

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 27, 2011

The Science of Spooky

Brian and Jeff Park engineer Halloween show in their Mount Vernon yards.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE GAZETTE

Brothers Brian and Jeff Park have never stopped wanting to learn about science or share their love of the field. They work for the U.S. Army as engineers but every year, they take a month off to put on a Halloween show in the front yards of their Mount Vernon homes.

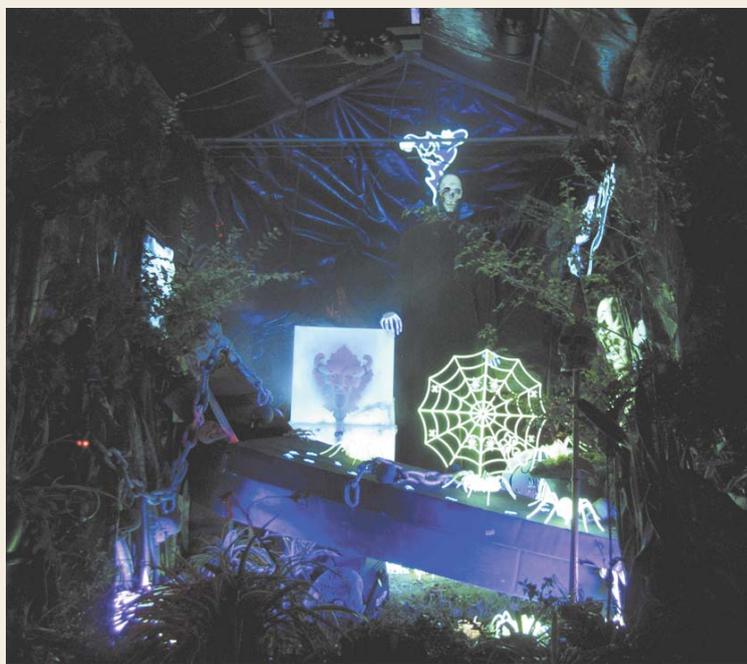
"The reason they do this is partly because it's fun and they enjoy it," said Eric Hittinger, an engineering Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon who has been working on the show for six years. "And personally for them, it's a testbed for new engineering ideas. A lot of times if they hear an idea for something [and] they'll use it as a way to practice. It's a way to polish their skills and do a bit of outreach. Get kids interested in optics, robotics."

Brian and Jeff Park were born in Pittsburgh, Pa. The brothers, who are three years apart, were "always close, from day 1," said Brian Park. And they always had an interest in science and mischief. They described how they had engineered ways to trick their parents and babysitters.

"When we were growing up we had a lot of encouragement from our neighbors in the form of tools and test equipment," said Jeff Park.

He said Halloween in Pittsburgh was a "big deal."

"We always used Halloween when we were kids to display our engineering talents," said Jeff Park. "We would design things like a space helmet with



The "UV graveyard"

all kinds of cool lights."

Both brothers attended the University of Akron in Ohio and majored in electrical engineering. In Jeff Park's senior year, he decided to "do something audacious" by building a 10 million watt laser rifle. What resulted, in his dorm room, was an extremely dangerous and misunderstood process of ball lightning.

Except in the dorms at college, Brian and Jeff Park have lived together all their lives. They moved in to their house in Mount Vernon in 1975. They work together as engineers for the Army at the Pentagon.

"Most siblings fight," said Jeff Park. "They can't get along. Everyone is always amazed at how well we get along. We come up with a lot of interesting ideas."

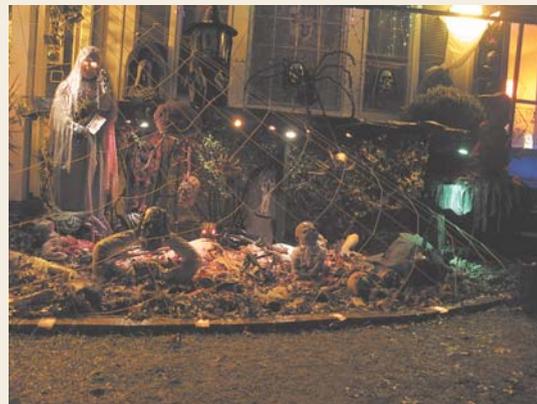
They started doing their now famous Halloween show in 1975. In 1991, they bought the house next door for storage and yard space for the show.

It takes them over a month to set up. The Parks

SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 6



The control room



Beware the undead.

Restore Honors

Both candidates support issue; Nellenbach criticizes Storck's effort.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

The partially phased-out Honors curricula happened incrementally on a case-by-case and school-by-school basis over the last several years, according to teachers, parents, and Daniel Storck, two-term Mount Vernon School Board member seeking re-election.

The last phase out, at West Potomac High School, is where the impact was felt immediately and dramatically, as the diversity of the student body triggered parent concerns that this phase out was not in the best interests of the student body. Storck and parent advocates acknowledged that no School Board formal vote on the phase out plan took place, although Storck says that the School Board did discuss the matter at a work session.

Because of the partial phase out and how it was accomplished, and the fundamental change from a

three-tier to a two-tier curriculum, this issue is now a frequently mentioned subject in the current School Board election. Once West Potomac parents realized the impact on students, a Restore Honors Curricula parent advocacy group was created. Since West Potomac was also not a designated International Baccalaureate school, students at West Potomac (and other high schools in similar circumstances in the county) had to choose between AP courses or a General Education course due to the phase out of selected Honors courses. Inquiries by parents about the genesis and rationale resulted in a confusing array of answers that frustrated parents. Candidates for election to the School Board, and county-wide and Mount Vernon area community groups have since passed resolutions endorsing the restoration of Honors curricula. This included endorsements by Restore Honors Curricula, FAIRGRADE, WT

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 5

What Is Honors Curricula?

Before the partial/selective phase out of the Honors Curricula of core subjects by the superintendent, it was the so-called middle tier of the public school system range of curriculum offerings. Here is a snapshot of what the school system offerings were prior to the partial phase out of the Honors Curricula:

* Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses. Typically, only a small percentage of all students have the skill-set to succeed in these courses. There are approximately 18 high schools offering an array of AP courses in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

* Honors Courses (since partially phased out; although the county school system offered two new online courses; announced during Labor Day weekend prior to the opening of school). These courses were offered as college preparatory courses taught at an enriched academic level and recognized by colleges as rigorous courses. A large

percentage of college-bound students regularly enrolled in these courses.

* General Education Curricula. These grade level standard courses are offered in all the core curricula. They are required of all students who were not enrolled in the AP or Honors courses, and are based on the benchmarks of Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL).

Under the current school system operating guidelines where Honors courses are not offered, such as in the case of West Potomac, a student must choose between AP or General Education courses. The crux of the currently unresolved argument and concern of a number of parents in the Mount Vernon area and across the county is the partial phase out of Honors places a student in the situation of having to select between AP or General Education; neither of which satisfies a number of students according to parents and parent advocacy groups.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,449,000



An Old Town Gem

This grand historic residence was the home of Colonel Francis Peyton, Alexandria's 18th and 20th mayor. A meticulously maintained estate which includes four bedrooms, two and a half baths, two fireplaces and a gourmet kitchen. Situated on a double lot with a large beautifully landscaped garden, it is a short walk to Whole Foods, the Metro, and shopping on King Street. This Old Town gem is sophisticated and elegant for entertaining yet comfortable and functional for everyday modern living!

Lauren Bishop
202.361.5079

www.laurenbishophomes.com

MLS ID# AX7712219



ALEXANDRIA \$929,000



Gracious and Inviting

Beautiful home with four bedrooms and three full baths. Inviting foyer and sitting room, gracious living room with fireplace leads to kitchen with granite, stainless appliances and open breakfast counter. French doors to family room/dining room addition with soaring ceilings, oversized windows, second fireplace. Spacious lower level family room with in-law suite. Slate patio.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566

www.jenwalker.com

MLS ID# AX7712431



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,299,000



South Lee in the Southeast Quadrant

Elegant interiors with soaring ceilings and intricate trim enhance this 1840s gem. Double parlor, large dining room opening to terrace, spacious eat-in kitchen and butler's pantry complete the main level. Upstairs are four generous bedrooms and two full baths. A basement and four fireplaces complete this vintage charmer. Deep garden and two off-street parking spaces.

Jeffery McGlothlin
703.798.0137

311SOUTHLEE@alexandria-homes.com

MLS ID# AX77122851

ALEXANDRIA \$839,000



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703.868.5676

www.lizluke.com

MLS ID# FX7695896



ALEXANDRIA \$439,000



Stylish Home Sited on Almost Half an Acre

With expansive room sizes and an open floor plan, this home has four bedrooms, two baths, and features a large upgraded kitchen with granite counter tops and new stainless appliances, beautiful wood floors throughout main floor. Family room/living room with stone fireplace opening to the large backyard. Covered parking and driveway for ample parking.

Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961
Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930

www.colleencoopersmith.com

MLS ID# FX7689990



ALEXANDRIA \$199,900



Walk to Metro - Buyer's Closing Costs PAID

Enjoy the tree-top sunset view from this 6th floor condo just five blocks from Huntington Metro. Brand new kitchen with maple cabinets and stainless appliances. This spacious 1,170-SF two-bedroom features hardwood floors in the living and dining rooms, two full baths, a balcony, pool, and tennis. Price includes 3% of the buyer's closing costs to be paid at closing.

Charlene Schaper
703.217.3666

www.cschaper.com

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The Price Of Influence

People who have business before the Board of Supervisors contribute to incumbents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Why do people give money to candidates for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors?

“People give money in politics to get what they want,” said Stephen Farnsworth, communications professor at George Mason University. “If they weren’t getting what they want they wouldn’t keep giving money.”

From developers to commercial real estate owners and property management companies, the roster of people who have given money to incumbent members of the Board of Supervisors reads like a Planning Commission docket. It’s all legal in Virginia, which has no restrictions on who can give or how much money they can contribute — as long as it’s disclosed. But following the money isn’t always easy.

“I think what voters are really interested in is transparency,” said Lincolnia Park Civic Association President Loretta Prencipe. “We really want to understand who is donating. And when campaign contributions are made under entities that aren’t transparent. It raises questions for us.”

Take an entity known as Tysons West Assemblage LLC. The limited liability company is a group of commercial real-estate developers who own land near the new Tysons West Metro station. Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth said that she did not accept campaign contributions when the plan for Tysons Corner was being crafted. But now that the only pending business before the Board of Supervisors is a series of rezoning decisions, all bets are off.

“What is going on at Tysons,” explained Smyth, “is that there are small land owners who consolidate and set up a partnership.”

CAMPAIGN FINANCE RECORDS show the limited liability company has given \$5,000 to Supervisor Smyth and \$30,000 to Chairwoman Sharon Bulova. Smyth accepted the money, but says her vote is not for sale.

“They do not get any special favors from me,” said Smyth. “Let me put it that way.”

