

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 29, 2011



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

'Growing Inspirations'

River Farm, a 25-acre site on the Potomac River, has been home to the American Horticulture Society since 1973. The farm was once part of George Washington's original five farms. The society's 18th annual gala, "Growing Inspirations," was held Saturday, Sept. 24.



Dottie and Val Hawkins and Carolyn Lewis.



Former U.S. Sen. John Warner and honorary gala co-chairs Andre and Claire Viette.



2011 AHS gala host committee: Lisa Mountcastle, Dallas Reeves, Henrietta Burke, Sandra Address and Leslie Ariail.



AHS executive director Tom Underwood and his wife Jane.

Residents Roar Over Park Plans

Picnic pavilions may be demolished.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

At a public meeting Wednesday evening, Sept. 21, in Fort Hunt Park, U.S. Park Service's proposal to demolish the park's picnic pavilions had about 80 residents angry as bears.

"The board of directors of the Mount Vernon Civic Association is opposed to the action alternatives for tearing down four of the five picnic pavilions," said Mike Habib, one of its directors. "It's a draconian change in the whole purpose of the park. The park's meant for picnicking and recreating."

Others voiced objections that the meeting was not adequately publicized and that neither Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland or U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly were notified.

The National Park Service called the meeting to present the Fort



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

Assistant Superintendent Jon James appealed to residents to submit written comments.

Hunt Park Site Development Plan / Environmental Assessment and Assessment of Effect, first posted on its web site Sept. 5 with a pe

SEE PROPOSALS, PAGE 21

Sewer Surprise

Mount Vernon council to consider resolution asking county to take responsibility for public right-of-way.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

For one family in the Huntington neighborhood of Mount Vernon, it's a lesson that literally stinks. Homeowners in Fairfax County are responsible for fixing their connection to the public sewer line — even if the line is broken underneath the public right-of-way.

It all began one morning in March, when Greg Fogel realized that raw sewage was backing up into his downstairs bathtub. He called a plumber, who investigated the situation and determined the problem was under the street in the public right-of-way. That's when Fogel learned about the quirk in the Fairfax County code

SEE SEWER, PAGE 21

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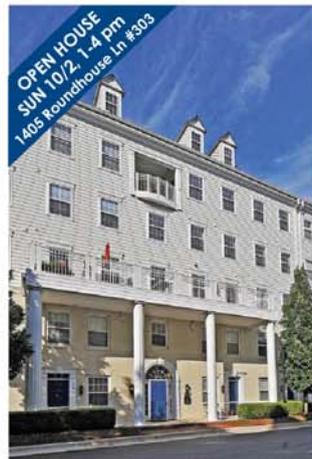
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Old Guard first responders at a tribute event at Fort Hunt Park.

Finding Love Amidst Tragedy

9/11 first responders Ashley McNeff and Adam Behrens find each other.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE GAZETTE

9/11 first responders Ashley McNeff and Adam Behrens were sorting through the rubble that day in September when something funny happened. Amidst all the tragedy, the charred building, the fire and the chaos, they found each other. And their love has served as a reminder that hope can rise from the ashes.

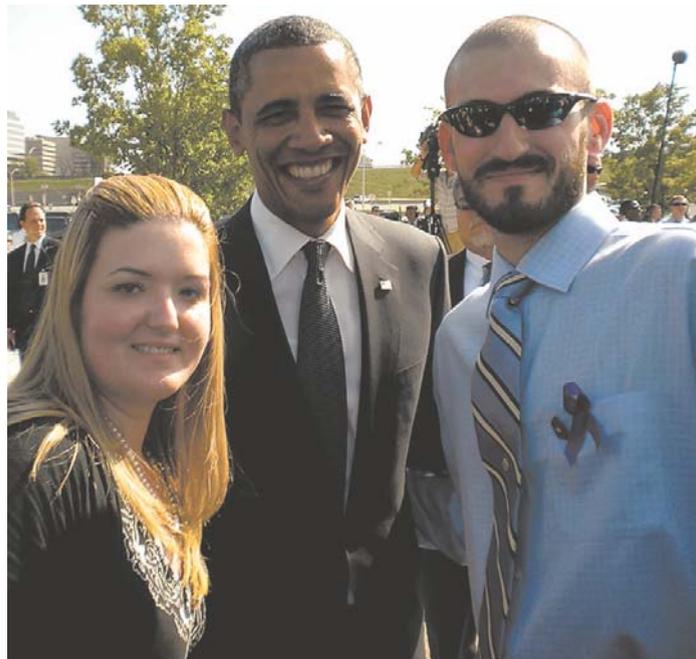
McNeff was an investigator with federal law enforcement. She was tasked with “bagging and tagging” everything that was brought out of the Pentagon.

“It was weird,” she said. “The main thing that I remember, and my husband does too, was the smell. It was such a distinct smell. It was burning. It was jet fuel and everything together.”

Behrens was a soldier in the Bravo Company of the Old Guard. The Old Guard is a ceremonial unit that usually runs funerals at Arlington Cemetery, guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and runs tours at the Pentagon. But when the plane hit the Pentagon, the Old Guard was called in to sort through the building.

“They were the only unit close by that could go in because of the top secret documents,” said McNeff.

“Our mission at that time was to do what we were told,” said Behrens. “We were supposed to go in and collect top secret information that the firefighters and police of-



Ashley McNeff Behrens, President Obama and Adam Behrens.

“Officers were not authorized to retrieve. We separated plane pieces from body parts from documentation.”

Behrens described the experience as surreal.

“You can’t actually fathom what’s going on,” said Behrens. “It feels like you’re in a movie. As far as the men and soldiers and the workers, we have a job to do so we couldn’t really be afraid or angry or scared. We tried to keep it humorous and light-hearted as much as we could to cope with what we were going through. A lot of people were crying and having different emotions but we didn’t really have that option.”

After a shift of sorting through the Pentagon, Behrens emerged with his unit. Because of all of the chemicals they were be-

ing exposed to, the unit stripped down and went through decontamination showers. As this happened, McNeff and a few other girls were sitting in lawn chairs watching. The men of Bravo Company started joking around and flexing for the women.

“It was a weird funny moment in the middle of this crazy tragedy,” said McNeff. “It kind of brought smiles to everybody. You don’t expect to look across and see a bunch of guys stripping down to go to the decontamination showers.”

“We made eye contact,” said Behrens. “I smiled at her. I remember that.”

Behrens said it was the few light moments like this one that kept his company going through the tragedy.

“We just kept talking and telling jokes,” said Behrens. “There’s not much you can do but joke around a little bit and keep talking about something. It was just really surreal. That’s all I can really remember. We never really talked about what we were actually doing. We talked about football, sports, girls. We talked about the FBI girls a lot because we knew they were out there watching us.”

After the shower, McNeff and Behrens

BRAC Move Under Way

Bus lines change, but not Route 1.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE GAZETTE

Six years after the Base Realignment and Closure procedures began in 2005, the Defense Department completed shifting nearly 16,000 government employees from Washington, Maryland and Arlington to Alexandria and Fairfax County, according to Don Carr, Fort Belvoir’s chief of public affairs.

The remaining 4,000 or so will move in stages to the Mark Center government complex at Seminary Road and Route 395.

BRAC has change the economy of the region, bringing enormous growth to southern Fairfax County and necessitating changes in roads, highways, bus and rail lines that are still going on. In addition to government agency construction, almost weekly new civilian offices and residences are planned for the BRAC area. An Army museum at Fort Belvoir goes under construction in October and will open in 2015, according to the Army foundation members.

The core of the new facilities is Fort Belvoir, for years a major training base and at one time the home of the combat engineers.

It opened Fort Belvoir Community Hospital this month, three times the size of the old Dewitt Army Hospital and now taking over part of the medical duties of historic Walter Reed Army Medical Center which was closed a few weeks ago. Col. Susan Annicelli will command the new hospital which, along with treating service members, will be handling medical needs of some of the 300,000 retired military personnel and their families living in the Washington area. Some 3,400 military medical and civilian personnel were part of this transfer.

Also completing its transfers last week is the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) which brought some 8,500 jobs to a new high rise facility at the one time Army Proving Ground off of Route 95 and Fairfax Parkway.

The last major component of BRAC shift is the Mark Center (Building 133) complex at Seminary Road. This new high rise building complex is slated to house some 6,400 defense employees from the Pentagon and Crystal City in Arlington. But well after it was under construction, the military and civilian authorities realized that the streets surrounding it could never handle the 3,400 cars that were to be accommodated in its garages.

A running disagreement has been ongoing on how to proceed. On Aug. 2, the DOD said it would send some 2,300 employees to the building by the Sept. 15 deadline and another 2,000 or so by the end of 2011.

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NEWS

Labovitz Sentenced on Misdemeanors

Peter Labovitz, President and CEO of Connection Newspapers, has been sentenced to six months for two misdemeanor counts of failing to fully pay the company's payroll taxes for two quarters in 2007 in a timely manner.

Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson acknowledged Labovitz's long record of leadership in civic and business affairs at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on Sept. 27.

He cited scores of letters to the court praising Labovitz's commitment to community journalism as head of Connection Newspapers and his years of community service.

Anderson said Labovitz's history of service "weighed heavily" in his decision not to impose a longer sentence, citing "your service to the commu-

nity, the newspapers and other organizations" and "your support for your family, not just your wife and daughters, but also to your grandchildren." But Anderson said some incarceration was necessary "to give credence to adequate deterrence."

Labovitz will pay more than \$645,000 in restitution.

In a statement in July, when he pled guilty to the misdemeanors, Labovitz took full responsibility and cited economic challenges: "Like all American newspapers, in recent years the Connection Newspapers have faced daunting technological and economic challenges. We have weathered repeated crises that killed or crippled many others in the news media. I am proud that we have kept these vital community voices alive."

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mount Vernon police department through Sept. 23.

ROBBERY/ ARREST

Police arrested a man for robbing a pharmacy employee at the CVS at 6228 North Kings Highway around 11:13 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15. A 57-year-old male of no fixed address was apprehended on Wednesday, Sept. 21 and charged with robbery and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

inches tall, wearing a black T-shirt and black pants. The victim did not require medical attention.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

Three males attempted to rob a 22-year-old man around 1:11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20 in the 3600 block of Buckman Road. One of the suspects displayed a weapon. The suspects were described as black. Two of them were between 15-20 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 120 pounds. The third suspect was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and 160 pounds. The victim was not injured.

- iPhone stolen from school.
- 6300 block of Richmond Highway.** Cell phone stolen from business.
- 7800 block of Richmond Highway.** Shoes stolen from business.
- 7900 block of Richmond Highway.** Cash stolen from residence.
- 8200 block of Richmond Highway.** Ink cartridges stolen from business.
- 7200 block of Saul Road.** Purse stolen from vehicle.
- Seven Woods Drive/Fielding St.** Radio stolen from vehicle.
- 7900 block of Silverada Place.** Baby seat stolen from vehicle.
- Telegraph Road/North Kings Highway.** Construction equipment stolen from business.
- 4400 block of Wyres St.** Bicycle stolen from residence.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY/ARREST

Police arrested a man for grabbing a 22-year-old woman in the 7500 block of Richmond Highway around 9:48 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 16. A 24-year-old male of the 11900 block of Bowman Towne Drive in Reston was taken to jail and charged with assault and battery. The victim did not require medical attention.

LARCENIES

- 2600 block of Arlington Drive.** Rim stolen from vehicle
- 1600 block of Belle View Blvd.** Laundry detergent stolen from business.
- 1600 block of Belle View Blvd.** Body wash stolen from business.
- 6100 block of Edgewood Terrace.** iPhone stolen from residence.
- Huntington Ave.** Beer stolen from business.
- 8200 block of Martha St.** Purse stolen from residence.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** GPS stolen from vehicle.
- 6500 block of Quander Road.**

VEHICLE THEFTS

- 5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace.** 2008 Honda.
- 6600 block of East Wakefield Drive.** 2007 Honda CRV.
- 4900 block of Fran Place.** 2001 Hyundai Accent.
- 2000 block of Huntington Ave.** 2008 Honda Accord.
- 5900 block of Richmond Highway.** 2010 Chrysler Sebring.
- 7500 block of Snowpea Court.** Dodge van.
- 6600 block of Tower Drive.** 2006 Suzuki motorcycle.

ROBBERY

Two men robbed a 19-year-old man in the area of Audubon Avenue and Janna Lee Avenue around 1:50 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19. The suspects were described as black, between 18-25 years old. One suspect was between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 9 inches tall and 130-150 pounds, wearing a black T-shirt and black shorts. The second suspect was between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 2

MILITARY NOTES

Local Civil Air Patrol cadets John and Matthew Watson recently attended CAP's Florida Wing Winter Encampment, held at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, Fla. These cadets participated in courses on leadership, emergency services (search and rescue), Air Force and civilian aviation careers, and aerospace topics, as well as tours of the

base and its facilities.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Alexander G. Francia, son of Maria Del Carmen Francia of Burke and Gabriel Lifshitz, of Alexandria, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

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Students practice during stick and puck exercises at the RECenter.

COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON RECENTER.

Stick, Helmet and Room Full of Ice

Try lessons in ice hockey.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE GAZETTE

Nothing is more thrilling than scoring a first goal in hockey. The buzzer goes off, the crowd cheers, and teammates offer heartfelt congratulations. Mount Vernon residents can experience the excitement this fall by taking hockey classes at the Mount Vernon RECenter.

"We have people of all levels participating," said Carl Kirtley, Mt. Vernon RECenter's Skating Director. "Hockey isn't just a winter thing, it's a great way to have fun all year round."

Classes are varied and offer something for everyone. For those who've never set foot on the ice, beginner classes are a great way to start. Coaches teach the fundamentals, including moving backwards, forwards, how to fall down and get back up.

Choosing the Right Course

Fall courses for youngsters and adults are currently accepting students. Courses will also be taught starting Oct. 22, and include Introductory Skating for Hockey, Hockey 1, 2, 3 and 4. For more information and to register online visit: fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec.htm

Intermediate players continue to enhance their techniques and skills, with a greater focus on improving footwork and power stops.

"Adults and kids both love to play hockey, it's not just exercise, it's fun, it's a game," said Yuriy Litvinov, a hockey coach who has taught classes at the RECenter for the past 12 years. "The classes teach confidence in skating, there's a sense of accomplishment beyond scoring goals."

Stick and puck sessions offered by the RECenter are another great way to get started. For those over 16, the only equipment necessary is a hockey stick and a helmet. Skates can be rented at the RECenter for an additional fee.

"For the stick and puck sessions we empty a bucket of pucks on the ice and let skaters free to shoot on net and practice their puck-handling skills," said Kirtley. "There's no checking involved, nothing physical, it's a fun time and there's usually a goalie to practice on."

For the more adventurous, there are pick-up games that take place every Monday and Wednesday. Many players who take part in pick up games are people who get their ice time over lunch breaks. They show up in the afternoon, score a few goals, and head back to work.

