



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## Clearing Out Invasive Japanese Barberry Bushes

David Dale, Kevin Rochford, Nancy Dale, Allison Niedbala, Grace and Roger Denney, Brenda and Caitlin Crespo and Alison Palmer prepare to return to digging out the bushes after taking a short mid-morning break during a spring clean-up March 17 at Huntley Meadows. More photos, page 3.

## Hyland Calls For Meals Tax

**Adding 4 percent to restaurant meals could raise \$80 million for roads and schools.**

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Gerry Hyland has his eye on that burrito. To pay for county schools and roads, the Mount Vernon District supervisor wants to consider adding a new restaurant meals tax. If members of the Board of Supervisors agree, voters would have the final say as to whether or not diners would be packing on more than calories. Budget officials say adding a 4 percent tax to restaurant meals would raise about \$80 million a year, which Hyland says would be specifically set aside for school and roads.

“The question is would they rather have their real-estate taxes paid to have quality education and to have improvements to the roads in Fairfax County or not?” asked Supervisor Hyland. “And looking to the real-estate tax to pay for the things that need to be done is, for me, not a reasonable position.”

Over the past decade, property owners have been hit with a steadily growing burden. Now, as the economy shows signs of recovering, Hyland says adding to that burden would be a mistake. Instead, he would like to figure out a way of raising revenues that includes tourists and people who live

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 8

## Aldersgate Methodists Confront a Mountain

**A school kitchen and clinic will be built in Guatemala this year.**

By ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE

Cinderblock after cinderblock, hefting trowel after trowel of mortar, mission trip after mission trip, Aldersgate United Methodists are intent on transforming an impoverished Guatemala community perched 12,500 feet up on San Antonio Mountain.

“It’s a level of poverty we wouldn’t find here in the States,” said the Rev. Jason Micheli, Aldersgate’s 34-year-old associate

SEE ALDERSGATE, PAGE 8



**A little girl of Chikisis, a San Antonio Mountain village in Guatemala.**

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**ALEXANDRIA/MT VERNON** \$539,000



### Yacht Haven Beauty!

Located on George Washington's original property this updated Contemporary home with three bedrooms and two and a half baths features vaulted ceilings and gleaming hardwoods. A separate dining room leads to country kitchen with two ovens and upgraded appliances. Living room showcases wall of windows and floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace.

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**ALEXANDRIA SOUTH** \$523,700



### Vernon on Potomac

Be among the first to see this four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home located close to Fort Belvoir, Mount Vernon bike path, Fort Hunt park, excellent schools, and public transportation. Gourmet kitchen with new appliances, renovated baths, enclosed porch, hardwood floors, replaced windows. Private fenced yard for quiet cook-outs. Move-in condition!

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**ALEXANDRIA/Jefferson Manor** \$345,000



### The Gem of Jefferson Manor!

Totally "done" with gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwoods, designer paint colors, all-American front porch, renovated bath, large rear deck, and gorgeous plantings. Attention to every detail is evident throughout. Private corner lot on a quiet street. Walk five minutes to Metro. Move-in condition.

**Joan Shannon**

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**ALEXANDRIA CITY/Braddock Heights** \$859,000



### All The Space Is Already Here

Offering four bedrooms and three and a half baths, there's no need for an addition in this light-filled brick Colonial. Above grade, walk-out lower level with living and sleeping quarters is ideal for au-pair suite. Gorgeous patio and landscaping and generous room sizes throughout. Screened porch, garage and walk to George Mason school.

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www.SusanLeavitt.com

MLS ID# AR7798430



**ALEXANDRIA/MOUNT VERNON** \$647,700



### First Offering ~ A Must See

This property was built on Potomac Valley Farm, one of five farms owned by George Washington. Offering four bedrooms, two and a half baths (renovated), gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, screened porch, and an oversized two-car garage. Located a short distance to great schools, Fort Hunt Park, Mount Vernon bike path, and public transportation.

**Sally Z. Haper**

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# Volunteers Help Clean-up Huntley Meadows



**Volunteer Addison Kasper crosses paths with a box turtle fresh from a short winter hibernation in the mud. David Dale offered the turtle a pair of worms.**



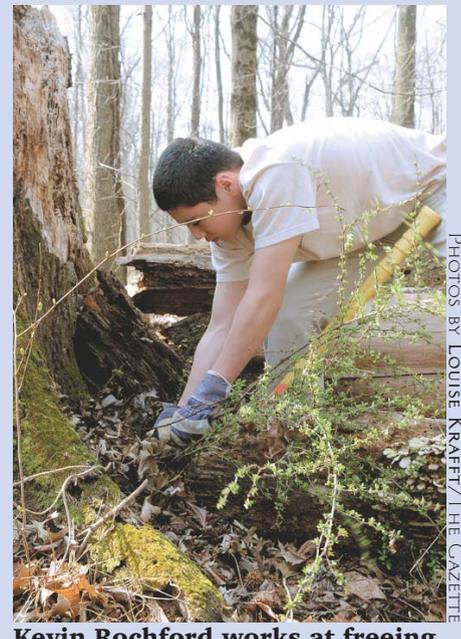
**David Dale gathers a few of the bushes for drying.**

**A**dozen or more volunteers armed with thick gloves, pitchforks and shovels worked over an expanse of the woodland on Saturday, March 17, clearing it of the invasive Japanese Barberry bush. The volunteers located the bushes, dug them up and left the roots on fallen tree trunks to dry out. The clean-

up is part of the Invasive Management Area program within the Fairfax County Park Authority. Information about future projects are available by visiting the park authority website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/> Later in the season, volunteers will return to clear the bittersweet vine, Japanese stilt grass and garlic mustard.



**The barberry bushes are left to dry on the fallen tree trunks in the woodland.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

**Kevin Rochford works at freeing a barberry bush from the base of a fallen tree.**



**Co-leaders of the IMA group Nancy Dale and Allison Niedbala ask the volunteers about what they have seen that is new during the morning clean-up.**

## Teen Arrested After Pursuit

**A**n Alexandria teenager faces numerous charges after leading Virginia State Police in a pursuit through Prince William County Monday, March 12. The 17-year-old male is being charged with reckless driving, driving on a revoked license, possession of a stolen vehicle and one felony count of eluding police.

At approximately 3 p.m., Trooper D.J. Presson stopped a westbound 2002 Mercedes for an HOV violation on Interstate 66 near Exit 44 in Prince William County. The Mercedes first stopped for the trooper but then took off continuing westbound on I-66 and getting off at Exit 44 for Route 234. The pursuit continued into the county and

then double backed onto Interstate 66 west at the Wellington Road exit.

Once back on I-66, the Mercedes struck a Virginia State Police vehicle engaged in the pursuit. Two more state police vehicles were struck by the suspect vehicle and the pursuit came to an end. The driver was taken into custody.

The 17-year-old driver was not injured. None of the troopers involved in the pursuit was injured, either.

The vehicle was reported stolen out of Fairfax County Monday afternoon, March 12.

All lanes of Interstate 66 west were reopened shortly before 4 p.m.

## CRIME REPORT

*Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through March 16.*

### ROBBERY

**Janna Lee Ave./ Tamarind St.,** March 8, 2 a.m. The victim reported that while walking home he was assaulted by three unknown men. They took his wallet and cell phone. The victim received minor injuries.

### ASSAULT

**8000 block of Richmond Highway,** March 8, 10 p.m. The victim reported someone struck her with an egg.

### DESTRUCTION/ UNLAWFULL ENTRY

**6600 Richmond Highway,** March 11, 7:35 a.m. A 53-year-old male of no fixed address was arrested. He was charged with breaking the lock

to a shed and going inside.

### BURGLARY

**5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace,** March 12, between 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The victim returned home to find someone had been in the home. A safe with documents and a laptop computer were stolen. It appears entry was made through a rear window.

### LARCENIES

**7600 block of Beddoo St.** Registration card from vehicle.  
**7200 block of Fordson Road.** Tools from vehicle.  
**2300 block of Huntington Ave.** Sandwich from business.  
**7900 block of Janna Lee Ave.** Bicycle from residence.

## PEOPLE

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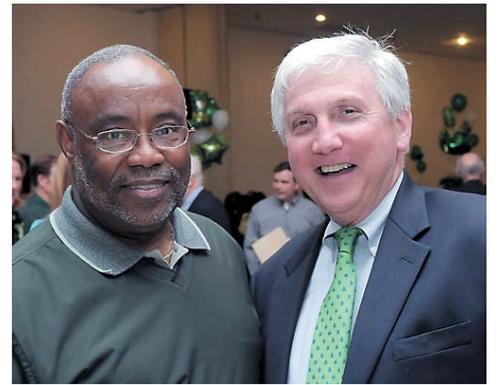
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**Reham Dawer of Great Falls, Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), Wasim Entabi of Alexandria, Terry McAuliffe and Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille.**



**Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille and Brian Hannigan.**

### Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Hundreds of friends and supporters of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) filled the Kena Shriners Hall on Arlington Boulevard for a St. Patrick's Day Fete on Friday, March 16.



**Political director of the Democratic Party of Virginia Clark Mercer, Chris Chon of Springfield, Joe Weeren of Alexandria and Courtney Dozier of Alexandria.**

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
THE GAZETTE



Fairfax County

# COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP



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Take Spring Cleaning to a Greener Level!

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**  
from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the  
South County Government Center  
(8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria).

Household Hazardous Waste from residences will be accepted at no charge. We will **not** accept business or commercial waste, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries or propane tanks.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25**

 **Electric Sunday**

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex  
(9850 Furnace Road, Lorton).

Recycle televisions, computers and peripheral electronics along with unbroken fluorescent tubes & light bulbs. There is no cost to participate.

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These **FREE** events are available to Fairfax County residents only. For complete details, go online to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling), or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.  
For reasonable ADA accommodations, please call 703-324-5230, TTY 711.



# PEOPLE



## Tasty Career

Mount Vernon native Dana Bailey, 29, has joined Occasionally Cake of Alexandria as a manager-in-training and a baker. Bailey is a recent graduate of Stratford University in Woodbridge with a degree in baking and pastry. Although she spent the past 10 years working in government administration, Bailey knew her calling was to be in the kitchen creating and designing cakes. When she's not whipping up a new cupcake flavor, she enjoys reading and listening to music. Her favorite cupcake invention is Banana's Foster, made with banana cake dipped in dulce de leche with rum butter cream icing and sprinkled with brown sugar.



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE GAZETTE

## Feuer Memorial String Competition

Michael Lewis, a junior at West Potomac High School, took to the stage Saturday night, March 17 at the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's Masterworks concert to receive his recognition as one of three winners of the FSO's 2012 Feuer Memorial String Competition. Lewis, receiving second place, will apply his \$750 award toward tuition at a conservatory. He has been playing the double bass for seven years. He participates in the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship program, where he studies with Paul DeNola, and has participated in the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute. He has also played in West Potomac High School's orchestra, the American Youth Philharmonic, and the Virginia State Orchestra. The three winners will be the featured artists at the FSO's 2012-2013 Season Preview Event, to be held on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax. Tickets to this event are \$10 and available through the FSO office, 703-563-1990.