Some argue that money does buy influence, or at least access. Sue Tolchin is author of *Pinstripe Patronage: Political Favoritism from the Clubhouse to the White House and Beyond*. She says it’s unethical for members of the Board of Supervisors to take



Sharon Bulova
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
● total money raised: \$1,016,755
● construction and real estate: \$220,426



Pat Herrity
Springfield District
● total money raised: \$198,887
● construction and real estate: \$54,900



Jeff McKay
Lee District
● total money raised: \$122,018
● construction and real estate: \$49,517



John Cook
Braddock District
● total money raised: \$216,681
● construction and real estate: \$46,300



Penny Gross
Mason District
● total money raised: \$152,558
● construction and real estate: \$42,885



Gerry Hyland
Mount Vernon District
● total money raised: \$219,561
● construction and real estate: \$40,743



Michael Frey
Sully District
● total money raised: \$147,237
● construction and real estate: \$35,473



John Foust
Dranesville District
● total money raised: \$222,106
● construction and real estate: \$34,784



Linda Smyth
Providence District
● total money raised: \$139,765
● construction and real estate: \$14,250



Catherine Hudgins
Hunter Mill
● total money raised: \$59,341
● construction and real estate: \$3,625

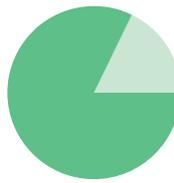
2008 to 2011 campaign finance information from the Virginia Public Access Project

money from people who have pending or future business in the county.

“On the face of it, it’s unethical,” said Tolchin. “They are paying in effect to get a certain decision.”

Supervisors disagree, saying that people contribute to campaigns because they agree with their values. Take developer Theodore Georgelas, who frequently has business before the county. In the last

SEE CAMPAIGN FINANCING, PAGE 21



Fall Harvest Family Days

The line was long at the fire and down the lane on the colonial farm as visitors roasted apples over open flames for a taste of the sweet harvest at George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate last weekend.

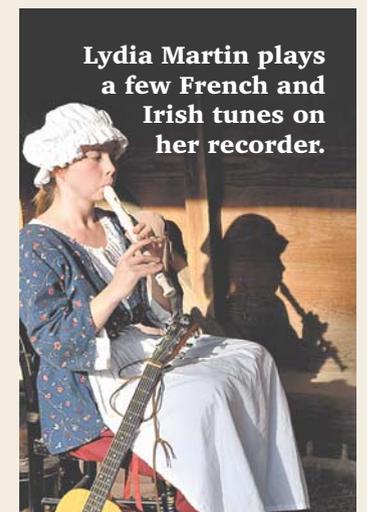
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE



Mount Vernon volunteer Gretchen Bondurant spears an apple quarter to the end of a stick for roasting.



The Cooper Marshall Scheetz sets the base of a barrel with the help of Justin Filipowski.



Lydia Martin plays a few French and Irish tunes on her recorder.



Young visitors race through the haystacked maze beneath the barn in the Colonial Farm.



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7412 Admiral Drive

- Wonderfully located in heart of Villamay
- Impressive Colonial on elevated, treed lot
- Formal Living and Dining Rooms
- Main Level Den/Bedroom and Full Bath
- Island Kitchen w/Granite Counters looks to Cozy Breakfast Room/Family Room w/fireplace
- Luxury Master Suite w/Spacious Upscale Bath features jetted Tub and separate Shower
- Large, In-ground Pool at rear elevation

Dir.: Alex S on G.W. Pkwy. R on Morningside, R on Park Terrace, L on Belle Vista, R on Admiral to 7412 on the left.
Offered at.....\$875,000



1303 Tulane Drive

- Close-in Westgrove
- Just South of Old Town Alexandria
- Two Blocks to G.W. Parkway and Potomac River
- Good Curb Appeal - On Cul-de-Sac - Heavily Treed • Large Rambler with Fully Finished Basement-Garage
- Large Formal Rooms • Paneled Sunroom w/Corner Fireplace
- Five Generous Bedrooms • Three Full Baths
- Two Masonry Fireplaces • Hardwoods Main Level
- Major Modifications for Handicap Use include Remodeled Master Bath w/Roll-in Shower

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town, R on Tulane to 1303 on left at top of hill.
Offered at.....\$699,000



1211 Tatum Drive

- Turnkey Condition - Refinished Hardwood, New Carpet & New Paint
- California Contemporary Home
- Sits on 1.63 Acres and tucked into the side of a hill
- Transoms, Skylights, & Timbers
- Wonderful Soaring Ceilings
- Designer Granite Kitchen
- 3 Remodeled Baths
- Custom Hot Tub Room off Smashing MBR Suite...MUCH MORE!

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town, R Tulane, L Park Terr., R Tatum to 1211 at end of cul-de-sac.
Offered at.....\$1,149,000



7301 Park Terrace

- Potomac Views year round
- Total Remake of Villamay Beauty - No Expense Spared - Turnkey Property
- Whole House wired for sound, security, and lighting - SONOS System
- Master Bedroom with Bath includes 2 walk-in closets, jetted tub, and 3-Head walk-in shower
- 3 Fireplaces • New A/C
- Smashing Remodeled Kitchen
- 17-foot Balcony
- StoreWall Garage System.

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town, R Tulane, L Park Terrace to 7301 on left.
Offered at.....\$1,125,000



1222 Woodcliff Court

- New Architectural Roof in 2011
- Unique Hilltop Cul-De-Sac Setting on Almost 3/4 Acre of Privacy
- Total Renovation in 2009-2010
- Kitchen w/Granite Counters & Stainless Appliances
- Smashing Lower Level with new granite bath, exercise/hobby room, 2 Rec areas & 13' walk-in closet
- Refinished hardwoods, freshly painted interior, Garage, Fishponds & More!

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town. R on Morning side. L on Admiral. R on Woodcliff Court to end of cul-de-sac.
Offered at.....\$659,000



7111 Burtonwood Drive

- Custom Home in popular Marlan Heights
- Corner Lot with Wonderful Curb Appeal
- Well for Exterior Irrigation & Gardening
- Two-Car Garage w/Storage Above
- Unique Master Bedroom/Bath Configuration • Hardwoods throughout Main Level • 2 Fireplaces • Sunroom/Deck at Rear look to River in Winter
- Major Improvements: New Windows/New Roof • Fully Finished Walkout Lower Level

Dir.: Alex. S on G.W. Pkwy, R on Tulane L on Park Terrace, R on Westgrove, L on Marine, L on Warrington, R on Burtonwood to 7111 on left.
Offered at.....\$800,000



1200 Gatewood Drive

- Custom, Modified Split-Level on Large Corner Lot • Conveniently Located Main Level Two-Car Garage affords one-level living
- Roofline Transoms Lend Contemporary Flair
- Use of Rare Pecky Cypress Accent Hardwoods
- Updated Corian Kitchen w/Generous Breakfast Space • New Master Suite w/Sitting Area & Walk-in Closet
- Luxury Master Bath w/Jetted Tub & Separate Shower • Fabulous Entertainment/Recreation Area on Lower Walkout Level

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town. R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace, R on Villamay Blvd., L on Admiral to corner of Admiral and Gatewood.
Offered at.....\$900,000



7413 Burtonwood Drive

- Corner Lot with Terrific Curb Appeal
- Unique Floorplan allows for One-Level Living
- Two Bedrooms, One Shower Bath on Main Level • Four Bedrooms, Office and Rec Area on Upper Level
- Generous Foyer Entry • Formal Living and Dining Rooms • Family Room w/Raised Hearth Fireplace spans depth of home
- Bright, New Kitchen w/Stainless Appliances & Granite counters
- New Roof • Extensive Hardscape & Landscape

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy from Old Town, R on Morningside, R on Park Terrace, L on Belle Vista to top of hill, R on Burtonwood, first house on R.
Offered at.....\$900,000



2105 Whiteoaks Drive

- Custom-built Brick Colonial w/ circular drive • Over 3/4 Acre Treed lot
- Large in-ground pool - 12-foot depth
- Three finished levels - Walkout from Main & Lower Lvl • 5 bedrooms • 3.5 bathrooms • 2 fireplaces • Entry Foyer w/Sectional Hardwood Staircase • Formal LR and DR - Hardwood floors on Two levels
- Updated Kitchen w/Maple Cabinets & Breakfast area
- Over 4,000 sq. ft. of finished Living Space

Dir.: S on G.W. Pkwy., R on Morningside, cross Ft. Hunt, second R on Whiteoaks to 2105.
Offered at.....\$900,000



1111-B I Street

- Immaculate Custom-Built Three-Level Townhome with Four Bedrooms and Three Full and One Half Baths. • Over \$100,000 in upgrades and almost 3,500 square feet. • High ceilings and huge rooms perfect for entertaining. • Gourmet Granite and Stainless Kitchen. • Hardwood floors throughout the main level. • Center four sectional grand staircase to upper levels.
- Plantation shutters throughout and beautiful custom built-ins in Bedrooms and Living Room.
- Private Roof-Top Terrace.

Dir.: From Old Town, South on G.W. Pkwy., R on Belle View Blvd., R on Potomac St., R on I Street to 1111-B on Right.
Offered at.....\$779,000



2202 Traies Court

- Charming Brick Colonial w/Main Level BR/BA - Great in-law/au pair suite
- Elegant Formal Rooms • Sun Room.
- Chef's Island Kitchen w/Granite Counters and Stainless Appliances opens to Breakfast Rm & FR.
- 2-Story Foyer - Sectional Staircase
- Master Suite w/ Jetted Tub/Sep. Shower.
- Covered Porch Across Rear Elevation.
- Lower Lvl Rec Rm - full bath - wine cellar
- Cul-de-sac Setting.

Dir.: Alexandria S. on G.W. Pkwy., R on Morningside, R on Kirkside, R on Traies to home on L at 2202.
Offered at.....\$925,000



7729 Lee Avenue

- Custom, Stone & Bead Board New England Cape on 2/3 Acre • G.W. Parkway bike and walking trails just one block away
- Hardwood floors throughout • Approx. 4,000 Sq. Ft. under roof • Two Generous Master Suites - One on each Level
- New Main Level Master Bath • Large Formal Rooms to include Library/Music Room • Commercial Chef's Kitchen w/Viking Appliances & Granite Counters
- Extensive Built-ins and Moldings
- Six-Panel Doors • Two Masonry Fireplaces
- Huge Two-Car Garage • Garden House/Playhouse

Offered at.....\$1,079,000

School Agenda: Restoring Honors

FROM PAGE 1

Woodson PTSA, West Potomac PTSA, the majority of candidates for election to the School Board, and the Education Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

West Potomac is one of 18 high schools in the county which do not offer selected Honors/college preparatory classes in subjects from 10th through 12th grade where AP or IB classes are offered. The Honors courses eliminated were in English and history.

A RECENT FCPS survey of parent concerns ranked the Honors issue among the top areas of concern by parents. Restoring Honors has joined the priority election campaign rhetoric on discipline policy, school start times, budget constraints, teacher salaries, and the need to change the culture of the Board regarding its willingness to take responsibility for public debate and a vote on important policy concerns.

Kate Vandyck, founder of Restore Honors Curricula and mother of two West Potomac High School students, said, "If Honors is not fully restored (the school system began offering online Honors courses in selected subjects as of the beginning of the new school year this fall) it will place college bound students at a competitive disadvantage in applying for colleges, force students into less than challenging General Education classes, and force some students into taking two or more AP classes and in some cases place an undue burden on them to survive when an Honors class would be more appropriate to the individual needs of the student.

