



Kari Seidelman and Don DeHaven as President George Washington and his wife Martha participate in the annual George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria on Monday, Feb. 20.



As President Abraham Lincoln, Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck walks along the parade route.

Celebrating George Washington's Birthday

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Bethlehem Baptist Church Defies Earthquake Damage

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Sanctuary is pronounced safe.

Feb. 19 was a glory day for the pastor and congregation of Bethlehem Baptist Church, a historic congregation on Fordson Road in Gum Springs dating to 1863.

On this sunny Sunday morning the congregation marched in triumph back into their 900-seat sanctuary which they'd been unable to use since the magnitude 5.8 earthquake of Aug. 23. The

towering upright wood-laminate beams that hold up Bethlehem's soaring cathedral-like ceiling had been cracked. That fateful Tuesday afternoon in August, Bethlehem joined the list of dam-

aged significant Washington-area structures including the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral.

Not knowing if the roof was in danger of collapse was a heavy emotional weight for Rev. Dr. Darrell K. White, Bethlehem's pastor since 1999.

"It was certainly a setback not knowing whether we'd be able to worship in the sanctuary," he said. "If the beams had to be replaced we'd be looking at replacing the roof. This would have been a major building enterprise we would have had to embark upon." Jeopardized were building plans to construct a large education and conference center adjoining the church.

The cracks were not long, about 16 inches in length, but one penetrated an entire beam. As a precaution, while the trustees launched an evaluation of any possible danger, the congregation worshipped across the hall in the multipurpose room. The trustees

were guided by trustee secretary Joseph Bunton who's experienced in architectural engineering.

Called in to conduct a visual inspection, the structural engineering firm Structural Engineering Solutions Inc. of Arlington recommended not using the sanctuary until a physical inspection could be made.

A second structural engineering company, Ronald R. Greene & Associates of Torrance, Calif. which specializes in seismic engineering, supported that recommendation.

The general contractor that built the church, RE Lee & Son of Charlottesville, was brought in to help. RE Lee was "very helpful," said Bunton; they called in Dajon & Associates of Hackensack, N.J., who specialize in the repair of wood-laminate beams.

"After Dajon came in and did a detailed structural analysis, the cracking was determined to not be structural," Bunton said. At last,

SEE CONGREGATION, PAGE 7



On Feb. 19, the sanctuary at Bethlehem Baptist Church was again filled with worshippers. In white (center) is the Rev. Dr. Darrell K. White.

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

TV Production instructor Nancy Mantelli gives a tour of the TV studio at the Academy.

West Potomac Academy Hosts Open House

West Potomac Academy hosted an open house for prospective students on its campus at West Potomac High School on Friday, Feb. 17. All classes were open and showcased current studies.

The Academy is one of the

five professional technical centers available to students enrolled in Fairfax County high schools. West Potomac Academy offers career electives in 11 areas: Dance, fashion design, music and computer technology, professional television production, professional graphics

studio, criminal justice, dental careers, occupational/physical therapy, pharmacy tech, medical health science and early childhood careers.

For more information visit www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacAcademy/



West Potomac Academy dance director Courtney Betzel, visiting George Mason University dance instructor Connie Dinapoli and Maria Kappel, career experience specialist at West Potomac Academy.



Alexis Smith and Ivy Preko work on their designs in the fashion design studio.



Courtney Watson starts sewing on her circle skirt.

An Eminent Choice

Voters to decide eminent domain as amendment passes General Assembly.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

This fall, voters across Virginia will be confronted with a hotly debated amendment to the Virginia Constitution that seeks to limit the ability of local governments to use the power of eminent domain. According to various sides of the debate, the measure would either be a disastrous move that would drastically increase the price of transportation projects, an empty measure that's intended to appeal to voters or a bold way to prevent local governments from abusing the power of eminent domain.

"Voters tend to view eminent domain negatively," said Jeff Skelley, political analyst with the Virginia Center for Politics. "So delegates and senators who voted for it probably just gave themselves a little more cover."

The lopsided nature of support for the effort in the General Assembly certainly speaks to the political popularity of being seen as tough on eminent domain. The state Senate approved the amendment 23 to 17, and the House of Delegates passed the measure with an 80 to 18 vote. Essentially, the amendment would allow business owners to seek damages from local governments if they could prove that property taken under eminent domain resulted in a loss of profits or loss of access, the definitions of which are laid out in a separate bill now working its way through the General Assembly. Although many feared that the implementation could allow lawsuits for something as simple as removing a left turn lane, the legislation outlining how it would work is crafted very narrowly to focus on actual land being taken. Nevertheless, some say the final version would create a hardship for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

"It's not as bad as it was, but it is still a very troublesome piece of legislation and should not have passed," said state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), who voted against the amendment and the implementing legislation. "I think it's going to be very challenging for VDOT to be able to acquire private right-of-way to put into public use without paying an incredibly inordinate amount of money."

THE DEBATE ABOUT eminent domain snapped into the public conscious back in 2005 when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5-4

decision in *Kelo versus City of New London*. The majority in that case ruled that the government taking of property from one private owner to give to another for economic development constitutes a permissible public use under the Fifth Amendment. That ruling created a massive backlash, including 2007 legislation in the Virginia General Assembly that defined "public use" in a way that narrowed how eminent domain could be used in the commonwealth.

"The right to own property was codified by our founding fathers and is a part of what makes up the fabric of our nation."

— Jeff Caldwell,
press secretary to
Gov. Bob McDonnell

"This is legislation that closed the *Kelo* loophole, but every year people come to Richmond and try to weaken it," said John Taylor, president of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy. "That's why a constitutional amendment is necessary."

Taylor and other supporters began working years ago to set the pieces in place for a constitutional amendment to Virginia's Constitution. Last year, the effort was given preliminary approval by the House and Senate. But because the way the amendment process works in Virginia, the text of the amendment had to be approved again the next year with an intervening election. Now that identical text of the amendment has been approved for a second time, the amendment is

SEE DOMAIN, PAGE 7

BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

ONGOING

Fort Ward Museum is now registering for its annual Civil War Kids' Camp, a week of learning and fun for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Participants explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities. Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration is limited to 24 participants. Spaces fill quickly, and applications are accepted on a first-come basis. Registration, including souvenirs and healthy snacks, costs \$200 per child, with limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. Contact Fort

Ward Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Scholarship applications for the 2012 Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Education Partnership Scholarships are now available. Scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts pursuing further education in a business related field. Applications are available at <http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html>, at high school career centers, or by calling 703-360-6925. Students may apply online or download an application and return it. All applications must be received by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce by Friday,

April 27. Those applying for the scholarships must plan to pursue further education in a business-related field, have a minimum high school GPA of 3.0, and have work or community volunteer experience. Applicants must submit an essay with the application and a copy of their high school transcript.