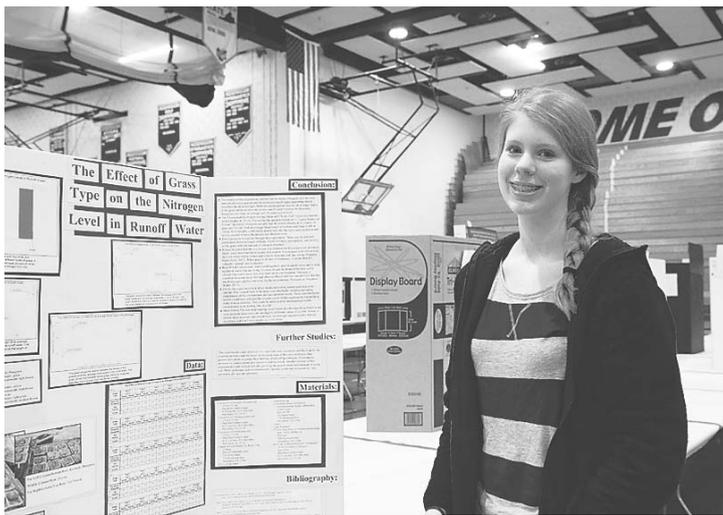


PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE GAZETTE

## At Engineering Fair

Megan McKinney, a junior at Mount Vernon High School, stands next to her finished project board in the Robinson Secondary School field house just before the start of the 57th Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair on March 16. McKinney compared the rate at which different types of grass absorbed nitrogen. The goal would be to plant grasses that would reduce detrimental runoff into important watersheds.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

### MONTH OF MARCH

**Curves Annual Food Drive.** Curves of Alexandria is asking members to donate bags of non-perishable food or cash to help support the local community food bank. At Curves of Alexandria, 1506 A Belleview Blvd, Alexandria. Call 703-721-2044 or [belleviewcurves@gmail.com](mailto:belleviewcurves@gmail.com). Visit [www.curves.com](http://www.curves.com).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**Ken Cuccinelli Speaks.** 6 to 8 p.m. The Virginia Attorney General is a guest of the Colonial Republican Women Membership Reception. In

the Kingstowne Area in Alexandria. Free. All are welcome. Email [colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com](mailto:colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com) or call 703-354-9467

### 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](http://www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com).

### MONDAY/APRIL 2

**Volunteers Needed.** The Alexandria Domestic Violence needs volunteers to answer the hotline and cover the shelter on the weekends. Training starts April 2. Training lasts for seven weeks and an interview is required. Contact Jennifer Clayton at 703-746-4911.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

**Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria.** 2 p.m. Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.



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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$434,900**  
3017 Battersea Lane

Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Split in popular Riverside Estates. Freshly painted interior, stunning refinished hwd floors throughout main lvl. New wall to wall carpeting in lower lvl. Energy efficient replacement windows throughout. Lg 2 tiered & freshly stained deck w/gas line for BBQ. Lg one car garage. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 30/35 to Pentagon and D.C. Great Value!!



**Arlington/Lexington Sq. \$399,900**  
3835 9th St N

Lexington Square Luxury! Walk to 2 Metros, Restaurants & Mall from this Large Bright 1BR unit, Features: Open Floor Plan, Wood Floors, Fireplace w/Custom Cabinetry Above, Gorgeous White Kitchen w/Corian Counters, Large Custom Closet, Spacious Bath w/Soak Tub, Washer/Dryer, Pool, Gym and 1 Parking Space.



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900**  
3202 Norwich Terrace

If you love nature, gardening, serenity, and privacy-you will love this home! A beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA Col w/3 finished lvls. 2 gas FPLs on a quiet cul-de-sac. Lower lvl offers a rec rm, den, wet, bar, gas fl, workshop & walkout to a spectacular greenhouse w/its separate heating system. Throw in a whole house back-up generator & spectacular bkyd. Wonderful neighborhood. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Alexandria, and Nat'l Airport.



**Alex/Hollin Hall Village \$409,000**  
2007 Clark Place

Lovingly and meticulously maintained home on cul-de-sac in sought after Hollin Hall/Waynewood Elementary. New roof, refinished hwd floors, freshly painted, replacement windows, carport, family rm addition w/washer/dryer and gas FPL. Wood burning FPL in living rm. Deck and beautiful bkyd. Fabulous location-walk to neighborhood shopping. 1 mile to GW Pkwy, Potomac River and Bike Trail. 5-10 mins to Old Town.



**Burke/Burke Centre \$349,900**  
10222 Quiet Pond Terrace

Stunning 3 Finished Level Town House, updated from top to bottom. Beautiful new kit-new cabinets, SS, granite & ceramic tile. 3.5 refinished baths. LR/DR offer beautiful refinished hwd floors, stone FPL, SGD to lovely wrap around deck perfect for entertaining. New carpet in BRs. Lower level offers 4th BR or Family Rm, 3rd full bath, SGD to ground level deck. Could be an in-law suite or perfect for a teenager. Close to schools, shopping & library. This is a gem!!



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## 'Practices That Undermine Trust'

### Virginia gets a failing grade on ethics rules.

The State Integrity Investigation is “designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right.”

Virginia got a failing grade, ranking 47 out of 50 states for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the Commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

Here are a few comments about Virginia from the investigation (can't call them high-**EDITORIAL** lights):

“The Old Dominion is one of nine states with no statewide ethics commission, one of four states with no campaign finance limits and one of only two states (South Carolina is the other) where the part-time legislators handpick the

judges before whom many of them practice law.

“With 8.1 million residents, Virginia is the 12th most populous state in the union. But its part-time lawmakers have one of the shortest meeting schedules in the country — 30 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. At that speed, lobbyists of necessity have been elevated from influence peddlers to trusted advisers and authors of laws.”

Virginia has admirable disclosure of campaign contributions, earning a near perfect grade on citizen access to campaign finance records. The credit on the transparency of actual contributions to candidates belongs to the Virginia Public Access Project, vpap.org, more than the Commonwealth.

But the benefit of access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by “lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed,

limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications,” according to the report.

A couple of examples of laws and practices that could undermine trust:

❖ Virginia has no limits on financial contributions to political candidates. Literally. Companies and individuals can give unlimited amounts to any and all state and local elected officials, with some very limited restriction on timing.

❖ The licensing of car title loan companies, and allowing those companies in Virginia to lend to out-of-state car owners is clearly not in the interests of consumers or the communities where these storefronts are located.

❖ Despite a groundswell of indignation about a state law that sets the start date for public schools rather than allowing local school districts to set their own calendar, the entertainment industry prevailed this year again.

❖ Votes in subcommittees, where many important reforms go to die, are not recorded and not available to the public.

See Virginia's report card (overall grade: F) <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Changes Ensure Ballot Integrity

To the Editor:

Ensuring the integrity of the ballot box is just as important as ensuring that everyone has access to the voting booth. And while hardly the strictest in the nation, Virginia's new voter ID law allows

for other forms of ID to be used if a driver's license is not available on Election Day. Furthermore, a voter without a photo ID can still vote using a provisional ballot — and such ballots are available at every polling station. The idea that it's racist to require identification is ridiculous since the same identification necessary to vote is also necessary to board a plane,

cash a check, obtain a library card, purchase drain cleaner (in Chicago) or enter the Department of Justice building in Washington D.C. Last summer, a Democratic legislature enacted a voter-ID law in Rhode Island and a cosponsor of that legislation was state Senator Harold Metts, who is black. If requiring photo-ID is racist Del. Scott Surovell should immediately

propose legislation to address what apparently is a pervasive and even an institutionalized problem throughout the Commonwealth. And Surovell should move quickly because every venue where a photo ID is required in Virginia is guilty of promoting racism. But I would suggest the real racism is in suggesting that certain groups are somehow incapable of acquiring the identification necessary to vote. Ensuring access to the ballot box is just as important as protecting the integrity of that process. The legitimacy of our representative government is jeopardized if that process is compromised by fraud. Virginia's new voter ID law is a reasonable effort at ensuring the integrity of the results in November.

**Thomas M. Beattie**  
Mount Vernon

### Government Intrusion

To the Editor:

In my previous letter, in response to H. Jay Spiegel's commentary on Del. Scott Surovell's voting record during this year's legislative session, I asked how Mr. Spiegel could “suggest that any of Del. Surovell's positions rise to anywhere near the level of ‘government intrusion in our lives’ represented by the infamous ‘personhood’ and ‘trans-vaginal ultrasound’ bills.” He seems to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



**Pi Day** Sixth Graders at Stratford Landing Elementary School celebrate Pi Day on March 14 (3.14) by creating a number chain. Each color on the chain represents a different number in Pi, that totaled 885 digits in Pi.

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# Breast Cancer Charities: Knowledge Is Power

BY DAVID C. WEINTRITT, MD, FACS  
DIRECTOR BREAST CARE INSTITUTE  
MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL



Dr. David Weintritt

Recent controversial decisions made by the Susan G. Komen organization have thrust the ethics of breast cancer fundraising into the national spotlight. While Komen's choice of fund allocations threatened their status as a non-partisan entity, the practices of breast cancer charities as a whole are being closely examined.

Part of the concern comes from the tactic of "pinkwashing," — a term relating to the overuse of the iconic pink ribbon symbol or even the color pink itself for financial gain. As a result of this trend, many looking to donate to worthy breast cancer charities are at a loss. How can we, as a community of patients, survivors, families, and medical professionals, ensure our money is being put to the best possible use? Who can we trust?

Charity Navigator, an independent non-profit organization, has the mission of help-

ing charitable givers answer that very question. Reviewing executive compensation, obtaining copies of financial records and confirming 501(c)(3) status are all listed as habits of savvy donors on the organization's website. Above all, Charity Navigator implores donors to be weary of charities with bloated budgets and poor performance outcomes.

"Talk with the charity to learn about its accomplishments, goals and challenges," the website recommends. Although this might be a time consuming measure, in the end, it will guarantee that you know and like where your money is going.

Think Before You Pink, a campaign dedicated to increasing transparency and accountability by companies that take part in

breast cancer fundraising, similarly urges givers to ask what programs are being specifically funded with their donations. Think Before You Pink uses the following example to emphasize why directed questioning is so important:

"If [your] donation is going to breast cancer services, is it reaching the people most in need, in the most effective way? The Breast Cancer Site store, for example, donates money to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, which helps pay for mammograms for women who cannot afford them. But mammograms are already covered for low-income women through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. Although this screening program does have limitations, what is most needed is the funding to get low-income women treatment if breast cancer is found."

Clearly, the best way to maximize the value of donations to breast cancer charities is for donors to empower themselves with knowledge. Take time to thoroughly

investigate the programs and financial health of charities before giving. Look for charities with an honest and open dialogue about fund allocation. Additionally, charitable organizations must work to make evaluative tools available. Donors have a right to know whether the programs their money is funding are effective.

Keeping this in mind, it would be a mistake to discount all of the good and well-intentioned work many of these charities, including the Komen foundation, have done. Looking to the future, the answer is not to stop giving money, but to use established, independent resources to donate smarter. If the breast cancer community can learn anything from the recent Susan G. Komen controversy, it should be that blindly giving money to charities adorned with pink ribbons is not the most effective way to catalyze change. Be vigilant in selecting charities, demand honesty and accessibility, and the ultimate pay-off will be great.

*Pre-med student Elizabeth Benge contributed to this article.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

have parsed out of my question an accusation that he supported the latter bill, an inference that I find puzzling. My intent was simply to point out a false equivalence: In any discussion of a legislative session that went flying off the rails into ultraconservative loony-land, it's patently absurd to cite, as examples of Big Government overreach, Del. Surovell's support for taxing plastic bags, raising the gas tax (who better to pay for roads than the people who drive on them?), and repealing tax credits for the coal industry. (Oh, that reminds me: Can someone explain why our scarce tax dollars are being used to boost the profits of one of the most despicable industries on Earth? If we stop subsidizing them, will they move their mines to another state, or to China?)