"The Fairfax County public school system does not have a comprehensive definition or consistent curriculum in place for the previously or currently existing Honors courses that continue to be offered. It highlights the poor planning and preparation of the educational standards by the school staff; they simply have not developed their own curricula standard in all subjects at the Honors level although they continue to offer honors courses in all core subjects at the 7th through 9th grade where no AP courses exist ... the School Administration uses the lack of written curricula standards as part of the reason not to offer Honors classes. ... they should get to work and develop comprehensive standards so that by the next school year a full restoration of Honors takes place. This is a serious deficiency that must be corrected in order for the school system to meet the varied needs of our students, many of whom are college bound. Offering a couple of online Honors classes such as those offered at the last minute this September for world history 10th grade and English (11th grade) does not do enough to fully restore Honors classes for all students. A careful examination of these two online courses shows that they are based on the AP curricula, which is well above the Honors level of learning."

Doris McBryde, parent of two children, one of whom is a freshman at West Potomac High School, supports restoring the Honors curricula: "We should offer our students more than two levels of instruction; by restoring Honors we will better meet the individualized needs of a diverse student body which



Kate Vandyck, mother of two West Potomac students and founder of 'Restore Honors' parent advocacy group.

has a variety of skills, interests, and needs."

Debra McKeown, parent of a sophomore and senior at West Potomac High School, said, "I joined the Restore Honors parent group because I believe our students should have the Honors curricula choice. This is an issue which impacts everyone, including those students who may aspire to take AP courses but need to first take Honors classes to prepare them for the more rigorous AP classes."

Kathryn Callahan, parent of a freshman at West Potomac, said, "This is a woefully ill-conceived policy that will have a negative effect on all students. The would-be honors kids are now forced into a gut-wrenching decision to sign up for a class that is too advanced (but looks better to colleges) or too basic (boring, filled with non-serious

students, and likely will make the student hate the subject). Either option results in a student who retains less, hates the class, and begins to resent school."

CANDIDATE for Mount Vernon District School Board member Michele Nellenbach, mother of two children at Stratford Landing Elementary school, and PTA president of the school, said, "Parents that I have spoken to are really upset about the phase out of Honors classes. Students are being asked to take multiple AP classes that in many cases they are not ready to take, or move to General Education classes that are not very challenging. Students, working with their guidance counselors, parents, and teachers, should have the third option to take college preparatory classes. If I am elected I promise to form or be a part of a coalition of reform-minded school board members that will demand a full restoration of the honors curricula. In my view current school board member Dan Storck did not do everything he could have to retain the Honors curricula; that won't happen if I am elected."

Storck, seeking election to his third term on the board, is a former West Potomac High School parent and former president of the West Potomac PTA. In a recent debate forum at Hollin Meadows PTA he stated that he tried but was unsuccessful in mobilizing sufficient votes to retain the Honors curricula. "I never understood the so-called phase out to be a major phase out of Honors; it was a selective phase out on a case-by-case basis, and only where AP courses were offered in the same subject," he said. "I did take the issue to the board at a work session but it was clear to me that there was little support for its retention."

This week, he emphasized his stance: "I absolutely support reinstating the three honors courses eliminated by FCPS because they are essential to providing our students with the most appropriate option for reaching their full potential. I will continue to lead the fight to ensure that we offer honors courses for each of our courses and believe that the soon to be elected School Board will provide me with the six other votes to make that now possible."

This past June the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations' Committee on Education passed a resolution recommending the full restoration of the Honors Curricula to West Potomac High School and county-wide to all high schools.



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NEW PRICE

Alex./Mt. Vernon \$574,950
3703 Maryland Street
 Spectacular, updated 4 BR/2.5+ .5 BA Colonial w/circular driveway+dbl carport. Huge 25x13 remodeled kit: granite, maple, SS, center isle & gas fpl. Family room off kit also w/gas fpl, views & access to 2-tiered deck w/gazebo & hot tub w/fenced, private backyard. Updated baths & windows. LL w/rec rm, half bath & huge utility/storage rm. Over 130K in upgrades & renovations. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir.



NEW LISTING

Alex./Berkshire East \$374,900
5845 Berkshire Court
 Lovely 3 BR/2.5 BA Town House - Replacement DBL pane windows, neutral beige wall-to-wall carpet on main & upper levels plus a huge family rm on lower level w/walkout to a beautiful patio & landscaped, fenced backyard. Walk to Huntington Metro, minutes to I-495, 5 minutes to Old Town, 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & National Airport (N).



Alex./Riverside Estates \$429,900
8507 Wagon Wheel Road
 Lovely, updated, 5 BR/3 BA Split -walking distance to elementary & high schools. Double pane windows, freshly painted interior, & beautifully refinished hwd floors on main level. Lower lvl offers 2 spacious bedrooms, full bath, family rm w/fpl, large utility/workshop & walkout to a lovely screened porch. Great location. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to National Airport.



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Brothers Engineer Halloween Show in Their Yards

FROM PAGE 1

use up all of their vacation time for work each year on the show.

"This is a vacation," said Brian Park.

They work mostly at night, waking up at 4 p.m. and going to sleep at 6 a.m.

"You totally evade all the fiascos

of the workplace by waking up late," said Brian Park. "You need to be able to sit down and engineer stuff without people bugging you."

They find about a dozen people who are interested in engineering to help them, most of them from work.

"I went out there," said

Hittinger. "It was interesting. And they there like, 'You should come out tomorrow night.' I kind of got sucked in. I have a tendency to be mildly helpful and they have a tendency to accept help from anyone."

One of their great prides is when they "save" someone.

"Every three years we rescue

someone from a career of flipping burgers at Wendy's," said Jeff Park. In these scenarios, the Park brothers spark a love of engineering and math in a young person and inspire them to go back to school. "If every three years you get a homerun, it makes it worth it."

The vast majority of the work, however, is done by Brian and Jeff Park themselves. They have over 600 potted plants, which they use for decoration, to line paths and to make walls, that must be placed. They have dozens of noise boxes that they set around the yard, making cicada noises, croaking frogs and chirping crickets. Each one of these is a circuit that has been specially engineered. There are flash-bang firecrackers hidden in the bushes and all manner of motion detecting noisemakers, called repeater boo ghosts.

Brian Park explained the "rugrat lockout" mechanism by which they keep the effects from being triggered too many times in a row. It is a burglar alarm motion sensor connected to a circuit that senses when it has been triggered and sets a timer until the next time it can go off.

"If you have a group of people coming in the yard, everybody sees something different," said Brian Park. "It adds to the intrigue of the whole thing, makes things less predictable."

Much of the time budgeted for set up is allotted to handle engineering problems that arise.

"I call Halloween the ground war of engineering," said Hittinger, "There's a tight deadline every year. There's lots problems, things that don't work. They've gotten really good at debugging."

Hittinger runs the pirate scene on Halloween night. It relies heavily on the acting of Hittinger and a "pirate wench" but as with everything at this Halloween show, there are engineering aspects such as the chandelier, which swings back and forth to simulate being on a ship.

The Star Wars scene features Darth Vader — complete with breathing sounds, a storm trooper, Darth Maul and the Park's reinterpreted version of R2D2. Within this scene, there is a laser light show. Guests are also invited to battle with lightsabres.

There is a smoking, light up caldron and a rocketship that "blasts off" and fills the street with fog. And robots. Oh, are there robots. So many robots that there is a "robot graveyard" filled with half built robots.

"The thing that's nice about Halloween is you can make just about

anything and it fits," said Brian Park.

He delights in the details of the show, how guests can be singled out by the people operating the equipment. For example, there is a camera attached to gravestones in one part of the yard. Someone sits in a control room and listens for names being said near the gravestones. Then, that person types the names into a computer and generates a random cause of death. All of a sudden, the guest sees his or her own name on the gravestone.

Brian Park was hesitant to estimate how much money he and his brother spend on the show each year, guessing over a thousand dollars. He said it's all the mundane stuff that really adds up, such as tarps and batteries.

"Things break down at the last moment," said Brian Park. "You can't fuss around looking for a good bargain."

"I've seen him open a Halloween catalog and say 'give me one of everything on pages 22-25,'" said Hittinger.

Despite the cost, the Parks do not charge for their show. In fact, they hand out candy- gold coins in the pirate scene and for everyone else, Reese's peanut butter cups.

"It would totally ruin the spirit to charge," said Brian Park.

They said the number of patrons varies based on the weather and the day of the week. According to their estimates, the most people they've ever had attend was around 10,000 and the least was around 1,000.

Brian and Jeff Park appreciate their Mount Vernon location.

"It's a neat area," said Brian Park. "Your neighbors are neighbors. They're not just some dude across the street. It's old fashioned."

"Every year they close the street and pay 20 police officers," said Jeff Park. "You can't buy a neighborhood."

The Park brothers see this show as doing their part to make engineering interesting to the public.

"People are more interested in what football teams are doing than science and math," said Brian Park.

"I ended up really learning a lot from them," said Hittinger. "They have a house full of tools and equipment and cool stuff and they're happy to have people come and use it."

This year's show will take place on Monday, Oct. 31 from 7-11 p.m. at 8412 Crowley Place, Alexandria.

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6 ♦ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2011

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Adam Ebbin, Democratic candidate for the 30th District, Virginia Senate, talks with Ted and Lynn Thompson. Ebbin supports increasing revenue for transportation and education.



Republican candidate for 30th District, Virginia Senate, Tim McGhee, speaks with Nancy James of the League of Women Voters. A priority of McGhee is protecting women from unfairly having to pay child support.



Incumbent and Democrat Del. Scott Surovell talks with James and Jane Byers. Surovell is working to develop walkable, transit friendly communities along Route 1 and have the Yellow Line extend to Lorton.

League Pleased with Crowd at Candidate Forum

Rubbing elbows with voters, 14 state and local candidates were on hand Tuesday evening at Sherwood Regional Library for the League of Women Voters "Meet the Candidates."

"We're very, very pleased the turnout," said LWV president Janey George. "We're one of the only organizations whose only agenda is for the voters."

"This is a very active chapter," said Ted Velkoff, running for school board member-at-large. "I think elected officials are starved

for contact with voters and this really helps."

Candidates each had two minutes to make remarks. The rest of the time was for meeting and greeting.

Among those attending, in addition to Velkoff, were both candidates for the 30th Senate District, Tim McGhee and Adam Ebbin; and two of the three candidates for delegate, 44th District, incumbent Scott Surovell and John Barsa. Also present was state Sen. George Barker of the 39th Senate District.

Attending also were both candidates for Mount Vernon District school board, incumbent Dan Storck and challenger Michele Nellenbach. In addition, at-large candidates Sheree Brown-Kaplan, Ryan McElveen, Ilryong Moon and Steven Stuban were present.

"This is the best turnout of candidates we've had," said LWV member JoAnn Hersh. She said that those not attending were at other similar events, on the phone raising funds, or "at home exhausted."

— ED SIMMONS, JR.