Young or old, Mount Vernon residents of every level can take advantage of fall hockey no matter their experience.

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2nd Annual NOVA Fall Art & Craft Showcase

Presented By
Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild



Saturday, Oct 8 (10 - 5)
Sunday, Oct 9 (11 - 4)

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus
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Alex./Riverside Estates \$429,900
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Alex./Sulgrave Manor \$387,000
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Old Guard first responders entering the Pentagon on 9/11. Adam Behrens is fourth from the front.

Finding Love Amidst Tragedy

FROM PAGE 3

met. They wouldn't have a chance to become friends until they ran into each other at Fort Myer a month later but this event was the spark to their relationship.

"There was an instant connection," said McNeff. "I feel like we were meant to be together."

They married in October 2007. Their love story has been a bright spot on an otherwise dark day. This year, they got to meet President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

"Your love story and marriage are such beautiful things to come out of this tragedy — focus on that," said Michelle Obama.

McNeff and Behrens continue to be impacted by 9/11. They feel it has brought them closer together.

"It definitely was nice to be able to talk to each other about it especially for the first couple of years," said McNeff. "It was just such an unbelievable experience. You never think something like that is going to happen. Unless you've been there you don't really understand how it was. It really helped having each other there. Even when I would have nightmares or something like that he would know how to calm me down. It's just a comfort to have somebody who has been through a tragedy to help you through it."

McNeff organized a 10-year anniversary 9/11 tribute event for members of the Old Guard at Fort Hunt Park this year. Both her and her husband worry about what the Old Guard went through on Sept. 11.

"I do often feel that some of the first responders from the Pentagon and Pennsylvania fall behind New York," said McNeff "I feel like public doesn't know that the U.S. Army was involved, that the soldiers went into the Pentagon on 9/11. Even from the

US army they weren't recognized. It would be nice to be able to recognize them."

"We got exposed to a lot of chemicals, jet fuel, sewage, asbestos," said Behrens. That's the only thing I worry about. A lot of those men got exposed to stuff. We've tried to reach out to people and no one has taken any interest. That's the only thing I worry for us as a group and as a whole. A lot of us just feel the army should just say, 'Get a physical, you've been exposed to a lot of stuff.'"

The decontamination showers, which brought McNeff and Behrens together, are a source of concern. The soldiers went into the Pentagon wearing only battle dress uniforms (BDUs) and painter's masks.

"The first time we got out of there we pretty much just changed and went to sleep," said Behrens. "The second or third day, they hosed us off with chemicals and scrubbed us with brooms. By the end of the week they had us in double layer white suits with gas masks on goggles and rubber gloves and rubber boots and there was a chemical censor. If it starts flashing or beeping they told us we have to get out. We had to unplug it or leave it because it wouldn't stop going off. Even with the suits, they made us scrub off the chemicals. And they destroyed all the BDUs."

McNeff is now the CEO of United States Homeland Investigations and Behrens is a civil engineer. They live in Alexandria.

"We love the Alexandria area," said McNeff. "It's a great place to raise children. There's not many places in the country you have so many things had your fingertips."

"I hate to say tragedy results in making us stronger but it definitely brought us together," said Behrens. "I definitely look at it as a good thing that happened to me during that time. Definitely the light at the end of the tunnel, the silver lining on the cloud."

BRAC Move Under Way

FROM PAGE 3

The remaining personnel will be transferred in during 2012, accord to DOD.

But handling the influx of cars, according to Virginian highway officials, will require the building of a ramp from Route 395 into the complex which under federal and state planning rules and financial resources might not be completed until 2016 or later.

The Virginia U.S. House of Representative delegation had a section included in the National Defense Authorization Act which included a parking capacity limitation and a one-year delay provision. The bill is now in the Senate.

U.S. Rep. James Moran said earlier this month that the "BRAC 133 relocation to the Mark Center should never have happened." He said limiting the number of single occupancy cars on the road until construction of a ramp "is the best way to reduce the impact of BRAC."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly said in the long run Fort Belvoir and the NGA site must become a destination for the Metro system.

The City of Alexandria has passed regulations to bar parking on the streets around the Mark Center and provided additional police as the employees arrived earlier this

SEE BRAC, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Models from last year's fashion show.

Get Ready for Fashion

Garden club hosts annual fund-raising event.

October is coming and that means that it is time for the annual Yacht Haven Garden Club Fashion Show.

Now in its 28th year, this year's event is titled "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" and will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club in Alexandria.

Fashions for women of all sizes will be provided by Bloomingdales. Social hour starts at 10 a.m. and a luncheon follows the fashion show. Guests will have plenty of chances to win prizes during the raffle and silent auction.

Members of the Yacht Haven Garden Club work to further education in horticulture, floral design and conservation among its members and the surrounding community. Proceeds from the fashion show will be divided among the fol-

lowing projects and organizations: American Horticulture Society; Gunston Hall; Mount Vernon Estate; Woodlawn Plantation; United Community Ministries; School and Eagle Scout projects; Community Garden projects; Fern Valley and Friendship Gardens at National Arboretum; and a Scholarship Fund for students pursuing an education in horticulture.

Tickets are \$30 per person. Make checks payable to: Yacht Haven Garden Club and mail to: Deborah Alea, 4704 Ferry Landing Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309. Reservation deadline is Oct. 10. For more information email Denise Wight, dwight9@verizon.net, or contact Deborah Alea at 703-447-1315 or deborah.alea@verizon.net.

— GALE CURCIO

NEWS



Honoring Police/Firefighters

Occasionally Cake of Alexandria honored local police and firefighters at the Stars and Stripes Police and Firefighter Tribute sponsored by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, donating more than \$1,000 worth of cake. The event was held at the Belle Haven Country Club in Mount Vernon. The cake was decorated in red, white and blue, adorned with a draped flag and stenciled in names of those police and firefighters that had lost their lives in the line-of-duty during the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy.

Examining Route 1 Corridor

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation is presenting "Why Richmond Highway, Why Now," a discussion on market trends in the Route 1 corridor.

This latest edition of SFDC's Summit Series will bring together executives who have played a key role in the strategy and implementation of multifamily projects across the Washington, D.C. region: Grant M. Ehat, principal, JBG Rosenfeld Retail; Bruce

Leonard, principal, Streetsense; Rebecca Snyder, senior development analyst, Archstone, and Aakash Thakkar, senior vice president of acquisition and development, EYA.

The event will be held Thursday, Oct. 13, 8 - 10 a.m. at Hampton Inn Alexandria-South, 5821 Richmond Highway.

Registration is \$30 before Oct. 1 and \$40 after. Advance registration is required, see www.sfdc.org.

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FALL WINE FESTIVAL
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Tickets are still available for Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour on Sunday, October 2! The annual festival features wines from 16 Virginia wineries, live blues music, tours of the rarely-open basement and wine cellar, and the opportunity to toast with "George and Martha Washington" overlooking the Potomac River.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased online at MountVernon.org or by calling 703-780-2000

OPINION

Overabundance

If you've lived almost anywhere in Northern Virginia for 10 years or longer, you probably remember when it was a bit of a thrill to catch sight of a deer.

Now in some neighborhoods, it can be a bit surprising if you don't see half a dozen deer in a mile at dusk. With the automobile the only active predator, and a remarkable 24-hour buffet set on nearly every block, the deer population is growing. Along with the growing deer population come serious impacts on people, as well as the deer and other plants and creatures.

If you drive in suburban Washington, chances are you know someone who has hit a deer, or had a deer hit them while driving. This has proved to be fatal for the driver in a small number of cases, but nearly always results in death or serious injury for the deer, plus often thousands of dollars in damage to the vehicle.

Lyme disease is an increasing problem, which can have serious health consequences if untreated. Lyme disease is often overlooked as a diagnosis.

The large deer population is hard on other flora and fauna. Not only do the deer consume vegetable gardens and landscaping, they damage habitat needed by other wildlife and impact native plants and young trees.

But even as we admit that something needs to be done about the deer population, it's difficult for many to embrace hunting in urban/suburban areas. Some residents have safety concerns, some are concerned about the suffering of the deer.

EDITORIAL

Last year, Fairfax County's archery program killed 452 deer in 11 county parks, more than half the 815 deer killed through the county's deer management program on parkland. Last year marked the most deer killed since the deer management program began in 1998. Sharpshooting operations, conducted at 15 parks by Fairfax County police, killed another 226 deer. Managed hunts killed 137 deer at four parks.

Bow hunting allowed on private property is also part of county efforts to keep the deer population in check. With the deer population likely more than 25,000, it's not clear that such numbers will make enough of an impact.

Fairfax County will again use bow hunting, sharp shooting and managed hunts from now through March 2012 in efforts to control the population of deer. The sharpshooting and managed hunts will be conducted at selected park sites throughout the county.

Bow hunting began last weekend and will run until February in parks in every part of Fairfax County: Lake Accotink and Accotink Stream Valley park in Springfield; Wakefield Park in Annandale, Eakin Park in Fairfax, Laurel Hill Park and golf course in Lorton, Pohick Stream Valley, South Run Stream Valley and Lake Mercer in Springfield; Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, Confederate Fortifications Historic Site and Johnny Moore Stream Valley Park near Clifton; Eleanor C. Lawrence Park and Cub Run Stream Valley Park in Chantilly;

Adapting suburban, urban sensibilities to controlling deer; adapting deer control to suburban, urban sensibilities.

Sully Woodlands Park and Sully Historic Site; Colvin Run Stream Valley and Difficult Run Stream Valley parks, along with Riverbend Park in Great Falls; Difficult Run Stream Valley and Clark's Crossing parks in Vienna; Sugarland Run Stream Valley park in Herndon, and Huntley Meadows in Mount Vernon. Bow hunting is also used at Fort Belvoir, Mason Neck, and on private property. It is a continuous program with bow hunting allowed six days a week from just before dawn until sunset.

Managed hunts will go forward in two county park authority parks, Sully Woodlands on Nov. 17 and Jan. 12, and Scotts Run Dec. 14-16.

More research is needed. U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) sponsored legislation that would direct more funding to develop a better test for Lyme disease. There are methods under study to apply some insecticide to deer to kill the ticks that spread Lyme disease. Some breakthrough method of curbing reproduction would be a welcome addition to deer management.

What are your thoughts? Have you seen bow hunters in the parks you frequent? Do you have an anecdote to relate about deer? We also welcome your photos.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Value Technical Expertise

To the Editor:

Imagine the same day my letter appears in this paper asserting that Mr. Spiegel's description from the prior week of the Westgrove perennial stream as a drainage ditch is opinion and not fact, that yet another letter repeating the same claim as before appears next to my rebuttal letter. I fully expected another False in his Kingdom of Wordsmithonia to appear but not the same day.

In my view, Mr. Spiegel is demonstrating a commonly employed tactic that uses language, not stronger position, as a determining factor for the winner of an issue and does so by using negative connotations when referring to the Westgrove stream. The great framing war between linguists in the employ of our two political parties has now filtered down into the community and neighborhood realm of local issues and for that, citizens need to be both better informed as well as critical readers and thinkers.

I believe most Mount Vernon

citizens recognize when someone is trying to pass emotional provocation for dialogue. The intent of such provocation is in my view meant to create doubt and confusion in order to divert attention from the real problems of encroachment on the scientifically derived designation for the Westgrove stream as a Resource Protection Area. As a former science educator it was clear to me that complex science is often difficult to boil down to a few catchy sound bites. I'm still wondering who sold us the Idea, that "sound bites" is all humanity needs, to solve our many complex problems.

As most people are unequipped to deal with the actual math and/or technical arguments of science they are left in a state of ambivalence leaving them vulnerable to all manner of manipulation political or otherwise. Remember the Terry Schiavo case in Florida when politicians weighed in as medical experts. As I recall from high school civics, 50 percent of propaganda is repetition. Truly, a moron could persuade the American public of things that are the exact opposite of the truth, for the lack of their ability to get a clear pic-

ture for themselves. Remember WMD in Iraq. Good framing is most effective when given to mindlessly obedient authoritarians with a megaphone.

In our current political debates, politicians encourage the public in the view that there is no scientific consensus on the dangers of greenhouse gas emissions. Voters are told there is no consensus about global warming within the scientific community. Evolution is still just a theory. Should the public come to believe that the scientific issues are settled, their views about greenhouse gases, global warming and evolution will change accordingly. Therefore, propagandists need to continue to make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate.

This citizen accepts the scientific certainty on the classification of the Westgrove stream as an RPA by the professional hydrologists and scientists given the task to evaluate and identify such remaining streams in Fairfax County, Virginia. I am glad that my tax dollars were used to hire and pay these professionals to conduct these studies. I also reject the pro-

paganda Wordsmithonia attempt to undermine these findings. I hope that the majority of the citizens of this community will accept the settled findings of the professionals who best understand the dynamics of hydrology and strive to maintain the few remaining Resource Protection Areas that remain in an otherwise overdeveloped region of Fairfax County.

Martin Tillett
Mount Vernon

Reclassify Stream

To the Editor:

As long as we're still down in the weeds on the question of whether there is an interim or perennial stream flowing through Westgrove Park, the attached photos (above) indicate that this is not a perennial stream (one that flows year-round except in drought conditions — none this summer). "Intermittent" or "ephemeral" (recognized stream categories that Fairfax County's Perennial Streams

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LETTERS



July 2: Drainpipe west of Fort Hunt Road.



July 2: Looking west up the hill at the dry drainage ditch.

FROM PAGE 8

guidelines do not address) are more accurate descriptions.

The first photo, taken July 2 (same view as Mr. Tillett's more recent photo in last week's Gazette) shows no water flowing into the small (not "large") drain at the west side of Fort Hunt Road that crosses over to Westgrove Park. The second photo (taken a minute later), shows the steep — and totally dry — ditch that carries run-

off from the higher elevations of Mt. Vernon Park and adjoining neighborhood into that drain. (If this were a perennial stream, one would expect to see gurgling water — not a dry ditch filled with non-aqueous weeds.)

Mr. Tillett's claim that the County's designation of perennial streams is done after careful scientific investigation is also questionable. The County conducted

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

only a single analysis, of an area more than a quarter mile from the alleged Westgrove Park RPA that is the subject of ongoing controversy. The data report, dated Aug. 1, 2003, describes the weather conditions as “extremely moist” — not normal conditions. (Historical weather data shows that nearly an inch of rain had fallen four days before — and almost as much fell on that day.)

Based on the figures in the County’s data report, it appears that the case for perennial stream designation rested primarily on the amount of water observed that day. No fish, no benthics, and no aquatic plants were observed, as would be expected in perennial streams — especially those coming from a forest (where water quality would be higher, according to Mr. Tillett). The total score was 27 — just slightly above the minimum of 25. Had that area been reassessed on a more normal day, the results would likely have been significantly different.

