fundraising Car Wash

Members of the Carl Sandburg Chorus set up a carwash at St. Luke's Church on Fort Hunt Road on Saturday, Sept. 17. The class is raising money to commission a song for Carl Sandburg and for their annual class trip. The fall concert, which will involve the choirs The Choralettes and the Sandburg Singers, as well as the Symphonic Orchestra and the 8th grade Symphonic Band, will be held Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Carl Sandburg Middle School auditorium.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



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CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Sept. 16.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Two people in Fairfax County died in drowning accidents following heavy, sudden rainfall on Thursday, Sept. 8. Jack Donaldson, 12, was reported missing around 6 p.m., believed to have been swept away by flood waters in his backyard in the 9700 block of Marcliff Court. Numerous police and fire personnel responded to the scene in the torrential downpour to search for the boy. His body was found around 8 p.m. in Piney Branch Creek at Lawyers Road. Detectives are continuing to investigate. In another incident at around 7 p.m., police and emergency personnel responded to an apparent drowning of a 67-year-old man. He had been driving his Toyota Yaris in rising waters near Beech Mill Road at Club View Drive. The man, Arsalan Hakimi, was swept downstream in his car. As he apparently tried to get out, he was swept into the creek and drowned near Carrwood Drive. Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing to investigate.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Police are investigating the death of a 25-year-old male of the 9000 block of Two Bays Road in Lorton, as an apparent drowning. Around 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, the man's wife returned home late in the evening due to flooding on the roadway. Her husband was not there and she left to search for him. She located his vehicle parked unattended in the 8800 block of Telegraph Road near the Accotink Creek Bridge. She contacted police, who initiated a search. He was not located and officers entered him as a missing and endangered adult. Shortly after 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 9, the man's wife notified police that her husband had not returned home. Patrol officers coordinated with Fort Belvoir fire and emergency services to continue searching the area. Fort Belvoir fire personnel located his body on base at the Davison Air Field. It appears he attempted to walk across the flooded bridge on foot but was swept away by the current. Detectives with Fairfax County Police initiated a joint investigation with the Army Criminal Investigations Division. The Medical Examiner will determine cause and manner of death.

UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Someone fired at least one shot from a gun outside of the Izalco Bar, located at 8403 Richmond Highway, around 2 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3. Two men, ages 22 and 28, who were nearby when the shot was fired, were not harmed. The suspect was described as white, in his late 30s, about 5 feet 6 inches tall and 165 pounds, with a bald head. He was seen leaving in a teal, late 90s model two-door Honda Civic, with dark tinted windows and "five star" rims.

ROBBERY

Three men robbed a 26-year-old man around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10. The suspects were described as black, about 20

years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall and 160 pounds, all with short hair. The victim was not injured.

ROBBERY

Two males robbed and stabbed a 26-year-old man in the 2300 block of Huntington Ave. around 9:15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10. One suspect was described as black; the other white. One wore a light blue shirt and the other had on a black shirt. The victim was taken to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

Three males attempted to rob an 18-year-old man in the 5400 block of Claymont Drive around 9:33 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10. They were described as black; one suspect was about 5 feet 9 inches tall and 160 pounds. The victim was taken to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

TRESPASSING/POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE I OR II DRUG/ARREST

Police arrested a man for trespassing in the 8200 block of Russell Road just after midnight on Wednesday, September 14. A 30-year-old male of the 3900 block of Manzanita Place in Alexandria was taken to jail and charged with trespassing and possession of schedule I or II drugs.

LARCENIES

6500 block of 10th St. License plate stolen from vehicle.
4200 block of Buckman Road. Purse and towels stolen from vehicle.
4800 block of Eubank St. Tools stolen from vehicle.
8400 block of Frye Road. Wine stolen from business.
4600 block of Gage Road. Lawn equipment stolen from residence.
2000 block of Huntington Ave. Tires stolen from vehicle.
3100 block of Lockheed Blvd. Wallet stolen from business.
3300 block of Pelican Place. Candy and ice cream stolen from vehicle.
4000 block of Renault Place. Windows stolen from residence.
6300 block of Richmond Highway. Wallet stolen from business.
7700 block of Richmond Highway. iPhone stolen from business.
7900 block of Richmond Highway. Pocket knife stolen from business.
8200 block of Richmond Highway. Keys stolen from business.
8200 block of Richmond Highway. Condoms stolen from business.
6300 block of South Kings Highway. Milk stolen from business.
2100 block of Whiteoaks Drive. Cash stolen from vehicle.
2600 block of Arlington Drive. iPhone stolen from residence.
8400 block of Blankenship St. CD player stolen from vehicle.
7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center. Groceries stolen from business.
8100 block of Norwood Drive. Tools stolen from vehicle.
6300 block of Richmond Highway. Wallet stolen from business.
7700 block of Richmond Highway. iPad stolen from business.

NEWS

A Day with Crafters and Rogues

FROM PAGE 1

furniture makers, bookbinders, blacksmiths, makers of wooden spoons and bowls, a French lace maker, broom makers, tinsmiths, pewter smiths, paper makers, makers of soaps and baskets ... all chatty and glad to talk about their crafts and sell them to visitors.

Meanwhile, near at hand, soldiers of the First Virginia Regiment fired off at regular intervals thunderous smoky volleys to add to the excitement.

"This is great," said William Richardson, a crafter of colonial Shaker bent-wood baskets who came from Suffolk with his wife Kathy. "This is the zenith of Americana right here in George Washington's backyard."

Of all these picturesque colonial characters gathered at Mount Vernon, perhaps the most colorful of all was a humble and humorous rat catcher by the name of Silas Moore who declared, after thorough inspection, "General Washington's mansion is free of rats."

Claiming to pursue "one of oldest of professions," Moore had no booth of his own but toured among the crowd in battered colonial worn-out garb well-laced with holes and smudges, and arrayed in mismatching knee stockings, a clownish befeathered straw hat, a rat trap under one arm and dangling from his belt his ale mug while from his left hand hung a primitive handmade cage with a live rat peering out. A plump well-fed, dark-gray rat with a white belly, Wilson was his name, and Moore said they'd been companions for the past year.

Moore, fond of grinning with rotted teeth, was passing out his recipe for Rat Stew, a savory blend of simmered chopped onion, cloves or bailliff, potato, carrot and "1 large rat." When cooking, he advises, "Watch carefully as cooking time depends on age of rat."

Perhaps an even more astounding character was another big grinner, "Otto the Swordswallower" who swallowed a Revolutionary War bayonet and three swords.

"Do you want me to put myself in harm's way for your lurid and petty amusement?" he cried out to the crowd sitting on straw bales in the Market Square Stage, enraptured. They cheered and clapped, and down the swords went.

Then there was the silver-tongued rascal, Dr. Balthasar, peddling bottles of his "Miracle Medicine for Man and Beast." Formulated from "an ancient Tibetan recipe," it was certain, he pro-



PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

Rat Catcher Silas Moore pronounced Mount Vernon "free of rats."