In response to my (and other writers') support for reinstatement of an estate tax, Mr. Spiegel rolls out that tired old canard: "Estate taxes threaten the ability of families to pass family businesses on to their heirs." Oddly enough, when challenged to cite actual examples of family businesses or farms being lost because of estate taxes, Grover Norquist's acolytes do a lot of fussing and fuming, but produce little in the way of supporting facts (<http://www.cbpp.org/files/estatetaxmyths.pdf>). Surely no rational person would suggest a confiscatory estate tax, but I believe that there is something inherently wrong with a society that allows such a huge proportion of

its wealth to percolate up to a minuscule number of increasing rich families. Am I advocating "redistribution of assets?" You betcha! That's what governments do, have always done, and always will do. The question is not if, but how equitably.

Jeff Carver  
Alexandria

## Problem with Assuming

To the Editor:

Can you tell a person's race merely by the color of their skin? Apparently, H. Jay Spiegel can.

In my comments defending Del. Scott Surovell's support of HB16 in the March 14 edition of the Mount Vernon Gazette, there is no mention of race as an "African American." I purposely used the term "non-whites" particularly since there are more than two races and more than one non-white race. Besides, the issue was about restoration of voting rights for certain non-violent felons and HB16 covers the issue regardless of race.

It's reasonable to assume that the "one drop" rule was used to determine my race. Mr. Spiegel made a point to state that, according to him, I am an African American but failed to mention his race. Mr. Spiegel did not ask me my race and based on his visual of my skin color labeled me as an African American. Am I? Guess what Mr. Spiegel, thanks to my ancestors and for you only, you can label me

as a Native American, which is a non-white, since I have the legal blood percentage to do so. So, don't judge a book by its cover — read the chapters and ask questions to get the full understanding of its contents.

Queenie Cox

## Falling from Middle Class to Poverty

To the Editor:

While the economy shows signs of improving, many in our area are still facing hardships and struggling to make ends meet. This is a familiar fact to the counselors at United Community Ministries (UCM): over 300 people receive a three-day supply of food through UCM each day. UCM serves residents along the Route 1 Corridor and provides basic needs assistance as well as comprehensive housing, family, youth, employment and community development programs.

Fairfax County is working to prevent and end homelessness within the next decade, but it is not only the most vulnerable who are at risk. Without a coordinated federal effort, more and more of the middle class will fall into poverty, rather than developing skills and resources to become self-sufficient and successful.

Last November, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced legislation to establish a federal

working group to develop and implement a national plan to reduce poverty by half within 10 years. Despite the urgency of this issue, and co-sponsorship by Congressman Jim Moran, the legislation has sat in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for over three months. H.R. 3300, the Half in Ten Act of 2011, was designed in order to confront poverty and increase opportunity, but the bill will have no effect if it doesn't become a law.

Back in 2008, Congress passed a resolution for the United States to set a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years. This bill puts those ideas into action by establishing a Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty within the Department of Health and Human Services. This Working Group would address five specific goals: developing a plan for reducing the number of people living in poverty by half within 10 years; coordinating government policies and activities relating to poverty; ensuring government compliance with guidelines and policies related to policy; ensuring federal best practices in administration and maximizing outreach to disenfranchised communities; and enacting best practices for improved data collection.

In the Route 1 community, and at UCM, we see that our neighbors and clients are struggling. We need a coordinated national effort to decrease poverty, across the country and right here in Alexandria. During this election season, we need to let the candidates know

that relying on the "safety net" is not a solution. We need to let our legislators know that we care about decreasing poverty and increasing opportunities and self-sufficiency. When we invest in strengthening the middle class, we strengthen the entire American economy. This bill can streamline government by coordinating federal antipoverty measures, and improve the accuracy of poverty data. Let your voice be heard, and speak out for your neighbors and your community. Let the candidates know that poverty is an issue that affects us all, and one that we need to prioritize on a national level.

Michelle Sheahan  
Washington, D.C.

## Community Disconnect?

To the Editor:

The silly season is upon us, the time of year in which the Mount Vernon Council (MVCCA) passes budget resolutions in which it urges the Board of Supervisors to raise every conceivable tax so that sufficient funding is available for the progressive spending the MVCCA supports. This year is no different. In the March 2012 MVCCA Record, its Budget and Finance Committee has proposed a resolution that will have been voted upon this week by the time this letter is published.

The resolution discusses the work performed by the Fairfax

SEE LETTER, PAGE 10

# Aldersgate Methodists Confront a Mountain

FROM PAGE 1

pastor. The Mayans living there were pushed off more productive land generations ago. Their meagre homes are typically built with three walls of scavenged tin, dried mud or cinderblock with a back wall of mud against the side of the mountain. Roofs are commonly improvised of trash bag plastic.

Supporting the poverty-fighting work of the Highland Support Project for the past six years Aldersgate United Methodists from the church at the corner of Fort Hunt and Collingwood Roads have focused on building vented cinderblock stoves for about 475 Mayan homes. Otherwise the residents must endure cooking on inside open fires, their eyes stinging in thick smoke.

In July the Aldersgate Methodists, both an adult team and a youth team, will be traveling back to a San Antonio Mountain village called Chikisis, population about 2,000, to build a kitchen with a cement floor and tin roof for the village school in addition to more stoves. Presently the women of Chikisis take turns cooking for the school in a three-walled improvised kitchen on a mud floor over an open fire.

"The reality is that if you go into that room where those poor women are cooking a meal for those 160 kids, you can't see the other side of the wall," said Steve Larkin, an Aldersgate lay leader who was with the mission team in December and is returning this July. "These women have got to be there to cook a meal for those kids, so this is going to be a tremendous help to them."

"Cooking over a fire like this takes all morning long," said Micheli. "All that smoke impacts the women in a very critical way. And it seeps into the classrooms too." In the new kitchen there will also be an efficient cinderblock oven that'll greatly cut the cooking time, and the smoke will be vented.

"We've been working with families and now we're taking the next step working with communities," said Larkin, who recalled



**The Rev. Jason Micheli, associate pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.**

working on his first stove last December.

"The (Mayan) mom that was working with us on our first stove was maybe 16, and in the morning it was chilly, maybe in the mid-40's. Here she is, probably four feet six inches maybe, in her little courtyard where the house is on one side and a pile of corn on the other side drying, and she's in the middle mixing cement with a hoe, her baby is slung to her back and she's wearing shower shoes."

He described the Mayan people as "some of the hardest working people I know" and described Aldersgate's mission work as tying in neatly with a recent sermon series on the book "The Hole in Our Gospel" by Richard Stearn, which calls on Christians to commit to fighting global poverty.

"It's a hands-on Christianity," said Micheli who called the focus of Aldersgate's mission work one of social justice. "In Chikisis the poverty is more severe than in a lot of (Guatemala mountain) communities," he said. "You can definitely see the variance between those families that have someone here in the States sending money back home and those who don't."



**Steve Larkin, an Aldersgate United Methodist Church lay leader.**

Explaining how the mission work is an expression of Christian faith, Micheli said, "Christianity is very much about doing. Jesus says 'Follow me' a lot more than he says 'Have this idea about me' or 'Believe in me.' I think built into Christianity is this sense that you don't really understand the faith without doing the practices of the faith — serving the poor here or somewhere else."

As a pastor, he values the mission work also for its impact on relationships between congregation members. "What I'm looking for is for the group from this church to bond at a deeper level with one another, develop leadership skills they didn't previously have and be able to articulate how what they did relates to their faith. It's more effective than Sunday school at teaching our faith."

For sleeping quarters, the missionaries will cram into two private homes for two weeks sleeping on air mattresses, cots and in hammocks. Mosquitos aren't a problem in the high altitude and chilly mountain temperatures but Micheli advises missionaries to bring earplugs because wild dogs raise a racket at night.

This season of Lent, there is a special offering at Aldersgate to support the Chikisis work, aiming to raise \$15,000. Missioners pay their own way down and also pay a fee that helps buy materials.

"We've had people give large gifts and we've had a lot of kids giving a dollar each week," Micheli said. Contributions can also be made online at [www.aldersgate.net/onlinegiving](http://www.aldersgate.net/onlinegiving).

After the completion of the kitchen, missioners in December will build a 15 foot by 30 foot clinic/community center, again with a cement floor and tin roof. The cement will be mixed by hand. This building will provide space for health volunteers and for future mission teams to bed down. "That way we have an access point to do service work in all these other communities (on San Antonio Mountain) that are otherwise inaccessible to volunteer teams," said Micheli. The building will have gas lamps burning trucked-in propane for indoor illumination, a latrine and an outdoor water spigot.

Those other communities on the mountain are Chajuab, Xol ja', Pacoral, Xetnamit, Xeqalbal, Pacutama and Chuicutama, all Mayan names like Chikisis which means "Place of Trees." After the school kitchen and clinic/community center are built, "There's a need for another larger-scale clinic/community center in an adjacent community. Eighteen months from now, maybe two years from now we'll be able to tackle that," said Micheli who excited to head back to work on San Antonio Mountain. When he returns, though an experienced marathon runner, he admits to coming home fatigued. Like Larkin, he finds the company of these Mayan Christians refreshing. "It's a wonderfully open, hospitable culture that I think has some resonances with how Christianity is on its best day," he said.

This Sunday the founders of the Highland Support Project, Lupe and Ben Blevins, are visiting Aldersgate.

## MILITARY NOTES

**Brian G. Manderfield** has been awarded an Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend a host college or university. He is the son of Jane O. and Robert V. Manderfield of Hillgrass Circle, Colorado Springs, Colo., and grandson of John L. and Louise S. Olewine of N. College Row, Brevard, N.C. His grandparent, G.J. Manderfield, resides on Princess St., Alexandria.

**Navy Seaman Apprentice Brandon T. Loyet**, son of Thomas J. Loyet of Alexandria, was recently promoted to his current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Loyet is a 2005 graduate of West Potomac High School of Alexandria.

**Navy Seaman Angella S. Thuotte**, a 2004 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

**Army Staff Sgt. Michael J. Aloisi** has graduated from the Senior Leader's Course at the Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Va. He is the son of William M. and Margaret J. Aloisi of Sterling Road, Rittman, Ohio. His sister, Sarah M. Aloisi, is of Alderney Court, Severn, Md., and his brother, Matthew J. Aloisi, resides on S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. The staff sergeant graduated in 1993 from Rittman High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2009 from the University of Maryland at Adelphi.

## Supervisors Consider Meals Tax

FROM PAGE 1

in other jurisdictions. Hyland also says it's a matter of fairness because neighboring jurisdictions already have a meals tax. Alexandria, for example, has 4 percent tax on restaurant meals that generates more than \$16 million a year.

"Why should they pay tax to Alexandria when they have a meal and not in Fairfax to help reduce the burden of the real-estate tax?" he asked.

**OUTSIDE THE ROY ROGERS** in the Belle View Shopping Center, diners have a variety of opinions about the potential to adding county money to their cheeseburgers.

Many diners say they don't like taxes in general and that they are certainly opposed to new taxes. Some say the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors shouldn't

be rewarded with a new sense of revenue if they can't make do with what they have already.

"I think the existing tax burden for us in Northern Virginia is already too much," said Mount Vernon resident Keith Gray. "They need to figure out their priorities and kind of do some shifting and reallocation of what they are currently doing because I don't think they are doing a good job."

Others agree that the county isn't doing a good job. But they disagree about the potential for new revenue.