A review of literature on the subject of perennial stream identification further shows that stream classification methods are not hard and fast, and in Fairfax County they aren’t purely scientific. A 2005 USGS study (Strategies for Stream Classification Using GIS, Restrepo, M./edna.usgs.gov/Edna/pub/Stream_Classification_Strategies_Paper), notes, inter alia, that that there were not in fact consistent standards for such evaluation. At that time only North Carolina and Fairfax County had adopted standards. The USGS paper notes that Fairfax County’s standards were limited to perennial streams, and then comments on the fact that the County also takes into account statements by long-term residents and other non-scientific information. “Thus, the Fairfax method gives more space to personal judgment in (the) stream classification.” See Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division Field Indicators Identification Protocol, Perennial Streams, (p. 13).

A review of County records from the period also shows that the County’s perennial stream protocol has been controversial. At one point County officials asked for a re-evaluation because a large percentage of data reports had been conducted during wet conditions. A number of reports were then picked “at random” for re-evaluation — with the result that several were re-classified. (The Aug. 1, 2003 report in question was not included in the random selection.)

As a former city planner and daily visitor to Westgrove Park, I have paid close attention to the arguments advanced by opponents of our efforts to establish an interim Off-Leash Dog Area there. Based on my observations, unless it has rained recently, water flow through Westgrove Park (as well as the area across Fort Hunt Road) is either a small trickle or non-existent. The flow is certainly insufficient to support any aquatic life forms. These are not the characteristics of a perennial stream. The County should reclassify this stream in accordance with the facts.

Mary Tracy

Recognize History; Keep Picnic Areas

To the Editor:

I have been using Fort Hunt Park since I was a kid. I spent time in the woods, I scrambled over the World War II gunneries, I played soccer on its fields and attended dozens of picnics and parties at its facilities. My father actually attended elementary school in trailers in Fort Hunt Park in the late 1940s while work was being done on Hollin Hall Elementary School. More recently, I taught my children to ride bikes on its oval, have held events there and organized picnics for the staff of my business.

In recent months, the U.S. National Park Service has prepared a plan to strengthen the preservation and interpretation of Fort Hunt’s many layers of history, from native Americans to George Washington’s slaves to the World War II spy interrogation camp. On the latter, NPS officials have compiled an extensive history of Fort Hunt’s contributions to World War II through interviews with Americans who interrogated German officers there and through newly-declassified documents. NPS has held two meetings in Mount Vernon, including one last week and they are now receiving public comments on four options until Oct. 6.

The proposed plan, called their preferred alternative, out of four alternatives, would emphasize the historic assets of the park and de-emphasize the recreational uses. In the preferred alternative, NPS would build a new visitor center to help visitors better understand the history of the park. This proposal would also demolish four of five picnic facilities, leaving only the main pavilion area near the entrance along with bathroom facilities. It also would realign the road through some existing woodlands and separate car, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Fort Hunt Park is one of our community’s prized assets for many reasons. It is one of the few places to hold large, affordable, outdoor events, facilities not available anywhere else in Mount Vernon. Clearly, there is a need for picnic pavilions like those in Fort Hunt Park and the people of the Mount Vernon area have come to depend on these facilities.

There must be a way to structure the park so that its historic elements can be highlighted and some of the recreational uses can continue. The Mount Vernon area has played a key role in U.S. history. After all, our community was our first president’s home. Some of his slaves lived on the land that is now the park. Enhancing the historic resources of Fort Hunt, like the Spanish American War tower and the World War II gunneries and explaining what happened there could highlight yet another significant historic resource in our community. I am confident that the National Park Service puts their mind to it, they can find a way to preserve and better interpret Fort Hunt’s history and also provide picnic areas for large groups. Their proposal also should prompt the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the state parks to provide areas for the types of activities held at Fort Hunt if



Birthday Surprise

Members of the Mount Vernon Fire Station took time out of their day to celebrate Gary Barton’s second birthday last month.

NPS forces the reduction of the picnic and sports areas.

Several people have reached out to me to express their concerns. Supervisor Gerry Hyland is also assembling comments to forward to our congressional delegation. I have contacted both Congressman Moran and Connolly to express my concern and they are meeting with the National Park Service as well.

I encourage you to read the NPS rationale and proposed options and to weigh in. I have posted links to them on my blog, The Dixie Pig, at scottsuovell.blogspot.com.

If you would like to send me comments that I can forward to the NPS and our Congressional delegation, you can also make them on my blog on the same page. The public comment period closes on Oct. 6 so please send me your feedback as soon as possible.

Scott Surovell
State Delegate (D-44)

Oppose Park Plan

To the Editor:

National Park Service proposals to redevelop Fort Hunt Park are a classic case of federal agency expansion — i.e., an agency promoting projects which will expand its own growth, with more jobs for the Park Service at the expense of our recreational space. The National Park Service is telling us that it can’t afford to preserve the still-existing tree plantings along the George Washington Memorial Parkway that are being destroyed by invasive species, because of lack of funds, but it can afford to construct and staff a new facility at Fort Hunt Park which will take away acreage now used for recreation. Millions of tax dollars would be spent for construction and staffing of facilities for sharing of history that could be adequately chronicled with a few digital screens under modest shelters. We should oppose this scheme.

J. Griffin Crump

Alexandria

Scientific Analysis Needed

To the Editor:

In Martin Tillett’s letter in last week’s Gazette, he characterized my analysis of the status of the drainage ditch at Westgrove Park as “anecdotal.” “Anecdotal” means: “based on personal observation, case study reports, or random investigations rather than systematic scientific evaluation: anecdotal evidence.” Random House dictionary, copyright 2011. That description more accurately describes Mr. Tillett’s conclusion that the ditch is a perennial stream based on his having “walked the trails of this park [Mount Vernon Park across the street from Westgrove Park] during all seasons and during wet and dry periods.” This is to be contrasted with my references to the County definition of a perennial stream (also cited by Tillett) as well as to the drought maps and photos demonstrating no water flow in Westgrove Park during non-drought periods.

What is truly anecdotal is the method employed by the County to designate the ditch as a perennial stream in County maps. Analogous to Mr. Tillett’s analysis, as I reported in my Gazette letter of Feb. 24, 2011, in so designating the ditch a perennial stream, the County officials didn’t even look at it within Westgrove Park — they checked it across the street. As I reported in that letter: “... in order to designate a stream as perennial in the first place, as explained to me by the County staff members mentioned above, the County need only undertake one observation of the stream and it doesn’t even have to occur at the subject property. County staff informed me that the designation on County maps of an RPA at Westgrove Park was based upon one observation of the stream on one day on which the NOAA map confirmed no drought condition, the observation occurring 500 feet from the

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NEWS

BRAC Move Under Way

FROM PAGE 6

month and a major traffic jam was avoided.

Within Fort Belvoir, the Army is widening two major roads and has already completed work on the road that services the hospital, but the problem is Route 1. It has not been widened for decades and now will face perhaps double the traffic entering and leaving Fort Belvoir. There are plans to wide Route 1 to six lanes but the work will not start for several years.

Fairfax County readjusted the routes of

its Fairfax Connector bus system to accommodate BRAC transfers. This includes the "Eagle Express" 335 Bus Route that is a direct connection between Franconia-Springfield Metro station to Ft. Belvoir. The route runs in the morning and evening. The fare is \$3.65 with a SmarTrip card and or \$3.85 with cash.

Riders will have to have a government identification to enter Fort Belvoir. The bus enters Belvoir through the Telegraph Gate and makes several stops including the new hospital.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Westgrove Park property, up the hill on the other side of Fort Hunt Road."

In my earlier letter, I pointed out the difficulty in removing the perennial stream designation enacted using anecdotal evidence: "Based upon my conversations with a County storm water engineer and a County ecologist, if a property has a perennial stream shown on its RPA map, in order to remove that designation, the following steps must be taken pursuant to the PFM: (1) notification to adjacent neighbors, county staff and the supervisor's office of intent to investigate the issue; (2) consultation with a drought map provided by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) to confirm that no drought condition exists in Fairfax County; (3) within a subsequent 40-day period during which the NOAA map must not confirm a drought condition, make two observations of the alleged perennial stream within the property in question, the observations to be taken 7 to 15 days apart."

Regardless of the effect on the proposed off-leash dog area at Westgrove Park, the County's credibility requires a more scientific analysis of the perennial stream designation of the drainage ditch in Westgrove Park.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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We're Thinking Pink

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
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- Stubble Free *NEW* Laser Hair Removal Pricing - \$95 Small Facial Areas \$175 Small Body Areas, \$295 Large Body Areas
- \$20 Jane Iredale Lip Duo - Jane donates 100% profit to Breast Cancer Research
- Support our "Simply the Breast" Team in its fundraising efforts for the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk by donating a \$1 & be entered in our Oct 26th Event Raffle!
Raffle includes: 20/u of Botox, IPL Photofacial, SkinMedica product & more!

Simply the Breast - Think Pink Event
Oct 26th, 4-8pm

Join us for Pink refreshments, event specials and the raffle drawing! Drawing held at 7:30pm Event ONLY Specials:

- Botox - \$11 per unit or Dysport - \$3.66 per unit
- Dermal Fillers - Buy 1, get \$250 OFF 2nd syringe!
- Retail Specials!

RSVP to
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* Offers valid through 10.31.11, restrictions may apply.



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1 Level Living in Belle Haven



Almost 2000 square feet on one level on large .37 acres lot in Belle Haven! 3 bedrooms, 2 full and updated baths, 2 fireplaces, attached 2 car garage, professionally landscaped yard, beautiful stone patio, hardwood floors throughout, and large family room. ~\$799,500



6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original



features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horseshair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~\$1,750,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed! Open Sunday 1-4



Like new and immaculate! Over \$300k in renovations since 2004. Over 3500 square feet, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, huge lush yard walks down to Potomac River. Stunning kitchen with granite and stainless steel. Every bath is updated. All new windows throughout. Private patio. Finished lower level w/ rec room, office, gym, and bath. ~\$839,000



9312 Old Mansion Road Alexandria, VA 22309

Custom Home on Mansion Drive



Completely remodeled in 2011. 6000 square feet on 4 fully finished levels, 6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, library, formal living and dining rooms, sun room, fully finished lower level, and 4th story loft.



Master suite w/ gas fireplace, 3 closets, spa like bathroom. Hardwood floors. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops, Wolf range, 3 dishwashers, separate bar area w/ ice maker, large island with seating for 4. Flagstone walkway and garage ~\$2,750,000

317 Mansion Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven



Elegant Brick colonial sited on a lot overlooking wooded park land. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on 4 fully finished levels. Gracious formal living room, inviting family room, private screened-in porch and desk, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, and 1 car garage. ~\$1,275,000



6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

Build Your Dream Home



Your Dreams are Waiting! Build your dream home on one of the largest lots in the City of Alexandria! Located on the corner of Braddock Road and Oakland Terrace. 3/4 acre level lot. Several home plans to choose from. Email Phyllis at ppatterson@cbmove.com for more information! Lot Price ~\$1,195,000

Corner of Oakland Terrace and Braddock Road

Custom Build along the Parkway



Custom Built Homes By Boucher on half acre! 2 models available or design your own. 4+ bedrooms, 3.5+ baths, 3 levels, chefs kitchen, crown moldings, 2+ car garage, overlooking the scenic GW Parkway. Drive-way off Ridgecrest culdesac. Starting at ~\$1,495,000

7812 West Boulevard Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

New Price in DelRay!



Walk to everything! Turn key! 4 fully finished levels offers high ceilings, welcoming wrap porch and open floor plan. Large chef's kitchen w/ bar opens to eating area, great deck and patio. Main level bedroom w/ full BA currently used as den. Lower level play room with fully bath, builtins, and huge laundry room. Upstairs offers a luxury master suite w/ custom closets plus 3 real bedrooms and finished loft. ~\$1,125,000



1600 Hancock Avenue Alexandria, VA 22301

Custom Built Waterfront by Boucher



4808 finished square feet of custom built home on 2 levels, + option to finish basement. 1.29 acres/ waterfront lot on highest point in neighborhood. 4+ bedrooms, 2.5+ baths. 183 feet of waterfront + dock conveys! ~\$2,549,000 contact Phyllis for floor plans and elevations. www.PhyllisPatterson.com

5101 Burke Drive Alexandria, VA 22309



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The Market is Moving... Are You?



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Rosemont \$1,650,000

208 West Walnut Street, Alexandria, VA 22301

Impeccable Restoration of stately 1920s Federal, nearly \$600,000 in updates. New slate & copper roof. Chef's kitchen w/ Wolf & SubZero. Old Town, Del Ray & Metro. UphamRealEstate.com.

Chris Upham 202-359-1308



OPEN SUN 1-4

Parker Gray \$479,900

1015 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Historic 2/1/1 property in Parker Gray. Completely Renovated! With-sweet back courtyard. Why buy a condo when you can own a home? Walk to all things OT and 2 metros.



Eileen Marousek 703-507-2350



Parker Gray \$574,900

227 West Street North, Alexandria, VA 22314

Stunning "Green" Renovation! Fab Parker Gray "Green" reno 2/2.5 circa 1890 home. Bamboo up & Heated floors on main. Sunny exposures. Gourmet kitchen w/ample cabinets. Mechanicals energy efficient. Deep backyard & close to OT & 2Metros.



Eileen Marousek 703-507-2350



Belle Haven Meadows \$639,900

2500 Dawn Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

Classic Brick Colonial 3600 sq. ft. of custom luxury upgrades. This 5 BR 3.5 BA on a quiet cul-de-sac consist of gourmet kitchen, master suite w/ sitting room, study w/ built-ins, theatre room in renovated LL.

Cathy D'Antuono 703-819-3077



Cameron Station \$519,000

400 Cameron Station Blvd, #326, Alexandria, VA 22304

Sophisticated pied-a-terre offering 1,545 square feet of luxury living. LR w/bay window & a fabulous gourmet kitchen w/granite counters + SS appliances. Two-three BRs + 3 large baths. 2 garage spaces!



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Hollindale \$949,000

1615 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

Charming brick 6BR + 4 1/2 bath Williamsburg colonial featuring grand entrance hall, well-proportioned rooms, fine moldings, 3 fps, fully finished walk-out lower level plus over-sized two car garage.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Riverside Gardens \$599,900

1905 Old Stage Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

Spacious 5 BR, 3 BA split foyer with new roof. Hardwood floors. Formal living room plus Huge family room downstairs. Tons of storage. Large lot with back deck. Easy commute to GW Pkwy & only 10 min. to Old Town.

Terry Ann Stevens 757-647-4705



River Towers \$160,000

6621 Wakefield Drive, #606, Alexandria, VA 22307

Great Opportunity. Why rent when you can own this cute, bright 6th floor, 1BR in popular River Towers. Ready to be updated. Close to shopping and public transportation. **Priced to sell!**

Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



Collingwood Estates \$549,900

1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

\$30,000 Price Reduction. Owner wants offer! Very large four bedroom, three bath two level rambler in Waynewood School District. New roof, some newer windows and HVAC, upgraded insulation, hardwoods, den, deck, gazebo.

Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



Hallowing Point River Estates \$1,495,000

6029 River Drive, Mason Neck, VA 22079

Waterfront. Just Listed. Resort Style Living! Panoramic views from this delightful home w/deepwater boating, 7 acre beach, boat launch & tennis. Bordered by parkland in Fairfax County. Minis to Ft. Belvoir. www.6029RiverDr.com.

Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900



JUST LISTED

Fords Landing \$4,495

713 Fords Landing Way, Alexandria, VA 22314

For Rent. Wilkes model, 4 sunny levels with indirect views of Potomac & beautiful courtyard. Palladian windows, hardwoods, custom moldings/built-ins, vaulted ceiling, upper level BR with full bath, gas FP & garage. www.sherryyork.com



Sherry York 703-625-3377



Wilton Woods \$649,000

6066 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Spacious rambler with 5,600 sq ft of living space. Freshly painted with architectural designer colors, lower level with 3rd family room & complete in-law suite or guest quarters. 3 FR, 6 BR, 3.5 BA & garage. www.sherryyork.com.

Sherry York 703-625-3377



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There's Never Been a Better Time to Be a Student in Fairfax County Public Schools!

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) bus comes to a stop at the curb in front of the school. The engine continues to hum as the brakes let out a hiss. Standing eagerly at the curb are three smiling staff members waiting to greet the students. Students gather their backpacks and line up in the aisle. The students wait patiently as each child before them carefully navigates the steps off the bus. Their orderly line soon turns into a happy-go-lucky stride as they swing open the door to school, looking forward to seeing their classmates and teachers.



In every classroom, teachers are channeling the enthusiasm of their students and taking them on a journey that will inspire, motivate, and prepare them with knowledge and skills they will need for the future. Everyday, FCPS teachers help their students learn skills that will allow them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and

participate in the global economy. Teachers adjust their methods and techniques to meet the unique needs of individual students and challenge all students.

Look inside a classroom. An elementary school teacher leads a language arts class discussion on synonyms and antonyms. The teacher is using an interactive white board to demonstrate how the words are similar or opposite. Observe other classrooms where students work quietly in centers, or designated areas of a classroom, allowing for small group instruction and learning.

Visit a middle school and observe 8th grade students in the science lab using computers and probeware to study temperature change during chemical reactions. The geometry class down the hall is hard at work using theorems to determine if lines are parallel.

Take a seat in a high school auditorium where students are participating in a seminar about the Cold War, listening to speakers who share their stories as influential players during the war. In another classroom, students log onto their computers and access their online social studies textbooks that offer extra learning resources and interactive maps to enrich their learning.

Hear a tune coming from the band room down the hall? Open the door and your ears fill with the music of Frank Ticheli's *Vesuvius* played by the high school concert band. Beginning in grade 4, FCPS students can play an instrument and be part of the band



or orchestra, or even choose to sing in their school's chorus.

For many students, their day does not end with the learning in the classroom. Thousands of FCPS students participate in extracurricular activities which can enhance what they learn in the classroom and also provide important lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and problem solving.

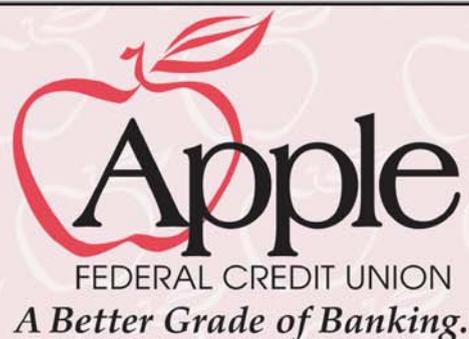
The clapping in the auditorium is coming from yet another sold-out performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Secondary and high schools throughout Fairfax County have established well-known theater programs that produce popular plays and shows.

The athletic fields and gymnasiums at FCPS schools are buzzing with activity most of days of the week as soccer, lacrosse, football, basketball, volleyball, and many more sports teams are

meeting to prepare for their next match.

Students can participate in a wide variety of activities as early as elementary school as members of the safety patrol, student government and school publications. At the middle and high school level, students can choose to get involved with the student newspaper or yearbook, join clubs, run for student government, try out for performance groups and athletics, and become a member of an honor society.

There's never been a better time to be a student in Fairfax County Public Schools!



This year's *State of Schools Report* courtesy of
Apple FCU - 2011 FCPS Business Partner of the Year

AppleFCU.org | 703-788-4800

Greetings from Superintendent Jack Dale



Fairfax County Public Schools is fortunate to have the support of an engaged community, involved parents, talented principals and teachers, and motivated students. Our school system ranks among the best in the nation and throughout this State of the Schools Report, you will see why. We are very proud of the hard work and focus of our staff and students, which have resulted in our extraordinary student achievement gains. But there's always more to do to make sure every one of our students is reaching his or her highest potential—academically and personally.

In moving FCPS forward, we have to help each student find his or her element—the meeting point between natural aptitude and personal passion. Our commitment here in FCPS is to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to achieve at the highest levels and help our students discover what possibilities for passion lie within them.

However, the reality is that while the way we educate students remains somewhat static, our world is changing exponentially. Through lots of great interventions and technology, we educate more students to higher levels of success and often at younger ages, but all within the current model of education. I believe it's time to change the paradigm.

What should our education system look like and be like to prepare our students to create the possibilities and opportunities to succeed in the 21st century? We will start to have these conversations during this school year throughout our community. I invite you to join in that conversation by visiting a special web site we have set up where you can share ideas and comments about what the future should look like for FCPS at <http://fcps.uservice.com>. Ideas will be posted on the site throughout the year. School system employees, parents, and members of the community are welcome to weigh in on these topics, vote for the ideas they prefer, and include their comments.

Thank you for your continued support of our school system, our families, and our students!

FCPS Focuses Relentlessly on Student Achievement....

FCPS has established three student achievement goals as a framework to prepare students for the world of college and beyond:

Academics - Students will integrate academic knowledge and 21st century skills, allowing them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and participate in the global economy.

Essential life skills - Each student will demonstrate the ability to work with others and develop relationships through effective communication, cooperation, negotiation, honesty, and ethical behavior.

Responsibility to the community - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and rights specific to a democratic society such as expressing ideas, act-

ing responsibly toward self and others, making informed decisions, accepting accountability and consequences for actions, and practicing honesty and treating others with respect.

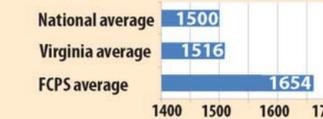
Each year, the School Board receives reports on how the school system is progressing toward reaching each of these goals.

... That Results in High Performance

- For the 2010 Standards of Learning tests, 92 percent of FCPS students passed mathematics and 93 percent of FCPS students passed reading.
- FCPS had the second highest graduation rate (91.2 percent) among the nation's 50 largest school districts.
- 91.7 percent of 2010 graduates are attending post-secondary programs.
- 65 percent of 2010 graduates earned advanced studies diplomas.

- All FCPS schools were in the top 6 percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams, according to the 2011 *Washington Post* rankings.
- A record 234 National Merit Scholars semifinalists were named from the class of 2011, the most in FCPS history.
- FCPS students earned more than 7,000 industry certifications during the 2009-10 school year, an increase of 86 percent from the previous year.

SAT Scores (Class of 2011)



THE TALENTS OF FCPS STAFF

FCPS employs 22,980 staff (92.9 percent school based and 7.1 percent non-school based).

Just as every student brings individual strengths and needs to our classrooms, our teachers and staff bring unique skills and talent to prepare students for the future. More than 9,700 (64 percent) of teachers have master's degrees and more than 360 FCPS teachers are certified by National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential a teacher can earn.

Our principals provide strong leadership and focus on creating collaborative teams that use the best teaching practices to raise the bar

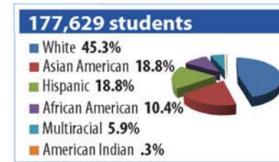
for all students and close the achievement gap. Principals also collaborate throughout the school system to share leadership strategies and success stories.

FCPS has the lowest ratio (0.8 percent) of non-school-based management positions to total school system positions in the entire metropolitan region. So while FCPS enrollment increased by 13,000 from 2007 to 2012, we hired 906 positions in the schools and decreased non-school positions by 130.

THE FACES OF FCPS STUDENTS 2011-12 Projected Enrollment: 177,629 students

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 11th largest school system in the United States with nearly 200 schools and centers.

Diversity is one of FCPS' greatest strengths and is an important part of creating resilient, caring, and innovative citizens of a global community. Our schools support more than 23,000 students who receive services for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and more than 24,000 students who receive special education services. One in four students (or 45,000) is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, the federal measure of poverty.



More Ways Why FCPS is a World-Class School System

- Closing the achievement gap between black and white students and Hispanic and white students is a priority for FCPS. Over the past three years, the black/white achievement gap on Standards of Learning (SOL) reading tests continues to decline from 13 percent to 10 percent. The Hispanic/white achievement gap on SOL reading tests increased from 10 percent to 11 percent. On SOL math tests, the achievement gap between black students and white students declined from 15 percent to 13 percent. The Hispanic achievement gap also declined from 16 percent three years ago to 11 percent.
- FCPS is one of eight school divisions in Virginia to be recognized with 2011 **Excellence Award from the Virginia Board of Education**, which recognizes divisions that exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards and meet or exceed a number of performance indicators. In addition, 98 FCPS schools were honored for Virginia Index of Performance Awards.
- Nine students from FCPS won awards at the 2011 **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**.
- FCPS received the 2011 **CIO 100 Award**, recognizing innovative use of technology, from *Chief Information Officer* magazine. FCPS was honored for creating and deploying the FCPS Electronic Curriculum Assessment Resource Tool (eCART), which provides teachers and school administrators with access to web-based curricula, assessments, tools and resources that support teaching and learning for grades K-12, and are available anytime and anywhere.
- The Broad Foundation recognized FCPS in 2010 as one of the top performing school districts in the nation for improving African-American and economically disadvantaged student achievement.



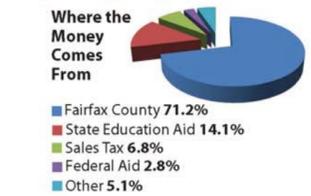
FCPS Manages Its Resources Responsibly

Two primary budgets help to fund the programs and facilities of Fairfax County Public Schools—the annual school operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program budget.

The school operating budget, which is approved by the Fairfax County School Board every year, provides for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the schools.

In FY 2011, FCPS ranks in the middle of other school districts in the Washington metropolitan area with a cost per pupil of \$12,597, a decrease of \$301, or 2.3 percent, from \$12,898. This decrease was due primarily to a lower county transfer and budget reductions. This represents the third consecutive year of declining per-pupil spending, with an overall decrease of \$810, or 6.0 percent, from FY 2008 to FY 2011.

2011-12 Fiscal Year Operating Budget -- \$2.2 billion



FY 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program -- \$805 million

Student enrollment continues to grow each year. More than 177,629 students attend FCPS, an increase of 2,333 students in one year alone. Enrollment has increased by 13,000 students since 2007. Additional space is needed to accommodate our growing student population and the accompanying normal wear and tear on buildings.

Since 2007, FCPS has built three new schools, renovated 10 schools, and completed three school building additions and eight modular additions. In 2011-12, FCPS is currently building two new schools and renovating 10 others. We will begin renovations on two schools and putting additions on nine other schools this year.

Did You Know?
65 percent of FCPS graduates complete college-level courses in high school.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE PAST YEAR



Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Update

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to the safety of all students and providing a secure learning environment at school. *The Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R)* handbook helps students understand both their right to be educated in a safe environment, and their responsibility for proper behavior. This year, the booklet has been updated to reflect recent Fairfax County School Board decisions about the discipline process. Some of the changes include:

- Principals will have increased discretion regarding consequences for possession of prescription drugs at school.
- Ensuring that before a student is reassigned from his or her base school, other disciplinary options would be considered, including loss of privileges.

- Providing, if feasible, academic support and other services to a student on out-of-school suspension to maintain academic progress.

Priority Schools Launch

As part of the school system's commitment to closing the achievement gap, 30 elementary and middle schools were designated as Priority Schools. These schools receive additional support in training, resources, and staff to ensure that all their students achieve at high levels. Support teams composed of central office staff provide new ideas and extra attention to the Priority School principals and teacher leaders so that any barriers are removed that might impede success. First-year results show significant gains in reading and math in many of the priority schools.

Online Textbooks for Social Studies

All FCPS students in grades 7-12 began using online textbooks this year in all core social studies classes. Online textbooks offer resources to differentiate and enrich student learning and can include built-in features such as read aloud, highlighting, dictionaries, glossaries, videos, and flashcards.

Full-Day Kindergarten Rollout

Beginning this fall, children entering kindergarten will attend a full-day program in every one of our 137 elementary schools. The completion of the implementation of full-day kindergarten in the remaining 36 elementary schools this year was a critical step that ensures all of our youngest students will receive the same educational opportunities.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Closing the Achievement Gap

While FCPS has made progress on closing the achievement gap, we haven't reached our goal of all students achieving at high levels. School system data show that black and Hispanic students still do not perform academically, as a group, as well as their white and Asian counterparts. A steady focus on best teaching practices, collaborative teams, and using data to drive decisions on teaching and learning strategies will result in the continued narrowing of the gap.



Larger Class Sizes

Fairfax County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. This year's budget provided for an increase of more than 2,300 additional students for the 2011-12 school year at a cost of \$28.4 million. As FCPS enrollment continues to grow, more resources will be needed to accommodate more teachers, learning materials, and classrooms.

Did You Know?
Approximately 70 percent of high schoolers participate in student activities, and nearly 40 percent participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) athletic or academic activities.

Teacher Compensation

More is demanded of teachers every year. They consistently update their professional training to improve their teaching skills, and are required to keep up with technology changes in their classrooms and new ways of collaborating together to ensure every child succeeds. In FY 2012, FCPS teachers (and all other employees) received their first salary increase in two years. FCPS believes in its teachers and wants to compensate them for the increase in demands of their jobs.

Fairfax County School Board

We Believe in Our Children

- Each child is important and entitled to the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.
- High expectations promote high achievement.

We Believe in Our Teachers

- Effective teachers are essential to student success.
- Learning occurs best when instruction is tailored to individual needs.

We Believe in Our Public Education System

- Adults and children thrive in a vibrant, safe, enriching, and respectful environment.
- A well-rounded education enables students to lead fulfilling and culturally rich lives.
- An educated citizenry is critical to sustaining our economy and our system of self-governance.

We Believe in Our Community

- A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers, staff members, and the community is critical to exceptional student achievement.
- Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community.