Dr. Balthasar makes a sale.

claimed, to put an end to "head-aches, neck aches and wife aches."

Moreover, if your "cranial covering" is sparse, it'll put hairs on your head.

"We will all die some day," he declared, "but we can all prolong

our health by procuring a bottle of Dr. Balthasar's elixir!"

For those who may have missed the event, no doubt these rogues will be back at next year's Colonial Market and Fair at Mount Vernon.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE



Library manager Denise Morgan and assistant manager Chris Lamarca.

Celebrating 40 Years

Sherwood Hall Library celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 17, with storytelling for children, a book sale for all and musical entertainment in the parking lot throughout the afternoon.

Storyteller Gary Lloyd entertains children with an interactive story of a prince and a dragon.

Bernard R. Corbett

Bernard R. Corbett, father of Karen Corbett Sanders and father-in-law to Daniel Sanders, Four Sales Ltd., died on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011 after a long illness.

A Catholic Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Sept. 23, 10:30 am, at St. Joseph's Church, 711 N. Columbus Street, Alexan-

dria. The family will receive visitors at Cunningham's Funeral Home, 811 Cameron Street, Alexandria, on Thursday, Sept. 22, between 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Capitol Caring Hospice.

Dr. Santiago L. Garza

Dr. Santiago L. Garza, age 87, died on Tuesday Sept. 13, 2011 at his Mount Vernon home surrounded by his family. He was born in 1924 in Coyocan D.F. Mexico but he came to the United States in 1955 where he lived and raised his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Myrna L. Garza; his daughter Myrna Garza Miller and sons Robert, James and Mario Garza and their spouses and children.

Dr. Garza attended the Medical School of the University of Mexico and established his medical practice in Marlow Heights, Maryland, specializing in pediatrics. For over 30 years Dr. Garza cared for many of the area children and even their children and held all of them special in his heart.

Dr. Garza was an avid radio control air-

plane pilot, he built and flew many airplanes with the Prince Georges RC Club and was also a member of the Northern Virginia RC Club. He restored a 1931 Model A Ford and would drive the car in local parades and transported brides and grooms from their weddings.



The family will receive friends on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr., Alexandria.

A Memorial Mass will be held Monday, Sept. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St. Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Vitas Hospice, Tyson's Pond II, 1604 Spring Hill Road, Suite 450, Vienna, VA 22182

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A Lesson in Civil Discourse?

What we say and do can be a powerful example for our children.

Election season is upon us and with only five incumbents of the 10-seat Fairfax County School Board running again, whatever the result, the county will have a very different School Board on the morning of Nov. 9, the day after the 2011 General Election.

Change is good and the possibility of a new direction for the School Board should certainly hearten those citizens who have decried the current School Board for its inflexibility and unresponsiveness to the people who voted them into office.

It's important to note that School Board members provide an important public service for very little compensation. Even though some parents may be dissatisfied with a particular decision from the current board, this leadership oversees a school system that is the envy of much of the nation. Just ask any politician or business leader and they'll tell you that one of the things that draws people to Fairfax County is the reputation of its public schools.

As the editor whose coverage area was largely affected by last year's Southwestern

Boundary study, I was witness to a great deal of public discourse on the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary School and redraw the boundaries of many FCPS elementary schools.

Those affected by the workings of any School Board know that the most potentially divisive process that the body undertakes involves redrawing attendance boundaries.

But in 2010, the discourse surrounding the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary and redraw school boundary lines turned ugly very quickly. Citizens and School Board members — we know because their e-mail conversations were released thanks to a Freedom of Information Act request — shot angry barbs back and forth at each other which were sometimes uncomfortably vicious and personal.

It's difficult to say who fired the first shot. I liken it to a pie fight in a Three Stooges movie. It's not important who threw the first one, by the end, everyone's covered in pie filling and looks just as bad as the next person.

Many citizens submitted letters during the School Board debates, highlighting important concerns and raising questions that sometimes deserved better answers than they received. But some were not published because they were harsh, personal attacks against individuals.

While emotional debate is inevitable when

the School Board is making decisions that can change where children will be able to attend school, I don't know if all the negative emotion accomplished anything. It's easy to understand the resentment of some who feel slighted. After all, the decision involved their families, children and neighbors. One hopes that the communities affected can move on. I suspect they will, in time.

With so many seats open on the School Board, this is an opportunity for real and meaningful change. The at-large race alone has seven candidates vying for three spots.

For those who are dissatisfied with some decisions of the School Board, this is the opportunity to be heard. Whether your concerns are school boundaries, start-times, honors classes, curriculum choices, school discipline or other issues, take the time to find out what the candidates stand for. Go to meet-the-candidate events. Visit their websites. Read local news stories about the races. Also, let the candidates — and the Connection — know what matters to you.

The Connection welcomes thoughtful letters about school issues and School Board candidates. No one needs to "get personal" to accomplish that. Let's teach our children about civility in political debate.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

MOCONNELL@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wading into the Stream Issue at Westgrove Park

Consider History

To the Editor:

On Sunday Sept. 18, I took a walk at both Westgrove park and the adjacent Mount Vernon District Park adjacent to Westgrove Park on the west side of Fort Hunt Road. Mr. Spiegel's anecdotal analysis regarding the perennial status of the "depression" and designation as an RPA warrants additional discussion and facts. Directly across from the gated entrance to Westgrove Park on the west side of Fort Hunt is a large drain pipe going under Fort Hunt Road. There is flowing water as is evidenced by the picture draining out of the riparian forest that is Mount Vernon District Park. I have walked the trails of this park during all seasons and during wet and dry periods. The primary stream feeding into the drain under Fort Hunt Road has surface water year round by my observation. The sloping terrain and gravity directs the water onto the Westgrove Park property.

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 10



Historic watering trough on Fort Hunt Road across from Westgrove Park.



Flowing stream on the west side of Fort Hunt Road across from the entrance to Westgrove Park.

Drainage Ditch Not Stream

To the Editor:

Following up on my letter published last week concerning the alleged perennial stream in Westgrove Park, in Fairfax County, a perennial stream is defined as a body of water flowing in a natural or man-made channel year-round, except during periods of drought. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/perennial.htm>. The following link leads to the official drought map for Virginia which shows we are not currently suffering drought conditions:

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?VA,SE. The County's stormwater maps accessible at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/pdfViewer/default.htm> show that the "source" of the alleged "perennial stream" is in map grid no. 93-1, near the end of Dartmouth Road and adjacent Quander Road, to the right of an entrance to Mount Vernon Park. The accompanying photo was taken on Sept. 19, 2011 at the al-



No drought, yet no water.

leged source and shows it to be bone dry even though we are not experiencing a drought.

The answer to this mystery appeared to come from my questioning of a resident living next to the park entrance. He informed me that the neighborhood has no storm sewers and, whenever it rains, stormwater runoff enters the park, falls into the "source" and then drains away. That water flows downhill, crosses Fort Hunt Road through County-installed pipes, enters Westgrove Park and is conveyed to the Potomac River via Dyke Marsh. What has been alleged to be a "perennial stream" is in fact a drainage ditch.