"We have lousy roads. We have a lousy health-care system. We have a lousy whole lot of stuff," said Mount Vernon resident Bill Vodre. "And all this about saving money and not paying taxes makes no sense."

**THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME** Fairfax County has considered a tax on meals. Back

in 1992, members of the Board of Supervisors approved a referendum and voters shot it down. During a recent board retreat, Hyland suggested that the meals tax should be explored again. Outgoing county executive Tony Griffin suggested that having a meals tax referendum during a presidential election would ensure the greatest possible turnout.

One menu item under consideration is an appetizer tax. Instead of creating a permanent tax, county officials could create a sunset provision that would expire in four years. If county officials are still hungry for more taxpayers dollars, the tax could be extended into the future. Griffin did not recommend a restaurant meals tax in his proposed budget, buy Hyland says voters should be given the option.

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## LETTERS



### Digestive Healthcare Specialists, L.L.C.

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- RECTAL BLEEDING

2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, #307  
Alexandria, VA 22306

6355 Walker Lane, #300  
Alexandria, VA 22310

703-780-7010



FROM PAGE 7

County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) at a forecasted cost of over \$7 million. The FCEDA's work includes all manner of activities designed to attract new businesses into Fairfax County and assist existing businesses in expanding their operations in the County. The MVCCA resolution advocates eliminating the funding for the FCEDA. What could be more foolish than cutting the legs out from under a County agency which is directly responsible for priming the pump of the County's economic engine by attracting businesses that mightily contribute to our tax base and help keep citizen taxes low? I can't think of anything.

The resolution advocates enactment of a meals tax and increases in the BPOL tax. These taxes and tax increases can potentially reduce tourism and cause businesses attracted to the County's relatively low tax rates to either relocate elsewhere or not establish themselves in Fairfax County in the first place.

The resolution calls for using proposed funds for development of affordable housing at North Hill to be used instead for public safety, human services, and education. This mean-spirited song has been

sung by the MVCCA over the past couple of years and evidences a disconnect between the leadership of the MVCCA and the community it purports to represent. The County is legally obligated to develop affordable housing at North Hill and any further delays just render that obligation more expensive. Of course, providing affordable housing at North Hill is also the right thing to do. Just ask Supervisor Hyland.

The resolution also advocates assessment and imposition of "transportation impact fees on any development needing a building permit." Currently, those fees are only assessed where the property owner needs a re-zoning, special exception or special permit. The MVCCA is advocating extending that obligation to by-right development. I haven't done the research, but I surmise such a step would require enabling legislation by the Virginia legislature. Moreover, this proposal appears to venture into the area of takings without compensation that are forbidden by the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Such a step would transform properties that may currently be developed "by-right" to properties that couldn't be so developed without paying

the required fee.

In December, the MVCCA passed a resolution advocating having the County take over responsibility for repairs to sewer lines under a public street. This change is reported to potentially cost up to \$18,000,000 per year. The MVCCA budget resolution fails to propose budget cuts to offset this additional expense. Unlike the U.S. Congress, the Board of Supervisors is required to balance the budget. Deficit spending is not permitted.

The County's public hearings on the Budget will occur April 10-12 before the Board of Supervisors. Those who wish to testify at those hearings should register as speakers and do their civic duty. One important reason to do so is to make sure the Board of Supervisors is reminded that the MVCCA does not represent the Mount Vernon community. It only represents the small percentage of residents whose neighborhood associations are MVCCA members. At that, insofar as community association representatives do not vote in accordance with the consensus of their respective communities, the MVCCA doesn't even represent them.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

### AT THE LIBRARY

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**AARP Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free tax assistance. Preference given to older adults. Adults. 703-765-3645.

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Stories and activities for the very young. 12-23 months with adult. 703-765-3645.

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**AARP Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free tax assistance. Preference given to older adults. Adults. 703-765-3645.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**AARP Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free tax assistance. Preference given to older adults. Adults. 703-765-3645.

**English Conversation.** 11 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. Adults. 703-765-3645.

#### MONDAY/MARCH 26

**AARP Tax Assistance.** 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Free tax assistance. Preference given to older adults. Adults. 703-765-3645.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

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**Wilton Forest** **\$664,500**  
 6103 Mulberry Court, Alexandria VA 22310  
**Just Listed** Spacious 5 lvl home full of surprises. Over 3500 sq ft--5 brs, 4 full BAs, super master suite w/ library, solarium, family rm, play rm, exercise rm, 2-car gar & so much more. **Jane Cole 703 598-6198**



**Plymouth Haven** **\$924,500**  
 8636 Plymouth Road, Alexandria VA 22308  
**Just Listed** Handsome 5BR, 3 1/2 bath colonial on half-acre landscaped lot. Approx 3500 sq ft + screened porch & 2-car garage. Short distance to schools, Fort Hunt Park & Mt. V bike path. **Jane Cole 703 598-6198**



**Port Royal** **\$1225 TO \$1750**  
 801 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Location! Location!** Old Town Rentals! 1 studio w/balcony & parking - \$1,225, 1 BDR w/water views - \$1750 & parking, 1 studio renovated & parking - \$1250. **www.mariemeyer@Live.com Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080**



**Lakewood Hills** **\$547,000**  
 7711 Bertito Lane, Springfield, VA 22153  
**New Listing** Great 4 BR, 3 BA, 2-car garage home with renovated eat-in kitchen, sep LR and DR, rec room w/fplc, double decks, designer touches. Close to shopping, dining & commuter routes. **Yvonne Croft 703-973-1540**



**Old Town Alexandria**  
 310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

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# LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



# ALEXANDRIA

#1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA 2011



Managing Broker  
Bill Jourdan

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

2327 Wittington Blvd  
\$699,900  
**Better Than New-Gorgeous Lot!**  
Stunning 3 level, 4 bedroom Colonial just renovated from top to bottom! Many features include: large room sizes, open kitchen-family room, finished lower level and 2 car garage. Virtually every major component is brand new! Upgraded throughout! Gorgeous large fenced lot. Walk to nearby pool! Amazing Value! **OPEN SUN 3/25, 1-4!** GW Pkwy S; R-Stratford; L-Camden; L-Wittington.

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

3035 Battersea Ln  
\$539,500  
**Spacious Home-Pristine Condition!**  
Pride of ownership is evident throughout large 5 BR, 3 BA home in prime location backing to conservation land. Fabulous features include: h/dwd flrs, updated HVAC, recently installed roof and 2 car garage. Screen porch overlooks landscaped grounds. Special property offers size, condition and location rarely available at this modest price. **OPEN SUN 3/25, 1-4!** GW Pkwy S; at Mansion hard R on 235; R-Battersea.

**NEW HOME**

8313 Mt. Vernon Hwy  
\$775,000  
**New Home-Under Construction!**  
Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes. Custom building with many modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Buy during construction and personalize the interior to suit your taste. Fabulous new home amenities combined with convenience of a prime Mt. Vernon location.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$364,900  
Alexandria  
6444 GILDAR ST

**JUST LISTED!** Totally renovated spacious TH in popular Georgetown Woods. Easy access to Old Town, I-95, Ft. Belvoir. 3BR/2.5BA, large finished basement, lovely fenced backyard, new kit, appliances, new roof. Just Perfect!

Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809  
anita@homesfromanita.com & www.homesfromanita.com

\$630,000  
Alexandria  
"LOVE IT"

- Curb appeal, location & charm
- Updates throughout
- Wood floors
- Walk to Elementary, Middle schools

- Garage, corner lot, pool community
- GW Pkwy commute to DC
- FX7794629 - call for appointment

The Powers Team  
Sheryl Powers Vermont & Paula Powers 703.472.6925

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$785,000  
Wilton Woods  
6068 OLD TELEGRAPH RD

Impeccable & unique 4BR/3BA home in close-in Wilton Woods offers idyllic .56 acre lot set back on secluded drive. Fabulous rooms for entertaining both in/out w/updated kitchen & BAs. 3 FPs, 2-car side load garage, delightful rear covered porch. Come see!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

**NEW PRICE!**

7804 Southdown Rd  
\$1,499,000  
**Unique opportunity!!**  
Huge Price Reduction! Custom Craftsman designed to capitalize on gorgeous setting which combines rural ambiance with sweeping river views. Many fabulous features include open floor plan, spacious kitchen-breakfast room, river view master suite with fireplace and luxury bath. Multi-tiered decks take advantage of river views and soothing breezes. Absolutely gorgeous 1/2 acre private grounds.

**JUST LISTED**

9514 Mount Vernon Ld  
\$1,950,000  
**MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK**  
Unique opportunity to acquire direct waterfrontage with private dock in prestigious MVOP! Designed by leading architect to capitalize on stunning water views. Dramatic open flr plan, soaring cathedral ceilings, expansive glass walls and all brick exterior. All major components in place - personalize interior. Rare property in this price range.

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.

\$679,000  
New Alexandria  
"INVITING OPPORTUNITY"

Renovated home located on a quiet street just minutes from Old Town & the Potomac River trails. There are 4BR up + 2.5BA, private rear deck w/lg fenced side yard & 2-car gar. Features inc: LR w/fireplace, dining area & kit/family rm combo w/breakfast bar.

www.marylousage.com  
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$225,000  
Montebello #1511  
"5902 MT EAGLE DR"

1BR & den, often used as a 2nd BR. Stunning long-range vistas (W,NW & NE) from 3 sides of the glass enclosed balcony! Sparkling wood floors, fresh paint, prof. cleaned! Ready for move-in. Price reflects need for updating.

Mary Siverson 703.209.6918

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$639,000  
Alexandria South  
7112 MARLAN DR

2 level rambler boasts 3BR/2.5BA, form. LR/DR & an attached gar. Enjoy screened porch/deck that overlook the private rear landscaped yard. LL rec rm w/FP, den/guest rm & BA. Upgrades inc: fresh paint, refinished wood flrs, roof, gutters, electric, recent HVAC & newer appl.

www.marylousage.com  
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

**NEW PRICE!**

9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd  
\$650,000  
**Stunning Renovation-Borders Mt. Vernon Estate!**  
One of the most truly spectacular properties available on market today at any price! Spacious home with top quality renovations.. Features amazing open floor plan, dramatic glass walled sun room, brand new gourmet kitchen, 6BR, 3 remodeled baths, 2FP, finished LL, covered parking for 2, deck. Gorgeous setting!

**NEW PRICE!**

8355 Justin Rd  
\$819,900  
**PERFECTION!**  
Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kit, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning MBR and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!

**JUST LISTED**

7912 Bayberry Dr  
\$399,900  
**Large Home-Prime Location-Amazing Price!**  
Sounds too good to be true! 5BR home in prime Fort Hunt area for under \$400K! Spacious home with many features including open floor plan, updated kit and baths, h/dwd flrs, gas heat and hot water, replacement windows (main level). Bright finished LL w/direct outside entrance. Fabulous setting on large lot just mins from Old Town.

\$1,250,000  
The Reserve  
"WATERFRONT"

Large 5 acre lot - waterfront (rip wrapped) in gated community w/ security, private deep water marina. 180 degree views of the north end of the Potomac in Gunston Grove to wonderful views all the way to Mt Vernon mansion. Fiber internet, electric, propane, public water & peat-moss septic system.

www.11281crosswellindg.z57websites.com.showcase.z57.com/  
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

\$800,000  
Alexandria South  
"UNIQUE"

This exceptionally beautiful home has 4BR/2.5BA & is worthy of Architectural Digest! Lots & lots of windows create unusual amounts of light & a happy warm atmosphere. There is an eat-in kit, sep. DR, LR w/wood-burning fireplace & a family room w/built-in bookshelves. The yard has lovely landscaping & is sunny & open. For more info, call...