Speaking with Gloria Haher of the League of Women Voters is Will Radle, an Independent running for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Radle wants to develop the Route 1 corridor so it's pedestrian friendly and includes parks and green spaces.

GET YOUR REAR IN GEAR

Race is November 5th so register today!

The 3rd Annual "Get Your Rear in Gear 5K" and "Tony Snow Mile for a Miracle" is coming to Alexandria!

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OPINION

Research, Think, Vote

General Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting is still available.

It's just a local election, why does it matter?

Every member of the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate is up for reelection, with some significant open seats in Northern Virginia.

The Virginia General Assembly decides what to do with the state income tax and other revenue, most of it generated here in Northern Virginia, most of it spent elsewhere. It's fair for wealthier parts of the state to help pay for services in poorer parts of the state, but the Virginia General Assembly denies localities in Northern Virginia the

right to make most decisions that affect residents here. In Virginia, local government has only exactly the power given to it by the General Assembly. The right to open schools when it makes sense for each locality? No. The right to regulate safety, like where guns can be carried? No. The right to choose to raise revenue locally through taxes other than real estate and property taxes? Not really.

You can discover more reasons on our website, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

EDITORIALS

You can vote early, "absentee in person," from now until Nov. 5 if you think that there is any chance you

could be away from home for 10 hours on Election Day. Remember that some people spent 10 hours on the George Washington Parkway one day last winter, and it took nearly as long for many people to make it home on Primary Election Day, which was also the day of the earthquake.

Some important dates to remember:

❖ Tuesday, Nov. 1 is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail.

❖ Saturday, Nov. 5 is the last day to vote early, absentee ballot in-person.

❖ Tuesday, Nov. 8 is Election Day.

For more election information:

Arlington Board of Elections, 703-228-3456, <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/voterregistrationmain.aspx>

Adult Planning for Halloween Parties

Halloween parties for grown-ups often involve alcohol; SoberRide offers safe way home.

Halloween is not just for children anymore, apparently.

Halloween weekend is a time for celebration for adults as well as trick-or-treaters, now a significant holiday, especially for young adults.

So while the adult-sized vampires, zombies and possibly even Mitt Romney look-a-likes will roam our towns this weekend are great fun, "The scary fact is that nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths occurring during Halloween are caused by drunk drivers," said Kurt Erickson, president of the McLean-based Washington Regional Alcohol Program.

So plan your costume, plan your rendezvous with friends, plan the menu, venue and festivities, but also plan your safe way home if you'll be consuming alcohol. Assign a designated driver, take public transportation, plan your party in a place where friends can stay until they're sober enough to drive.

If all that falls through, the SoberRide program can help keep impaired drivers off the road.

The SoberRide program will offer free cab rides to could-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 29, beginning at 10 p.m. 6

a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30. During this eight-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. Go to www.soberride.com.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 52,376 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER, @MARYKIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax Proposal Misunderstood

To the Editor:

In this past week's edition of the Gazette, in the front page article entitled, "Double Challenge For Freshman Legislator," (concerning Del. Scott Surovell and the upcoming election), it was incorrectly stated that I am in favor of implementing a tax system "that would put a heavier burden on taxes charged to retail sales on items such as milk, bread, and beer."

This is not true. What I actually said was: "We need to abolish the state income tax and replace it with a fair tax system — one that restores the understanding that the money we earn through employment is truly ours. By empowering the people of Virginia, and giving them more control over their own money, it would produce good economy — on an individual

level — and I believe this would translate into good economy for local businesses."

To be clear, the sort of tax I am referring to is one that would be assessed at the point of sale, allowing individuals to regulate their own level of participation based on their personal spending habits. Under such a tax system, certain commodities such as food and clothing would actually be exempt from the tax. In other words, there would be tax relief measures put in place — not for extravagant purchases, but for those who are truly and simply trying to make ends meet.

During my presentation before the chamber, I made absolutely no mention of "milk," "bread," or "beer," as the article seems to suggest. What I did say, however, is that: "We must support free access to wholesome / non-pasteurized / non-modified foods and dairy,

and support sustainable agriculture and bio-dynamic farming."

I believe the lost rights of dairy farmers who wish to produce "raw" milk (as it is called) ought to be restored, along with the lost rights of consumers who wish to purchase such commodities. We must return to the type of self-determination and self-governance that was instituted by our founding generation, coupled with the true and simple understanding that good government begins at home.

There are additional errors contained in the article (in my opinion), including the false assertion that John Barsa is a "conservative." But I'm afraid I must allow them to pass for the sake brevity.

Joseph A. Glean
Independent Candidate
Prospective Delegate for the
44th House District

Importance of 2011 Elections

To the Editor:

Virginia has an election every year. When no statewide or national offices are at stake, less interest is expressed in voting for members of the General Assembly and local officials. However, these individuals make decisions that affect our everyday lives such as roads, education, taxes, and public safety.

With the exception of once after Reconstruction, Democrats and Republicans have shared leadership either in the House of Delegates, State Senate or the Executive branch. This year that shared leadership hangs in balance. Republicans hold power in both the Executive Department and House. If the slim Senate Democratic ma

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

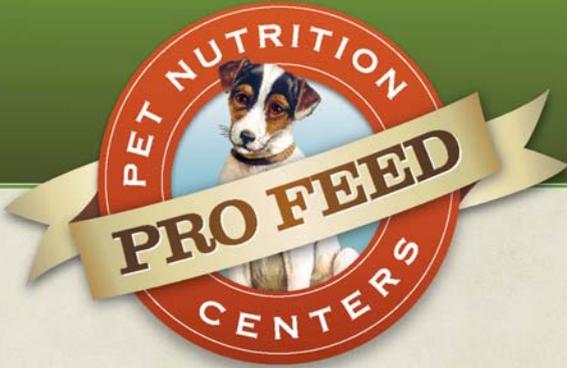
majority is lost, we risk losing checks and balance in our state government.

Northern Virginia needs leaders who listen to people and make decisions to maintain quality education, procure new businesses and jobs, and improve our quality of life. Our failing transportation system threatens our quality of life. It has not had an infusion of sustained, substantial funding since 1986.

State Sen. Toddy Puller who represents the 36th senatorial district of Virginia has a proven record of effectiveness. She has worked tirelessly to revitalize the Route 1 Corridor, now especially important with BRAC moving thousands of jobs to Fort Belvoir and Quantico. She was able to get passed and funded this year a Route 1 Transit Study that must be completed before any federal funds can come to help revitalize this main corridor.

Her opponent Jeff Frederick attacked Senator Puller for not doing more. Frederick proposes no new transportation funding, only tax cuts and incentives. During his

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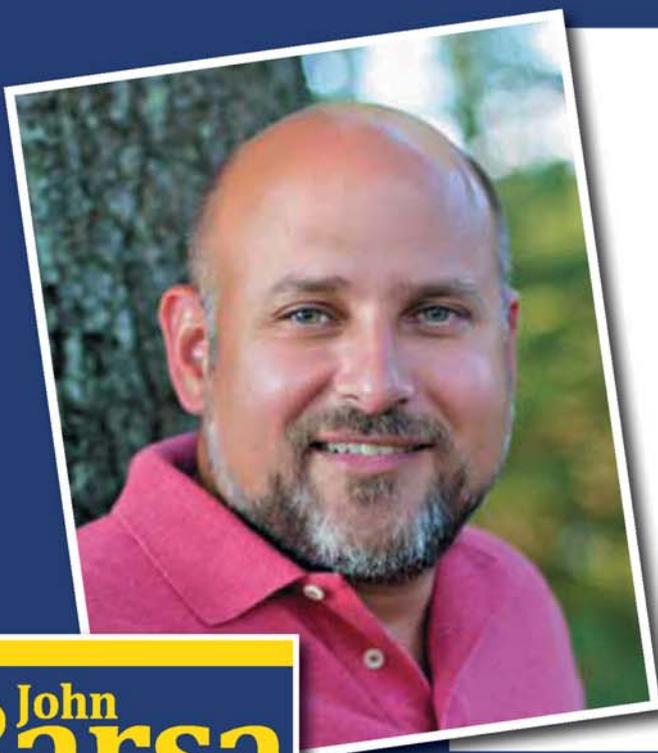
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School Facility News from Fairfax County Public Schools

While the teaching and learning processes that take place in a classroom are vitally important, equally critical to the student's success is the learning environment. High performing learning environments are energy efficient, well lit, thermally comfortable, acoustically sound, safe and healthy. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) builds and renovates its schools to ensure that students are learning in high performance environments.

FCPS maintains 194 schools and centers that serve more than 177,000 students. Just as clothing or equipment wear out over time, so too, do school buildings. Maintaining buildings are a constant challenge. FCPS estimates that it spends nearly 90 percent of its maintenance work order hours making repairs and 10 percent of work order hours on preventative maintenance.

"That's really not the optimum formula, as we should be spending most of our time on preventative maintenance and the

remaining time on repair work. However, that is our reality due to a lack of sufficient resources," said FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt.

As new schools are built and older schools renovated, FCPS expects its schools will be usable for 20 to 25 years from the date of construction. Renovations extend the useful life of a building another 20 years. Since 2007, FCPS has built three new schools, renovated 10 schools and completed three school building additions and eight modular additions. Currently, ten schools are being renovated and two new schools are under construction: a new elementary school at the former Lacey school site and the site of the new south county middle school.

A school bond referendum will be on the general election ballot Tuesday, November 8, 2011. The building and renovation of schools in Fairfax County are not financed through the school

system's operating funds, but through bonds. For a list of school improvement projects included in the 2011 bond please visit www.fcps.edu and click on Bond Referendum.

FCPS facilities serve as an important community resource benefitting all county residents. FCPS works with the Fairfax County Office of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Fairfax County Park Authority and other groups to ensure that school facilities and athletic fields are available to the public during after school hours for educational, recreational, civic, and cultural activities. More than 2,000 organizations used school facilities in 2010 including athletic recreational leagues, homeowners associations, 4-H, scouting groups, county employee organizations, and religious, cultural, and civic groups.



Getting To Know Us

Capacity Architect Susy Lee

FCPS student enrollment increased by more than 2,300 students in 2010. That means more desks, more teachers, and more classroom space to accommodate the additional students.

How does a school system make plans to accommodate more students?

For Susy Lee, capacity architect for FCPS, it is an ongoing challenge for one of the largest school districts in the country.

Lee uses data from an annual survey of schools and then factors in additional data she receives on projected enrollment. From there, she comes up with a ranked list of schools likely to need more space.

"I focus on the schools where interior modifications or additional trailers are the options," said Lee. "Sometimes a minor modification is all that's needed. But an extensive or more costly modification requires me to scrutinize data further to determine an ongoing need, in order to justify the expense. Sometimes trailers can possibly be a more cost- or time-effective option."

Not only does she plan for more students, but she also receives requests from FCPS departments to add programs at schools.