UCM's food pantry depends on community donations. Canned meat and fish are needed, as well as canned soups, fruits and vegetables. Help by dropping off food donations at UCM's main office, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. UCM's food pantry accepts food donations Monday – Friday, from 9 am to 5:30 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 9:30 am to 1 p.m.

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is in need of donations of furniture. UCM will pick up furniture, as well as other larger donations, or they can be dropped off at the back of the store Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for pickups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Fairfax County Mega Job Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This year's event includes a training vouchers program for veterans to enhance their job skills, a section for youth employment services plus recruiters from a wide variety of employers and government agencies. Co-hosted by U.S. Gerry Connolly, the Fairfax County SkillSource Centers and Business Development Assistance Group. Participating employers, business resources partners, and program agenda at www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria will meet at 2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

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CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Feb. 17.

ASSAULT

5900 block of North Kings Highway. Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m. Officers responded to a report of an argument involving several drunk individuals. A man was being placed under arrest for drunk in public when he allegedly kicked an officer. A 19-year-old male of Woodbridge was additionally charged with assault on a police officer. The officer was not seriously injured.

North Kings Highway/James Drive. Feb. 8, 9:20 p.m. A 50-year-old victim reported an unknown person threw an egg at her. The egg struck her in the back and broke, but she was not injured. There is no suspect information.

1961 Chain Bridge Road. Feb. 11, 10:25 p.m. The Driver of a Fairfax Connector bus called for police for a disorderly passenger. When officers responded another victim recounted an alleged assault by the same suspect. A 44-year-old male was arrested and charged with simple assault and disorderly conduct.

3400 Great Lakes St., Feb. 13, 5:10 p.m. The 19-year-old victim was walking home when she was approached by another young girl. The suspect began to fight and several other young girls joined in assaulting the victim. Minor injuries were sustained and did not require medical attention.

ROBBERY

8200 block of Richmond Highway. Feb. 3, 2:50 p.m. A man armed with a handgun robbed a pharmacy of oxycontin. Later in the evening, an off-duty officer saw the suspect's vehicle. Prince William County officers detained him. A 24-year-old male of Triangle was charged with robbery in Fairfax County.

5800 block of North Kings Highway. Feb. 6, 9 p.m. A woman was walking home when two men grabbed her. They took her back pack and fled on foot. There is no suspect description. The victim received minor injuries but did not require medical attention.

8300 block of Brockham Drive, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. A man walking home reported a robbery. The suspect appeared, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The suspect left with the victim's wallet. The male suspect was described as black, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150 pounds.

Fort Drive/ Williamsburg Road, Feb. 15, 9:40 p.m. A 23-year-old woman was walking along the road when she was approached by three men. They forcibly took her purse and left the area. The victim was not injured and there is no suspect description.

BURGLARY

2500 Jamaica Drive. Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m. Victim reported hearing noises in her home, and discovered a laptop was taken from a bedroom.

8200 block of Cooper St. Feb. 8, 3:10 p.m. A 45-year-old male of Alexandria was arrested and charged with burglary and drunk in public. He allegedly entered a home while the victim and her young son were watching television. Nothing was stolen and no one was injured.

6000 block of Park Place, between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The victim reported that someone entered the home and stole several items including jewelry, cash and clothing.

7200 Harrison Lane, Feb. 9, 6:30 a.m. A woman reported her iPad was stolen from her apartment.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

6400 block of The Parkway, Feb. 9, 2:30 a.m. A woman was alerted by voices in her home. She went down stairs and two people quickly left the home. They were later identified as a 20-year-old female and a 24-year-old female, both of Alexandria. Both were charged with unlawful entry and the 20-year-old was also charged with illegal possession of alcohol.

PEEPING

7700 block of Thrush Court, Feb. 9, 2:50 a.m. A man was seen following the victim. He attempted to enter her home and stood watching her through a window. An 18-year-old male of Lorton was identified and arrested. He was charged with attempted unlawful entry and peeping.

LARCENIES

7900 block of Audubon Ave. Credit card stolen from business.

8800 block of Badger Drive. Purse stolen from vehicle.

2700 block of Beacon Hill Road. Purse stolen from business.

1700 block of Brent St. GPS stolen from vehicle.

8400 block of Fort Hunt Road. Cell phone stolen from business.

8400 block of Frye Road. Beer stolen from business.

6100 block of Houston Court. Tools stolen from vehicle.

9100 block of Richmond Highway. Resident Alien Card stolen from vehicle.

8600 block of Richmond Highway. Perfume stolen from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway. Video game stolen from business.

6100 block of Richmond Highway. Stereo stolen from vehicle.

6500 block of Tower Drive. iPad stolen from residence.

8600 block of Village Square. Light bulbs stolen from residence.

1900 block of Wakefield St. Wallet stolen from residence.

3900 block of Woodhue Place. Guitar and tools stolen from vehicle.

7900 block of Audubon Ave. Tools from vehicle.

3600 block of Buckman Road. Heat pumps from residence.

3600 block of Buckman Road. Wallet from business.

3600 block of Buckman Road. Condensers from business.

7900 block of Fort Hunt Drive. Beer from business.

7100 block of Groveton Gardens Road. Cash from residence.

7200 block of Harrison Lane. Varied electronics from residence.

3800 block of Havenwood Place. Generator from vehicle.

6200 block of North Kings Highway. Gift bags with merchandise from business.

8500 block of Old Mount Vernon Road. Bike from school.

8400 block of Richmond Highway. Heating Unit from business.

7300 block of Richmond Highway. Candy from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway. Liquor from business.

7400 block of Richmond Highway. Varied merchandise from business.

8000 block of Russell Road. Wallet from vehicle.

8100 block of Tis Well Drive. Operator's license from business.

8600 block of Village Way. Cell phone from business.

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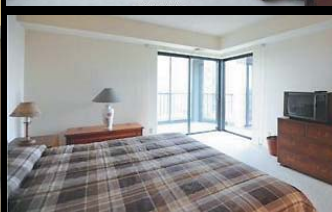
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Best friends Rudy and Caspar (aka the Friendly Ghost — shy to others but bossy to his owner) loved to play together. Alas, Caspar vanished a week or so after this picture was taken. I fear that the coyote seen roaming our neighborhood may have finished him off. Rudy and I are both disconsolate.
— Mary Tracy, Alexandria



Cindy Mitchell and Baron enjoying the sunshine at Woodlawn Stables.