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

**OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!**  
\$879,000 & UP  
Hollin Hall Knolls  
8115 YORKTOWN

Four exquisitely built homes by Long Homes of VA located in the heart of Mt. Vernon. EZ access to GW Pkwy, shopping, bike trails, swimming & more. These luxurious homes have all the upgrades & options.

www.hollinknoll.z57websites.com.showcase.z57.com/  
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

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.

**JUST LISTED**

9219 Allwood Dr  
\$525,000  
**Updated Home-**

Spectacular Fabulous listing!

**CONTRACT!**

Lot! new listing! Move in ready! Stunning home on

8826 Cooper Rd

\$395,000  
Country Views!  
You won't believe this large updated rambler is

**CONTRACT!**

Club

\$739,000  
Alexandria  
"HAS IT ALL"

Hollindale - Spectacular updated Willmsburg Col. w/over 4,000sf, 5BR/3BA - lg, spacious BRs, sep DR opens to deck - great Sunroom w/skylights, fp - lg w-out Rec rm w/wet bar, fr - updated kit w/brkfst nook - gleaming h/dwd on main/upper lvls - oversized 2-car gar - beautiful landscape & more.

Frankl Roberts 703.898.0840

\$715,000  
Alexandria South  
"WALK TO METRO"

Stunning brick front center hall colonial w/ app. 4,000 sq ft of living space on 3 finished levels. 4/5BR, 3.5BA, walk-out LL w/full BA & bonus rm - perfect for guests or in-laws! Newly updated kit & BAs, lg formal rms, in home office, cul-de-sac location w/oversized deck & fab fenced yd. Walk to Metro & convenient to Pentagon, Old Town & more!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$529,900  
Alexandria South  
2230 WITTINGTON BLVD

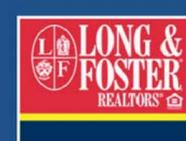
This spacious home in Stratford Landing offers 5BR/3 full Bas. Beautifully refinished hardwoods, new wall-to-wall in LL, replacement windows, large new deck off DR. New fence surrounds a private backyard.

The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367 & Elke 703.967.7633



#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009 & 2010!  
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703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303  
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



# 'Brother Russia'

The Mad Monk comes to life at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

**B**orn in a remote Siberian village, he was raised impoverished and uneducated yet became powerful enough to infiltrate a Russian dynasty. Such was the journey of Grigori Rasputin, whose story is brought to life in the world premier musical of "Brother Russia," now playing at Signature Theatre.

The innovative rock musical — a work commissioned by Signature Theatre — is the latest creation by musical theater team Dana P. Rowe and John Dempsey, the award-winning creators of "The Fix" and "The Witches of Eastwick."

The play-within-a-play opens in a desolate potato field north of Omsk, where a fourth-rate traveling theater troupe has set up its tents to entertain the local farm-

ers with tales of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. But on this night, the company instead decides to tell the story of their impresario and star, the larger-than-life Brother Russia, more commonly known as Grigori Rasputin.

Under the masterful direction of Eric Schaeffer, Signature colorfully traces Rasputin's path from poverty to power over the Romanov Dynasty in the waning days of Imperial Russia.

To pull off the ambitious account of Rasputin's life, Schaeffer has assembled a stellar cast led by Doug Kreeger in the pivotal role of Grigori/Sasha. Kreeger is nothing short of electrifying, unleashing a powerful passion throughout a driving score of more than 25 original songs.

Helen Hayes-award winner Natascia Diaz is Anastasia/Sofya, the recipient of Grigori's intensifying desires. Kreeger and Diaz,



John Lescault as the enthusiastically delirious "Brother Russia."

whose hunger for each other is palpable, combine for a vocally powerful duo in songs such as "The Room Above the Tavern" and "I Belong to You."

Acting as the elderly Brother Russia and director of the traveling troupe is John Lescault with Amy McWilliams and Russell Sun-

day nailing the commanding roles of Tsarina Alexandra and Tsar Nicolas.

Stephen Gregory Smith, fresh from his performance as Corny Collins in the Signature production of "Hairspray," adds a sardonic comic relief in a brilliant performance as Sergei/Felix.

Rounding out the artistically gifted cast are Kevin McAllister, Christopher Mueller, Tracey Lynn Olivera, Erin Driscoll and Rachel Zampelli.

Stunning sets by Mischa Kachman depict both the desolation of Siberia and the opulence of St. Petersburg while Gabriel Mangiante directs the orchestra through a memorable score highlighted by the driving rhythm of the anthem-like Brother Russia.

With a flawless cast and dazzling performances, "Brother Russia" leaves audiences wanting more — more Kreeger, more

Diaz and more of what Schaeffer does best — innovative and award-winning theatre.

"Brother Russia" is playing now through April 15 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, all 703-820-9711 or visit signature-theatre.org.

# Susan Makara Named 2012 Artist of the Year

The Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center named Susan Makara, TFAA artist, as the 2012 Artist of the Year on Feb. 9. Laurie Fields was named runner-up.

In selecting Makara, juror William Schran, assistant dean of fine arts at Northern Virginia Community College, said, "Susan demonstrates a command of the medium with powerful imagery that speaks to the viewer, yet presents a sense of mystery. There is a haunting dream-like quality with the figures, all hidden behind masks. Behind the mask, who is looking at whom?"

Makara's entry is entitled "Masks." The series includes 15 works, 10 paintings and five sketches. In Makara's words, "Masks showcases my strongest and most fantastical work to date. The ideas for the series come from my imagination, visible only in my minds' eye until I paint them. We all wear masks. Our true feelings and thoughts are not always revealed for others to see. Sometimes we hide the person within."

Susan Makara holds a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. She served as assistant art director at a Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.,

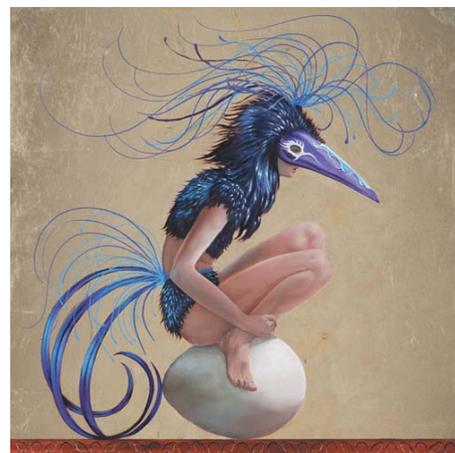
and as art director for the PBS series "Powerhouse." Her work can be found in the School of Art Museum in Buenos Aires, at the U.S. State Department, in the homes of James Brady and Barbara Bush, and at the Garden Court in Jordan's Royal Palace.

Laurie Fields' abstract paintings and ceramics are included in the collections of the Vanderbilt family, IBM, General Foods, Westinghouse, Adolpho, Geico, Helmsley-Spear and the Hyatt Regency. More than 50 of her images have been published as posters. She received a BFA from the University of Hartford.

Makara's winning works will be exhibited in the Target Gallery from July 1 to July 29, 2012. A reception will be held in her honor on July 12 in the Target Gallery, 6 to 8 p.m. The event will be open to the public.



Susan Makara



"Incubator" by Susan Makara

## FINE ARTS

### MARCH 23 TO MAY 6

**"In Medusa's Company."** Ceramic artist Judith Kornett's works at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Opening Reception Saturday, March 31, from 3 – 5 p.m. with Artist's Talk at 4 p.m.

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 1

**20 Years on The Avenue.** The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

### NOW THROUGH 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.

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 2

**"Play" Exhibit.** Free. Artist Victoria Cowles provides hands-on art activities for children. "Play" is The Art League's kick-off for Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Children in the Arts. At the Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780 or www.theartleague.org

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 4

**Winds of Change.** Featuring enameled jewelry, wall pieces and bowls. At the Enamelists Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended hours on Thursdays til 9 p.m. Call 703-836-1561.

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

**Japan's Gift to Nature.** Solo exhibit of Oriental Brush Paintings celebrating 100th anniversary of planting of the cherry trees in D.C. Art exhibition at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Meet the artist's reception is Sunday, March 25 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.Greenspring.org.

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

**The Garden Path.** Consistency and Change in Botanic Art. The Garden Path contains works by members of the Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region (BASNCR), and is curated by botanical artist Marcia DeWitt. ♦ A gallery talk with Karen Coleman: The Path of Botanic Art on Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m. ♦ Children's Workshop: Flowers, Textures, and Leaves on Saturday, April 14 at 3 p.m. ♦ Janet Egan Design Trunk Show (during Alexandria's Historic Garden Tour) on Friday, April 20 at 4 to 7 p.m. / Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Athenaeum. Free, but space is limited. Call 703-548-0035 to make reservations.

### APRIL 2 TO 29

**The Kiln Club Annual Show.** Featuring works by clay artists. Novie Trump, a Northern Virginia sculptor, will judge the show. Reception and awards presentation on April 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. At the Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288, visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm and www.kilnclubwdc.com

### APRIL 5 TO 30

**Somewhere in the Orient II.** Elegant sculptural forms and garments, inspired by the Far East, are the subject of "Somewhere In The Orient II," a solo exhibit of raku ceramic work by Marcia Jestaedt. Opening reception and meet the artist: April 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m. At the Art League, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## MONTH OF MARCH

**Radiance Yoga Classes.** \$5 for all weekday morning classes during month of March. For classes starting from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Arrive 10-15 minutes early for class. At Radiance Yoga, 110 King street, Alexandria. Visit [www.Radiance-yoga.net](http://www.Radiance-yoga.net) or call 703-535-8282.

## NOW THROUGH APRIL 1

**20 Years on The Avenue.** The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. Opening Reception for the "XX" show on Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. and will feature local jazz band "Veroneau". ([www.VeroneauMusic.com](http://www.VeroneauMusic.com)). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be featured. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

## MARCH 22 AND 23

**"Godspell Junior."** 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. Louis Catholic School. Tickets are \$3/students and seniors; \$5/adults. Visit [www.stlouiscatholic.org](http://www.stlouiscatholic.org). At 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7732.

## MARCH 22, 23, 24

**"Annie."** 7 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School. There is a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 24. Tickets are \$6/elementary age and younger; \$8/students and seniors; \$10/adults. This full-scale production features Cristen Centra in the title role, Han von Kolnitz as Daddy Warbucks, Alexis Beard as Miss Hannigan, and more than 65 characters and crew members.

## MARCH 22 TO 24

**Used Book and Art Sale.** Thursday, March 22 from 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**Toast to Fashion.** 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50. The event combines a fashion show, marketplace, raffle and cocktail reception. All proceeds benefit the Campagna Center. Sponsored by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center. At Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. Visit [www.bellehavencc.com](http://www.bellehavencc.com).



## SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**Rum Punch Challenge.** 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50/person. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local restaurants and distilleries and vote for your favorite. Rum Punch Challenge participants include reigning champ Dogfish Head, returning competitors Bacardi, Bittersweet, FireFlies, and Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, and first-time challenger Red Rocks. Guests will also enjoy food – both period and modern – as well as a silent auction. At Gadsby's Tavern. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).