I am as strong a proponent as any

SEE DRAINAGE, PAGE 10

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Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
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Publisher
Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
Louise Krafft
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, John Heiny, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
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LETTERS

History

FROM PAGE 8

A short distance to the south from the drainage pipe on Fort Hunt Road is a 19th century artifact that was utilized by travelers using horses. The concrete watering trough at this location captured water from another spring and historically provided refreshing, clean water for man and beast. The book "Snake Hill to Spring Bank: An Oral History" <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/vr/snakehill/> created in the 1970's by Groveton High School students has much in the way of anecdotal information from then senior residents about change and development along Richmond Highway and adjoining neighborhoods. A segment by Kent Crowther in Volume 1 brings up the horse watering trough.

All three volumes are a good read for anyone interested in local history and what one learns is that many of the issues surrounding development in this area of Fairfax County remain today. One also realizes that much has been lost in the way of natural resources and that what were once seemingly benign development projects have done much to alter or damage the streams and ecological

functions of a healthy environment. Wetland marshes were filled in, stormwater from residential and commercial development was directed into local streams and today citizens pay the price by having poor water quality and flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

The riparian forest on the west side of Fort Hunt Road has numerous springs with at least two of them sending water into Westgrove Park. The water coming out of this forest and making its way through Westgrove Park would have to be of a better quality than say water running off of our residential streets or commercial parking lots in that it is filtered through natural gravel and sand beds within the areas of discharge and is protected by the tree canopy above.

If you go to the Fairfax County website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/perennial.htm> one finds that a perennial stream is defined as a body of water flowing in a natural or man-made channel year-round, except during periods of drought. The hydrologists and scientists given the task beginning in 2001 to evaluate and identify such streams in Fairfax County used a scientifically derived criteria based checklist. They made their RPA

designation decisions using scientific protocols and were without prejudice or intent to do anything more than to identify those areas that perform certain ecological and biological processes indicative of maintaining good water quality. A watershed is the sum of all of its parts. Good water quality draining from the Mount Vernon District Park riparian forest onto the Westgrove Park site need not be compromised for the sake of expediency to move along a process for establishing an interim dog park.

Martin W. Tillett
Mount Vernon

Drainage

FROM PAGE 8

of protecting resource protection areas. I am an equally strong opponent of the use of mischaracterization of drainage ditches to thwart legitimate development of our county resources. The drainage ditch in Westgrove Park must be re-classified to remove its designation as a perennial stream, and the indication of a 100-foot buffer to either side of it must be corrected to remove that buffer.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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skills training and job placement, professional child care services, youth development, the Creekside and Sacramento neighborhood development centers, a child abuse and neglect prevention program, two-year transitional housing programs for the homeless, and the Back Porch thrift store.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Fall Prevention Seminar. 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Coalition. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

TUESDAY/OCT. 4

Medicare Open Season. Learn what you need to know to choose the right Medicare health and drug plan for 2012. Space is limited so register early. Call Kathy Wilson at 703-324-5632, TTY 711 or email dfsFairfax50Plus@fairfaxcounty.gov. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/OCT. 11

Mental Health Adult Residential Services. With Megan O'Connor, LCSW, and R. Annaliese Setorie, MA. At the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health, Room 209, 8119 Holland Road, Alexandria. Call Maureen McCracken 703-799-2705 or e-mail maureen.mccracken@fairfaxcounty.org

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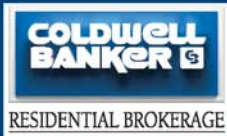
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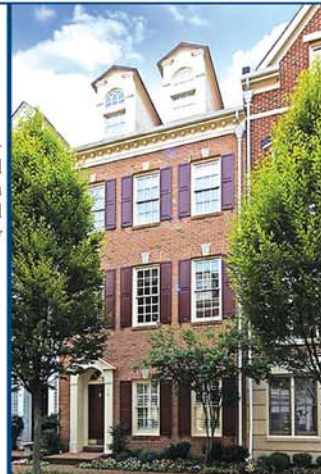
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Martine Irmr 703.346.7283

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**ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
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8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000
Spacious Rambler!

Country club views! You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400,000!

Numerous features include: large 1/2 A + lot, updated kitchen with granite countertops & SS appliances, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room with high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage and deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir

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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.

4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$585,000
One Level Luxury!

Rare opportunity - Spacious one lvl home in premier Yacht Haven location! This home has been updated & offers many features: open floor plan, updated kit and baths, stunning MBR suite w/cath. ceiling and luxury bath, sunroom and 2 car gar. Looking to eliminate stairs & not sacrifice size and amenities - this is it!

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\$795,000 - \$1,050,000
Alex / Porto Vecchio
1250 S WASHINGTON ST

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**Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
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\$825,000
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1304 WARRINGTON PL.

Price Lowered! Custom built one owner home. Gracious entrance hall, formal LR & DR, cozy library, main lvl BR & full bath. 52-ft screened porch. Separate accessible apt w/2BR & full bath. 2 car garage.

**Annelise Smith & Ruth Guilard
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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$729,000
Alexandria
8219 TREEBROOKE LN

Lovely Colonial w/pool on cul-de-sac, renovated kit & baths. MBR suite addition. Granite, SSA, hardwoods, plantation shutters. Fully fin. bsmt. 2-car gar. 4/5BR, 3full+2half BAs. Wayneood ES.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797

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 Wayneood School Dist. Priced thousands below other new homes in area! (Pic is similar home)

NEW PRICE

4502 Phylliss St
\$499,000
Huge Home - Little Price!

Most home for the money in Mt. Vernon area! Incredibly spacious property with major additions including family room, master bedroom and oversize 2 car garage. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, and 2 decks. Library can easily be converted to main level bedroom. Prime location on large lot fronting cul-de-sac. Over 3,000 sq ft of beautifully maintained living area!

JUST LISTED

9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,790,000
Estate on River!!!!

Magnificent colonial custom designed by Boucher Builders to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features include: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, multiple decks, private balconies, gourmet kit, elevator, 3 car garage. Private river access!

\$350,000 Alexandria "STRIKING DETAILS"

A beautiful lightly lived-in 3BR/2.5BA end unit TH. Granite & hardwoods in kit w/breakfast bar. New wall-to-wall carpet thru-out. Plantation shutters on all main level windows. Master BR w/ceiling fan, walk-in closet plus luxurious master BA. Private rear entrance to subdivision. MUST SEE!

Nanci Sale 703.864.4170

\$975,000 Alexandria South "WATERFRONT"

Stunning property w/ dock on Dogue Creek Lagoon. Easy access to the Potomac. Elevator, 2-car garage, in-ground pool & .5 acre lot. 5,501 beautifully updated sqft. Boat dock. Great for entertaining and more so. Call...