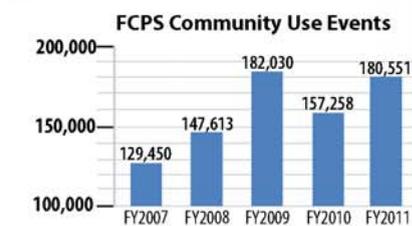
"I try to find schools that have available space and are not projected to have significant enrollment increases. But often those schools aren't in the vicinity of where the programs are needed, so modifications or trailers must be considered."

Lee has a degree in architecture that she says is important for her position. "I have to solve space-related problems and I need to know that an option is feasible to construct and is building code compliant."

"With enrollment and additional program needs increasing, finding capacity solutions will become more of a challenge every year," she said.

This Just In

The Virginia Department of Education says **91.4 percent** of Fairfax County Public Schools students from the class of 2011 graduated on time. This figure **exceeds the state average of 86.6 percent by 4.8 percentage points** and is up slightly from 91.2 percent for the class of 2010.



FCPS Goes Green for Environmental Efficiency and Energy Savings

FCPS has had an active and aggressive energy management program since 1978, focusing on minimizing the use and cost of energy. FCPS has been able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) each of the last three years, despite a growing student enrollment, heating and cooling more building space,

and adding more buses to the fleet. Reducing GHG emissions was achieved in many different ways including using more energy efficient equipment, computerizing heating and air conditioning systems, and using bus route optimization software.

Computers, office equipment, and information technology

are a growing component of the educational process for teachers and students. However, electronic equipment consumes electricity and contributes to GHG emissions. FCPS is working to reduce GHG even more by reducing vehicle travel when employees work collaboratively via email and participate in meetings and training remotely.



Did You Know ?

Did you know that FCPS school buildings and athletic fields are used **more hours** by community organizations than students use them for instruction?



www.AppleFCU.org
703-788-4800

This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR



Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

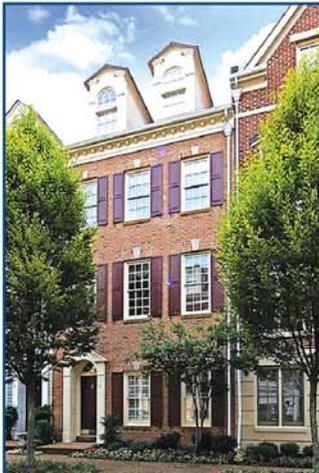
Find Your Next Home - Go To CBMove.com/Alexandria



Historic Old Town \$1,995,000
608 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Located across from Lee's boyhood home, rare find exquisite 3,000+sqft, 4BR, 4.5BA. Landscaped backyard retreat, garage & 4-car parking. Spectacular addition, kitchen renovation & MBR suite. UphamRealEstate.com.

Chris Upham 202-359-1308



Old Town
\$995,000
10 Keiths Lane,
Alexandria, VA, 22314

Beautifully appointed 3BR + 3 1/2BA brick townhome in sought-after Fords Landing. Spacious room sizes, fine moldings, hardwood floors plus two car garage. This is a fabulous value at only \$995,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute
703-518-6156



Old Town \$3,175,000
712 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Circa 1802, this magnificent 5BR + 5BA residence boasts a grand entrance hallway with keystone archway, a 40 foot living room, exquisite moldings, 12 1/2 ft ceilings + 5 fps. Reasonably priced at \$3,175,000.

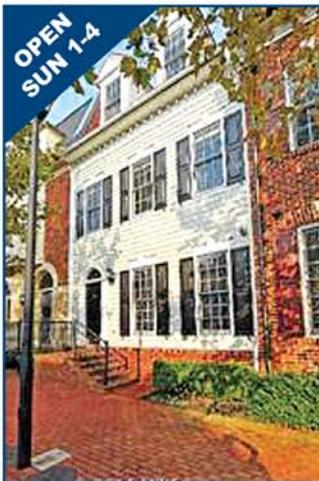
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Old Town
\$799,000
403 North Fairfax Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

3BR 3.5BA TH with Pool and Tennis Courts. Spacious rooms, abundant sunlight, 12' LR ceiling, separate DR, off st parking, recent kitchen, large private patio, 2 sts to Potomac. So much more!

Jolee Rubin
703-548-0697



Old Town
\$725,000
411 North Pitt Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Low maintenance newer construction (2005) turn-key open floor plan 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse, with 2 car underground parking & extra storage. Trader Joe's, newly planned Harris Teeter, restaurants and nightlife!

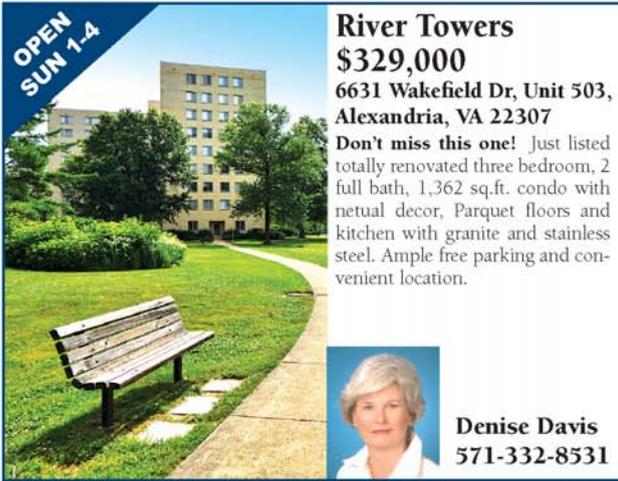
Ellis Duncan
703-307-4295



Belle Haven Meadows \$639,900
2500 Dawn Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

Classic Brick Colonial 3,600 sq.ft. of custom luxury upgrades. This 5 BR 3.5 BA on a quiet cul-de-sac consist of gourmet kitchen, master suite with sitting room, study with built-ins, theatre room in renovated LL.

Cathy D'Antuono 703-819-3077



River Towers
\$329,000
6631 Wakefield Dr, Unit 503,
Alexandria, VA 22307

Don't miss this one! Just listed totally renovated three bedroom, 2 full bath, 1,362 sq.ft. condo with netual decor, Parquet floors and kitchen with granite and stainless steel. Ample free parking and convenient location.

Denise Davis
571-332-8531



Huntington
\$159,900
2059 Huntington Ave, #303,
Alexandria, VA 22303

Affordability & Awesome Location. Blocks to Huntington Metro. Spacious 1BR/1BA condo with 850 sq.ft. Black appliances and new cabinets. Pool, sauna, tennis, 24 hr. desk security and gated parking lot.

Terry Ann Stevens
757-647-4705



Brookland Estates \$664,900
5500 Brookland Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Amazing updated and expanded home, 8 BR, 4.5.5 BA, 2 car garage, 2 story foyer, expansive living/dining w/FP, cust cabinets, granite, hardwood floors. 2 zones of A/C, playground area, rear deck. www.sherryork.com.

Sherry York 703-625-3377



The Plaza \$259,500
803 North Howard Street, #146, Alexandria, VA 22304

Price Reduced! Meticulously cared for 2 bedroom/2 bathroom with updated kitchen and bath. Secure lobby. Large courtyard with pool and many more amenities! Includes Home Warranty!

Mary Gray Edwards 703-907-9800



Midtown Alexandria Station
\$296,500
2451 Midtown Ave, Unit #1312,
Alexandria, VA 22303

A spectacular home with upgraded finishes and an amazing view. Midtown Alexandria Station is a luxury building conveniently located across the street from the Huntington Metro. 1 BR/1 BA, pool, gym and concierge.

Karen Leonard
703-328-7041



Collingwood Estates \$549,900
1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

\$30,000 price reduction Very large four bedroom, three bath two level rambler in Wayneswood School District. New roof, some newer windows and HVAC, upgraded insulation, hardwoods, den, deck, gazebo.

Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



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

Follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ColdwellBankerAlexandria

Follow us on Twitter at Twitter.com/CRB_Alexandria



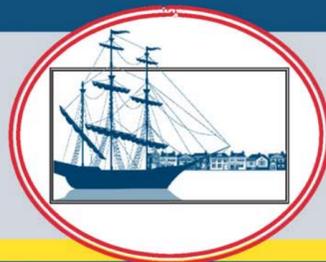
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LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



ALEXANDRIA

#1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA



Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

JUST LISTED! 9387 Mount Vernon Cir \$979,000
Majestic Home-Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!
OPEN SUNDAY 10/30, 1-4!



Unique opportunity-bargain price on property with true estate potential in area's leading waterfront community. Private marina access. Home offers approx 6,000 sq ft living space, brick exterior, spacious rooms, open kitchen-fam room, high ceilings, library with custom built-ins, 3 finished levels, 4FPs and oversized garage. Half acre grounds, custom pool. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Ferry Landing, R-Mt Vernon Cir.



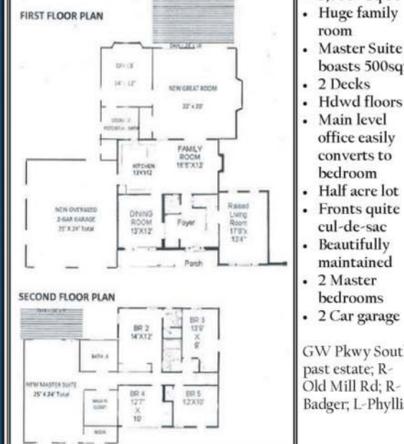
JUST LISTED! 8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd \$759,000
Unique Compound!
OPEN SUNDAY 10/30, 1-4!



One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 6BA, custom kit, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Upgraded ceramic and trim detail throughout. Only two house compound in Mt Vernon for close to this price. GW Parkway S, past estate; R-Old Mount Rd.



4502 Phylliss Street \$499,000
The Floor Plan Says it All!
The Most House for the \$\$ in Mount Vernon
OPEN SUNDAY 10/30, 1-4!



• 3,000+ Sq Ft
• Huge family room
• Master Suite boasts 500sqft
• 2 Decks
• Hdwd floors
• Main level office easily converts to bedroom
• Half acre lot
• Fronts quite cul-de-sac
• Beautifully maintained
• 2 Master bedrooms
• 2 Car garage

GW Pkwy South, past estate; R-Old Mill Rd; R-Badger; L-Phylliss

\$325,000
Springfield
"FANTASTIC"



Hardwood flrs upper lvls, large living rm & sep dining, master BA, large rec rm, lots of storage in laundry rm, backyard & assigned parking. House freshly painted & new carpet LL. 3BR/2.5BA. Great commuter location. Estate sale-sold "as is."

Bette Gorman, CRS 703.585.2235
Betsy Gorman 703.861.4825

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$795,000 - \$1,050,000
Alex / Porto Vecchio
1250 S
WASHINGTON ST



Seldom on the market, both offerings have breathtaking river views. #309 - 3BR, SE corner.