**Tom Rush**

## SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**Tom Rush in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call the Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com); for tickets, please call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or order online at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

[www.campnagcenter.org](http://www.campnagcenter.org).  
**Meet the Legends Reception.** 6 to 8:30 p.m. Honoring the 2012 nominees. Reservations by March 15: \$40/\$75 for two; after March 15: \$50/\$95 for two. The 2012 Legends are: Bob Calhoun, Al Grande, Harry "Bud" Hart, Wendy McGann John, William "Bill" Kehoe, Allen Lomax, Jimmie McClellan, Pat Miller, Mike Oliver, Lillian Stanton Patterson, Joseph S. Shumard, The Steuerle Family, and the team of Dorothy Turner and Gwen Menefee-Smith. At the Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulane St., Alexandria.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**James Madison University Jazz Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Will perform a program featuring the music of Radiohead, Dave Douglas and John Hollenback. Faculty guest soloists will be David Pope, Andy Connell and Bob Hallahan. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135, email [vdp@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:vdp@episcopalhighschool.org), or go to [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org).  
**Spring Fling Silent Auction.** 6 to 9 p.m. Stratford Landing Elementary will host its annual Spring Fling Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social. At 8484 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Contact Beth Day at 703-801-8806/ [beth.day001@verizon.net](mailto:beth.day001@verizon.net) or Frances Sankey at 703-799-0969/ [frances.sankey@gmail.com](mailto:frances.sankey@gmail.com).  
**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Free. The James Madison University Jazz Ensemble, directed by Chuck Dotas, will perform

a program featuring the music of Radiohead, Dave Douglas and John Hollenback. Faculty guest soloists will be David Pope, Andy Connell and Bob Hallahan. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135, email [vdp@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:vdp@episcopalhighschool.org), or go to [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org).

## MARCH 23, 24, 25

**Opera Double Bill.** Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 24 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$30/adults; \$20/seniors; \$15/students; under 10, free. Fully staged with costumes. In Italian with projected English translations. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. at Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit [repopera.eventbrite.org](http://repopera.eventbrite.org) or [repopera.com](http://repopera.com).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**Kids Rummage Sale.** 8 a.m. to noon. High-quality used infant, children and maternity gear, gently used clothing, toys, games, books and furniture. Some home furnishings too! Rain or shine. At Fort Hunt Preschool in Alexandria.

**Mental Health First Response.** 9 a.m. to noon. Learn how to recognize early signs of mental health and substance use concerns. At Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3801 Buckman Road, Alexandria. Contact Ann Bahr, phone 703-324-7010, TTY 711.

**Workout for the Cure.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Sport & Health Club in Alexandria. A \$25 donation is requested. Events include 8:05 a.m. Yoga; 8:30 a.m. Cycle; 9:15 a.m. TaeBo; 9:20 a.m. Pilates Mat; 10 a.m. Cycle; 10:30 a.m. Body Pump; 10:30 a.m. Power on Sports Conditioning. Call 703-519-1600 Ext. 103 or email [skinner@livewirecd.com](mailto:skinner@livewirecd.com).

**Invasive Exotic Plants.** 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Join National Park Service ecologist Erik Oberg and Audubon Society of Northern Virginia naturalist Cliff Fairweather to learn how to halt the invasion of exotic plants. At the American Horticultural Society's River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. To attend, RSVP to [chair.er@mvcca.org](mailto:chair.er@mvcca.org) or call 703-360-0691.

**Tauxemont Preschool Silent Auction.** 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sponsored by the Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool. To be held at the Collingwood Library & Museum, 8301 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.tauxemont.org/auction](http://www.tauxemont.org/auction).

**Wedding Wishes Vendor Event.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tour Carlyle house, enjoy tea blends from The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria, enjoy delicious creations from Occasionally Cake and admire the designs of area florists. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Friends of Martha Washington Book Sale, Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Lee Mayfield at 703-965-8677.

**Walt Whitman and the Civil War.** 4 p.m. Free. Presented by Dr. Carrol Peterson, Emeritus Professor of English at Doane College in Nebraska. Part of the Living History Presentation in Old Town. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

# Montebello

Fairfax County's Best-Kept Secret?

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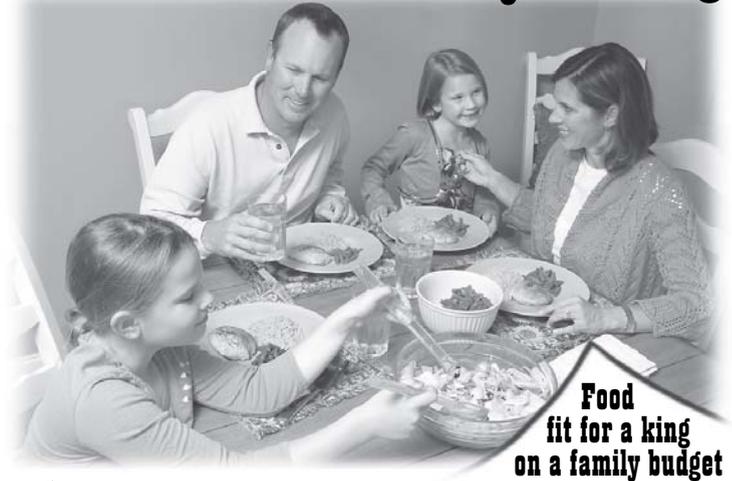


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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16



**SAVE THE DATE FOR:**  
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
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**Sunday, March 25th, 12-4pm**  
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**Get unbelievable items at ridiculous prices.**  
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On-site moving company available for hire for large item purchases.  
 Make your spring cleaning count this year!

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<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

Admission: \$5 per Person

Members of the Military FREE with Military ID



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

**Into the Light.** 8 p.m. Fairfax Choral Society will perform Beethoven's ELEGISCHER GESANG, Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music, Randall Thompson's Choose Something Like a Star, Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna, and Dolly Parton's Light of a Clear Blue Morning. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria.

**Wonders of Science Demo.** Visit the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. Admission is \$6. Reservations can be made at 703-746-3852. At 105-107 South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org) or call 703-746-3852.

**McLean High School Historical Reenactment Society.** 1-4 p.m. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Members of McLean High School's historical reenactment society will conduct scientific demonstrations about science in the 1700s. Explore the Apothecary and its large variety of objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood. \$6, includes a tour of the museum. Reservations required at 703-746-3852.

**Runway Modeling Workshop.** For Beginners - Ladies Ages 13 and up. Learn the basics: model stance, poses, runway walk, turns, posture and more. Pre-register between Feb. 6 and March 23. Sponsored by Walk This Way Productions/Kalaj. Held in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 25

**Third Practice Concert.** 7 p.m. Suggested \$15 donation. Third Practice brings David Lang's little match girl to Alexandria. Enjoy an evening of renaissance masterworks, followed by this heartrending setting of the classic Hans-Christian Andersen tale. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Email: [3rdpractice@gmail.com](mailto:3rdpractice@gmail.com)

**Sunday Night Salsa.** 7 p.m. Dancing, instructions, food, drink and fun. Join in a hot night of salsa dancing and instruction from Martin Zuniga and his 8-piece band. At Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Cost is \$50/person or \$40/person if purchased before March 10. Call 703-998-6460. Visit [www.agudasachim-va.org/salsa](http://www.agudasachim-va.org/salsa).

**Choral Concert.** 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15. Third Practice Vocal Ensemble presents the music of Josquin, Handl, Woollen, and featuring The Little Match Girl Passion by David Lang. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342.

**Castles in the Air.** 2 p.m. U.S. Marine Band performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com)

**Longaberger Basket Bingo.** Features 20 regular games for gift-filled Longaberger baskets. Also Specials, Raffles and Door Prizes. Admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Doors open 1 p.m.; bingo starts at 2 p.m. Sponsored by the West Potomac High School band. At West Potomac High School cafeteria, 6500 Quander Rd, Alexandria. Details and advance ticket sales at [www.wolverineband.com](http://www.wolverineband.com) or 703-799-8394.

**At the Ballet.** 4 p.m. The Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble performs at the Memorial Theater, George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria. Visit [www.vabronze.org](http://www.vabronze.org) or call 1-888-824-2541.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 27

**Lecture: The Arab Spring.** 7:30 p.m. The Rt. Rev. Julian M. Dobbis, the U.S. executive director for the Barnabas Fund, will speak on "The Arab Spring — It's Effects on Christians in the Muslim World and the Growth and Challenges of a Resurgent Islam." At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church in Alexandria. Visit [www.standrewandstmargaret.org](http://www.standrewandstmargaret.org).

**Book Signing.** 4 p.m. Alexandria author Kathie Truitt will have a book release party for her new book, The Hillbilly Debutante Café. At Glory Be, 305 Mill St., Occoquan.

**"New Beginnings" Poetry Presentation.** 10:30 a.m. Join the "Tuesdays at Two" Writing group for a special Poetry presentation titled "New Beginnings". Peter Lattu as well as many talented local writers and avid poetry lovers will be represented. Open to the Community! At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Swingin' Lincolns. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

**Rachael Yamagata.** Will be performing from her album, Chesapeake. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or call 800-745-3000 or call 703-549-3701.



## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

**Beau Soir Ensemble.** 7 p.m. D.C. based flute, viola and harp trio, will present a free concert at The Torpedo Factory. They will perform music by Telemann, Debussy, Respighi, and traditional Irish folk music. At The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.beausoir.org](http://www.beausoir.org).

Strings will present an evening of string quartet. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)

## SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**How to Get To Wonderful.** 5:15-6:45 p.m. Ronna Webb, Reiki Master, leads this 90-minute class on creating the life you want. Learn to use your intuition and attract health, success and peace of mind. \$47 Alexandria Massage Therapy, 1217 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0310.

**Palm Sunday Drama.** 6 p.m. The Alfred Street Baptist Church will observe Palm Sunday with "Jesus: The Cornerstone of our Faith." At Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-2222 or [www.alfredstreet.org](http://www.alfredstreet.org).

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 8 p.m. A Salute to Henry Fillmore and Edwin Franko Goldman with principal guest conductor Colonel Arndt D. Gabriel Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com).

**Archaeology of the Civil War Set.** 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free program. This will be a full day of informative presentations by experts in the field of archaeology and history. Seating is limited to 200 at the James Lee Center in the Monroe Gymnasium, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Call C.K. Gailey at 703 534-3881, extension 404.

## MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

**Violinist Midori.** Featuring the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra/Symphonic with Kim Allen Kluge, conductor. World premiere of Maestro Kim Allen Kluge's MEIBUKI — Regeneration featuring student musicians from Alexandria and Arlington Schools and the Arlington Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$40/adults; \$10/students; \$5/children. Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 1 at 3 p.m. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit [alexsym.org](http://alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**In Concert: "Songs of Sunset."** 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$20/door. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Performed by the NOVA Community Chorus (Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director) with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, featuring Grace Gori, Mezzo-Soprano, and Aurelius Gori, Baritone. Call 703 845-6097 or email [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu)

**A Celebration of Bulgarian Culture.** Hopa Tropa Kuckerica at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Playing with Kuckerica, workshops at 12:30 and 3 p.m. Includes puppetry, folk objects, song, dance, and food. Featuring: Amie Cazal, Daria Kondova, Konstantin Hadjipanov, Daniel Rovin and Gwendolyn Torrence. At the Masonic Theater at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive Alexandria.

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.** 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Featuring Claude Debussy's Nocturnes, Gustav Holst's Concerto for Two Violins with violinists Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff, Composition Competition Finalist Charles Bestor's Variations for Orchestra conducted by U.S. James; and Frederick Delius' Songs of Sunset conducted by Dr. Mark Whitmire with the NOVA Community Chorus, mezzo-soprano Grace Gori and baritone Rex Gori. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-799-8229 [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org).