Maggie at 15 enjoying her backyard.
— Nina Lockhart, Alexandria



... And at the river house with Evan. — **Wayne Hulehan, Alexandria**



Duchess relaxes in the front yard ...
— Wayne Hulehan, Alexandria

Eminent Domain Goes to Voters

FROM PAGE 3

on the way to Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell.

"The right to own property was codified by our founding fathers and is a part of what makes up the fabric of our nation," said Jeff Caldwell, press secretary to the governor in an email response to questions. "Ensuring that individual property rights are protected, maintained and not threatened by government use for non-core services was part of the governor's agenda this year, along with Republicans from the General Assembly."

Supporters say the effort is aimed at ensuring that property owners are compensated if they are subjected to eminent domain. Opponents say the amendment could cost the state an extra \$100 million each year by making transportation projects more expensive. It's a debate that has created difficulty by some lawmakers. Sen. George Barker (D-39), for example, voted for the amendment last year in an effort to strip out language adding the ability of property owners to seek interest on top of the loss of profits and loss of access. This year, he voted against the bill, which he says he opposed all along.

"It's nowhere near as bad as the proposal that came

"I think it's going to be very challenging for VDOT to be able to acquire private right-of-way to put into public use without paying an incredibly inordinate amount of money."

— Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)

out of committee last year," said Barker. "But it still has very significant negative consequences in terms of cost, and it's also something that would be very difficult to change."

THE IMPLEMENTING legislation may have undercut at least some of the opposition. Now that the ability of businesses to collect for an action not involving land acquisition, the thrust of the amendment is now aimed squarely at cases that involve actual condemnation. Because existing law is already clear on how that works, some have interpreted the implementing legislation unveiling the effort as a naked attempt to capitalize on a politically popular issue.

"If this determination is being made, it seems to me that it somewhat negates the need for a constitutional amendment," said Alexandria Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "Is the constitutional amendment intended to be a politician's brochure?"

"I'm shocked that anyone would even raise the fact that we might pass a political measure," responded state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who voted in favor of the amendment. "Frankly, I think the impact will be minimal."

Congregation Returns to Its Sanctuary

FROM PAGE 1

after nearly six long worrisome months, it was determined that the roof was not in danger of collapse.

"That was a weight lifted that the beams were not compromised," said White. For last Sunday's triumphant "Reentry Service" which packed the 900-seat sanctuary, he preached on 2 Chronicles 7:14 – "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

The passage, said White, was taken from when Solomon rededicated the Temple. For Bethlehem Baptist, he said, "This dedication that I want to lift up is a call for us to rededicate our lives to our relationship with God, to God's will and God's mission of saving lives."

For a remembrance, everyone attending received a white pebble inscribed on one side "8-23-2011" and on the other "2-19-2012." "I don't want the congregation to forget the whole experience of having to move out of the familiar and step into the unfamiliar for worship," White said.

"I believe it brings a deeper appreciation for God's presence in the sanctuary itself. Sometimes we can forget that it is a sanctuary and sometimes we carry on so casually that we lose the essence that this is the presence of the Lord. This is His house."

White also spoke of his and the congregation's excitement about returning to the sanctuary for worship. "Worship was charged with emotion feeling the spirit of the Lord here and His welcoming us back into the worshipping sanctuary."



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

The Rev. Dr. Darrell K. White felt a "weight lifted" when he learned that the sanctuary's upright beams were not structurally compromised.

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OPINION

On the Way to \$85 Billion Budget

BY LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



RICHMOND REPORT

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling broke a tie in the evenly divided Senate chamber at the beginning of the Session. This provided Republican organizational control of the Senate even though a lawsuit is still pending on whether the power should be shared. In taking this step, many bills have been passed that were voted down by a more moderate Senate in past years.

The latest tie vote came last Friday to allow tax credits for corporations that contribute to scholarships for low and middle-income students to attend private schools. Another of the controversial issues would require voters without certain forms of identification to cast a provisional ballot that would not be counted unless the voter provided further identification. This is seen by many as a way to suppress the vote among minorities, the elderly, and students.

Other "hot button" issues such as requiring a woman to have an ultrasound before having an abortion, not allowing funding for an abortion for a poor pregnant woman whose fetus

is severely deformed, requiring drug testing for welfare recipients, and allowing more than one handgun a month to be purchased have cleared the Senate. The "personhood" bill (defining life at conception) has passed the House of Delegates and will be considered by the Senate.

Democrats were able, with two Republicans not voting, to kill Governor Bob McDonnell's proposal to make it easier to fire public school teachers. And, now, the Democrats' plan to stick together on the budget seems to be steering some of the Republicans to try to win us over with accommodations on education and transportation. Passage of the budget requires 21 votes. The Lieutenant Governor cannot break the tie on a budget vote.

I will have more to report on the budget next week as it is released on Sunday, Feb. 19, and briefings are to occur on the following Monday and Tuesday, perhaps with a vote on the \$85 billion spending plan on Thursday. I am pleased that one of the budget items I have

fought for is in the proposed budget. It would bring \$50,000 a year for each of the two years to help fund the Special Olympics.

Besides fighting for committee changes to share power in a 20-20 Senate, we have proposed savings for local governments to help them pay an additional \$600 million over two years for retirement and other after-employment benefits. Some of this could be accomplished by restoring proposed cuts in state aid to local school districts for K-12 education and to free health clinics and other safety net health programs.

A new poll taken this month in Virginia shows a majority do not support the repeal of the one gun a month, further restrictions on abortion, increasing state employees' contributions toward their retirement, and want to retain the power to ban guns on a college campus.

Most of the legislation I introduced this Session has passed the Senate with no opposition.

Please continue to contact me on interests of concern:

Senator Linda T. "Toddy" Puller, P.O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218; phone: 804-698-7536; fax: 804-698-7651, or email: district36@senate.virginia.gov.

National Controversy and Budget Process Begins

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Crossover Week at the General Assembly found us in the national media spotlight of Saturday Night Live, CNN and the Rachel Maddow Show. Over 1,000 demonstrators appeared at the State Capitol this week.

On Monday and Tuesday, the House of Delegates passed legislation redefining a "person" for purposes of the Code of Virginia as beginning at conception. This has been called the "Personhood" bill. Given that the word "person" is used 25,000 times in the Code of Virginia, this would have far-reaching consequences. This would include taxes, child support, life insurance, health insurance, the practice of medicine, criminal statutes, civil liability, or even High Occupancy Vehicles (e.g. HOV-2).