2,160 sq ft, solarium, halc. & 2 garage spaces. #710 - 2BR / library w/walls of glass, fireplace, solarium, 1 garage space.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

\$675,000
Loudoun County
"UPDATED"



JUST LISTED! Nearly 5,000 sq ft of beautiful updates from current owners beyond the original appointments. Open floor plan incl: sep LR/DR & gourmet kit w/breakfast rm. Main lvl also features library, family rm w/gas frpl & laundry. Spacious Mstr suite w/sit. rm, lux. BA & 2 w/in closets. LL level rec/media rm plus 5th BR &

Gary Ansley 202.288.7946

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$282,000
Lorton
9452 JENERIO CT



Freshly painted 3BR Townhouse with 2 full baths & 2 half baths. Updated eat-in size kitchen w/granite, ceramic tile floor & new lights. Hardwood floor on most of main level. Small fenced back yard.

www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$975,000
Alex / Mt Vernon
4712 NEPTUNE DR



Stunning property w/ great water views & boat dock on Dogue Creek Potomac. Beautifully updated, great entertaining spaces in & out. 2-car gar, pool, .5 acre lot + more.

Betty Quirk & Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

NEW PRICE & OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$899,000
Alexandria
8535 GALLAHAN CT



Bounded by conservation easement, this is a nature lovers paradise! 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

OPEN SUN! 8723 Badger Dr \$439,000
JUST LISTED!
Stunning Renovation!
Completely renovated-shows like model home! Prime location on huge lot fronting quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Virtually every major component including roof, appliances, kitchen and baths are brand new! Just minutes from Fort Belvoir. Great value! OPEN SUN 10/30, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past estate; R-Old Mill; R-Badger.



NEW PRICE! 8890 McNair Dr \$699,000
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition on gorgeous professionally landscaped lot.



NEW PRICE! 4009 Colonial Ave \$749,500
JUST LISTED!
New Home-Gorgeous Site!
Pre-construction opportunity-fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value-priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$699,900
Wayneood
1208 CROTON DR



Fabulous 1-of-a-kind 4BR/4BA!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$679,900
Wayneood
907 DALEBROOK DR



Rarely available 4BR/2.5BA!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$574,500
Alex / Stonegate
4675 KIRKPATRICK



House beautiful - 3 level end brick TH - great community - 2-car gar - high & tray ceilings, chair rail & wainscoting - Frml LR/DR - country kit/fam. rm combo w/frpl & door to deck - dual MBR+3BR/rec rm - 2 frpls - 2nd priv. deck, LL walkout. Near Mark Ctr. Metro, 395, shops/eateries - convenient location! 3BR/3.5BA.

Frankl Roberts 703.898.0840

SOLD!
4503 Ferry Landing Rd \$585,000
One



Level Luxury!
Rare opportunity
Spacious one lvl home in premier

SOLD!
1907 Rampart Dr \$587,000
Stunning Home



~Amazing Price!
Owner moved and sell now! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to acquire a

SOLD!
4313 Amblewood \$298,000
Terrific large



end unit townhouse just minutes to Fort Belvoir. In

\$759,900
Alex/Mt Vernon
"WATERFRONT"



Experience wildlife & views of the creek from this Waterfront contemporary located on Little Hunting Creek. BBQ & relax on 3 decks - launch your boat from your priv. dock. Main lvl 3BRs & 2 FBA. LL rec rm w/extra space for BR/BA. Also for Rent @ \$3,100 per month.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

\$899,900
Mt Vernon Terrace
"CRAFTSMAN STYLE"



Stunning stone home in great community w/ access to boat ramp. Dramatic foyer entrance. Gourmet kit adjoining DR w/frpl & great room w/frpl, screened porch opens to flat .5 acre private lot. Master suite has spa bath, multiple jet shower, 2 walk-in closets, laundry hook-up, private deck. 5BR/3.5BA. 2 car garage.

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

\$1,150,000
Alexandria
"VALUE IS IN THE LAND"



11.3 acres of land in a charming, hidden-away water-oriented community. Potential for 2 building lots or 1 large lot for your dream home. 1/2 block from the Potomac. House sold strictly "As Is."

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



#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



Alexandria Film Festival Launches Nov. 3



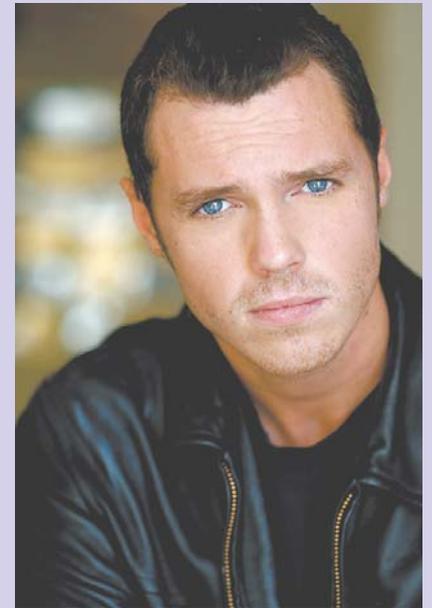
"Rapt"



"God and Vodka"



"Protektor"



Filmmaker Daniel Stine

'God and Vodka' To Premiere At Festival

Filmmaker Daniel Stine, 25, grew up in Oakton, Va., and now lives in Marina Del Rey, Calif. His short film, "God and Vodka," for which he played the role of writer, director, and actor, is being screened at the Alexandria Film Festival.

The 28-minute film is about a woman, Evelyn, who loses her friend Ben at a young age, and ends up writing a scene to bring him back to life and find closure.

"This is probably the sixth or seventh movie I've done," said Stine. "It's the first professional one I've made."

The film was shot last October for \$30,000 in Brunswick Md., Manassas, Va., and Rancho Palos Verde, Calif.

Stine graduated from Oakton High School in 2004 and attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he studied film. While at Oakton he made his first movie called "A Bite in the Dark" with school friends working on an original script from his dad. His family still lives in Manassas.

Stine started his own film company, Rushaway Pictures, which he runs in Manassas and Los Angeles. Since launching "God and Vodka" five months ago, it has been an official selection of over a dozen festivals across the country and has received numerous Jury and Audience Choice Awards.

The fifth-annual Alexandria Film Festival will kick off a four-day celebration of cinematic arts, featuring emerging and established filmmakers from all over the world Thursday, Nov. 3 through Sunday, Nov. 6.

More than 200 high-quality, independent, short and feature length films, documentaries, animation and narrative entries from 25 countries were received — some from as far away as China and Australia, said Pat Miller, chair of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

Making its Washington, D.C., debut will be "Ed Hardy Tattoo the World," an engaging film about Pop Icon Ed Hardy's unexpected rise to cult status and his phenomenal influence on pop culture. The film will be shown at special opening-night events for patrons on Thursday, Nov. 3, with a kick-off party at AguaViva Restaurant (ticket to "Ed Hardy Tattoo the World" or a Film Fest Pass required for entry), film screening at the Old Town Theater on King Street, followed by discussions with Director Emiko Omori.

An opening-night after-party will follow at

Red Rocks Pizza Napoletano. All events are within one block of each other.

Two new locations will be added to this year's festival — the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Four Mile Run Com-

munity Center. The Alexandria Black History Museum will feature "Checkers at 9th & S" about a checkers club whose members gather for camaraderie, trash talking, and competitive checkers playing. "Meet The Shark," "Chicago," "The Stealer," "Boy Wonder," "The Weasel," "Johnnie Cool," "The Hawk" and "The Master of Disaster," among others.

Special guests include Director Peggy Fleming and the men from The Capital Pool Checkers Club. Q&A with audience.

The Four Mile Run Community center will feature a first-time outdoor celebration with an exciting lineup of Latino films Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. This special event is free and open to the public.

The festival will conclude Sunday, Nov. 6 with a celebration of this year's Festival Jury Prize Winner "Des Indiens Comme Nous," ("Indians Like Us"), a quirky and touching film about a group of French people who share an obsession for everything Native American. When they finally arrive in the United States, they discover the reality is quite different from their idealized vision.

The 2011 Film Festival, organized and presented by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Alexandria Office of the Arts, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities exhibits both curated and juried films that range in length from 5 minutes to 2 hours and cover a wide range of subject matter. Visit AlexandriaFilm.org.

THURS. NOV. 3	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4				SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5				SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6	
Old Town Theater	Masonic Memorial Auditorium	Masonic Memorial N. Lodge	Athenaeum	4 Mile Run Comm. Center	Masonic Memorial Auditorium	Masonic Memorial N. Lodge	Black History Museum	Athenaeum	Masonic Memorial Auditorium	Masonic Memorial N. Lodge
1:00 pm					1:00 pm Unfinished Spaces	1:00 pm Gestación			1:00 pm OK Buckaroos	1:00 pm For the Next 7 Generations
1:30 pm										
2:00 pm										
2:30 pm									2:30 pm Where Soldiers Come From	2:45 pm Weep Like a Waterwheel
3:00 pm					3:00 pm The Fruit-Hoge Myth	3:00 pm Latzuf			3:00 pm Weapon of War	3:00 pm Women & Peace Panel
3:30 pm						3:30 pm Leap Before You Look			4:00 pm Women & Peace Panel	
4:00 pm						4:10 pm Down in Number 5				
4:30 pm							4:00 pm One Punch at a Time		4:30 pm Voices From Marfel	
5:00 pm							4:25 pm Close Ties			
5:30 pm							5:10 pm Checkers at 9th & S [Checkers Games]			
6:00 pm										
6:30 pm										
7:00 pm										
7:30 pm	7:30 pm Happy Hour: Agua Viva (film ticket required)	7:00 pm Jouseuse (Queen to Play)	7:00 pm For Aaron: The Documentary	7:00 pm Touched by a Lawyer	7:00 pm The Fairy					
8:00 pm				7:25 pm Air	6:45 pm Separation Anxiety					
8:30 pm				7:40 pm A Love Story... In Milk	6:45 pm Pacific Tailor Made					
9:00 pm	9:00 pm Ed Hardy Tattoo the World	9:00 pm Protektor	9:15 pm Wish Me Away	8:15 pm Secret Club	7:15 pm Cinema Libertad					
9:30 pm				8:20 pm Altroz	7:45 pm Ausentes					
10:00 pm				8:30 pm Giant St. Shaving Co.	8:30 pm Dreaming Nicaragua					
10:30 pm	10:45 pm Alter Party: Red Rocks			8:45 pm God and Vodka	9:30 pm Altroz (Free)					
11:00 pm										
11:30 pm										

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH OCT. 31

Pumpkin Sale. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Fundraiser that benefits local charities. Autumn crafts and cookies, brownies, cake, candy, hearty soups, gourds, mini pumpkins, apple crisps, Indian corn and cornstalks are also available. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

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.

Art Show and Sale.

Sponsored by the Springfield Art Guild and the Friends of Green Spring Park. Opening reception is Sunday, Sept. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

Kaleidoscope. An initiative of the Alexandria Arts Forum and Access through the Arts, focusing on visual and performing arts in Alexandria from Labor Day to Halloween. Enjoy theater, music and dance performances as well as art exhibitions at locations throughout the city. Dates and admission prices vary. www.ArtsKaleidoscope.com or www.ArtsEventsAlexandria.com

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$7/group of three. A five-visit pass is \$30. A weekly open playtime and a new craft activity each week. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 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.