**Betty Quirk & Suzanne Backus
703.338.3594**

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\$400,000
Alexandria
5902 MT EAGLE DR #718

Great Value! Near Metro! Updated, spacious 3BR/2BA w/gar. 1,695sqft + two enclosed terraces; serene & surrounded by trees. Multiple walk-in closets. Resort style living w/ amenities of Montebello, a gated community. EZ access to I-495 & more.

**Pictures: www.ijumani.com
Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804**

JUST LISTED

7804 Southdown Rd
\$1,750,000
Unique opportunity!!

Custom Craftsman designed to capitalize on gorgeous setting which combines rural ambiance with sweeping river views. Many fabulous features include open floor plan, spacious kitchen-breakfast room, river view master suite with fireplace and luxury bath. Multi-tiered decks take advantage of river views. Gorgeous 1/2A private grounds.

3718 Carriage House Ct
\$719,000
Riverwood Opportunity!

Spacious 5 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious waterfront community. Fabulous home features, updated kitchen, baths and gorgeous hardwood floors. Bright open floor plan with open kitchen-family room. Private fenced rear yard. Community river access. Great Value!

5421 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$825,000
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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.

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\$649,000
Wayneood
8506 CROWN PL.

Price Reduced! Delightful, renovated, expanded & beautiful 5 level home w/family room addition, large screened in porch, finished walk-out basement, large screened porch off living room, garage & huge 0.36 acre fenced private backyard. Walk to pool, park & school.

Anita Vida D'Antonio & Elke Kohler 202.460.1809

\$679,900 Wayneood "GREAT PRICE & OPPORTUNITY"

Rarely available "Amberly" center hall colonial. 3 levels, 4BR, renovated kitchen, hardwoods, finished walk-out porch & double deck. Loved bonus room. Hardwoods. Large fenced backyard. 5BR/3FBA. 2 FP & .25+ acre

\$699,900 Wayneood "CUSTOM HOME"

Custom built split level that has been wonderfully expanded & renovated. Huge main level addition including kitchen, family room, finished walk-out porch & double deck. Loved bonus room. Hardwoods. Large fenced backyard. 5BR/3FBA. 2 FP & .25+ acre

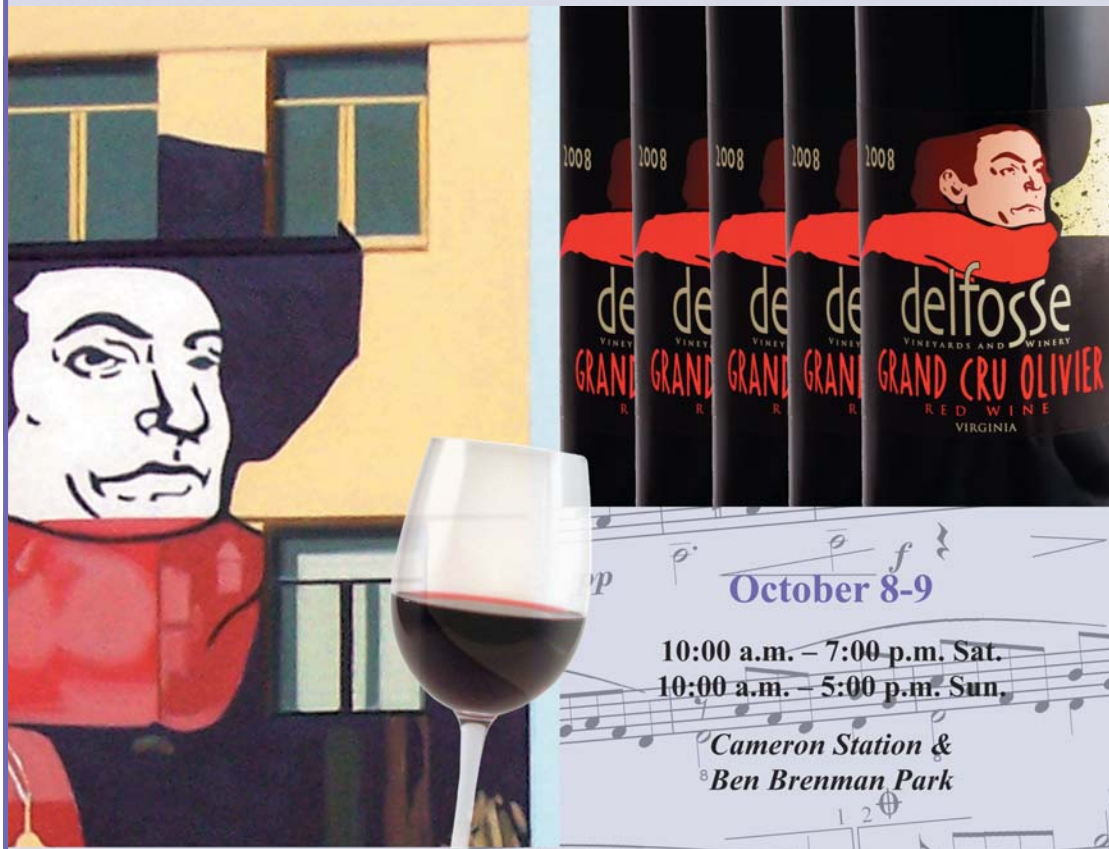


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"This publication was made possible through the support of the Alexandria Marketing Fund."

NEWS

Two Robbed At Motel

Two masked men robbed a man and woman staying at the Travelers Motel, located at 5916 Richmond Highway, around 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13. The victims, a 33-year-old man and 38-year-old woman, were asleep inside their room when two men, one armed with a gun, forced entry through the door. The suspects tied up the victims and stole two laptops and the woman's purse. The suspects fled in the victims' vehicle, a 2007 Ford Expedition.

The suspects were described as black, in their late 20s, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall and 190 to 210 pounds. Both suspects were wearing all dark clothing; one suspect had hazel-colored eyes and the other wore silver-framed glasses. The victims did not require medical attention.

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

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THEATER

Port City Playhouse

Season debuts with Durang's one-act plays.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nothing is what it appears to be as Port City Playhouse opens its 34th season with "The Actor's Nightmare" and "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You," a pair of one-act comedies by the oft-times controversial Christopher Durang.

Directed by notable actor Shawn g. Byers, the first act opens with "The Actor's Nightmare," a short comic play that finds accountant George Spelvin mysteriously backstage at a theater and mistaken for an actor's understudy. Despite his protestations, he is forced to perform in a play for which he doesn't know any of the lines.

Ric Andersen is terrific as the befuddled Spelvin, who does his best to improvise a role that rotates between Prince Hamlet in "Hamlet," Elyot in "Private Lives," Willie in "Checkmate" and the doomed Sir Thomas Moore in "A Man for All Seasons."

Adding to the misunderstood mayhem is stage manager Meg (Larissa Norris), acting diva Sarah Siddons (Amy Solo), actress Ellen Terry (Aimee Meher-Homji), and actor Henry Irving (Jason Wonacott), all of whom carry on despite Spelvin's cries for help.