My caucus attempted to add an amendment to the bill to clearly exclude FDA-approved contraception from this legislation. That amendment failed on a 64-34 vote.

We also passed legislation requiring an ultrasound within 24 hours of having an abortion. Given that many abortions occur in the first trimester and a fetus cannot be properly visualized in the first trimester with an external sonogram, this would require a medically-unnecessary transvaginal or what some are calling as vaginally penetrating ultrasound.

We offered an amendment to clarify that the invasive ultrasound procedure could only be performed with the consent of the woman. That amendment failed on a 64-34 vote.

I supported the amendments and voted against both bills. While I recognize that these issues invoke strong emotions on both sides, I have consistently felt believed that a woman's right to make a decision is best left between the woman, her doctor, and her conscience. Our existing laws as interpreted by the Courts are adequate and I believe that granting a fertilized egg the status of a person would have far-reaching unpredictable consequences.

Banning contraception is archaic. While the ultrasound supporters have consistently decried "big government" programs and "nanny state" rules such as federal health insurance reform, the same delegates are now proposing that the Government mandate a medically unnecessary probe inside a woman's body for purposes of exercising her constitutional right. Mandating ultrasounds is hypocritical and just

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 12

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Check Up on Legislators

To the Editor:

The Virginia General Assembly's web site Lis.virginia.gov is very valuable for determining what your state delegate and senator is doing to represent you because it has information readily available on legislation introduced (patron) and signed on other bills (co-patron) by each state delegate and senator, committee assignments, bills considered by committees and votes cast by each General

Assembly member in committees, during house and senate floor sessions and whether to pass or reject bills. The patron of a bill has the responsibility of providing data to committees for consideration to pass or reject a bill. When a person co-patrons a bill it shows support for the bill's content.

I reviewed the information published on this site for Delegate Surovell to get familiar with what bills he introduced (patron) because he stated in a commentary published in the Mount Vernon Gazette recently that "Route 1 will not improve until we get a fair

share of construction funding." None of the 28 bills he patroned included a bill to change the state allocation formula for transportation construction funding. His 28 bills include a myriad of subjects including increasing the number of transportation board members, allowing localities to decide when the school year begins and ends, solar energy and increasing transparency for certain government actions. He also introduced 6 resolutions that generally commend or celebrate someone or thing. Of the 77 bills he co-patroned, some deal with raising taxes, civil rights,

court matters, tax credits and medical matters.

I encourage you to go the General Assembly's web site Lis.virginia.gov and review your delegate's and state senator's record while the General Assembly is in session. By becoming involved you can increase accountability of the elected officials by letting them know your suggestions and comments. The more we become involved in the process, representation and results should help benefit all of us.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

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8413 Alyce Place Alexandria, VA 22308

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7812 West Boulevard Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

New Price and New Fence!



Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ **\$675,000**



4309 Sheridans Point Ct Alexandria, VA 22309

SOLD



Stunning Split foyer in Waywood Elementary School. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 car garage. New White kitchen 2010 w/ soft close cabinets, new heat pump 2011, Master BR with 3 closets, closet built ins and desks in bedrooms. Landscaped yard and private deck. Large Garage 24x12. Nice community w/ underground utilities and sidewalks. Walk to shopping and pool in summer. ~ **\$575,000**



1403 Oakbrooke Avenue Alexandria, VA 22308

Brought in the Buyers!



Fabulous cape code style home in sought after Stratford on the Potomac on quarter acre. 2200 above grade square feet, plus unfinished basement, offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, on 3 levels with attached carport and hardwood floors throughout. ~ **\$520,000**

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OPEN SUN!

8355 Justin Rd
\$870,000
PERFECTION!
Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fab features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kit, 2 lvs of hdwd flrs, stunning MBR and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!
OPEN SUN 2/26, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Old Vernon; R-Justin.

OPEN SUN!

8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000
Country Club Views!
You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A + lot, updated kitchen w/granite countertops & SS appli, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir. OPEN SUN 2/26, 1-4! GW Pky S, past estate; R-Old Mill; R-Copper.

NEW PRICE!

9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000
Stunning Price Reduction!
Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fabulous gourmet eat in kitchen, formal dining, 5 fireplaces, elevator. Direct river access.

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JUST LISTED!

7006 Stone Mill Pl
\$460,000
Classic Colonial-Reasonable Price!
A rare find, reasonably priced three level Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in highly sought after Stoneybrook. Many fab features: open kitchen-family room with FP, first floor study, expanded master suite, finished lower level, hdwd flrs and covered parking. Interior recently painted-shows well! Large fenced lot convenient to everything including metro and Ft. Belvoir.

JUST LISTED!

9017 Stratford Ln
\$949,000
Totally Expanded and Updated!
Understated elegance-modest front elevation belies stunning expanded interior featuring room sizes and amenities typically associated with new custom homes. Many fabulous features include gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, hardwood floors, upgraded HVAC system, imported tile and many additional luxurious amenities. No cost was spared in renovation resulting in top of the line brands throughout.

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\$839,900
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HOME SALES

In January 2012, 71 homes sold between \$1,051,782-\$85,500 in the Mount Vernon area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,051,782-\$260,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
7017 JUBE CT	6	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$1,051,782	Detached	0.40	22307	RANDALL
1615 SHERWOOD HALL LN	6	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$887,000	Detached	0.46	22306	HOLLINDALE
7122 MARINE DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$875,000	Detached	0.45	22307	MARIAN FOREST
9387 MOUNT VERNON CIR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$875,000	Detached	0.42	22309	MT VERNON ON THE POTOMAC
7900 SOUTHDOWN RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$835,000	Detached	1.20	22308	WELLINGTON
1211 OLDE TOWNE RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$690,000	Detached	0.24	22307	NEW ALEXANDRIA
3805 RIVERWOOD RD	4	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$602,000	Detached	0.36	22309	RIVERWOOD
7022 SWAIN DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$599,500	Detached	0.23	22306	VALLEY VIEW
9115 VOLUNTEER DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$599,500	Detached	0.77	22309	MT VERNON FOREST
2404 HUNTINGTON PARK DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$589,900	Townhouse	0.04	22303	PAVILIONS AT HUNTINGTON
8436 PORTER LN	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$565,000	Detached	0.32	22308	STRAFORD ON THE POTOMAC

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Budget Process

FROM PAGE 8
plain mean.