Jane K. Strauss
Chairman,
Dranesville District



Ilryong Moon
Vice Chairman,
Member At Large



Elizabeth T. Bradsher
Springfield District



Brad Center
Lee District



Sandra S. Evans
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Martina A. Hone
Member At Large



James L. Raney
Member At Large



Patricia S. Reed
Providence District



Kathy Smith
Sully District



Dan Storck
Mount Vernon District



Tessie Wilson
Braddock District



Parents, Citizens Invited to Education Summit on Saturday, October 15

Education is moving away from the traditional industrial model and evolving into an era of customization in which individual student goals drive the learning process. The second annual **Fairfax Education Summit** will explore student goal setting, project-based learning, and new ways of measuring student success. Superintendent Jack Dale will lead a discussion panel composed of educators, students, and business leaders.

Please join parents, school system leaders, and community members at Woodson High School on October 15 from 8 a.m. to noon for this program, "Moving to the Next Level: Customizing Public Education."

For more details, visit www.fcps.edu

Getting to Know Us

Middle School Teacher **Jamie Sawatzky**



For Rocky Run Middle School history teacher Jamie Sawatzky, every new school year is like the opening day of baseball season. The year is a fresh start, a chance to work with a new group of students and help each of them hit an academic homerun.

Sawatzky, the Fairfax County Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year, brings history lessons to life for seventh graders at his school. Not only do his students learn about historical events, they participate in role play exercises to reinforce the lesson. For example, his students are assigned a position to debate the merits and expenses of the Social Security program while studying the New Deal or they each assume the identity of an immigrant arriving at Ellis Island.

Sawatzky also serves as a coach in FCPS' Great Beginnings, a comprehensive program that provides support to new teachers through mentoring and professional learning opportunities.

"It is an extensive program designed to inspire teachers who are new to FCPS," he said. "The level of excitement in the new teachers is just great. Fairfax County recognizes that teaching is a profession and they provide the resources to help us on that journey."

Sawatzky has been teaching for 12 years. He is also the recipient of The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for educational excellence.

Strengthening Schools with Business and Community Partners

More than 350 businesses, community organizations, and individuals have partnered with Fairfax County Public Schools. Through generous donations or time, each person makes a valuable contribution to creating a world-class school system and an environment that values learning. To date, 130 schools, supporting 3,800 students, have active mentoring programs.

If you would like to partner with FCPS, here are five ways to get involved:

- Mentor a child
- Partner with a school
- Partner systemwide
- Support an existing partnership
- Help develop or advance an educational initiative

To learn more about how your business or community group can support the schools, please visit www.fcps.edu.

For more information on Fairfax County Public Schools, visit www.fcps.edu.

Be sure to look for regular updates about Fairfax County Public Schools every month right here in your Connections/Gazette newspaper!



Become a fan of the Fairfax County Public Schools on Facebook



Follow **FCPSnews** on Twitter

Did You Know

In partnership with the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools was launched this year to support the mission of the world-class school system to inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, as defined by the superintendent, through resource development and business partnerships.

Learn more at <http://www.fairfaxchamber.org>

High School Senior **E. J. Coleman III**



E.J. Coleman's week is similar to many other high school seniors. He's an active member of the Mount Vernon High School debate team, the National Honor Society, the Men of Vision and Purpose program and many other clubs. He is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at his school and he serves as a Battalion commander in the Marine Corps JROTC. He's even a licensed pilot. But the one thing that sets him apart from other seniors? He's the student representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

Coleman said he wanted to serve on the School Board because he is interested in politics.

"I saw it as a way for me to help other students in Fairfax County Public Schools in a more direct way. Before I was elected to the position I spoke at different public hearings and that was a way to help other students. This position allows me to have more of a positive impact on a larger group of my peers," he said.

Coleman has served as class president and was elected Governor at Boy's State last summer. His experience at Boy's State gave him the opportunity to meet students from around the country.

"I'm especially proud to say that Fairfax County Public Schools is one of the best school systems in the country and that it has been recognized internationally," he said. "I am also proud of the fact that some of the best students in the country would give me the honor of representing them on the school board."

Lifelong Partners Through Education Apple Federal Credit Union and FCPS

Apple FCU is pleased to sponsor FCPS' outreach efforts in the *State of the Schools* initiative. This year, Apple and the Apple FCU Education Foundation were named the FCPS Business Partner of the Year and we're honored to be associated with this premier school district.

Serving the Education Community Since 1956

No one understands educators, students and their families better than Apple FCU. Our commitment to the education community is evident through our exclusive product and service offerings and support for student achievement and academic success.

19 Student Run Credit Unions (SRCU). Apple FCU was the first credit union in Virginia to deploy an SRCU program at Robert E. Lee HS in 1995, providing students with invaluable money management skills and financial literacy acumen.

Sponsorship of the Junior Achievement Finance Park. Apple hosts a storefront to provide practical skills and financial education to approximately 14,000, eighth-grade students.

Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive supports Fairfax County families in need with school supplies and backpacks.

FREE Money Management Workshops. Monthly workshops are provided to assist FCPS employees in meeting their financial dreams.

Apple FCU Education Foundation's partnership with the Great Beginnings New Teacher Induction Program.

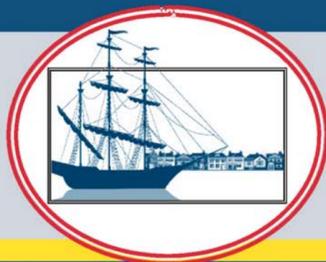
For details, visit AppleFCU.org or call 703-788-4800.





LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



ALEXANDRIA

#1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA



Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

OPEN SUN **JUST LISTED**

3805 Riverwood Rd
\$679,000

Unique Opportunity!
Large home just substantially updated priced for immediate sale! Many fab features include: 3 fin levels, 4BR, updated kitchen and baths, new HVAC system and side load two car garage. Home was just completely redecorated and is in "move-in" condition. Prime location on large corner lot. Best price in neighborhood. OPEN SUN 10/2, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood.

OPEN SUN

3703 Carriage House Ct
\$695,000

Tremendous Value!
One of Riverwood's most desirable & hard to find properties! Classic 3 level colonial on quiet cul-de-sac backing to large area of parkland. Home has many features: 3 finished levels, hardwood floors, masonry fireplaces, 4 bedrooms and oversized 2 car garage. Exceptionally private ground. OPEN SUN 10/2, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood, L-Carriage House Ct.

NEW PRICE **OPEN SUN**

1907 Rampart Dr
\$587,000

Stunning Home - Amazing Price!
Owner moved and wants to sell now! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to acquire a truly spectacular home with a \$235K family room, MBR bedroom addition. Updated gourmet kitchen with top quality cabinets and appliances. This home has everything! Now priced to make it the best value in Fort Hunt area. Must see to believe. OPEN SUN 10/2, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; R-Collingwood; L-Riverside; L-Rampart.

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 699,900

Waywood
1200 CROTON DR

Custom built split lvl that has been wonderfully expanded & renovated. Huge main level addition incl: kitchen, family room, porch & double deck. Lovely bonus rm. Hardwoods. Large fenced backyard. 5BR/3BA. 2 FP & .25+ acre.

www.WaywoodRealtors.com
Anita Vida D'Antonio & Elke Kohler
202.460.1809

JUST LISTED!
\$ 359,999

Fairfax
"MOVE RIGHT-IN"

Fantastic price in a fab location! Spacious & sunny 3 level TH offers 3BR/3.5BA, formal LR/DR, eat-in kitchen. Walk-out finished LL family rm w/frpl deck & patio. 2 prkg spaces convey. Tastefully updated, close to everything!

Homesbykatalin.com
Katalin Melamed 703.819.9787

\$ 310,000

Parkside @ Alex
"YOUR OWN FRONT DOOR"

2BR/1.5BA two-level condo with a private patio. . . SS appliances, wood floors, open floor plan. Lovely community across 395 from new BRAC at Mark Center, minutes to Pentagon, Shirlington, Old Town; community has pool, club house, walking trails. Pet Friendly. Come live right in the heart of everything Alexandria!

Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359

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!

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. Truly special home with many features: elegant trim detail, updated, "state of the art" kitchen, 5BRs & fin LL. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre grounds w/ views of river. Priced to make a TRULY GREAT VALUE!

NEW PRICE

4002 Belle Rive Terr.
\$849,900

Stately Colonial - Near River
Classic Brick Colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive neighborhood of many \$1,000,000+ properties. Truly special home with many features: elegant trim detail, updated, "state of the art" kitchen, 5BRs & fin LL. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre grounds w/ views of river. Priced to make a TRULY GREAT VALUE!

NEW PRICE!
\$ 539,000

Alexandria South
"CUSTOM DESIGN"

Brick contemporary upgraded thru-out inc: cork flrs in family rm & kitchen w/granite, high-end appls; triple pane windows, zoned gas heat, solar hot water w/gas backup + new \$5,000 boiler. Master suite & 3BRs on ML. LL has exercise & rec rms, laundry, den/ofc/ guest rm + extra storage. 2 wood-burning frpls.

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 599,000

Alex / Hollin Hills
7308 REBECCA DR

Expanded & updated 3BR/2BA mid-century home on .47 acre. Open kitchen/dining/living w/full wall of glass overlooking patio w/valley & sunset views. Ext. just painted! Updated electric, window treatments, high-end doors & landscaping.

Mike Shapiro 301.503.6171
Sean Satkus 703.887.2116

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 924,900

Alexandria
8535 GALLAHAN CT

Nature lovers paradise! Wonderful treed views from three sides of this pristine 5 year young colonial, with 5BR/4.5BA, wood floors, 2-story family room, chef's kitchen, walk-out lower level and more!

www.mikelekas.com
Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

NEW HOME

1205 Cedar Dale Ln
\$1,079,000

Pre-Construction Value!
Rare new home opportunity just off GW Parkway! Fabulous price on spacious Belle View 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 Waywood School Dist. Priced thousands below other new homes in area! Other models available.

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
\$1,719,000

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!

NEW LISTING!
\$ 279,900

River Towers
"ALL UTILITIES"

Spacious 3BR/2FBA condo w/new paint throughout, new wall-wall carpet, new kitchen w/SS appliances & granite. Amenities inc: pool, tennis, B&B courts, nature/bike trails, grocery & shopping w/in walking distance. Front dr Bus/1 mile to Metro.

The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367
& Elke 703.967.7633

\$ 584,900

Mt Vernon
"GORGEOUS SITE"

Beautiful Southwood 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

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 390,000

Alexandria South
8217 CLIFTON FARM CT

Spacious, sunny, pristine town home totally updated! 3/4BR, 3.5BA, kitchen/FR, formal LR/DR, walkout LL to landscaped patio w/ views of jogging trail & park. Com. pool, tennis, creek access for kayaking! Min to Old Town & Potomac River!

www.mariyousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

1916 Shiver Dr
\$569,500

Total Renovation-Mins from Old Town!
Better than new! Top to bottom renovation of this fabulous 5BR, 3BA home on quiet street just 4 miles to Old Town. Top quality updates include: gourmet kitchen, all baths, thermal windows, roof & more! Property also features: large sunroom, 2FP, gorgeous hardwood floors, expansive deck and fenced lot.

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 oversized 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!

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

\$ 389,000

Alexandria
"PERFECT 10"

With-in walking distance to Metro! Renovated top/bot to incl: wood flrs, new eat-in kit open to DR & walk-out for fenced yard & patio. LL rec room w/full BA & closet, possible 4th BR. Updated BAs, fresh neutral paint. New HVAC, windows, HWH & landscaping. EZ to Old Town/Belvoir

Val Klotz 703.303.9744

\$ 574,900

Old Belhaven Towne
"GARDENER'S DELIGHT"

All fresco dining on the private patio surrounded by lush plantings. A new all white kitchen with granite. Renovated master bath. 3BRs/2.5BAs. Huge rec room. Come and see the best! Priced to Sell!

Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 649,900

Alex / Mt Vernon
8506 CROWN PL

A Waywood delight! Beautiful 5 level home w/family room addition, screened in porch, 4BR / 3FBA, renovated kitchen, great lot, walk to school, pool and park.

www.WaywoodRealtors.com
Anita Vida D'Antonio & Elke Kohler
202.460.1809



#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009 & 2010!
CHRIS WHITE ~ 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com - chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314
703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 16

The National Chamber Players. 7:30 p.m. Guest violinist Benny Kim and pianist Rohan De Silva will join NSO members James Lee and Abigail Evans in a performance of Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata in A Minor, and Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 3 in C Minor. Opening reception for the gallery exhibition "From the Faculty Collection" at 6:30 p.m. Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135 or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 5

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

"A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria." 7:30 p.m. Lecture by author Wally Owen, assistant director of Fort Ward Museum and co-author of "Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington," will include 3-D and rare Civil War photographs at The Lyceum. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-746-4994.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6

Mask Making Workshop and Lecture. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. In collaboration with the Mental Health anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign's exhibit, Art Uniting People: A Celebration of Creativity and Mental Health. At the Torpedo Factory in Old Town.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

"A Most Unlikely Hero" Film. (2003). 7 p.m. The story of Captain Bruce Yamashita's courageous and inspiring battle against racism and discrimination in the United States Marine Corps. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Hollin Hall Fireplace Room, 1901 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-721-0595 or gpcourchot@yahoo.com.

Book Launch. 7 p.m. The Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C., by Michael Lee Pope. How did Alexandria end up as part of the District of Columbia? What went wrong, and why did it leave? Find out as author Michael Lee Pope reveals the "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." at the Athenaeum. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. nvfaa@nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Slave Memorial Commemoration. 11 a.m. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association joins Black Women United for Action to honor the slaves who lived at Mount Vernon with a program and wreathlaying ceremony. The event



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Cranford United Methodist's twice yearly Fried Oyster and Ham Dinner.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Estate's Harvest Day's

features dramatic readings, African drumming and uplifting music in recognition of the slaves' sacrifices and contributions to the early formation of this nation. At Historic Mount Vernon.

"From Florida to Coahuila." 4:30 p.m. Part of Movies with a Mission Series. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Big Sale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Habitat for Humanity's ReStore and the Washington Metro Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers are hosting their fourth annual Big Sale at the ReStore, 7770 Richmond Highway, (behind Gold's Gym) Alexandria (5 miles outside Beltway on Route 1 South). Designer donated items for sale include wall hangings, fabrics, trim, cabinets, blinds, shades, architectural details, countertops, tile, curtain rods, light fixtures, furniture and much more. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. Contact Joann Manzek, ASID at 703-731-4968.

OCT. 8 TO 9

Alexandria West End Art & Wine Festival. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cameron Station and Ben Brenman Park are transformed into a destination event featuring more than 90 juried artists; 25 crafters; a "Taste of the West End" teasing the taste buds with culinary delights from 15 ethnic restaurants; a wine garden featuring award-winning DelFosse Vineyards and Winery; captivating local entertainment; children's activities and sponsor booths. Admission: art festival - free; wine garden - \$5. 703-751-6455 www.WestEndArtandWineFestival.com

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Fall Festival. Admission is \$3. Some 60 juried artisans and crafters will be on hand to show and sell their works. Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3. At Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Gymnasium, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Samples of their work can be seen at www.nvhg.org.