The talented cast is charming and the play an unlikely precursor of the darker and more controversial "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" that follows in act two.

The play opens with Sister Mary explaining to the audience her interpretation of the tenets of Catholicism. Assisted by her favorite student, 7-year-old Thomas, Sister Mary is interrupted when a group of her now-grown former students returns to perform a mock Christmas pageant



Amy Solo and Remy Brettell star in "Sister Mary Explains It All."

as a means to reveal to her the deep, psychological scars her teachings have left on them.

Solo is the unrelenting Sister Mary, whose unwavering dogma slips deeper and deeper into psychotic territory, leaving terror once again in the eyes of her students.

In "Sister Mary," Andersen plays the troubled alcoholic Aloysius. Others in the cast include Amiee Meher-Homji as the emotionally wounded Diane, who threatens Sister's life, Larissa Norris as the unwed mother, Jason Wonacott as a soft-spoken gay man, and Remy Brettell as young Thomas.

Durang, who was raised a Roman Catholic, won an Obie Award



A scene from "The Actor's Nightmare," at Port City Playhouse.

for the 1979 play, which sparked controversy and protests across the country for its stark criticism of Catholicism. Indeed, the subject matter and dialogue will be offensive and disturbing to some but for those who prefer the darker side of theater, the acting in "Sister Mary" is notable.

"The Actor's Nightmare" and "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" runs through Oct. 2 at Port City Playhouse. PCP performs at The LAB at Convergence, located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. For tickets or more information, call 703-838-2880 or visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria residents Ric Andersen, left, and Shawn g. Byers celebrate opening night at Port City Playhouse Sept. 16. Andersen appears in the pair of one-act Christopher Durang plays directed by Byers.

LTA Open House

Backstage Pass: Eleanor Morrison, a 15-year-old sophomore at Bishop Ireton, shows off her purchases at the Little Theatre of Alexandria costume sale Sept. 10. Crowds from throughout the area descended on the theatre for its yearly open house, which included backstage tours, refreshments and a costume sale featuring wardrobe items from past productions. "It's sad we have to part with so many wonderful pieces," said costume chair Annie Vroom. "But we have limited storage space so this is a fun way to see items from our shows find new homes."



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO COURTESY OF LTA

MEET THE CAST — The cast of "Rabbit Hole" participates in a Talk Back with audience members following the Sept. 16 performance at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Helping facilitate the discussion is Luana Bossolo, right, of the American Psychological Association Practice Organization. About 60 audience members stayed for the discussion on coping with grief, a central theme of "Rabbit Hole." The Pulitzer Prize-winning play runs through Oct. 1. www.thelittletheatre.com.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Fibre Space

Boutique District Holds Scavenger Hunt

The Old Town Boutique District, a cooperative association of 30 Alexandria boutique owners, is celebrating its anniversary by giving away more than \$6,000 in gift cards and gifts from merchants during its Fourth Annual Scavenger Hunt Sept. 23-25.

Subscribers to Boutique Buzz, the Boutique District's e-mail newsletter, will receive Scavenger Hunt passports in their e-mail inbox. Passports can also be downloaded from the Boutique District's web site, www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/scavengerhunt.

When they visit participating stores, shoppers will show their passports to the merchants to receive free gifts they can use to build their own gift bags. Each store will offer free items that scavenger hunters can pick up and add to their collections.

No purchase is necessary to receive the free gifts, but shoppers must have their passport. Shoppers can use their passports to collect stamps from each of the participating merchants and enter to win the prize drawing. You must get a stamp from each store to be eligible to win.

The first place prize winner will receive \$3,000 in gift cards — \$100 from each participating merchant. Thirty second-place winners will each receive a \$100 gift card from a participating merchant drawn at random. To qualify for the drawings, shoppers must collect stamps from each of the 30 merchants between Friday, Sept. 23, and Sunday, Sept. 25. No purchase is necessary to receive a passport stamp.

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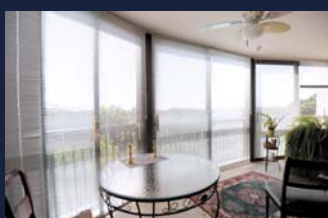
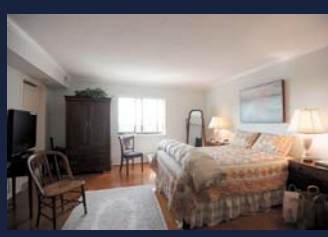
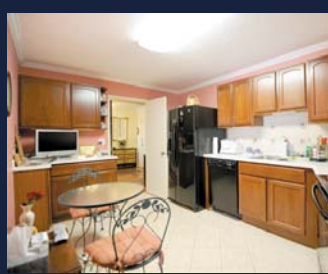
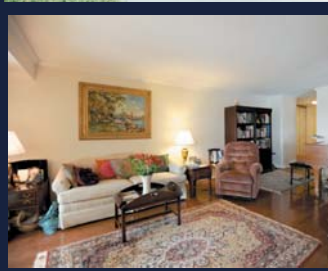
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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Scurlock: Negro Leagues. 7 p.m. Dwayne Sims discusses his book at the Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. To RSVP, contact Audrey Davis at Audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov.

An Evening with General Edward Braddock. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum Auditorium, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Performance tickets: \$12 per seat followed by a "Meet the Star" Reception (with cash wine bar). Reservations: 703-838-4994 (during business hours). Purchase tickets online through PayPal at: www.generalbraddockinterview.com

"Old Blue Eyes." 1:30 p.m. Free. The spirit of Las Vegas in the form of Steve Flynn as he sings the songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. At the Hermitage in the auditorium.

Young at Art Reception. 5 to 7 p.m. Recognizing the work of artists over age 55. Sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Goodwin House. At the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call 703-836-4414, ext. 10



SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Living History with Dorothea Dix. 2 to 4 p.m. Pat Jordan from the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia will take on Dix's character (as head of the U.S. Army Nurse's Corps during the Civil War) and explore her experiences during the war in a two-part presentation. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.

Parkfairfax. At 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.

Art Auction Fundraiser. Art preview at 7 p.m. followed by the auction at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance. Special guest artist John Stanisci will also be in attendance. Fund-raiser for the Alexandria Jaycees and King Street Cats. To purchase tickets, contact Amy at amy.alexjaycees@gmail.com or visit <http://www.alexjaycees.org/art.php>. At the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street in Alexandria.

Genealogist Char Bah Lecture. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5/person. Discover your own family history with expert techniques for tracing African-American ancestors. Bah will present "In Search of Matthew Henson's Roots," an illustrated lecture on how she traced the Alexandria family members of the great North Pole explorer. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Twig Homes Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, is having its 70th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour & Marketplace. Six private residences and gardens in Old Town will be open to the general public. Tickets are \$35/advance; \$40/day of tour. To purchase tickets online, visit www.thetwig.org. Tickets may be purchased at The Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King Street and The Twig Thrift Shop, 106 North Columbus Street.