Many pregnancies are terminated due to complications. Requiring a mother who has been previously diagnosed with an anencephalic baby (forming without a brain), deformed, or medically dead (without a heartbeat) to undergo a repeat imaging procedure to again show her a malformed fetus is the equivalent of state sponsored torture. I will continue to fight these bills as they continue to work through the legislature.

The House and Senate money committees released their competing budgets over the weekend. The Governor's budget cut \$54 million of special money for Northern Virginia called "cost to compete" funding to help us pay our teachers salaries to compete with other D.C. Metropolitan area jurisdictions. The House Budget refused to reinstate this money. The Senate now under downstate control due to the party change only reinstated two-thirds of it.

The House Budget also diverts over \$100 million of funding for schools, public safety, health care, and safety net programs to transportation projects by


dedicating part of existing sales tax revenue to the Transportation Trust Fund. I will oppose this for several reasons.

First, the General Fund is starved. Adding roads into the competition for funds with schools, public safety, health care and safety net programs is bad policy. Second, thirty-percent of gas taxes are paid by out-of-state users and nearly 100 percent of sales taxes are paid by Virginians. All road users contribute, not just Virginians. Also, under the proposed distributions, the Governor is proposing that Northern Virginia receive about half as much for roads if this sales tax revenue was run through the Transportation Trust Fund. We are shortchanged enough already by the state and need new revenue in the system.

This battle will continue to percolate and some fear that we are headed for a stalemate given the 20-20 situation in the Virginia Senate.

Please continue your feedback on legislation this session. I have written about twenty articles in the last 60 days about this session on my blog – The Dixie Pig – at scottsuovell.blogspot.com. You can also visit my website (www.scottsuovell.org), or send me email at scottsuovell@gmail.com.

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Jazzercise Instructor Celebrates 25 Years of Fitness

On March 3, Jazzercise instructor Mindy LaBruno will celebrate her 25th anniversary of teaching Jazzercise.

She started her Jazzercise career at Mount Vernon Square Apartments. She met her husband Roger during a class at Mount Vernon Square. After 7 years she moved locations to Hollin Hall Senior Center where she is presently offering 13 classes each week with a teaching staff of six instructors. Three of her associate instructors live in the Waynewood area: Jennifer Farrar, Anne Nuttall and Peggy Frydenlund. Other instructors are Harmony Allen, Kim La Forest and Dawn Patillo.

LaBruno is well known for her personal training sessions, which is a Jazzercise alternative format. She also oversees Jazzercise Lite classes offered to the senior population throughout Fairfax County in various county facilities

Her students will enjoy an instructor team-taught class on March 3 followed by a party at 11 a.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. Standard class fees apply on March 3.

Jazzercise combines elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and more to create programs for people of every age and fitness level. Alternative formats include Jazzercise Lite, Jazzercise Body Sculpting, Jazzercise Step, Jazzercise Plus, Jazzercise Circuit Training, Jazzercise Personal Touch, and Junior Jazzercise.

Lamond Park Renamed to Honor Gil McCutcheon

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board voted to rename Lamond Community Park to Gilbert S. McCutcheon Park, an action taken to honor the former Park Authority board member who represented the Mount Vernon District from 1992 to 2010. McCutcheon was instrumental in the acquisition of this 18-acre park located at 7509 Fort Hunt Road. McCutcheon died on Dec. 28, 2011. He was 95 years old.

The action, taken at the Park Board's Jan. 25 meeting, conforms to Policy 106 which details the conditions under which a park can be named to honor an individual. The board voted unanimously to approve the change citing McCutcheon's long tenure on the Park Board, numerous accomplishments and appreciation and dedication to public service.

McCutcheon was a member of the Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors and Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park for more than a decade, serving as president of the Board of Directors of the Frying Pan Farm Park and Youth Center Supervisory Board. He also served as a Resource Management Division volunteer and was a well-known figure at Mount Vernon Farmers Market where he served as the Market Master for 26 years.

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Tapping into the Beer Market

Great Lakes Brewery expands to N. Virginia.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE GAZETTE

The Great Lakes Brewery of Cleveland, Ohio, is set to enter the Northern Virginia market with an ambitious agenda of tap takeovers and samplings across the region. With a suite of gold medal awards in the lager, porter and ale categories, area beer aficionados can hardly wait for a chance to fill their glass.

Rustico will host a tap takeover of Great Lakes beer at both the Arlington and Alexandria branches on Feb. 27. The Monday evening event will feature all five of the top standards including Commodore Perry IPA, Burning

“We’ve always had plans to continue growing in the area, people have been begging us to cross the river.”

— Lauren Boveington, a spokesman for Great Lakes Brewery

River Pale Ale, Edmund Fitzgerald Porter, Eliot Ness Amber Lager and Dortmunder Gold Lager.

“It’s a great opportunity to showcase the five styles all at once,” said Lauren Boveington, a spokesman for Great Lakes Brewery. “We’ve always had plans to continue growing in the area, people have been begging us to cross the river”.

Great Lakes entered Washington, D.C. in July of 2010, and the reception from a market known for its sophisticated taste in beer has given company officials encouragement to expand.

Demand persuaded the company to make significant investments in the Cleveland-based brewery, which recently completed a series of expansions that has allowed for a doubling of capacity.

With a wide area of coverage, however, including markets in 13 states, Great Lakes had to choose strategically where to best develop. At least one reason for selecting Northern Virginia was the sheer number of area residents from Ohio who want a taste of home

“There’s a lot of hype surrounding the launch,” said Boveington. “A lot of Cleveland transplants are excited, especially in Arlington and Alexandria.”

“It’s a big deal, when you think of beer in Ohio you think of Great Lakes,” said Attiya Mahmood, an Arlington native who studied in Ohio. “My Ohio friends are very excited, it’s exciting to get a piece of home over here.”



COURTESY OF GREAT LAKES BREWERY

Five award-winning brews will be on tap this week as Great Lakes rolls into Northern Virginia. Great Lakes has two beers in the lager category, including Eliot Ness Amber and Dortmunder Gold. Eliot Ness Amber is named after the prohibition era officer made famous by the film Untouchables, while Dortmunder Gold is humbly named after the sheer number of gold medals it has received from the world beer championships.

Great Lakes Rollout Events

The Ohio-based Great Lakes Brewery will roll into the Northern Virginia market with a week of special events that include samplings at area beverage shops and tap takeovers at local bars. Rustico in Arlington and Alexandria will hold a dual event on Feb. 27 with all five award-winning brews on tap. For a complete list of area events visit greatlakesbrewing.com



The St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be Saturday, March 3 at 12:30 p.m.