Turtle Island Quartet with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. With Kim Allen Kluge, conductor. Featuring David Balakrishnan, violin and Mark Summer, cello, members of the Turtle Island Quartet. Tickets are \$35/adult; \$30/seniors; \$10/students; \$5/youth. Join Colleen Fay for a free preconcert chat one hour prior to each performance in the Concert Hall. Free parking. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beaugard St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Bach Vespers. 5 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron

Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766 or visit www.wpc-alex.org.

The Spin Doctors with James Maddock. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 11

Christine and David Hagan. 7:30 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus Benefit Recital. Music for one piano, four hands: Brahms, Respighi, Milhaud, Gershwin and Jonathan Kolm. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beaugard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 12

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

OCT. 12 TO 15

Fall Book Sale. Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. (Friends Preview Night: \$10 entrance fee for non-Friends); Thursday, Oct. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/OCT. 13

Lynn Hollyfield. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Spanish Wine Tasting. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Focusing on wines from the wines of Spain. Tasting will be led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar; tickets \$25/person. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

OCT. 14 TO 30

"Twelve Angry Men." Staged by the Aldersgate Church Community Theater. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Special dinner show on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. (Must be pre-purchased by Oct. 16.) Tickets online are \$14/adults; \$11/youth/senior. Or \$15/\$12 at door. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org or 703-660-2611.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

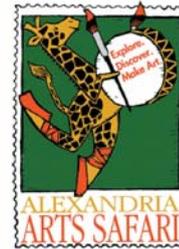
Comedian Paula Poundstone. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50. "Wait Wait Don't Tell Me" at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 800-745-3000 Visit: www.ticketmaster.com.

Genealogist Char Bah. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. The Ft. Ward & Seminary African American Descendants Society Inc. is sponsoring a presentation and

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 18

Torpedo Factory Art Center's 16th Annual Alexandria Arts Safari

Saturday • October 8, 2011 • 12-4pm



A FREE festival of hands-on arts and crafts for kids and their families.

www.torpedofactory.org/safari

82 Artist Studios • 6 Galleries • The Art League School • Archaeology Museum



OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM • THURSDAYS UNTIL 9PM
ARTISTS' HOURS VARY • 703.838.4565
105 N. UNION STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
www.torpedofactory.org



Fall Arts Jubilee

CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN ALEXANDRIA

Oct. 1: **Del Ray's Art on the Avenue**
Oct. 8-9: **West End Art & Wine Festival**
Nov. 3-6: **Alexandria Film Festival**



Brio Sculpture by Jimku Mason

Virginia Alexandria

SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE

VISITALEXANDRIAVA.COM MOBILE READY

Visit us online for a complete calendar of events and sign up for our free Access Alexandria e-newsletter. © 2011, Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association. All rights reserved.



Friends of Rising Hope invite you to support

Rising Hope Mission Church

on their 15th Anniversary
Dinner Dance Auction Gala
to celebrate

"The Miracle On Route One"

**Friday, September 30, 2011
7pm**

**at
Mount Vernon Country Club**

5111 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309

Tickets are \$100/person and may be purchased
online by visiting www.risinghopeumc.org
or by calling (703) 360-1976

Special thanks to **Mount Vernon Gazette**

Taste for Giving

TO BENEFIT ALEXANDRIA CHARITIES

Come Join Us
for
Food, Auction, and Fun!

Sample fine food & drink and bid
on unique items in the silent auction.

Friday, October 14, 2011
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 North Union Street
Alexandria, Virginia



ALEXANDRIA
ROTARY FOUNDATION

Tickets are limited
and can be purchased
for \$75 by contacting
703-535-1200 or
www.tasteforgiving.org

FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 17

discussion entitled: "Their Families were there: Families of the Fort." At Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King St., Alexandria.

Rock n Roll Flea Market and Guitar Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale. Visit www.rockfleamarket.com.

Oktoberfest 2011. Noon to 5 p.m. Rustico House will hold its fifth year of brewed bliss with 50 domestic and international craft beers on draft. Plus German-inspired foods. At Rustico, 827 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-224-5051 or visit www.rusticorestaurant.com.

Mega Bazaar and Craft Show. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 30 crafters, a huge silent auction with services and new merchandise, a bake sale, door prizes and lunch. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. At the Colecroft Community, at the intersection of Oronoco and North West Streets, in Alexandria.

Burgundy Fall Fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Includes live performances, local artisans, delicious food, a used book sale, and games and prizes for kids. At Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 16

NOVA Community Chorus Concert. 3 to 5 p.m. Dr. Mark Whitmire, director, presents Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" with Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

Big Wide Grin. 7 p.m. With Nick Peters and Steve Erickson. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beaugard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Fall Festival. 3 to 6 p.m. Pony rides, petting zoo, moon bounce, games, crafts, live music, silent auction, book sale by Hooray for Books, storytelling and refreshments. Sponsored by Fort Hunt Preschool, at 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7584 or visit www.forthuntpreschool.com.

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

Ladies Tea at Gadsby's Tavern. Sip Gadsby's Tavern Museum's special blend of tea and eat period-inspired delicacies at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St. Tea time is 3-4:30 p.m., with a tour of the museum at 4:45 p.m. Tea is \$30 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Reservations are required, call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

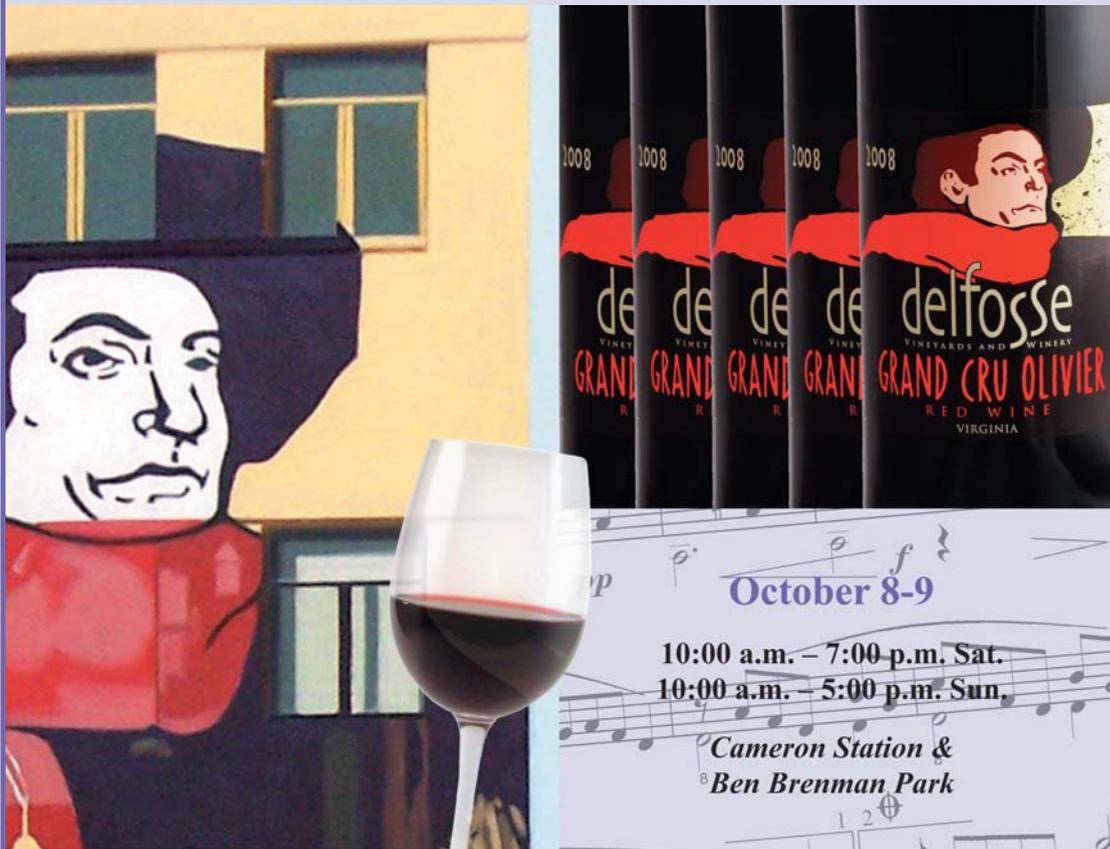
Lee-Fendall House Brunch. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$35. The Board of Directors of the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden is hosting a brunch to focus on membership. At the corner of Washington and Oronoco Streets in Old Town. Attendees can pay at the door. They can also pre-register, sign up for membership or donate on the website, www.leefendallhouse.org and click on "Online Store" for tickets or "Support the Lee-Fendall House".

Life Membership and Awards Banquet. 6:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Tickets are \$75/person; \$700/table of 10. The theme is "Affirming America's Promise." At the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/OCT. 18

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 20
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Hadeed Carpet Alexandria West End Art and Wine Festival 2011



October 8-9

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat.

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun.

Cameron Station &
Ben Brenman Park

"A Taste of the West End"

Coming This Fall, October 8-9

Park and Shuttle Bus to Ben Brenman Park

- Macy's, Landmark Mall
- Alley Cat Restaurant 2 South Whiting Street
- Dunya Banquet Restaurant 5951 Stevenson Ave.
- Van Dorn Metro



LANDMARK MALL



West End Event Productions, LLC
www.westendeventproductions.com

Visit
westendartandwinefestival.com
for more information

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

FALL FUN

NOW THROUGH OCT. 31

Alexandria Arts and Crafts Fair. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Sunday. Features some of the areas' best artists and artisans and includes jewelry, glass works, ceramics and pottery, hand woven products, and other crafts. At St. George Gallery, 105 North Alfred Street, in the heart of Old Town Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 30

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

NOW THROUGH NOV. 13

Brit Wit. Sundays 5 to 6:30 p.m. Join Maryland Public Television station's Afternoon Tea lady Heather Sanderson, who will help you explore the unique style of British comedy through hilarious short pieces that will remind you why laughter is the best medicine. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-5778 ext. 2.

SEPT. 28-OCT. 20

Nuts Plain and Fancy Fund-raising Sale. Five products to choose from for holiday gifts, hostess gifts and treats for the family. Sponsored by the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, a volunteer group that raises funds to support the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Call 703-548-7454 or jring10@comcast.net to order. Pick up or delivery the middle of November.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

Stanley Jordan Performs. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

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 Estate. Call 703-780-2000 or 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. Learn the keys to uncovering your family history. Bah will conduct free lectures on tracing family roots at the Special Collections Branch of the Alexandria Library. Sponsored by the Friends of Local History. Space is limited. At Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.

Fall Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the Montessori School of Alexandria, 6300 Florence Lane, Alexandria.

Living History with Dorothea Dix. 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy afternoon tea and learn about the women of the Civil War, as told by Dorothea Dix, head of the US Army Nurse's Corps during the Civil War. Pat

Jordan from the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia will take on Dix's character and explore her experiences during the war in a two part presentation. Admission is \$30; reservations required. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail carlyle@nvrpa.org.

Sacramento Yard Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UCM's Sacramento Neighborhood Center will hold a community yard sale at 8792-E Sacramento Dr., Alexandria. Donations of \$15 are being accepted for table reservations to display items for sale. To reserve a table, call 703-619-2964.

Civil War Defenses Bus Tour. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Friends of Fort Ward will sponsor a guided bus tour on the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The tour will be led by military historian Dale Floyd, who has specialized in military fortifications and 19th-century military history. The bus will depart from Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, at 8 a.m. and return to Fort Ward at 5 p.m. Cost is \$75 for members of the Friends of Fort Ward, and \$90 for non-members. The registration deadline



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Holiday Craft Fair at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

is Sept. 29. To register, call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Pet Blessing. 9 a.m. All creatures great and small are welcome to be individually blessed by Pastor Matthew Benton. Each pet will receive a certificate to commemorate the Blessing. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

Living History. 2 to 4 p.m. Pat Jordan from the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia will take on Dorothea 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.

Folk and Celtic Duo. 7 p.m. Al Petteway and Amy White. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., in Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Features 350 area artists and craftspeople selling original works, international food, three stages of live music, children's craft activities and entertainment, pie-eating contest and artist's demonstrations. At Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Del Ray, Alexandria. www.ArtontheAvenue.org

OCT. 1 AND 2

Art Show and Sale. Free. The Kingstowne Area Artists Association will exhibit and sell its work on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 2, from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Snyder Center, 6450 South Van Dorn Street, Kingstowne. Work in a variety of media will be displayed, including: acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, digital media, etc. Visit www.kingstowne.org or contact Sue Bezdziecki at smelltheroses05@cox.net or Ginny Sywyj at duchessducky@msn.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Issues Brunch. 10 a.m. to noon. Candidates from the 31st, 36th and 39th Districts will take questions from the audience. Hosted by the Brotherhood of Beth El Hebrew Congregation. At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Contact Jerry Lipson, 703-549-4908 or email at lojer7747@aol.com.

Blessing of the Animals. 3 p.m. Members of the parish as well as the local community can bring their pets — cats, dogs, and any pet to be blessed by the Rev. Walsh. At St.



OCT. 4 TO 9

Jamestown Settlement Ship Godspeed. Free.

The Godspeed, a re-creation of one of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607, will host public tours. The ship will be docked in Alexandria City Marina on Oct. 4-7, from 3 to 6 p.m.; Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina adjacent to Founders Park near North Union and Queen streets. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Visit www.STJamesMV.org

Rossini's Stabat Mater. 3 p.m. The event will highlight an Orchestra, with the Met Singers and four soloists. Sponsored by the Singers' Project/DCFMC. At George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., 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.

MONDAY/OCT. 3

South African Wine Dinner. 6:30 p.m. cocktails; 7 p.m. dinner. Cost is \$70 (not including taxes and gratuities). Take a journey to South Africa with UnWined Gourmet Wine and Cigars in Alexandria and Theresa Morrison, owner of Boutique Vineyards. At Bastille, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Call 703-519-3776.

OCT. 3 AND 4

Mary Chapin Carpenter. 7:30 p.m. Performs at The Birchmere in Alexandria. For tickets, www.Ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000.

TUESDAY/OCT. 4

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 17



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Fire Station's Annual Open House.



THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 10 a.m. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 28th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Girls Just Want To Have Fun." Fashions for women of all sizes will be provided by Bloomingdales. At the Fort Belvoir Officers Club in Alexandria. Contact: deborah.alea@verizon.net or 703-447-1315.

Art on the Avenue Is Oct. 1 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.

Debuting 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		B
2-2:15 p.m.	Welcome new businesses		A
2:15 p.m.	Folsom Prisoners, Country/Honky Tonk		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

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FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 21

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Sharon Hodges presents "Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears — The Story of Ellis Island." Meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://www.MVGenealogy.org/> or call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920.