Melissa Ferrick. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Belle View Annual Craft Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. DJ will provide Jazz music throughout the day. Food and refreshments. At 1204 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Rain date is Oct. 1. Call 703-765-8775.

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Parking lot of Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike at Lincoln Avenue, Alexandria. Rain date Oct. 1. Info: 703-354-5176 or lincolniaumc@verizon.net. See www.lincolniaumc.org.

Museum Day. Three Alexandria museums are participating in the Smithsonian's Museum Day. On that day, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, and

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FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Hydroplanes Racing Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Air National Guard hydroplanes will return to the Potomac River's National Harbor East Pier for an exhibition to preview The President's Cup/Air National Guard Series H1 unlimited racing. The event features the Valken.com, Graham Trucking, 88 Degree Men and Oh Boy! Oberto teams. Visit www.h1unlimited.com.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Explore the exciting world with some favorite stories and songs. For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SEPT. 23 TO 25

Scavenger Hunt. Free. From Friday to Sunday, get your passport stamped at all 30 members of the Old Town Boutique District and be entered to win one of 30 \$100 gift cards or the grand prize of a \$3,000 shopping spree (\$100 gift cards from each of the 30 boutique members). Plus receive a special gift. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Moving Planet: Alexandria Rally. Noon to 2 p.m. A worldwide day of action to move beyond fossil fuels and towards clean energy. Sponsored by The Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, Greenpeace and 350.org. At MetroStage Theater, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. Learn More: <http://www.moving-planet.org/events/us/alexandria/563>

Genealogy Workshop. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Genealogy Workshop: In Search of Mathew Henson's Roots. At the Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. To RSVP, contact Audrey Davis at Audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov.

Charity Casino Event. 6 to 10 p.m. Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a 501 c 3 non-profit that provides free home repairs to in-need homeowners, is hosting Rock the Ante to help raise funds for its program. At Christ Church Fowler House, 111 N Columbus Street. Register online at www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale is the largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro Area. Some 14 vendors from five states are selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 18

Art on the Avenue Is Oct. 1st in Del Ray

The 16th annual Art on the Avenue festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The event is free and open to all.

Held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Art on the Avenue celebrates the diversity of the Potomac West community. Now in its 16th year, the event is entirely volunteer-run, with support from the local business community.

Art on the Avenue strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work. Last year's event drew more than 50,000 people from throughout the metropolitan Washington area.

The multicultural arts and music festival features more than 350 area artists and craftspeople selling their original works, international food, and three stages of live music. Free children's craft activities and entertainment, artists' demonstrations and a pie-baking

contest complete the day's program.

Debuted this year is the Kids Art Korner, located on the field at Mount Vernon Community School. Local artists and non-profit groups will team up to give young visitors a creative experience — creating a special work of art to take home, or participating in a project that will go on display in the neighborhood.

Free DASH transportation will be provided from the Braddock Road Metro Station to the festival. For more information, visit www.artontheavenue.org.

PIE BAKING CONTEST

Art on the Avenue will host the Sixth Annual Pie-Baking Contest on Saturday, Oct. 1, during the Festival. The homemade pies will be on display starting at noon next to the Festival Store (between Del Ray and Oxford Avenues). Judging begins at 12:15 p.m. Cash prizes are awarded in two divisions! However, everyone who enters is a winner! After judging, pies will be available for \$3 a slice with all proceeds going to a local charity.



PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

Last year's Art on the Avenue in the Del Ray community.

2011 TWIN STAGES

At the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and East Oxford Avenues

TIME	ARTIST	GENRE	STAGE
10 a.m.	Hokum Jazz w/Esther Haynes	Jazz	A
11 a.m.	Mighty Spiritual Lights	Gospel	B
12 p.m.	Irish Breakfast Band	Irish	A
1 p.m.	Seth Kibel and Bay Jazz Project	Jazz	B
2-2:15 p.m.	Welcome new businesses		A
2:15 p.m.	Folsom Prisoners, Country/Honky Tonk	Country	A
3 p.m.	Deja Blues Band	Blues	B
4 p.m.	Joe Chiocca Band	Classic Rock	A
5 p.m.	Pasaporte Latino	Latin	B

2011 HOMEGROWN STAGE

At the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and East Raymond Avenues

TIME	ARTIST	GENRE
12-12:45 p.m.	Next Doors	Alternative
1 to 1:45 p.m.	The Reserves	Alternative Pop
2 to 2:45 p.m.	Mars Rodeo	Classic Rock
3 to 3:45 p.m.	Judge Smith	Pop Rock
4 to 5 p.m.	Subtle Madness	Rock

Stages

Art on the Avenue hosts four stages that are packed with entertainment throughout the day. Each stage has different performers scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

Twin Stages at the corner of Mt. Vernon and E. Oxford Avenues — two stages go continuously, while one stage has performers, the other stage has the next entertainment being set up.

Homegrown Stage in the parking lot at Mt. Vernon and Stewart Avenues — all performers on this stage are from the Del Ray area.

Acoustic Stage at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Raymond Avenues — this stage features music at its best where individual artists perform playing their own music.

Be sure to visit the Art on the Avenue Festival Store, across the street from the Twin Stages at 2308 Mt Vernon Avenue (in front of the UPS Store) and take home your favorite Art on the Avenue musical artist's CD.

Kids Activities

At Art on the Avenue, kids are encouraged not only to look at all the artwork, but to create some of their own. Local artists and non-profit groups team up to provide a real creative experience for young visitors, helping them create a special work of art to take home, or participate in a project that will go on display in the neighborhood.

KIDS ART KORNER will be on the field at Mt. Vernon Community School right next to the Food Court.

Entertainment is featured at the Kids Stage, located on the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue between Del Ray and Custis Avenues, where kids get a chance to perform, or to watch as other kids put on magic shows, puppet shows and dance performances.

2011 ACOUSTIC STAGE

At the corner of Mt. Vernon and Raymond Avenues

TIME	ARTIST
12 to 12:45 p.m.	Michelle Swan
1 to 1:45 p.m.	Janna Audey
2 to 2:45 p.m.	Bill Mansfield
3 to 3:45 p.m.	Mike Elosh
4 to 5 p.m.	Billy Clements

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will be offering free admission to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket which is available to download at www.smithsonian.com/museumday. Visitors who present the official pass will gain free admission for two people to participating museums and cultural venues.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Explore the exciting world with some favorite stories and songs. For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SEPT. 24-25

Bead and Jewelry Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Northern Virginia Bead Society is hosting its annual Bead and Jewelry Show at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Admission is \$5, and parking is free on Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. For discount coupons, visit www.meetup.com/NVBS-Jewelry-Classes/ or www.nvabeads.org. Contact NVBS2002@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

60th Anniversary Party. 8 p.m. Come join the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) 60th Anniversary Party aboard the Cherry Blossom Paddle Steamer, featuring open bar, door prizes and light refreshments. Tickets are \$30 for OTCA members and \$35 for non-members and can be bought at the dockside at the time of boarding. Boarding starts at 6 p.m., set sail around 8 p.m., returning around 8:45 p.m. You may also join OTCA at this time. Membership dues are \$25 per household.