31st Annual Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade

The 31st Annual Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. The parade will start at the corner of King St. and Alfred St., and proceed East down King St. to the corner of King St. and Lee St.

“Our Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade falls very early in March this year, and we know it will be a wonderful way for the thousands of spectators who view the parade every year to kick off their celebrations of Irish American Heritage Month,” said Pat Troy, Ballyshanners Chairman and Parade Master of Ceremo-

nies.

This year’s parade will be lead by co-Grand Marshals Tom and Melinda Mooney, who are the proprietors of the Murphy’s Grand Irish Pubs in Alexandria, Washington, D.C., and Virginia Beach. The Mooneys are long-time supporters of Irish-American activities in the Northern Virginia area.

As always, the parade will feature more than 100 units, including groups celebrating their Irish heritage, marchers from the military services, Irish dancing schools, bagpipe bands and other Alexandria community groups.

In addition to the parade, festivities will include a Classic Car

Show, held on Pitt St. between King and Cameron Streets beginning at 10 a.m., and a Fun Dog Show held in Market Square, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

All events are free to the public. Parade organizers suggest using Metrorail to the King Street Metro stop, and walking 10 minutes East on King Street to the Parade Route.

All events are sponsored by the Ballyshanners – Gaelic for “Old Towners”. A not-for-profit group, the Ballyshanner’s goal is to promote and preserve Irish heritage through sponsorship of the Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the Alexandria Irish Festival, held every summer.

Seven A Cappella Groups to Compete At the Harmony Sweeps Festival

Seven A Cappella groups, three of them local to the area, will compete at the Birchmere on Saturday, Feb 25, at the region’s premier A Cappella event: the Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweeps A Cappella Festival Competition.

Groups competing this year will be: Epic, Faithful, Glorious, GQ, Keystone, Loose Interpretations, and TBD. They come from a variety of backgrounds but all share one common bond — a love of A Cappella music. They include music teachers, jazz singers, government workers, a farmer, church musicians, scientists and engineers, New Yorkers, former members of college A Cappella groups, and a former Miss Maryland.

Three of the competing groups are local:

❖ Epic — Four fun-loving young ladies with backgrounds ranging from barbershop, jazz and opera, who love harmony. They are members of Harmony, Inc, an international organization of women barbershop harmony singers;

❖ Faithful — A composite of richly talented musicians coming together from Richmond and D.C., from diverse churches and spiritual persuasions. They sing gospel music with a jazz influence; and

❖ TBD — A contemporary A Cappella group styled after professional A Cappella groups such as Rockapella and Da Vinci’s Notebook. They are members of Alexandria’s award-winning barbershop chorus, The Harmonizers, but as TBD perform a wide array of genres from traditional A Cappella standards to current radio hits.



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NOW THROUGH MARCH 22

"A Palette of Paper - the Collages of Megan Coyle." The Center for the Arts, Caton Merchant Family Gallery in Manassas, will feature Alexandria resident Megan Coyle's collage art in a solo exhibition called "A Palette of Paper." Coyle's show will display portraits of people, animals, as well as landscape and cityscape collages.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

Cuba Revisited, 2011. Karen Keating, member of Multiple Exposures Gallery, will be exhibiting new images from her most recent trip to Cuba, April 2011. Reception is Sunday, March 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Artist's Talk is Thursday, March 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. At Multiple Exposure Gallery, Studio #312.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 4

"An Affair to Remember." Embrace artisan handmade creations made with a little love in February at Scope Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Kiln Club show at the Scope Gallery, 106 North Union Street, ground floor, Studio 19, Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

NOW THROUGH MARCH 11



MARCH 5 TO APRIL 1

"Large and Little" Ceramic Guild Show. At Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

GA Gardner: Interconnections. Gardner uses the vibrant colors and energy of his native Trinidad and Tobago in his paintings and mixed media works to address our often complicated relationship with mass communication. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 18

"City Limits." Featuring acrylic paintings on canvas by Eric Garner of McLean. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

THEATER

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

JUNE 1 TO 17

"A Little Night Music." Presented by TAP. Auditions will take place in March. The director will cast 14 singing actors (five male, nine female), age ranging 14-70. Singing actors of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to audition. At the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center for American Theater. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 15

"Brother Russia." Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 6

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Port City Playhouse presents a play focused on the trials and tribulations of an Irishman, Englishman and an American who are kidnapped and held hostage by unseen Arabs in Lebanon. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

"Really Really." Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2



FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10

"The Dixie Swim Club." Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a "girls only" weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Signature is offering a special "20 Seats for \$20" ticket deal for every performance. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

FEB. 9 TO MARCH 3

"Genesis Reboot." Tickets are \$30. Presented by Synetic Theater. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Crystal City Theater, 1800 South Bell St., Arlington.

JUNE 1 TO 17

"A Little Night Music." At the Mead Center for American Theater. Replaces the planned production of "Cats." A Little Night Music has a book by Hugh Wheeler and lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim. Presented by the Arlington Players (TAP). Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

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Love, Politics & Scrabble. The Games People Play, juried art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, inspired by the games people play throughout life. This juried show explores the numerous games people play in life, whether power, Monopoly, manipulation, poker, Angry Birds, baseball, or gossip. The community is invited to 'get their game on' at Art Games on Feb. 10 and Game Talks on Feb. 25. The exhibit and Marketplace, with artful Valentine Cards, closes Feb. 26.
www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or 703-838-4827.



MARCH 1 TO 18

"Out of the Box."

This Spring Arts on the Horizon presents the world premiere of Out of the Box, an engaging 30-minute interactive, nonverbal theatrical production geared toward theatergoers ages 18 months through 5. Out of the Box was created by the husband and wife team of Tia Shearer and Matt Bassett. March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 at 10:30 a.m.; March 3, 10, 17 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; March 4, 11, 18 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$8/children and adults. At Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St., Alexandria. The performance venue is located on the second level near Macy's. For more information, contact Michelle Kozlak at 703-967-0437 or mkozlak@ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Life Line Screening. Get screened to reduce your risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. Packages start at \$149. At the YMCA of Alexandria, 420 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

AAUW Lecture. 7 p.m. Speaker Holly Kearn, who works as a program manager for AAUW in the Legal Advocacy Fund department, will talk about sexual harassment at school and on the streets. At the Mt. Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria.

Colonial Republican Women's Club. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Meets at the Virginia Hills Administration Center (Old Virginia Hills School), 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., the meeting 7 - 9 p.m. Contact Debbie at 703-768-1934 or dbodlander@hotmail.com.