FRIDAY, OCT. 21

King Street Brass Quintet. 7:30 p.m. With organist Thom Robertson. If you enjoy the heroic sound of organ and brass, you'll enjoy this evening. A free-will offering will be received to help defray expenses. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Contact www.gracealex.org or call 703-549-1980.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Frog Pond's 2nd Annual Fall Fun Festival. 10 a.m. to noon. The festival will feature entertainment, seasonal food and drink along with arts, crafts and other kid-friendly activities, including pumpkin decorating, face painting, natural henna tattoos, tire rolling. Suggested \$5. At 7205 Harrison Lane, Alexandria.

2nd Annual Holiday Mart. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Get a head-start on holiday shopping at the 2nd annual holiday mart featuring all handmade, original crafts and artwork. At Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 North Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Visit info@calvarypres.org, 703-768-8510, www.calvarypres.org.

Foster Parent Orientation. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

Fall Mulch Sale. Price per bag is \$5. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria.

OCT. 22 AND 23

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mount Vernon welcomes the autumn season with Fall Harvest Family Days! The entire family enjoys autumn activities including wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, 18th-century dancing demonstrations, a straw bale maze, farrier (blacksmithing) demonstrations, apple-roasting, corn husk dolls demonstrations and early-American games and music. Potomac River sightseeing cruises are half-price. Fall Harvest Family Days is included with admission to the estate: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children 6-11; free for children under 5. Visit MountVernon.org. At Historic Mount Vernon estate.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

Tea Around Town. 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30/adults; \$20/child. This tasting tour blends tea and



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Gerry Hyland's annual Lobsterfest.

history for a fun and flavorful fall afternoon. Tour three history museums around Market Square, sampling six different teas provided by the Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased at www.HistoricAlexandria.org or by calling 703-746-4242.

"Bravo Mozart" All-Mozart Concert. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$18/seniors; students free. Featuring Aaron Goldman and Dotian Levalier in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-758-0179 or www.virginiaorchamberorchestra.org.

Fall Open House. 1 to 3 p.m. At Bishop O'Connell High School. Tour the school, meet faculty and students, learn about financial aid, and discover extracurricular programs. At 6600 Little Falls Road in Arlington. Call 703-237-1433 or www.bishopoconnell.org.

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

MONDAY/OCT. 24

Bob Schneider Performs. 7:30 p.m. Will perform from his new album, A Perfect Day. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/OCT. 25

James Farmer on Gardening. 7 to 9 p.m. James Farmer teaches respect for the age-old rules of flower and vegetable gardening, in a fresh voice that resonates love of life and entertaining at home. Part of the Woodlawn and The Pope-Leighey House Lecture Series. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Admission is \$15/\$10. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26327.

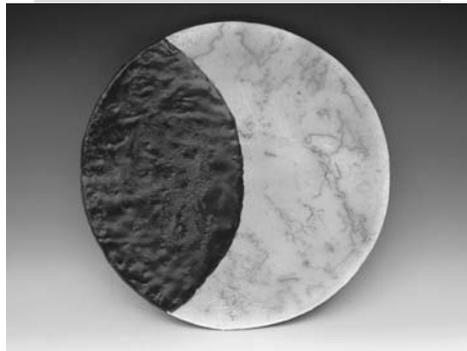
SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Fall Festival and Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to participate as a vendor (arts, crafts, or other) or a family garage sale space, contact Ron Skaggs at MVHSAfallfest@gmail.com. Spaces range from \$20 to \$50 (free space to community organizations on a first come first serve basis). At Mount Vernon High School.

Fall Festival for Children. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Enjoy games, prizes, crafts, food, and Haunted Hallway, all in a wholesome safe environment. Costumes are welcome. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org, and www.franconiaumc.org.

Death Comes to Carlyle House: Funeral Reenactment and Ghost Tours. 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15/person. Col. John Carlyle's 1780 Funeral Reenactment and Ghost Tour of Alexandria. At the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit carlylehouse.org.

Artillery Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Learn about army life for Union artillerymen stationed in the Defenses of Washington at Fort Ward Museum's living history program, "Civil War Artillery with the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery." At Fort Ward



OCT. 8 TO 31

Kimberley Bush, Ceramist. Sublime 2D forms that focus on positive and vibrant energy and combines encaustic painting with horsehair or raku decorating processes on handcut ceramic panels. Artist's reception is Saturday, Oct. 8

FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

Shades of Fall. At the Torpedo Factory Center's Scope Gallery. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Retakes and Transformations. Art from everyday life. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

"Suburbia." A collection of impressionistic oil paintings by Parisa Tirnaz. At Gallery West, 1213 King St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3

"Forgotten" and "Off Season." Works by photographers Sandy LeBrun-Evans and Eric Jonson. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Suite 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center. Call 703-683-2205.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3

Red Dots: Drawings by Shanthi Chandrasekar. At the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, Old Town Alexandria.

TUESDAY/OCT. 4

"Drawing with Debris." 6 to 8 p.m. Torpedo Factory artist Jackie Ehle will perform a live sculpture demonstration as she discusses the process and inspiration behind creating artwork from discarded materials. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.

OCT. 4 TO 30

Scope Gallery's Fall Forms. Features spooky shapes, scary function. The Scope Gallery hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. At the Scope Gallery at the Torpedo Factory art Center, 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm



OCT. 20 TO DEC. 4

Artist Carol Reed. Carol Reed's abstract works on paper feature bold shapes, usually in charcoal or ink on paper, that dance alone or with similar shapes. Artist's reception is Sunday, Oct. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. Artist's Gallery Talk on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. At the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Alexandria Arts Safari. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. Hands-on arts and crafts activities for children. Children will enjoy the Clay Experience, Arts Safari Painting, Fabric Collage, Origami Art, Giant Paper-Mache Animal, and more. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

OCT. 4 TO NOV. 7

Photographer Michael Borek. "Effective Immediately." Opening reception is Saturday, Oct. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. At the Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Suite 312, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6

Mask Making Workshop. 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Followed by lecture at 7 p.m. In connection with the Target Gallery's exhibition, Masks, the gallery and the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center are working with Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) to help raise awareness of the importance of art as therapy for mental illness and highlight the PHA's art exhibition. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

OCT. 1 TO 30

"Masks." An exhibition that explores the roles of masks and the presentation of individual identity. Out of 197 artists who entered "Masks," only 21 artists made the cut. Artist's reception is Oct. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Gallery Talk is at 7 p.m. At the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

OCT. 6 TO NOV. 7

"Input Output" by Jackie Hoysted. Comprised of paintings, ceramic sculptures, and digital photographs, Hoysted leaves the distinction of "what is the original vs. what is the copy" up to the viewer. Meet the artist reception is Thursday, Oct. 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Encaustic Demonstration is Saturday, Nov. 5 from 1 to 2 p.m. At the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

Get Sparked! Show Opening. 7 to 10 p.m. DRA and SPARK (getsparked.org) embark on an artistic journey that pushes boundaries. Experience a showcase of writing as inspiration and artistic interpretations. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

FRIDAY/OCT. 14

Get Sparked! 7 to 9 p.m. SPARK writers share aloud the inspiration pieces that prompted the current gallery show's art. Light snacks and refreshments, open to the public! Donations accepted. Details: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Exploring Watercolor and the Figure. 2 to 5 p.m. Join local artist Diana Gamera as she demonstrates painting the figure in watercolor. A short talk on different types of watercolor paint, mediums, paper and brushes will be followed by a chance for participants to experiment with these different materials as the group paints from a nude model. All supplies provided. Register in advance: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/watercolor

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Students Get Sparked. 7 to 9 p.m. Greenbriar East Elementary students showcase artwork inspired by poets and writers. Kid-friendly opening, refreshments, an art project to take home! Open to public. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Halloween Parade on Cool Spring Drive.



PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE



Mike Habib, center, said the Mount Vernon Civic Association directors voted unanimously against removing the pavilions.

The National Park Service is proposing to tear down Fort Hunt Park picnic pavilions like this one, "Pavilion C."

Proposals for Fort Hunt Park Anger Residents

FROM PAGE 1

riod of public comment extending to Oct. 6. The 149-page document can be viewed and comments made at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forhunt>.

The ranking ranger at the presentation, Assistant Superintendent Jon James, repeatedly appealed to the upset and vocal residents to submit written comments. His colleague, Thomas Sheffer, a park planner, told the crowd, "Your comments are going to form what the outcome is going to be." However, he later made the point that Fort Hunt is not a county park or a local park belonging to residents; it is a federal park.

Surveying the crowd of about 80, Jones said, "The people who use the pavilions aren't even here."

THE NATIONAL PARK Service proposal maintains that the revelation five years ago

that the park's location was used as a secret interrogation prison for German and Japanese POWs during World War II, coupled with the park's known history as a pre-colonial Indian village site, its Spanish American War batteries and CCC Camp, calls for a shift from emphasizing picnic use to historical interpretation.

The document refers to this shift as "balancing." Because "peak visitation periods exceed the park's carrying capacity," it stated, there is now "a need to balance the different types of visitor use (recreation, permitted picnicking, and interpretation) with resource protection." Hence, the plan's Alternatives B, C ("Preferred"), and D which call for the destruction of four of the park's five picnic pavilions and some of the ball fields, plus realigning roads and trails to separate cars from pedestrians and cyclists together with the building of a visitors' center and interpretive trail.

Alternative A called for no action.

There was, however, no alternative for building a visitor's center and interpretive trail while keeping the pavilions.

Displayed on easels were large photographic maps with red X's on the pavilions, marking them for destruction. The two southernmost pavilions are on land said to have once been the POW camps. The Army bulldozed the sites in 1947, leaving no reminders.

The day following the Fort Hunt meeting, Joe Gililand, president of the Potomac Valley River Bend Civic Association emailed residents. Among his remarks he wrote, "I was frustrated with the Park Service's claim that the park is 'overused' and yet they were unable to provide attendance figures or even what defines 'overused'..."

Continuing he added, "The National Park Service has forgotten about how closely we regard 'our park' and that proposing the

removal of some (and in one proposal all) of the picnic areas and pavilions is really bold, unnecessary and unwanted. Fort Hunt Park should remain there for people, not for history projects."

Also emailing fellow residents, Mike Michell of Waynewood wrote, "Seemingly the only hard answer provided as to why the change is necessary is because the Park Rangers do not want to spend their time monitoring and organizing the events surrounding the use of the five pavilions and they would rather lecture and guide an oral history of the park to a new breed of visitors."

The Park Service is expected to announce its decision in November. No further public meetings will be held.

Wrote Michell: "If allowed to proceed, which is far from certain as it is not currently funded, the (National Park Service's) preferred course of action will mark the end of Fort Hunt Park as you now know it."

Sewer Line Break Uncovers Costly Responsibility

FROM PAGE 1

that said he was responsible for picking up the tab — work that could cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

"Frankly, I was a little surprised," said Fogel, a first-time homebuyer. "At first I was angry about it. Now I just want to do everything I can to make sure this never happens to anyone else."

Fogel's case became the talk of the neighborhood, and then came to the attention of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. Now the council is considering a resolution that would ask the Board of Supervisors to make the county or state responsible for picking up the tab on work conducted on public property.

"That's a burden that may be unnecessary and unjustified," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland. "We need to look at this."

The Huntington case took many Mount Vernon homeowners by surprise. Many longtime residents closely involved in public life had no idea that county code forced private landowners to pay for repairs on public land. That's why the council's consumer affairs committee decided to take up the issue, drafting a resolution that's now circulating to various other committees. Supporters of the resolution say it fixes a problem with the county code that needs to be addressed before this happens again.

"No one else should have to go through this," said Queenie Cox, chairwoman of the committee. "This could happen to anybody, and so it's important for us to raise the issue and try to make a change."

BUT CHANGING the county code won't be easy. Even with the recently announced surplus, money is tight in Fairfax County. So making any change that would have the

county take on additional financial responsibilities could be a hard sell, especially for the fiscally conservative members of the Board of Supervisors.

Advocates for the resolution before the council say asking the county or state to be responsible for repairs to public land seems a reasonable request.

"The way the code is currently written seems absurd," said Spring Bank resident David Dale. "I can understand if we were talking about the part of the line that's under private property, but we're talking about the public right-of-way here."

County officials confirmed that homeowners are responsible for all repairs from homes all the way and including the connection to the county line. That includes

"That's a burden that may be unnecessary and unjustified."

— Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland

repairs that cover the cost of ripping up roads owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, casting homeowners into the murky territory of securing permits for repairs to public streets.

Because the county does not track these kinds of situations, statistics are not available on how often this happens or what amounts of money are generally involved.

"I would be inclined to support the resolution," said Betsy Martin, chairwoman of the council's environmental committee. "But we'll have to wait to see what the committee says."

The Environment and Recreation Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association is set to take up the resolution at its Oct. 5 meeting.

Write Way to Writing

West Potomac's center re-opens next week.

BY KATHERINE PERKINS
THE GAZETTE

Virtually any college campus across the country has a writing center — a place where students can get help with their writing from peer tutors.

The concept of a high school writing center, on the other hand, is a relatively new, but growing trend. At West Potomac High School, the concept seems to have worked: its own writing center has been in operation since 2009.

Once a week after school, a group of students gather in an empty classroom where they meet one-on-one with writing tutor classmates. The 20 spots on the sign-up sheet outside the door are almost always full.

Students of all class years and skill levels bring in essay drafts or outlines, ready to polish grammar or refine thesis statements. Some are sent by their teachers or come for extra credit. Others come on their own, often week after week, lured by the opportunity to improve their writing skills.

West Potomac's writing center got its start two years ago when English instructors Kelcy Pierre and Kim Thompson attended training at Edison High School. Two teachers there had just started up a writing center, recounts Pierre. Inspired, she and Thompson wrote up a proposal to launch a similar program at West Potomac.

Once the plan had been approved, they recruited a staff of student tutors through teacher recommendations and an application process. Other English instructors helped with the project: Bernard Cabral, who also teaches classes at George Mason University, connected the new program with GMU's writing center. Two students were sent to shadow the operations at the college center.

"They were actually able to watch the college tutors and go through their training," said Pierre. They then shared the techniques they had learned with their peers: how reading a paper aloud can reveal mistakes or awkward phrasing, and how the right attitude can encourage discouraged or reluctant writers. "The center is not about ripping the paper apart, but about ideas and support," said Kamy Bodaghi, one of the West Potomac center's supervisors.

Several English teachers now share supervisory duties, but they don't interfere with tutoring sessions. "Teachers facilitate the center, but the kids are in charge," said fellow supervisor Jackie Fleming.

Pierre admits she was impressed by how much her students' essays had improved after a visit to the writing center. Tutors, meanwhile, seem to enjoy their work. "It's fun to see the kids excited to do it," said Bodaghi. "They have lots of other things they could be doing."

But there are advantages for the tutors, despite schedules loaded with AP classes and after-school activities. Although they're not paid, they are able to count their tutoring towards community service hours, and they have an extra-curricular to add to college applications.