NOW THROUGH 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/OCT. 27

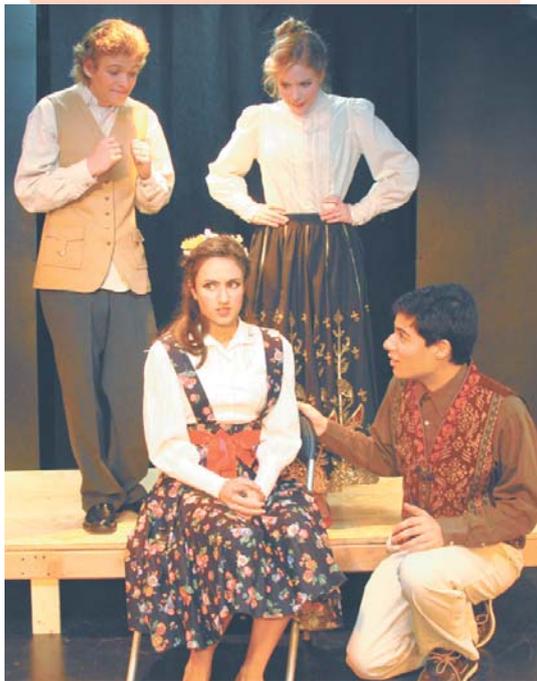
Colonial Beer Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Historic Mount Vernon and Philadelphia's own, Yards Brewing Company have partnered to bring history and food together. The evening will begin with a beer reception, featuring Yards' Brawler, a classic British Mild Ale, paired with appetizers from Mount Vernon Inn Chef Richard Thompson, and guided after-hours tours of George Washington's Mansion. During the four-course dinner in the Mount Vernon Inn, Tom Kehoe, founder/ president of Yards, will discuss the pairing of Yards' Ales of the Revolution with the menu featuring venison tenderloin, duck, and hoecakes. Tickets are \$95 at MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Rock N' Blades. 8:45 to 10:30 p.m. With special lighting and popular music. Cost is \$10/person including skate rental. At Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-3224.

A Fort Hunt Halloween. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. Families are invited to drop in at Pavilion A for s'mores and tales of characters who walked the grounds at Fort Hunt. An after dark tour of the park (bring flashlight) and special activities for children. Call 703-289-2553.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Explore the exciting world with some favorite stories and songs. For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call



(From left): Christian Osborne, Sibet Partee, Virginia Coffield, and Matthew Mirliani in St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's upcoming performances of "Fools."

OCT. 28 TO NOV. 5

"Fools" by Neil Simon. Tickets are \$5. Show times are Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Stage One Players at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

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, "A Civil War Artillery with the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery." At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Celebrate Mahalia Jackson's 100th Birthday. Free. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

❖ 10:30 a.m. — Author Charisse Carney-Nunes's "I Dream for You A World."

❖ 10:30 a.m. — Mahalia Jackson Program with Director Rose Dawson.

❖ 10:45 a.m. — Musical Performance by The St. Xavier Children's Choir.

❖ 11 a.m. — Screening of the motion picture masterwork "St. Louis Blues."

❖ 1 p.m. Closing remarks and refreshments by Dr. Lewis Brown.

❖ 1 p.m. — Storyteller Diane Macklin's "Magnificent Folks and Other Such Tales."

Author Ted Pulliam. 10 to 11 a.m. Will explore key events and people that make up the Alexandria story with a special focus on the Civil War. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

OCT. 29 AND 30

Collage Workshop. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$115/one day; \$210/both days. Nationally recognized Mississippi Gulf Coast artist Lori Gordon will teach a collage workshop. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/collage or contact Linda Hill (Programs@TheDelRayArtisans.org, 703-521-7623).

SUNDAY, OCT. 30

Picnic and Concert. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Benefitting the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Featuring the Geoffrey Castle Band, Practically Blind, James Cotton, and special guests. At Fort Ward Park and Amphitheatre, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.alexscholarshipfund.org.

Homecoming Sunday. 11 a.m. With guest speaker Minister Milton Everett Washington II. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606A South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-836-7332

"Ghosts of Alexandria" Book Signing. Michael Lee Pope visits Woodlawn for a Halloween book signing and lecture. SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

703-549-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween Spooktacular.

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Celebrate the Old Town Boutique District's Trick-or-Treat with the Boutiques. Storytime from 11 a.m. to noon. Costumes encouraged. Meets at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Red Horse in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Meet Author Elizabeth Brokamp. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. She shares her book, *The Picky Little Witch*. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com

Community Fair. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Pony rides, rock wall, dunk tent, moon bounces, games, food, artists/crafts, beer tent and apple pie contest. Small charge for activities. At St. Louis School, 2901 Popkins Lane., Alexandria. Call 703-799-4844.

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 MVHSFallfest@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.

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Partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and
the National Endowment for the Arts.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

He'll be promoting his book "Ghosts of Alexandria," which was published last fall. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-780-4000.

5K Run, 1K Costumed Fun Run/Walk. 2 p.m. Hosted by Episcopal High School, the event will help raise funds toward building a new orphanage in Haiti. Registration for the 5K Run is found at <http://register.racedctiming.com> or www.episcopalhighschool.org

Barbershop Harmony Concert. 3 p.m. Free. Presented by the Harmony Heritage Singers. At Wesley United Methodist Church, 8412 Richmond Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-780-9082 or www.wesleyva.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. 31

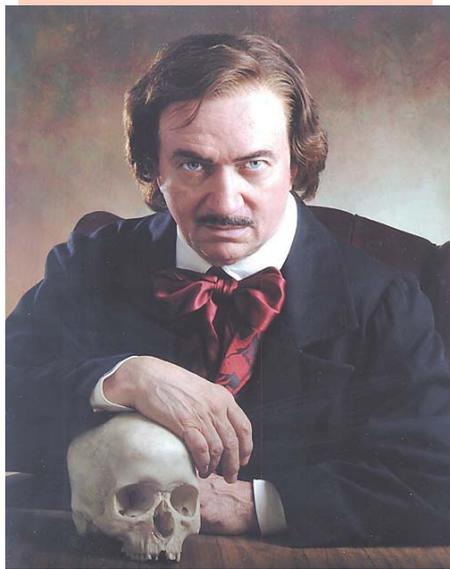
Halloween Costume Contest. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: 1) Best farmer costume; 2) Best fruit costume; 3) Best vegetable costume; 4) Best use of recycled materials; 5) Best family costume. At the West End Farmers Market, Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria.

Trick-or-Treat with Author Adam Gidwitz. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Wear costume and bring trick-or-treat bag. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 1

Quilt Auction and Bake Sale. 12:30 to 4 p.m. Auction items include numerous full-sized quilts, baby quilts, wall hangings and antique tops. Sponsored by Mt. Vernon Quilters Unlimited. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Purchases with cash and personal checks only. Contact MQUPresident@gmail.com

All Saints' Day Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. Free. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the Adult Choir in an All Saints' Day Choral Evensong. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pit St., Alexandria. Call Susan D. Dawson at 703-931-4349.



OCT. 30 AND 31

Edgar Allen Poe Performance. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum lecture hall to re-create Edgar Allen Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849. At 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2

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

NOV. 3 - 6

Alexandria Film Festival. This fifth-annual festival brings high-quality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels, and arts presentations at the Masonic Memorial, Old Town Theater, Athenaeum, Black History Museum, Four Mile Run Community Center. The four-day celebration of film highlights the talents of local, national, and international filmmakers.

Tickets \$10/film or showcase. Get tickets and film information at www.AlexandriaFilm.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra/Symphonic NOVA. 8 p.m. Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3, 'Organ', 'Schubert/Liszt: Wanderer Fantasy, Thomas Mastroianni, piano. Tickets \$5 to \$65. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

"Toward Net-Zero Energy Fair." 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (MVUC), Meeting House, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.mvuc.org/netzero.

Author Michael Lee Pope. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Will discuss the "savage art" of early 19-century political cartoons. This lecture was sparked by his research for his new book, Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C. The cartoons, many of which illustrate his book, reveal the complex politics and vicious partisanship of the era. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.

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

Bridging the Gap. 7:30 p.m. A violin and double bass duo which promises an evening of really fun and unusual music. Part of Concerts at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$15/seniors; \$10/students. Call 703-765-4342.

SUNDAY/NOV. 6

Orchestral Brilliance. 3 p.m. American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras with guest artist Jeffrey Jacob, piano. Tickets are \$14/adult; \$10/seniors; \$10/student. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria. Visit www.aypo.org, events@aypo.org, 703-642-8051.

"Mariel" Film. 4:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Documentary about the 1980 incident in Cuba

when nearly 125,000 citizens boarded boats at the Port of Mariel to come to the U.S. Admission is \$10. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria.

MONDAY/NOV. 7

Camp Dinner. 6:30 to 9 p.m. The R.E. Lee Camp #726, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will hold a camp dinner catered by the Royal Restaurant. Speaker Doug Batson who will portray Lee's maverick general D.H. Hill will speak in the first person on significant events in 1862: Seven Pines, Seven Days Battles, the Dix-Hill POW Exchange Protocol, Lost Order 191, Battles of Boonesboro (South Mountain) and Sharpsburg. Cost to attend the dinner is \$25/advance; \$30/door. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. At the American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron Street at S. Royal Street behind Gadsby's Tavern. Visit www.leecamp.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 8

Foster Parent Orientation. 6 to 7:30 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.

NOV. 9, 16, 21, 30

Free Group Vocal Lessons. 7 p.m. The lessons will be conducted by Ozzi Mask, master director of Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International. Held at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. To reserve your spot, call 703-764-3896 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

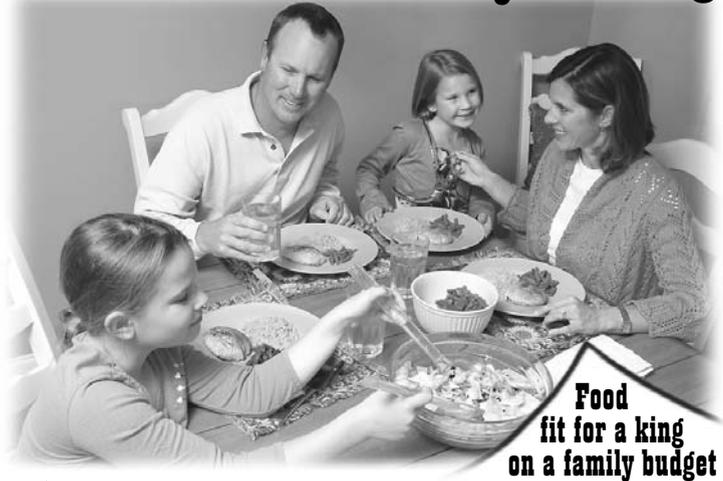
WEDNESDAY/NOV. 9

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 10

The Big Cheese. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

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Mount Vernon senior Allie Schray, right, and Washington-Lee's Emma Banchoff chase after the ball during the National District field hockey tournament final on Oct. 21.



Mount Vernon junior Serenna Schantz, left, is defended by fellow first-team all-district selection Adrianna Gorsky of W-L during the National District field hockey tournament final on Oct. 21.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Three-Peat Goal Falls Short

Majors lose to W-L in National District field hockey final.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon field hockey team had momentum, winning its last seven games and shutting out its last five opponents. The Majors had experience, capturing back-to-back National District championships, including a 2009 title won against the same team they were about to face on the same field on which they were about to play. Mount Vernon also had the chance to accomplish a season-long goal of three-peating as district champs.