A Musical Voice for Nature. 3 p.m. Cost is \$20/adult; \$10/student. Join

EcoVoce musicians — soprano Denise Freeland, flutist Susan Hayes, and pianist Narciso Solero — on a musical journey, performing songs about butterflies, birds, water and other aspects of our natural world. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Visit www.ecovoce.org.

Olde Towne Dogge Walke. 9 a.m. Start and finish at Market Square on King Street. Part of the Get Healthy Alexandria. Start a team or join Mayor Euille's "Get Healthy Team". Registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt and bandana. You can sign up at www.doggewalke.com. Meets at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

Bach Vespers. 5 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766 or visit www.wpc-alex.org.

My Kissing Hands Keepsake Impressions. Noon to 2 p.m. Create precious memories with keepsake impressions of your child's hands and feet. Check out mykissinghands.com or call 703-548-4092 or email info@hooray4books.com to schedule an appointment, which are required.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

Alcohol and Drug Recovery Talent Showcase. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you have been touched by recovery, and want to participate in the showcase, sign up by Sept. 12 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/recovery_talent or call Noraine Buttar



SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

American Balalaika Symphony. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. Scored for the Screen — Movie Music from the U.S. and USSR. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beaugard St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

at 703-746-3670. At Metro Stage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria.

SEPT. 26 TO 28

International Equine Conference.

Presenters include Congressional and state lawmakers, equine cruelty investigators, wildlife scientists, veterinarians, physicians, animal lawyers, advocates, authors,

filmmakers and equine rescuers. At the Marriott Residence Inn, 1456 Duke St., Alexandria.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 27

Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited. 12:30 p.m. Textile conservator Newbie Richardson will present her lecture, "This is the Way to Wash Our Clothes: The Layman's Guide to Textile Conservation." At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact MVQUPresident@gmail.com.

Local Mystery Authors Speak. 7 p.m., "Crime and Cookies," a mystery authors' forum will be held at the Martha Washington branch library at 6614 Ft. Hunt Road. The authors include Alan Orloff ("Killer Routine"), Sandra Parshall ("The Heat of the Moon") and Suzi Weinert ("The Garage Stalker"). Light refreshments will be served; the authors' books will be on sale. Call 703-768-6700.

Open auditions for all voice parts with the Alexandria Singers are being held on Sept. 13, 20 and 27. Contact audition@alexandriasingers.com for an appointment, or call 703-941-SING. Visit www.alexandriasingers.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

Women's Health and Fitness Day. 1 to 4 p.m. Learn how acupuncture can help with safe, effective, and natural approach to facial rejuvenation; women's issues: PMS, menopause, fertility and childbirth issues and beyond. Free Short Circuit Yoga and Pilates classes. At 309 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-299-0500.

Docent Training Meet and Greet. 7 p.m. Carlyle House is seeking new docents to give public tours of its historic building. Take a sample tour and meet and greet. Training sessions will be held Thursday evenings, Oct. 7, 14, 21, at 7 p.m. Docents commit to volunteering two weekday shifts per

month or one weekend shift per month. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

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

U.S. Chess Federation Meeting. 1 p.m. Hollin Hall Senior Center is now a member of the U.S. Chess Federation. If you join this affiliate, the cost is \$34 and includes a monthly online copy of Chess Life. Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

Dinner, Dance and Auction. 7 p.m. The Friends of Rising Hope are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. Tickets are \$100/person. To purchase tickets, visit www.risinghopeumc.org.

SEPT. 30, OCT. 1-2

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6 to 9 p.m. Sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries. Visitors learn about the successes and failures of our Founding Father's wine endeavors, enjoy live blues music, and meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Tickets are \$35/person and go on sale Sept. 1. At Historic Mount Vernon. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah. Free. 1 to 2:15 p.m.; and 2:30 to 4 p.m. A close look at Virginia's genealogical documents. Bah will conduct free lectures on tracing family roots at the Special Collections Branch of the Alexandria Library. Space is limited. At Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.



The West Potomac girls cross country team won the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 14 at Burke Lake Park. From left: Allison McNulla, Mackenzie Cate, Sami Miller, Sarah Jane Underwood, Sophia Passacantando, Colleen Boyle, Dale Lescher and Lauren Price.



PHOTOS BY SUE MURPHY

West Potomac's Brady Corum placed sixth at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 14, helping the Wolverines to a fourth-place team finish.

West Potomac Cross Country Starting Out Strong

Girls win Monroe Parker, William & Mary meets.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

From 2008 through 2010, the West Potomac girls cross country program finished runner-up at the Monroe Parker Invitational. On Sept. 14, the Wolverines used depth to clear the second-place hump, holding off a Lake Braddock team with three top-20 finishers.

Led by senior Sarah Jane Underwood, West Potomac captured the Monroe Parker girls team title with 106 points at Burke Lake Park. The Wolverines' top five each finished 33rd or better, led by Underwood's sixth-place effort with a time of 18 minutes, 17.8 seconds.

"It's exciting, especially because every year we usually get second, so we pulled together and got first this year," Underwood said. "We don't want to get too confident, but it's definitely going to make us feel a little reassured. But we have to keep working hard and it doesn't necessarily mean anything for the future."

The event was originally scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10, but was postponed un-

"It's exciting, especially because every year we usually get second, so we pulled together and got first this year."

— West Potomac senior Sarah Jane Underwood

til the following Wednesday due to issues stemming from inclement weather.

Sophia Passacantando (21st, 19:20.4), Colleen Boyle (22nd, 19:24.7), Sami Miller

(24th, 19:33.2) and Dale Lescher (33rd, 19:50.4) each finished in less than 20 minutes for West Potomac. Lake Braddock featured individual winner Sophie Chase (17:33.3), third-place finisher Hannah Christen (18:07.5) and Katie Roche, who finished 19th with a time of 19:16.6, but the Bruins' No. 4 and 5 harriers finished 50th and 64th, respectively, giving the team 137 points. West Potomac's 1-5 split was 1 minute, 33 seconds, while Lake Braddock's was just shy of 3 minutes.

Led by Underwood, the Wolverines return six of their top seven runners from a 2010 team that won the Patriot District, placed

SEE WP GIRLS, PAGE 20

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Football Bounces Back

One week after suffering a 49-10 loss to Centreville, the West Potomac football team opened Patriot District play with a 31-27 victory over South County on Sept. 16.

The victory improved the Wolverines' record to 2-1, 1-0 in the district. West Potomac will travel to face Lake Braddock (1-2, 1-0) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23.

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 20



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Running back Brandon Johnson and the West Potomac football team defeated South County on Sept. 16.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon football team lost its home opener to Centreville on Sept. 16.

SPORTS

WP Girls Win Monroe Parker, William & Mary Meets

FROM PAGE 19

third in the Northern Region and seventh at states.