## MONDAY/APRIL 2

**R.E. Lee Camp Dinner Meeting.** 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$25/person. Author Eric Buckland will be speaking on Mosby and his men. At American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron Street at N. Royal St., behind Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria. RSVP to Lawrence Graham at 703-217-7871. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to P.O. Box 4024, Oakton, VA 22124. Payments will be accepted at the door. Visit [www.leecamp.org](http://www.leecamp.org).

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## How to Get Your Mount Vernon People, Event and Business News into the Mount Vernon Gazette

**Business Notes • Business People • People Page**

The Mount Vernon Gazette contains notes and news briefs about local businesses, people and events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every person, business or event about which we receive information will appear in the paper, here is the information we need for your news to be considered. We welcome photographs of successful, recent events and people whose accomplishments or awards are submitted. Be sure everyone in the photograph is identified.

**What is News?** Awards; community service; celebrations; anniversaries; obituaries; career promotions; new initiatives; major accomplishments; new locations; special events such as: scouting award ceremonies; nonprofit fundraisers; concerts; exhibits and shows; classes; seminars; book signings; youth sports notices, activities and awards; service club notices; religious notices, etc.

Your release must include:

- Name of Person, and Business, Organization or Event
- Address of the Business, Organization or Event
- Day of the Week, Date and Time of Event
- Name and Phone Number for More Information
- Three Paragraphs Describing Your News...Who, What, Where, When and Why

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

or mail to:  
 Calendar, Connection Newspapers  
 1606 King Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

## TUESDAY/APRIL 3

**Ice Sculptures.** 6 to 8 p.m. The Crystalline World of Ice and Snow in Harbin, China. Morrison House Presents: Tatyana Schremko Schriempf, Torpedo Factory Sculptor. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit Morrison House: www.morrisonhouse.com or 703-838-8000.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Scott Ramminger and the Crawstickers. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

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

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$5/children. Featuring Elisabeth de Merode (flute) and Laurent Tardat (violin). At Lyceum Hall, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria.

**Joan Osborne.** At the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500.

## APRIL 6 TO 29

**Childhood Memories.** Works by artists inspired by their childhoods. Memories are endless: an experience, a trip, a gathering, an animal, a poem, a person or a place that brings one back to a childhood memory. Show exhibits April 6-29; opening reception April 6, 7-10 p.m. Open Thursday-Sunday. Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. 703-838-4827. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

## SATURDAY/APRIL 7

**Firearms Discussion.** 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Free admission. Doug Wicklund, senior curator for the National Firearms Museum, will display John Alden's actual rifle and talk about it and other arms carried by the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. At the Collingwood Library and Museum, 8301 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. RSVP by April 5 to KRGroff@CollingwoodLibrary.Org. Be sure to provide your full name and the name(s) of any guests. Presented in partnership with National Firearms Museum in cooperation with The Mayflower Society.

**Cleve Francis and Friends.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$32.50. At the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500. Visit www.clevefrancis.com.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 10

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Soul Tones of Swing. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

**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/APRIL 12

**Explore Activities for Seniors.** 10:30 a.m. At Chinguapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 13.

## APRIL 13 AND 14

**Spring Garden Market.** Vendors from throughout the mid-Atlantic region will be selling a wide variety of plants as well as garden supplies and garden art. Friday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. AHS members-only preview night

is Thursday, April 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Hosted by the American Horticultural Society. At River Farm headquarters. Call 703-768-5700.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 14

**Magi-Whirl 2012.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with strolling magicians; showtime at 7:30 p.m. Las Vegas Style Family GALA Magic Show staged by Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Bishop Ireton High School. Five world-famous magicians — one from Argentina. Tickets are \$12/adults, \$10/seniors and students — family packs available. At Bishop Ireton High School. Visit www.magihwhirl.org/gala/

## The Grandest Congress: The French and Indian War in Alexandria.

Noon to 4 p.m. Donation of \$5. Spring, 1755: Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America convened a meeting of five colonial governors at John Carlyle's Alexandria home. Among Braddock's objectives was to secure funding for his upcoming campaign against the French. Carlyle called this gathering "the Grandest Congress ... ever known on the Continent." Peek in on the meeting inside and enjoy the sights and smells of 18th-century style food being prepared for a grand dinner for Braddock and the Governors. Costumed interpreters will be on site to answer your questions.

**Growing Flowers and Vegetables in Containers.** 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Learn how to grow flowers and vegetables in pots, planters or other containers for maximum beauty and bountiful crops on your deck, balcony, porch or patio. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, with the support of Master Gardeners



## MARCH 23 AND 24

**"Mulan Jr."** 7 p.m. Some 40 children from the upper elementary classes of the Aquinas Montessori School are performing at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Tickets are \$5/adults; \$3/children. "Mulan, Jr." is set in ancient China. Following an invasion by the Huns, brave Mulan (played on alternate nights by Caroline Schuermann and Kathryn Mechanic) and her sidekick, the mischievous Mushu (Samantha Kadlec) strive to save the Emperor. Directed by Judy Heiser and musical guidance of Dave Futrell. Contact the Aquinas Montessori School at 703-780-8484.

of Northern Virginia. At the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. To register, call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com or visit www.mgnv.org

**Explore Alexandria's Firefighting History.** 1 p.m. Tickets are \$6/adults; \$4/youth. The walking tour, "Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting Past." As they walk through Old Town, participants will learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria and stop at historic buildings that once served as fire

stations. At Friendship Firehouse, 107 South Alfred St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net or by calling 703-746-4994.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 15

**Claudia Schmidt and Dulcie Taylor.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org. call 703-501-6061.

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**Weekdays** (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)  
**Sunday** 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon  
2:00 pm (en Español)  
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 11)  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word** Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)  
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### St. James' Episcopal Church



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**April 5, Maundy Thursday**  
7:30 pm: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

**April 6, Good Friday**  
11:00 am: Stations of the Cross  
12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 2:45 pm:  
"Seven Last Words of Christ"  
7:30 pm: Liturgy for Good Friday

**April 8, Easter Sunday**  
8:00 am: Holy Eucharist  
10:15 am: Holy Eucharist followed by  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

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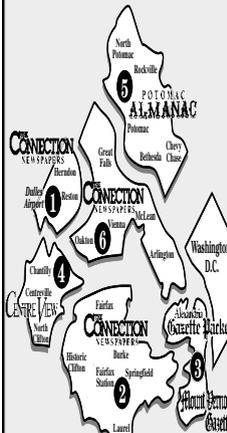
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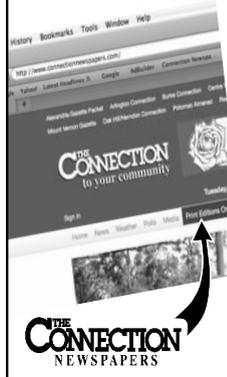
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# Does Music Make Children Smarter?

**During Music In Our Schools Month, musicians raise awareness of impact of music education on lives of students.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**C**an playing the piano strengthen a child's reading and math skills? Can joining a school band be a catalyst for building self-confidence? Does one develop strong analytical abilities by taking violin lessons? Some music experts say yes.

"Every minute that you're engaged in music, you're applying more than one concept or one knowledge," said Dr. Kevin Strogher, Head of Music at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative. They don't just regurgitate memorized facts. They have to apply those facts."

March is Music in Our Schools Month and some music aficionados are trying to raise awareness about impact of music education on the lives of students. The National Association of Music Education in Reston cites a strong body of evidence which shows that participation in musical activities can enhance a student's education. "For today's students to succeed tomorrow, they need a comprehensive education that includes music taught by exemplary music educators," said Elizabeth Lasko, assistant executive director, NAME. "Music In Our Schools Month gives music teachers the chance to ... let everyone know how learning music benefits kids, and how it contributes to their growth and development both as students and as future adult citizens."

Instructors say playing music can boost brain power. "Music helps build and develop cognitive skills because you have to do three or four things at the same time to perform music," said Holly Vesilind, music instruc-

## Fairfax Symphony

Students may join the FSO Passport Club at the orchestra's next performance on Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8 p.m. (Students are encouraged to arrive by 7:30). George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax. The concert will feature pianist Adam Golka. Visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

The Fairfax Symphony is also participating in the 2012 statewide initiative MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts. As a part of this celebration, students from the Woodburn Elementary School for the Fine and Communicative Arts in Falls Church will join the Student Passport Club and create artwork and poetry through arts integration projects in their school classrooms. The projects will be displayed at the FSO's performance on Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

**Dr. James Criswell directs orchestra students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. Experts say participation in musical activities can enhance social development.**

tor at Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church and a private flute instructor in Fairfax. "It builds math skills because it involves counting and fractions.

Experts say music activities can affect social development. "Music ensembles work much like team sports, students learn the necessity of teamwork and collaboration," said Dr. James Criswell, director of the Middle School advanced band and Upper School wind ensemble and orchestra at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Strogher dispels the notion that the discipline attracts social misfits. "It is not just the choir geeks or the band nerds," he said. "When [The Heights Men's Chorus] was performing in Austria recently, we had the [school's] best lacrosse player with us, we had baseball players, basketball players. In fact, most of our top athletes are also in the music program. It is actually a cool thing to be in music."

So, what do students think? "Music allows people from different social groups to bond and come together over a common interest," said Connor Ortman, a sophomore at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"Regardless of a student's level, participation in music education teaches the importance of teamwork and collaboration as a group as well as individual discipline and preparation, much like athletics," added St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School sophomore Kathryn Cavallo.

**EXPERTS SAY** early musical experiences benefit even the youngest musicians. "We focus on experiences, the process and overall music making through movement, singing and instrument playing," said Julie Mueller, a music teacher at Arlington's Jamestown Elementary School.

Earlier this month, the Jamestown Elementary School chorus joined other student choral groups from around the world for the "Concert for Music in Our School's

Month," an annual musical experience sponsored by The National Association of Music Education. "Events like these are wonderful opportunities to encourage the students to develop their musical abilities and to be part of activities with musicians from all over," said Dr. Maritza Sadowsky, a music teacher at Jamestown.

Music educators want musical interest to extend beyond a month-long effort. "We hope that because of advocacy efforts such as [Music in Our School's Month] ... that parents will encourage their children to get and stay involved in music," said Lasko.

One means of involvement say educators is exposure to professional musicians

through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras. "Having been a school strings and band teacher, myself, I understand how the voices of professional musicians who come into the classroom can reinforce the instruction the teachers give," said Helen Fall, a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra violist.

Hall and other FSO members mentor students as part of programs like Symphony Creating Outreach Resources for Educators (SCORE) and Overture to Orchestra. Overture to Orchestra is designed to introduce elementary school students to the instruments and sounds of a symphony orchestra through in-school concerts performed by chamber ensembles from the FSO. The SCORE program offers extensive master classes, individual sectional instruction, and "side-by-side" rehearsals to middle and high school bands and orchestras.

"The students are always excited to have us come. They feel they are getting extra special attention, and having a pro on every instrument makes them all feel important," said Fall who teaches violin and viola in her home studio in Fairfax.

The FSO allows students ages 6-18 to join the Student Passport Club where members get \$5 tickets to symphony performances. Young music enthusiasts also have an opportunity to play symphonic instruments and meet members of the orchestra.

"The FSO concentrates on providing its programs to areas where students have limited access to private music instruction or consistent support for their music studies in the home," said Elizabeth Murphy, FSO president and CEO. "These are the students who will benefit most from one-on-one exposure to the instruments and professional musicians."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Helen Fall of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra mentors students from the Sandburg Area Orchestra. Experts say students can benefit from exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras.**

# West Potomac Has Strong Showing at All-Star Event

**Fultz named game MVP, Pressley wins 3-point shootout.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**B**ryant Fultz wasn't among the top performers in the dunk contest during NVABBC all-star festivities on March 17, but the West Potomac senior made his mark during the main event.