The Majors entered the National District field hockey tournament final against Washington-Lee on Oct. 21 with several reasons

to be focused and feel confident about their chances. But two years after beating the Generals on their home field with the title on the line, it was W-L that won its first district crown since 2004 with a 1-0 victory in Arlington.

Prior to the season, Mount Vernon head coach Jessica Hebel said the Majors were focused on improvement. After a 4-7 start, including a four-game losing streak, Mount Vernon turned things around and won seven straight, including a 2-0 win over No. 1 Yorktown in the semifinals. However, second-seed W-L was the aggressor for most of the championship game and No. 4 Mount Vernon fell one goal short.

"The thing that disappoints me more about this game is that it wasn't an improvement from our last game," Hebel said. "I feel like that's worse than the loss in every way really, just because I feel like we could have played better because we did play better before."

W-L scored the game's lone goal on a penalty corner with a little more than 20 min-

utes remaining in the second half. Senior Emma Banchoff passed the ball from the end line to teammate Samantha Brothers, who was standing at the top of the circle, and Brothers smacked a shot attempt that went wide left. Banchoff had positioned herself next to the goal and was there to deflect in the miss for the winning margin.

Hebel said the Majors lacked aggression from the beginning of the contest.

"I didn't think it was our best game," she said. "I felt like in the first half especially we played very tentatively and very protective. We just really didn't go hard enough like we should have. ... I can't think of a [recent] game that ... the other team didn't call timeout in the first 15 minutes because we normally go hard, hard right from the door."

Hebel praised the efforts of senior goalkeeper Haley Stromberg.

"I think my keeper played awesome tonight," Hebel said. "I thought Haley had a lot of great saves and I'm glad she was part of the all-tournament team. I thought she



Mount Vernon junior Sabrina Smith garnered second-team all-district accolades this year.

played really well."

Senior forward Allie Schray and junior midfielder Serenna Schantz earned first-team all-district honors for Mount Vernon. Juniors Megan Cole (defense), Ashleigh Sable (midfield) and Sabrina Smith (midfield) received second-team honors and senior midfielder Zipporah Norton, junior midfielder Jane Heller, junior forward Gabby Ocker and junior forward Lizzy Sagar garnered honorable mention.

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac receiver Tyrone Jenkins, left, caught seven passes for 120 yards and a touchdown against Woodson on Oct. 21.

MV Football Drops District Game

The Mount Vernon football team lost to Edison, 34-13, on Oct. 21, dropping its record to 4-4. The Majors are 3-2 in the National District and will host undefeated Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

West Potomac Remains Tied Atop District Standings

The West Potomac football team defeated Woodson, 31-21, on Oct. 21 to remain in a three-way tie atop the Patriot District stand-

ings.

The Wolverines improved to 5-3 overall by beating the Cavaliers, including a 4-1 mark in the district. South County and Lake Braddock are also 4-1 in the district. West Potomac defeated South County (31-27) but lost to Lake Braddock (28-21). South County defeated Lake Braddock (10-7).

Against Woodson, receiver Tyrone Jenkins hauled in seven receptions for 120 yards and a touchdown. Quarterback Caleb Henderson completed 15 of 29 passes for 283 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions, and also rushed 14 times for 43 yards.

Running back Brandon Johnson carried 22 times for 114 yards and a touchdown. Joseph Marinelli had five catches for 75

yards and a score and DeMornay Pierson-El had a 22-yard touchdown reception.

West Potomac will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

MV Volleyball Beats Falls Church

The Mount Vernon volleyball team earned its second National District win of the season on Oct. 19, defeating Falls Church, 3-1. The Majors defeated Wakefield, 3-0, on Oct. 3.

The district tournament will begin on Oct. 31.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

six years as delegate, he never introduced legislation to deal with the Route 1 corridor. Tax incentives may be helpful but only if the transportation infrastructure can move people to and through the area.

Jeff Frederick was rated the least effective of the 100 House of Delegates' members four out of six years he served by the business organization, Virginia Free. Now he touts he is proud of that ineffectiveness. Also, Virginia Republican leaders ousted him as State Republican Chairman for his questionable practices and ineffectiveness. That's not the kind of leadership we need in Northern Virginia.

Richard Barnes
Alexandria

Support Change

To the Editor:

Election day is almost here. Some of us are certain about our vote; others are still pondering and sadly, many could care less. Should our Republican candidates, all good people and residents of Fairfax County, who have the best interests of Virginia in their hearts and minds, now be given our vote and our confidence to fulfill their platforms? Can they effect the good works they promise or would they be thwarted by the machinations of the current status of the county's leadership? Is it possible that our Democrat candidates — mostly incumbents — could work with a new leadership in a lackluster economy and changing demographic? Can we all see through the veil of the archaic entrenchment and imagine a bright new tomorrow for our schools, our roads, our ancient Route 1 and our citizenry whose fates are tossed about like a beach ball with no firm direction and yet, with so much potential? Our capable Republican candidates have demonstrated enthusiasm and passion in this environment that now craves the change and progress that new leadership can provide. They deserve the chance to show us.

Can that be it or will we have "same old, same old"?

Please vote, and please vote with your mind open and with your heart beating for Fairfax County.

Gail Dawson McNally
Alexandria

Defending the Indefensible

To the Editor:

In the interest of full disclosure, late last week, I was informed that County officials have been reading the letters to the editor concerning what I've described as a "drainage ditch" in Westgrove park and what others including county officials refer to as a "perennial stream." Their reaction is quoted as follows, only edited to remove names. A

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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PEOPLE

Annual Bazaar



Renata Lynch and her granddaughter Julia Middleton show off their crocheted hats.



Barbara King and Patricia Robertson displayed arrangements of fall foliage.

PHOTOS BY
ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

At the Megabazaar at the Senior Center, Melanie Barry shows off her collection of beaded glassware, tableware and wine accessories.



Volunteers assist at Hollin Hall Senior Center's annual bazaar on Oct. 15.

PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE



Karen Keefer crafts handbags featuring recycled denim with her sister Kathy Keefer.



Annual Fashion Show

The 28th annual Yacht Haven Garden Club Fashion Show co-chairs Denise Eight and Deborah Alea. Fashions for the show were provided by Bloomingdale's in Tyson's Corner.



Yacht Haven Garden Club President Susan Lord welcomes attendees to the annual event at the Ft. Belvoir Officer's Club on Oct. 20.



Pam Gaddy models a casual look from Bloomingdale's.



Marcia Siegert in a long black formal.



Kate Wharton and her mother Rebekah model jewel colored dresses.



Linda Herbert models a flowing evening gown.



Bloomingdale's Personal Shopper Manager Effie Elkorek poses with the models Kate Wharton, Marcia Siegert and Suzanne Scherer at the conclusion of the show.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Campaign Financing Under Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 3

decade, he's contributed more than \$95,000 to a variety of political action committees and candidates. One of those is Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who received \$1,000 from Georgelas.

"Look, Ted Georgelas as well as other people in the business community want a strong business environment," said Cook. "That's something I ran on."

ACROSS FAIRFAX COUNTY, supervisors have taken more than \$2 million this election cycle. Much of that money has come from the real-estate and construction industry, a group of people and businesses that often has business before the county. Some of them, such as Tysons West Assemblage, will have rezoning applications in the future. Others, such as developer Daniel Clemente have had business in the past. Campaign-finance records show that an entity called 8500 CDC LP, which has ties to Clemente, has given \$12,000 to incumbent Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross.

"I worked with Mr. Clemente and his organization on some developments of new housing in the Sky-line area of Bailey's Crossroads," said Gross. "It's a wonderful new revitalization."

Her Republican challenger, David Feld has raised questions about Gross' fundraising. When asked about fundraising numbers during a debate this month hosted by the League of Women Voters, Feld

criticized Gross for taking money from people who have had businesses before the Board of Supervisors or will potentially have business in the future.

"I believe it's unethical to take contributions from anybody that you're doing business with," said Feld, who loaned his campaign \$27,000 to fund his race for the Mason District race.

SOME HAVE CALLED for reform, although nobody is expecting to see change anytime soon. Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay said he supports imposing limits on how much people could donate, although he's not sure what the limits should be. He also supports some form of public financing for campaigns, although he acknowledged he's not sure how it should work or how much public money should be involved. Until then, he said, he's going to keep working the system.

"Until there's some reform in how you raise money, you would be a fool not to raise significant amounts of money," said McKay.

Not all the money comes from people who have direct businesses before the Board of Supervisors. Sometimes the relationships are indirect.

"The biggest contributor to my campaign was my husband," said Supervisor Smyth.

Was he trying to influence a decision?

"Well," said Smyth. "I'm hoping he'll take me to dinner."

More

Readers can find more on contributions to candidates at VPAP.org.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 18

county official: “visited the site on Sept. 22 and observed massive headcuts and mass wasting upstream where the water outfalls across Mount Vernon District Park. This explains all the sediment in the lower-gradient portion of the stream in Westgrove Park. The entire length of stream was flowing upstream of the Westgrove Park. At normal baseflow, the flow in the location in Westgrove Park cited by Jay Spiegel is largely interstitial due to the massive bedload deposited there. The sediment makes flow at this location difficult to see and would also account for lower biological indicators than would be expected. Notwithstanding Mr. Spiegel’s anecdotal observations, we haven’t found any evidence suggesting the stream is not perennial. This can be bolstered by documented observations of flow in normal or dryer than normal conditions.”

I find this explanation remarkable, particularly its “guilty until proven innocent” approach: “we haven’t found any evidence suggesting the stream is not perennial.” Two weeks earlier, our community withstood the storm of the

century with some areas receiving 15 inches of rain. Who could possibly be surprised, two weeks later, at observing “massive headcuts and mass wasting upstream where the water outfalls across Mount Vernon District Park” as well as sediment within Westgrove Park. It even rained in the days immediately prior to Sept. 22! As to the “interstitial flow,” as Mary Tracy pointed out in her letter of Oct. 13, 2011, concerning a 2005 Planning Commission staff report:

“The staff report concluded that “it is not appropriate to use hyporheic flow (water percolating through permeable soils under and beside streambeds) as a defining characteristic of perennial streams, and hyporheic flow should not be interpreted as part of the County’s existing definition of a ‘water body with perennial flow’ in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. Further, because hyporheic flow is not part of stream flow and may be found below the beds of both perennial and intermittent streams, observations of the presence or absence of hyporheic flow have no relevance in identifying perennial streams in the field.” (see “Field Notes: vol.12, #4, WSSI.”) (Emphasis supplied).

The “This can be bolstered...” sentence makes it clear that the required “documented observations” have not taken place.

The more important question is why our county staff insists on defending the indefensible rather than performing a scientifically supportable analysis of the drainage ditch in Westgrove Park? Clearly, the requirements for establishing perennial streams and resource protection areas should be the same as those that must be followed to remove them. The staff has accused me of employing anecdotal evidence to support my view, but that’s exactly what they’ve done in attempting to rebut me. I’m going to take this up directly with the Board of Supervisors.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

Letters to the Editor
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