"[Underwood has] been running at the varsity level since she was a freshman and she brings a strong work ethic and pretty much sets the tone at practice," West Potomac head coach Jenn Dietz said. "... She's serving as the front

runner, getting at the top places at our different events. As much as she sets the tone, we have four seniors in the top six. They have a lot of experience and want to go out on a good note."

Lescher, Boyle and Miller are also seniors. Lescher was the Wolverines' top finisher at states last season, placing 16th — one place shy of all-state honors.

West Potomac also won the William & Mary Invitational on Sept. 17, with its top five each finishing 18th or better. The Wolverines totaled 55 points, 27 better than second-place finisher Maggie Walker Governor's School. Underwood placed second with a time of 18:51 and Lescher finished eighth (19:47).

The West Potomac boys finished

fourth at the Monroe Parker Invitational with 147 points. Chantilly won the event with 66 points, followed by Robinson (83) and Thomas Jefferson (137).

Brady Corum was the Wolverines' top finisher, placing sixth with a time of 15:40.2. Marc Lotterie (18th, 16:30), Corey Rosenberg (19th, 16:33.9), Crispin Bernier (51st, 17:03.3) and Lucas Halladay (53rd, 17:06.6) completed the West Potomac top five.

Corum, Lotterie and Rosenberg return from a 2010 team that won district and region championships and finished sixth at states. Corum

was West Potomac's top finisher at states last season, coming in 33rd. He won the William & Mary Invitational with a time of 16:07, helping the Wolverines to a second-place team finish.

"Brady brings a lot of experience and he had a very impressive summer of training," Dietz said. "He's fitter and stronger than we've ever seen him. ... Brady is clearly the top dog. ... His race at William & Mary is probably the best he's ever had."

West Potomac is scheduled to compete in the Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 1 at Bull Run Regional Park.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 19

Mount Vernon Drops Home Opener

The Mount Vernon football team lost its home opener to Centreville, 56-13, on Sept. 16. Centreville is ranked No. 2 in the Washington Post's top 20 poll. The loss dropped the Majors' record to 1-2. Mount Vernon will open National District play at home against Washington-Lee at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Mount Vernon Volleyball Wins

The Mount Vernon volleyball team improved to 2-3 on the season with a 3-0 victory against Marshall on Sept. 15. The Majors will take part in the Hayfield Hawks Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 24, and will travel to face Westfield at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 26. Mount Vernon opens National District competition on Oct. 3 at Wakefield.

West Potomac Field Hockey Wins

The West Potomac field hockey team improved its Patriot District record to 1-2 with a 1-0 victory against Lee on Sept. 19. The Wolverines will travel to face Stuart at 4 p.m. on Sept. 23.

Bishop Ireton 5K

The 3rd Annual Bishop Ireton Cardinal 5K Run will take place on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 9 a.m., 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria (Cameron Run). Mail-in and on-line registration is at www.cardinal5krace.com. Make checks payable to BI Athletic Boosters. Entry fees are \$30 through Oct. 21 and \$35 on race day. Bring a canned food item to donate to United Community Ministries. For more info, email Larry Clark at clarkplpmr@aol.com or Jen Chastain at kinipela2@cox.net.



Sportsmen's Raffle The Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Association presented the 2011 raffle winner with a check for \$1,000 at the Sun Sew Vac store where the winning ticket was purchased. From left is Chick Little, Chase Maglin, raffle winner Joey Rebentisch, Jim Martin and Robert Hines, owner of Sun Sew Vac. To the surprise of the Sportsmen, the winner donated his \$1,000 winnings back to the club. "The money is for the kids," Rebentisch said as he returned the check.

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Football Field Rededicated in Honor of Jeff Todd

During a pre-game ceremony on Friday, Sept. 16, the field at Mount Vernon High School was rededicated and re-named for the late Jeff Todd. The grandstands were nearly filled to capacity as Mount Vernon Principal Nardos King began the ceremony. The varsity players knelt as King spoke of all the contributions Todd and his family had given to the school.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, School Board member Dan Storck, Cluster 4 Assistant Superintendent Scott Brabrand, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce President and owner of Hilltop Golf Course Michael Gailliot, Mount Vernon High School varsity football coach Barry Wells and Todd's sister Judi Todd spoke of character, commitment and friendship to Mount Vernon High School and all of the schools along the Route 1 corridor that Todd supported during his life.

Wells spoke of Todd's latest project, to



Mount Vernon varsity football Coach Barry Wells talks about his friend and supporter Jeff Todd and his dream to see a turf field at the high school.

raise enough money in the community to lay a turf field down in the stadium. Judi Todd spoke of the family's continued commitment to follow through.

— LOUISE KRAFFT



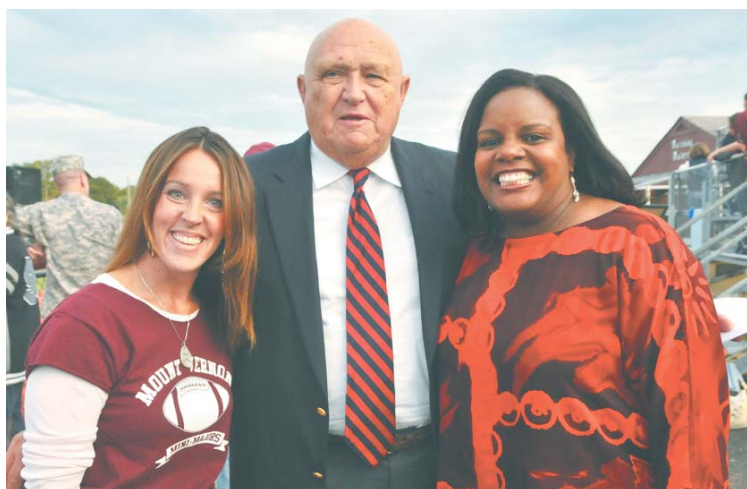
Principal Nardos King and Becky Todd unveil the picture of the rock that now graces the entrance to the football stadium.



Mount Vernon High School Chorus members set up a booster table selling school spirit colors and items for their group activities.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Judi Todd, Mount Vernon Supervisor Jerry Hyland and Mount Vernon School Principal Nardos King.



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21 Announcements

Obituary
Frank R. Marquardt

21 Announcements

Frank R. Marquardt, age 92, died on a Saturday afternoon, September 17, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. He attended college in Chicago, IL at the Illinois Institute of Technology for a degree in mechanical engineering. Frank worked for 35 years as a civilian aerospace engineer for the U.S. Navy. He received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his many accomplishments. Frank was an avid sailor, fisherman, bowler, animal lover, and always had many projects. The widower of Mary H. Marquardt, he is survived by his daughter, Marilyn Marquardt; and brother, Gene Marquardt. Services will be held at the Envoy of Alexandria, 900 Virginia Ave, Alexandria, VA 22302 on Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send your kind donations to the Humane Society of the United States. Arrangements by Everly-Wheatley.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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