There are other, less tangible benefits as well: Leigh Orleans, a junior, says that tutoring has helped improve her own writing skills. Several tutors emphasized the sense of satisfaction they get out of helping others. "I like feeling that I've helped make these people better writers," said Nell McKeown, also a junior.

The writing center will reopen for the school year on Oct. 3. Meanwhile, Fleming and Bodaghi hope to expand the scope of the writing center beyond the English hallways. Although students may



West Potomac Writing Tutors Maddy Bolger (left) and Alex Paros, both juniors, simulate a tutoring session during a training workshop.

bring any class writing assignment to a tutoring session, last year was the first year that teacher recommendations for tutors were solicited from other departments in the school.

The plan is to encourage those other departments to get involved in running the center as well. "Good writing is as important to a lab report as it is to an English essay," said Fleming.



Raising Funds for UCM

Joni Koons hosted a Silpada jewelry and Good as Gold benefit party on Aug. 26 to raise funds for United Community Ministries. Jean Poole donated 25 percent of the proceeds from her Silpada jewelry sales and Good as Gold Parties donated 10 percent of its sales. Altogether the event raised nearly \$2,000 to support the charity. Above, Christine Fiske, volunteer and community outreach coordinator at UCM, Poole and Koons celebrate the fundraising event.

The Shirleys Celebrate 30th Anniversary

Zorine and Craig Shirley are celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Married in Tucson, Ariz., they now divide their time between their homes in Alexandria and "Trickle Down Point" on the Rappahannock River in Lancaster, Va. They are the parents of four children, Matthew, Andrew, Taylor and their youngest, Mitchell, who is a student at Christ Church School in Urbanna, Va.

Craig Shirley is an author, historian and lecturer. He has written two authoritative books on Ronald Reagan and just completed his newest book, "December, 1941; 31 Days that Changed America and Saved the World." He is also the Reagan Scholar at Eureka College, the Gipper's alma mater.

When not editing her husband's books and speeches, Zorine Shirley is an accomplished sailor and gourmet cook.



Zorine and Craig Shirley

NEWS

Local Elks Club Serves Its Community

Club organizes annual camp among other activities.

By ORRIN KONHEIM
THE GAZETTE

When Washington Mill Elementary School parent Brad Myers received a notice three years ago from his son's elementary school that an organization would send the first 10 children who applied to summer camp for free, he was skeptical but couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"Like anything else, I researched it. Once it passed my tests, [I decided to enroll]," said Myers. "It's really been wonderful since."

Myers son Bobby, now 12, has now attended the Virginia Elks Association Youth Camp for three summers. This past summer, he was joined by 17 other campers from Hollin Meadows and Washington Mill Elementary Schools to go to overnight camp in Bath County, Virginia for a week. Their entire stay was sponsored by the local chapter of the Elks.

The Elks have been sponsoring summer camp experiences for the youth of Alexandria since 1949. Over the last decade Bob Higham and his wife Haddie have been organizing the program for the Elks.

"It's a lot of hard work," Haddie Higham said. "We have to organize the mailings, process the forms, check everything."

The Highams manage every aspect of the program including providing the kids with free transportation.

"They said don't bring a cell phone [and] don't bring any money and we'll take care of everything," said Myers.

The Highams advertise to local schools and ask candidates to apply for the program. Bob Higham has a yearly membership-based quota over how many campers he can send, but he said, "We've never had to turn anybody down yet."

The camp is coed and for ages 8 to 13 and youngsters are allowed to attend for more than one year.

"We really had a great group of kids this past year," said Haddie Higham. "Some of them are homesick but we talk to them about that and talk it through."

Bob Higham originally joined the Elks in 1992 when a hunting friend of his invited him to have a beer at the Lodge. Higham believes the Elks are just ordinary people who follow a natural instinct to help people. In Higham's case, the call to service was quite literal and immediate.

"I didn't know the guy from



The Virginia Elks Association Youth Camp operates an annual overnight camp in Bath County.

Adam, but he said 'I need help,'" said Higham about his encounter with a stranger on his first visit to the Elk Lodge. "And that's how most people come to do it, they're sitting there and someone says 'I need some help.'"

Jim Estep, a former Exalted Ruler — or chapter president — explains that the summer camp program is a small fraction of the community service undertaken by the Elks. Estep believes that there is no other fraternal organization that can match the Elks in terms of dedication to the community.

"If there's a need in our community we fill it," said Estep.

Other community service projects undertaken by the Elks include planting four garden beds and teaching children how to garden, running a soup kitchen every



The Elk lodge.

weekday at lunch for the homeless, and collecting clothes to give to hospitalized soldiers in Europe.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks was founded in 1868 and has chapters all over the

country. Chapter 758, which serves Alexandria and Mount Vernon, was founded in 1902. The Lodge is located at 7120 Richmond Highway and members can be reached at 703-660-8734.

OBITUARY

Jill Elizabeth Woods Willis

Jill Elizabeth Woods Willis, a resident of Alexandria, died Sept. 18, 2011 in the arms of Jesus at the age of 85. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria.

Jill was born in Atmore, Ala. and was the daughter of the late George Woods, Jr. and Ollie May Payne Woods. Jill met and married her husband, Jack Willis, in Pensacola, Fla. while Jack was serving as a USNR Naval Aviator during World War II. When the war ended, they moved to Washington, D.C. Within a few years they moved to the old port section of Alexandria where they raised their large family. Jill loved her family as well as her life as a homemaker and caretaker. Jill had a love for gardening and her Duke Street home was featured in the 1968 Annual Garden Show Tour. She will be missed by all of her dear family and friends.

She is survived by four sisters, Anne Dunne, Louise Jernigan, Freddie Pezent, Hazel Mason and numerous nieces and nephews; her sister-in-law, Betty Mae Willis Hoffmaster; her daughter, Sherie Willis Lewis; her three sons, Timothy Barker Willis and wife Joanne; Glenn Davies Willis and wife Lucy; Gilbert Alonzo Willis and wife Mary. Also, she is survived by her niece, Ann Hoffmaster Meekins, and her nephew, Paul R. Hoffmaster; her grandchildren, Amy Lewis Gambill, Brie Willis Floyd, Tanya Willis Anderson, Will W. Willis, Gus Willis, and Thurston Willis; and, her great-grandchildren, Cedric and Owen Gambill, Zachary and Benjamin Anderson. She is preceded in death by the husband of her children, Jack B. Willis, and her son, Jeffery Ashby Willis.

Arrangements by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 Braddock Road, Alexandria. For online condolences contact www.everlyfuneralhomes.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Forum Hosts School Candidates

Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus Elementary School Parent Teacher Association and the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce will host a forum on Oct. 5, at 7:15 p.m. to hear the views of candidates running for Fairfax County Public School Board. The forum, open to the general public, will feature At Large and Mount Vernon District candidate remarks, as well as a moderated question and answer period.

To date, the following candidates have agreed to participate:

❖ Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District Candidate

❖ Michele Pilc Nellenbach, Mount Vernon District Candidate

❖ Sheree A. Brown-Kaplan, At Large Candidate

❖ Lin-Dai Y. Kendall, At Large Candidate

❖ Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, At Large Candidate

❖ Ryan L. McElveen, At Large Candidate

❖ Theodore J. Velkoff, At Large Candidate.

The forum will be held at Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus School, 2310 Nordok Place.

Time To Help Fill UCM's Pantry

United Community Ministries will be open Sunday, Oct. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accept community food donations for its pantry. Donations can be brought to 7511 Fordson Road. Canned meat and fish are greatly needed, as well as canned soups, fruits, vegetables and other non-perishable

items.

UCM's food pantry depends on community donations to be able to provide food to hungry individuals and families. In its last fiscal year, UCM distributed nearly 600,000 lbs of food to thousands of men, women and children in need.



Mount Vernon running back Sadiq Oyedele rushed for 100 yards and four touchdowns in the first half of the Majors' 28-6 win against Washington-Lee on Sept. 24.



Mount Vernon's Sivaatasi Mathias attempts to make a tackle against Washington-Lee on Sept. 24.

Oyedele's 4 Touchdowns Propel Majors to Victory

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon opens district play with win against W-L.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon running back Sadiq Oyedele slipped and fell to the ground during a carry on the team's opening drive against Washington-Lee on Sept. 24. Members of the Majors' coaching staff felt Oyedele was being hesitant and voiced their displeasure with the senior's running style, urging him to attack in a decisive manner.

"There's no one on that team," assistant coach Jamie Langley shouted at Oyedele, "that can catch you!"

At the end of the first half, Oyedele's 100 yards and four touchdowns suggested Langley might have been right.

Mount Vernon opened National District competition with a 28-6 victory against visiting W-L on a Saturday afternoon at Landes Stadium. The Majors' run-heavy offense usually involves the running back trio of Dennis Mensah, Bashan Williams and Oyedele. Against W-L, Williams was out with a shoulder injury and Mensah sat out the first half for disciplinary reasons, leaving Oyedele as the featured back. He finished with 126 yards and four touchdowns in 21 carries, most of which came in the first half. He fumbled twice, however, and at times lacked aggression.

"At first I hesitated and tried to make multiple cuts," Oyedele said. "As soon as I see the hole I [should] make one cut and go."

Oyedele scored on a 13-yard run during Mount Vernon's opening drive and gave the Majors a 14-6 lead with a 1-yard scoring run with 9:29 remaining in the second quar-



Hamza Baidoo and the Mount Vernon football team improved to 2-2, including 1-0 in the National District with a win against Washington-Lee.

ter. He gave the Majors a commanding advantage with touchdown runs on back-to-back plays from scrimmage late in the first half.

After the Mount Vernon defense forced W-L to punt with less than 2 minutes remaining in the first half, the Majors took over on the Generals 42-yard line and Oyedele scored on the next play. W-L fumbled away the ensuing kickoff and Oyedele needed one play to score from the

6, giving the Majors a 28-6 lead.

"He clearly has the talent," Mount Vernon head coach Barry Wells said. "He demonstrated that at Marshall, he demonstrated it in spots today. The thing that I think is going to be better is when we have the three-headed monster and he has to bide for some time."

Mensah rushed 14 times for 52 yards in the second half. As a team, Mount Vernon totaled 206 yards on the ground.

"It's a boost of confidence," right guard Stanley Gorman said.

Mount Vernon's success with the ground game was due in part to the performance of the offensive line, led by first-year position coach Blair Maginnis. Oheneba Tutu is the starter at right tackle, Gorman is the right guard, Jeremy Larkey is the center, Xavier Craig is the left guard and Michael Butts is the starter at left tackle.

"I thought," Wells said, "they were physical at the point of attack."

"I thought they were physical at the point of attack."

— Mount Vernon head coach Barry Wells about the Majors' line.

The victory improved Mount Vernon's record to 2-2, including 1-0 in the district. The Majors will travel to face winless Falls Church on Friday, Sept. 30. Last season, Mount Vernon finished second in the National District and had a chance to win the title before losing a late-season matchup with eventual champion Yorktown. Wells said the Majors have their sights set on again competing for the district crown.

"We're taking steps in the right direction," Wells said. "Today, I hate to tell the kids that a game is a must-win, but this was a must-win. ... As far as I'm concerned, every game here on out is a must-win. We want to make a run for the district championship, much like last year when we faced off with Yorktown."

SPORTS

Snapshot



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

2 p.m., Sept. 24: Mount Vernon High School graduate Gary Scutt '78 leads the Madrigals in the singing of the National Anthem before the varsity football game against Washington-Lee on Saturday afternoon.

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Football Falls to Lake Braddock

The West Potomac football team lost to Lake Braddock, 28-21, on Sept. 23, dropping the Wolverines' record to 2-2, including 1-1 in the Patriot District. West Potomac will host Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30.

West Potomac XC Strong at Quad Meet

The West Potomac boys cross country team won a quad meet against Lee, West Springfield and South County on Sept. 20, and the Wolverine girls finished second.

The boys finished with 27 points, 16 better than second-place Lee (43). West Springfield (74) finished third and South County (87) was fourth. Junior Kyle Sword was the top West Potomac finisher, placing second with a time of 19 minutes, 2 seconds. James Bigler (19:16) finished third, John Dearborn (19:53) placed fifth and freshmen Eric Turner (20:06) and James McNulla (20:28) finished sixth and 10th, respectively.

The West Potomac girls scored 34 points, five behind meet winner West Springfield (29). Freshmen Nikkie Amico (24:18) was the Wolverines' top finisher, placing second.

isher, placing second.

West Potomac will compete in the Glory Days Grill Invitational on Oct. 1 at Bull Run Regional Park.

MV Volleyball Splits Tourney Matches

The Mount Vernon volleyball team split four best-of-three matches at the Hayfield Hawks Invitational on Sept. 24, beating West Potomac (2-0) and Edison (2-0) and losing to Forest Park (2-0) and South Lakes (2-0).

The Majors lost to Westfield, 3-0, on Monday, dropping their record to 2-5. Mount Vernon will begin National District competition with a road match against Wakefield at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 3.

MV Field Hockey Defeats West Potomac

The Mount Vernon field hockey team won its rivalry matchup against West Potomac, 2-1, on Sept. 21. The Majors will host Falls Church at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 3. The Wolverines will host Annandale at the same time.

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PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Event organizer **Diana York** with **Sue and Chase Brindisi**.

Partnership Yields Results

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

This year's South Fairfax Chamber Challenge 10K was much more than a run.

The third annual 10K event, promoted by South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, to benefit the Academic and Athletic Programs at South County Secondary School was held on Sunday, Sept. 18, at South County Secondary School in Lorton. Vulcan Materials Company was the major sponsor.

Participants received chair massages from Fairfax Station Chiropractic; had their hearing and sight screened by the Lion's Club Sight & Hearing Van and their blood pressure and blood sugar glucose tested by Doctor's Express Mount Vernon.

Other vendors included Fairfax County Health Department, Irma Clifton with the Workhouse Museum, Gold's Gym, LA Fitness, Silpada Jewelry, Gunston Physical Therapy, Red Cross Blood Mobile, Spinal Reflects Effects & Lorton Therapeutic Massage.

The latter provided massages for the racers after the run. According to organizer Diana York, "Charlie & Son Trash & Recycling Service, Inc. was a huge contributor, delivering trash containers for the duration of our event and then taking away all of the trash from our event so that we didn't have to hire FCPS custodians."

This is the second year that York has organized the event even though her children have graduated from South County. She estimates that this year's event will net \$11,000; proceeds benefit the Academic and Athletic Programs at South County Secondary School and The South County Secondary School Athletic Boosters Club (SCSABC) and Parent, Teacher, Student Organization (PTSO).

"It was very, very successful," said York.

Tim Rizer and Peter Weyland, chair and vice-chair of the South Fairfax County Chamber, said, "We were looking to help the school and the community. The Chamber likes to get involved — there is good synergy here."

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