**"[The all-star festivities are] something they look forward to doing. There's a lot in it. Guys know that you can't just be on the team. You have to have a good season to be selected."**

— West Potomac boys' basketball coach David Houston III

Fultz threw down a fourth-quarter alley-oop dunk from fellow Wolverine Randall Brobbey, scored a team-high 15 points and earned game MVP honors as the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars defeated the Liberty/National team

109-108 in overtime at Wakefield High School. The all-star game featured some of the top players from the Northern Region, and matched a team composed of athletes from the Concorde and Patriot districts against players from the Liberty and National districts.

"With the dunk contest, it was really hard because I'm not really a trick dunker," Fultz said. "I'm more of a go-up-and-do-it kind of guy."

Fultz made up for any lack of flair in his dunk-contest performance. With the Concorde/Patriot squad leading by four late in regulation, Brobbey threw an alley-oop pass off the backboard, which Fultz slammed home for a 99-93 advantage.

"In practice," Fultz said, "we do it all the time for fun."

The West Potomac boys' basketball program had a strong showing during the St. Patrick's Day event in Arlington. The afternoon started with a 3-point shooting contest, won by Wolverine junior Brandon Pressley. After the dunk contest, Fultz and Brobbey participated in the all-star game, which is a senior-only event. Brobbey scored 10 points.

"All three of those guys had great seasons," said West Potomac head coach



West Potomac's Bryant Fultz earned game MVP honors as a member of the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars during the NVABBC all-star game on March 17 at Wakefield High School.

David Houston III, a spectator at the event. "It feels good. We put a lot of time in and they did, too. It took a long time to build a good program with good kids. ... We had a lot of my younger guys here and Brandon is only a junior, and [participating in all-star festivities is] something they look to. That's why it's good for our league and for our region. It's something they look forward to doing. There's a lot in it. Guys know that you can't just be on the team. You have to have a good season to be selected."

After the 3-point shootout, South County's Oren Burks held off Lake Braddock's Tyler Snow to win the dunk contest. Jumping over a human prop became the unofficial theme of the event. T.C. Williams' T.J. Huggins was one of the first to attempt the maneuver, leaping over fellow Titan Jordan Byrd, who stands 6 feet.

"It was his idea at the last minute," Byrd said. "I was just supposed to throw the [alley-oop]. He missed it a couple times and then at that time he just changed it and said, 'Can I dunk over you?' I said, 'Go ahead, I'll give it a try, but you better not hurt me.'"

SEE FULTZ, PAGE 22

# Mount Vernon Boys' Lax Wins District Opener

**Smith scores eight goals in Majors' first two games.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**M**ount Vernon senior Shoshone Smith nearly tied a school record on March 14 when the midfielder scored seven goals in the Majors' season opener against T.C. Williams. But while Smith thrived, his performance didn't lead to victory. No other Majors scored during the contest and Mount Vernon lost, 10-7.

Two days later, the Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team opened National District competition against defending champion Yorktown. Smith managed just one goal against the Patriots, but this time, his teammates helped carry the load.

Six different Majors scored a goal as Mount Vernon jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held on for a 6-3 win on March 16 at MVHS. Smith scored the game's first goal nearly five minutes into the contest and the Majors added three more before the end of the opening quarter.

By game's end Jaelen Gadson, Brian Roling, Devon Frank, Dusty Floyd and Eric Myhre had also scored.

"Right now, it really says a lot [about our depth] because last game I was the only one that scored," Smith said. "I'm a lot happier that a lot more guys got a touch and they got some shots on cage and we got the win."

The school record for goals in a game is eight, set in 2010 by Brendan Doyle, according to head coach Dale Nalls.

Defensively, Mount Vernon held Yorktown scoreless for the first 16 minutes of the game and did not allow a second goal until more than 28 minutes had passed. Nalls said senior defenders Gadson and Zak Balde

SEE SMITH, PAGE 22



Mount Vernon senior Shoshone Smith totaled eight goals in the Majors' first two games.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## SPORTS

# Fultz Named Game MVP, Pressley Wins 3-point Shootout

FROM PAGE 21

The all-star game provided an exciting end to the afternoon. The Liberty/National team overcame an 11-point second-half deficit to force overtime and held a one-point lead late in the extra period. But after allowing the go-ahead bucket to Hayfield's Nate McShay of the Liberty/National team, Huggins, the region Player of the Year, drove to the rim and scored the game-winner for the Concorde/Patriot team.

"The dude had just scored on me and I was like, I can't lose the game," Huggins said. "... I just said, 'I've got to get this.'"

The Concorde/Patriot All-Stars, led by Woodson head coach Doug Craig, featured a balanced scoring attack. South County's Marqueice Johnson and Westfield's Quentin Basil each scored 11 points, and Lake Braddock's Snow had 10. Centreville's Evan Fuller and Robinson's Robert Pillow each

tallied nine points, while Huggins added eight.

Johnson, a rebounding force for the Stallions, said it took some time to settle into a rhythm while playing with athletes from other schools, but the teams eventually found a groove. He also said there was a relaxed approach in terms of competition, but that didn't stop hip from hustling.

"It's not a want to win the game, it's just always play hard," Johnson said of his approach. "Everything I do, I just want to show everybody that I'm trying to play hard. I just want to show the coach if I'm going to be on his team, I'm going to play hard."

Chantilly's Brady Caslavka (7 points), Robinson's Tristian Crenshaw (7), T.C. Williams' Byrd (6), Centreville's Robert Coker (5) and Lake Braddock's Brendan McHale (2) also competed for the Concorde/Patriot team.

Edison head coach Terry Henderson led the Liberty/National All-Stars. Henderson

received a good-natured ribbing for calling a timeout in the closing seconds of the first half to design a play for Langley's Daniel Dixon. The play worked, as Dixon buried a 25-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to give his team a 49-48 halftime lead.

"It's fun. You get some talent you don't normally have," Henderson said. "It's kind of like coaching at a private school or something. You've got your shooters, you've got big men [and] you've got ball handlers. I was like a kid in a candy store; I didn't know what to do and what to call."

Dixon, who also had the ball in his hands near the end of regulation and overtime, said he enjoyed having opportunities during crunch time.

The play prior to halftime "was drawn up to get me the ball, but probably in a different spot than near halfcourt," Dixon said. "But I just pulled it from there."

Hayfield's McShay led the Liberty/National team with 20 points. Dixon scored

17 points, South Lakes' J.D. Wallace finished with 15 and McLean's Gordon Rogo added 11.

Edison's Tyrone Mackall (9), Wakefield's Justin Glenn (8) and Corey Aldrich (5), McLean's Sango Amolo (7) and Thomas Van Wazer (6), South Lakes' Jordan Francis (4), Langley's Joey Robinson (4) and Marshall's Latrell Watkins (2) also competed.

Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley hosted the festivities for the third consecutive year. He said the all-star game was the best it has been and he enjoyed watching his players — Glenn and Aldrich — participate.

"That was really good to see those guys get out there and play with some of the best competition and see how they matched up and played," Bentley said. "I was happy to see Justin and Cory just get out and play with smiles on their faces, unlike playing with me when I'm fussing and yelling at them."

# Smith Scores Eight Goals in Majors' First Two Games

FROM PAGE 21

played well, but the coach had particular praise for goalkeeper Connor Woods, a senior transfer from West Potomac.

"Defensively, Connor Woods in goal was real strong for us," Nalls said. "He stayed big in the cage. He deterred their shooters

because they had a lot of one-on-one looks with him. He may not have made contact with every ball, but he made saves by deterring them from shooting where they wanted to by getting his stick up and getting in the way."

Woods said the key to his success is blocking out distractions.

"My big problem is if I think too much, I'll miss it," Woods said. "So right when I see the man about to shoot, I'll just blank out everything in my mind and just concentrate on doing naturally what comes and hopefully I'll make the save."

The Majors will host the two-day Mount Vernon Invitational on March 23-24. Mount

Vernon's next district game is April 17 at Edison.

"We played great as a team," Woods said of the Majors' effort against Yorktown. "It was a real good thing for us to get the win coming off a loss from TC. It was great to get us back on track, get our minds in the right spot and I'm just glad we could pull it off."

## SPORTS BRIEF

### MV Goalkeeper Belanger Leaves Team

Mount Vernon junior goalkeeper Lucas Belanger, an all-state performer, has left the boys' soccer team, head coach Robert Garza said Monday, March 19.

Belanger informed Garza he wanted to focus on preparing to play soccer at the collegiate level, the coach said.

"The program wishes him well," Garza said. "The success we've had the last two years, he's one of the

main reasons we've had the success."

Luis Medrano, a junior who has been the JV goalkeeper the last two years, will take over for Belanger.

Mount Vernon finished National District runner-up last season and reached the Northern Region quarterfinals.

— JON ROETMAN

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

**West Potomac High School student Zachary Cohen** was one of 17 Fairfax County Public Schools students recognized as state winners at the Virginia DECA State Leadership Conference held March 9-11 in Norfolk. He is now eligible to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference, scheduled for April 28-May 2 in Salt Lake City.

**Belle View Elementary School** recently received two grants that will be used to continue restoration of the wetlands on school property and provide environmental education for students. The school received a 2011 FCPS Schoolyard Stewardship mini grant for \$3,000 and a Virginia Naturally partner grant from the Virginia Office of Environmental Education for \$1,000. Belle View is also home to a rain garden, a vegetable garden, and flower gardens which offer hands-on learning experiences to students.

**Groveton Elementary School teacher Lauren Schweitzer** re-

cently received a \$600 grant from [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org) to fund a leveled classroom library for her first grade students. Schweitzer's classroom library was previously made up of discarded library books, many of which were too difficult for her students, especially her beginning English learners, to read. She wrote a proposal that included a description of the school, the demographics in her classroom, and the importance of providing the students with books that they were able to read and were interesting to them. The grant enabled her to stock her library with 10 different books on each reading level.

Scholarship applications for 2012 graduating high school seniors in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, pursuing further education in a business related field, are now available. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each.

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## 1204 Villamay Blvd \$889,000

- Large Corner Lot • Great Curb Appeal
- Formal Living Room and Dining Room
- Expansive Slate Foyer measuring 24 Feet Long
- 6 Generous Bedrooms • 4 Baths • 3 fireplaces
- Vaulted Family Room off Large Galley Kitchen
- 30 ft. Recreation Room w/Raised-Hearth Stone Fireplace
- Workshop/Hobby Room above Huge Two-Car Garage
- Lower Level Wet Bar Rm - Great 2nd Kitchen for In-Laws
- Large In-Ground Pool • Fenced Rear Yard

**Dir: S on Ft. Hunt Road from Beltway. L on Marine Dr. R on Villamay Blvd to 1204 on left.**



## 1211 Tatum Drive \$1,099,000

- California Contemporary Home
- Sits on 1.63 Acres and tucked into the side of a Hill
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- Wonderful Soaring Ceilings
- Designer Granite Kitchen
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**Dir: S on GW Pkwy fm Old Town. R Tulane L Park Terr. R Tatum to 1211 at end of cul-de-sac.**

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**Dir: Alex. S on GW Pkwy R on Tulane L on Park Terrace R on Westgrove L on Marine L on Warrington R on Burtonwood to 7111 on left.**



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**Dir: From Old Town, South on GW Pkwy. R on Belle View Blvd. R on Potomac St. R on I Street to 1111-B on Right.**

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