Brain Health and Memory Tips. Noon. Susan Wranik, MS, will present "Save Your Memory and Your Mind, 7 Steps to Better Brain Health." A luncheon is open to the public with advance reservations. Attendance is free and seating is limited. For information or reservations, call 1-877-254-9840. At The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Multinational Food and Performance. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Featuring The Arya International Dance Academy, Batala DC, Capoeira Candeias, Salsa Vive, Born to Dance Studio, Hip-Hop Youth Company, Carl Sandburg's Jazz Ensemble, Dance Team, Drama Club, Step Team, Cheer Team and the Sandburg Singers. There will also be a food-tasting extravaganza with a Dinner Theater potluck event. At Carl Sandburg Middle School.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Sock Hop. 6 to 10 p.m. At Mount Vernon Recreation Center Gym. Tickets are \$25/singles; \$40/couples; \$50/entire family. Proceeds benefit the Miracle Field to honor Ryan Bailey. Visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com.

Civil War Recruiting Day. From 1 to 4 p.m. Soldiers and civilians of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will talk about a soldier's uniform and equipment, demonstrate drills and explain the roles of military and civilian reenactors. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Multicultural Fair. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The events will include an exhibit hall (cafeteria) filled with opportunities to see, taste, touch, listen and create. Families share their customs through food, clothing, music, photos, collections, games and much more. At Hollin Meadows Elementary, 2410 Nordok Place, Alexandria.

"Lincoln's War at Washington's Boyhood Home." 10 a.m. Archaeologist Paul Nasca presents a free Java Jolt lecture co-sponsored by Friends of Alexandria. Reservations are requested, and can be made by emailing archaeology@alexandriava.gov or calling 703-746-4399. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327, Alexandria.

Book Lovers Love Music and Food. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold a "Book Lovers Love Music and Food" CD and Cook Book Sale at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Single CDs, \$1.00; CD Packaged Sets (5 +), \$5; Hardcover Books, \$3; Paperbacks, \$1. Call 703-746-1742 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Game Talks. 3 to 5 p.m. Local experts will present several short talks on some of the common games people play throughout life. Following the talks will be an interactive game experience and light refreshments. This event is part of the "Love, Politics

& Scrabble" exhibit which runs through Feb. 26. Suggested for adults 18 and older. Free.

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.
Woodcocks at Huntley Meadows. 5:15 p.m. This is the time when male Woodcocks are doing their amazing courtship displays. Join Rich Rieger at Huntley Meadows, hopefully to witness this display. Meet at the South Kings' Highway-Telegraph Rd. parking lot (the backside of Huntley Meadows Park.). Bring a flashlight. In case of heavy rain, the walk will take place Sunday, Feb. 26, 5:15 p.m. Free.

Silver Anniversary Ball. 6 p.m. to midnight. Dinner, dancing silent and live auctions and honorary guest Patsy Ticer. Sponsored by the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria. Tickets are \$200/each or \$150 for first-timers. To benefit the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At the Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Call 703-548-7454 or email jring10@comcast.net. Tickets also available at www.alexsym.org

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

"The French Connection." 2 p.m. Presented by the U.S. Marine Band. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com.

Hot Tuna in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 27

Free Foreclosure Prevention Clinics. Housing Counseling Services will host Foreclosure Prevention Clinics during the month of February. Clinics are at 12 p.m. in Conference Room 3 of the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, 421 King Street, Suite 200, Alexandria. To register, call 202-667-7006.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

Quilt Presentation. 12:30 p.m. Free. Jean Ann Wright, retired Editor-in Chief of Quilt Magazine, will present a fun-filled trunk show and program "Quilts in My Suitcase: The Life of a Traveling Quilt Editor." The MVQU program will be filled with stories, adventures and quilts made while on the road as a quilt magazine editor. MVQU meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact MVQUPresident@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 29

Orchestra Concert. 7 p.m. Free. The Carl Sandburg Middle School and West Potomac High School Orchestras combine for an evening of joyful music. Pieces by Brahms, Haydn, and Tchaikovsky will be featured, as well as several folk and modern arrangements. At West Potomac High School, Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria.

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

"On the Shoulders of Giants" - The Harlem Rens, an all-black Harlem Renaissance basketball squad. 10:30 a.m. This film documents the segregated world of pro hoops during the 1930's and follows the Rens on their way to becoming pro basketball's first world champions. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria. Two homeowners discuss the experience of living in Wright-designed houses. Sponsored by Woodlawn/Pope Leighy, Historic Sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ticket information: popeleighy1940.org.

Gala Benefit. 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$125. Featuring "Mad Men" theme celebrating the style and sophistication of the 1960s. With a Silent Auction, a Mini Raffle, "Be A Star" station where patrons can buy gifts that benefit the Center, and a Cocktail Buffet. Hosted by the Center for Alexandria's Children, a child-friendly facility that protects children and strengthens families by coordinating the investigation, prosecution, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. At Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 South Union Street, Alexandria. Visit http://madforalexandriaschildren.eventbrite.com.

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Sharp-Shooting Loftus Lifts Majors Over Centreville

Junior ties 3-pointer career high with five in regional opener.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

As Mount Vernon guard Kelly Loftus' perimeter potency became evident to those in the visiting crowd in Skinner Field House on Feb. 20, Centreville fans began shouting words of warning, pleading with the Wildcats to keep Loftus from getting open.

"She looked like she just wanted it that much more than anybody else on the floor. She played a great game tonight."

— Mount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey about Kelly Loftus

"Don't leave 3!" someone shouted from the bleachers, identifying Loftus by her jersey number. "You can't leave her!"

Advice from fans, while sound, was too little, too late for Centreville.

Loftus scored 23 points and tied a career high with five 3-pointers as the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team defeated Centreville 65-52 in the

opening round of the Northern Region tournament. Loftus buried a triple late in the second quarter to give the Majors a 28-13 halftime lead. Her fifth 3-pointer came with 5:17 remaining in the third quarter, giving Mount Vernon a 35-19 advantage.

Loftus, a junior, said she benefits from hearing others talk about denying her the ball.

"It actually gives me a boost in confidence," Loftus said. "I just try harder to get the ball. It actually makes me want to shoot more."

Loftus, a first-team all-National District selection, also grabbed 10 rebounds and finished with four steals.

"She was incredible," Mount Vernon head coach Courtney Coffey said. "She got going early. She found a nice little rhythm in the first quarter. The biggest thing with Kelly is when she gets going for us defensively, it just fuels her offense. ...I thought she did a great job of knowing when to pick and choose her shots. ... She looked like she just wanted it that much more than anybody else on the floor. She played a great game tonight."

Sophomore forward Samantha Porter scored 15



Mount Vernon junior Kelly Loftus, left, scored 23 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and tied a career high with five 3-pointers against Centreville on Feb. 20.

points, grabbed 10 rebounds and snagged three steals for Mount Vernon. Porter received second-team all-district honors, but Coffey said she deserved better.

"That kid, to me, is the most underrated kid in this region," Coffey said. "I was really [angry] that the other coaches in our district did not feel that she was first team. If there's another kid in our district better than her, something is wrong. That kid is incredible, she gives it 180 percent every time out, she does everything you ask. There are times on the floor she'll guard all five people on one possession. She's everywhere."

First-team point guard Taylor Dunham finished with 12 points for Mount Vernon.

The victory improved the Majors' record to 24-1 and extended their winning streak to 22 games. Mount Vernon's lone loss came against undefeated Oakton on Dec. 6, a 71-41 blemish on an otherwise perfect season.

Mount Vernon beat Yorktown 66-47 on Feb. 17 to capture the program's second consecutive district championship. After 25 games, Mount Vernon was ranked No. 14 in the Washington Post's top 20, giving the Majors the third-

SEE JUNIOR, PAGE 19

West Potomac Girls Win State Relay Championship

West Potomac's Reanna Dona, Hellen Moffitt, Sara Bertram, and Maxine Clifford won the state championship in the 200-yard freestyle relay at the 2012 Virginia State AAA High School Swim & Dive Championship meet Feb. 17-18 at George Mason University Aquatic Center. The girls swam away from the field by more than 1.5 seconds to win with an automatic All-American time of 1 minute, 36.58 seconds.

The same four girls teamed up for the 200-yard medley relay and placed third in that event with another automatic All-American time. Bertram, Clifford, Dona, and Moffitt broke the Patriot District and Northern Region records in the 200-yard medley relay earlier in the season.

All-American recognition is awarded to high school swimmers across the nation who have the top 100 fastest times recorded each year in each event. West Potomac was

the only girls' team at the Virginia state meet to achieve automatic All-American time standards in two relay events. Close to 600 student athletes representing 66 Virginia high schools competed at the state swim and dive championship meet.

The two West Potomac girls' relays contributed 72 points toward the team's total of 162 points and helped West Potomac earn the third-place trophy at the state competition behind Osbourn Park (166) and Oakton (183 points).

In the individual events, Moffitt scored 32 points by placing second in the 100 butterfly (55.08) and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke (55.79), with automatic All-American times in both events. Moffitt was one of only three girls at the state meet to achieve automatic All-American times in two individual events. The other two double

SEE WP GIRLS, PAGE 19



West Potomac freshman Maxine Clifford, sophomore Sara Bertram, senior Reanna Dona, and junior Hellen Moffitt won the state title in the girls' 200-yard freestyle relay at the Virginia State AAA High School Swim & Dive Championship meet held at George Mason University, Feb. 17-18. The girls bested the field by 1.5 seconds and achieved an automatic All-American time of 1 minute, 36.58 seconds in the event. The girls also achieved an automatic All-American time with their third-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay. West Potomac was the only girls' team at the meet to achieve two automatic All-American times in the relay events.

Career High with Five 3-Pointers

FROM PAGE 18

best ranking among Northern Region teams (Oakton is No. 4, West Springfield is No. 5).

"We worked hard for it, so I believe we all deserve it," Loftus said of notoriety received by the Majors. "We normally don't get much respect being Mount

Vernon, but this year we really tried hard to gain respect and I think we got it."

Mount Vernon hosted Annandale in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 22. The result was not available prior to The Gazette's deadline. The semifinals are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 24 at Robinson Secondary School.

"We're really enjoying it," Coffey said of the Majors' season. "At this point of the game, we just don't want it to end. That's what we're playing for. We're just trying to keep it going. No one wants to not have practice. No one wants to not be around each other anymore."

WP Girls Win Relay Championship

FROM PAGE 18

All-American swimmers were Janet Hu from Oakton (100 butterfly and 100 backstroke) and Madison Hahn (200 individual medley and 100 backstroke) from Maury High School in the Eastern Region. All three girls are 2012 Olympic Trials qualifiers in the 100-meter backstroke.

Dona finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle (24.40) and in the 100-yard backstroke (57.67) and scored 28 points for the Wolverines. Bertram finished

eighth in the 100-yard butterfly (57.55) and 16th in the 200-yard individual medley (2:10.56), earning 12 points, while Clifford added 18 points with her eighth-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle (24.69) and 10th-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle (53.94). Junior Maddy Bolger, sophomores Carolyn Murphy and Kristine Pinter, and freshman Torie Bolger competed for West Potomac in the 400-yard freestyle relay and placed 23rd overall in the preliminaries.

West Potomac's third-place finish at

the state swim meet and second-place finish at the Northern Region meet this year were the best in school history. Last year, the West Potomac girls' team placed fifth at the state championship meet and fourth at regions. West Potomac head coach Bob Lombardi is a psychology teacher at Falls Church High School and has coached the Wolverine swim team for the past 26 years. Coach Lombardi is assisted by Sam Burgi, who coaches for the Fort Belvoir swim team.

SPORTS BRIEF

Mount Vernon's Floyd Places 6th at States

Mount Vernon senior Dusty Floyd placed sixth in the 171-pound division at the 2012 state wrestling championships on Feb. 18 at Robinson Secondary School.

Floyd, who won National District and Northern Region championships this season, reached the state semifinals before suffering his first loss of the season — a 7-4 decision against First Colonial's Ryland O'Brien. Floyd then lost to Colonial Forge's Zach Martinez, 7-0, and Centreville's Ryan Sepulveda, 2-1, to finish sixth.

"I [said] after districts when it comes to states, it's whoever has the best day," Floyd said, "and I didn't have a good day today."

Floyd defeated Matt Hommell of Kings Fork 7-3 in the opening round and Patriot's Anthony Olsen, 15-0, in the quarterfinals. Floyd finished the season with a record of 57-3.

"It was a good season," Floyd said. "I definitely got better from last year, even though I placed lower (fifth last year), I definitely improved a lot."

Floyd ends his high school career as Mount Vernon's all-time leader in victories. He said he will have fond memories of working with head coach Anthony McDuffie.

"He was like my best friend," Floyd said. "We have a great relationship."

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