

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland shares his memories of his long-time friend Gil McCutcheon.

Remembering Gilbert S. McCutcheon

Family, friends and neighbors of Gil McCutcheon gathered on the hilltop of Lamond Community Park on Saturday, May 12 for a ceremony to rename the park for the late Gilbert S. McCutcheon. McCutcheon was a key player in negotiations and acquisition of the 18-acre site off Fort Hunt Road. He also ensured that the home on the property would be preserved.

McCutcheon served for 18 years as the Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority. Under his stewardship, the Laurel Hill property was acquired, renovations were made at the Mount Vernon RECenter, Grist Mill Park developed a new concert series and an off-leash dog park, state-of-the-art synthetic turf fields were put into use in South County and the Park Authority secured in perpetuity the historic Colchester Park and Preserve.

He also served as Market Master of the Mount Vernon Farmer's Market and as a member and officer of the governing board at Frying Pan Farm Park. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award from the Virginia Recre-



Richard Settle of Sunset View Farm and a vendor at the Mount Vernon Farmer's Market recalls the seasonal ritual of sitting on the tail gate of his farm truck with John I. Morton and Gil McCutcheon eating fresh peaches.

ation and Parks Society and of the Lawrence V. Fowler Award, presented by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland Frances and Bonnie McCutcheon, Richard Settle, William Bouie and others join in for the unveiling of the new sign designating the park as the Gilbert S. McCutcheon Park.

Alert on Housing Discrimination

Officials step up efforts to reach immigrant communities about "fair housing" rights.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Housing discrimination cases have been on the rise in Fairfax County in the past few years. And the Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs (OHREP), the agency that enforces fair housing laws in the county, is shining a spotlight on the problem through seminars for housing providers, Realtors, community groups and other interested parties.

"Sadly, housing discrimination is

alive and well and we've seen an uptick in complaints during the past six years," said Kenneth Saunders, executive director of OHREP.

In contrast to national trends, discrimination based on nationality made up 25.6 percent of complaints to the county from 2006 to 2010. In comparison, about nine percent of complaints to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) fall under this category.

Although discrimination based on race remains an issue, Saunders SEE DISCRIMINATION, PAGE 19

First-time Candidate Vs. Longtime Congressman

Former Navy pilot hopes to defeat Moran with charges of conflict of interest.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Former Navy pilot Bruce Shuttleworth's campaign to oust U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) in the Democratic primary is fashioned as an indictment, a campaign in which the issues are framed as an attack on the incumbent. The first-time candidate hopes to knock off the 10-term congressman by describing him an insider who uses his power to help campaign contributors and himself.

"I think that Congressman Moran sides with big business too often," said Shuttleworth. "And too often those big businesses have given him big campaign contribu-

tions, and in fact he is number one in all of Congress in taking campaign contributions from his earmark recipients."

Supporters of Moran say these kinds of charges are nothing new, and the same accusations are resurrected every election cycle. They say candidates have to raise money to get elected, and that the congressman is an experienced legislator who votes his conscience. Several said that if Moran was known as a legislator who votes in favor of contributors he would have raised a lot more than \$600,000, the amount of money he's raised and spent so far in this election cycle. Ultimately, they say, voters have considered these

SEE CANDIDATE, PAGE 3

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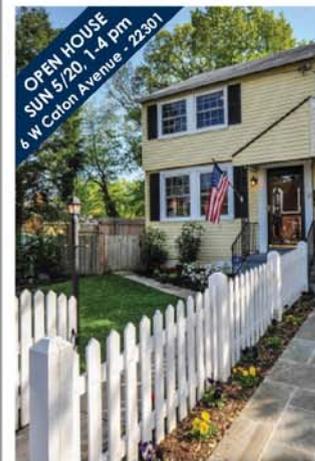
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Leslie Aleixo pins up the hem of Dagmavit Maelaf's gown.



Trisha Racho and Silvia Bonilla make their choices.

Princess for a Night at West Potomac

The line was already out the door when the girl's locker room opened on Saturday, May 12 for first pick on the new and slightly used prom dresses and accessories. Volunteers had spent Friday afternoon sorting dresses into sizes and hanging them on the clothing racks set up in the locker room.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Erin Bauer browses through a rack of dresses.



West Potomac Academy instructor Regina Weems shows a gown to the students.



Alphe Peabody selects a brown satin dress.



Taleshia Clemons tries on a deep blue gown.

First-time Candidate Vs. Longtime Congressman

FROM PAGE 1

charges and dismissed them.

"Voters in the 8th District know Congressman Moran," said Austin Durrer, a spokesman for the congressman. "He fights for their issues they care about, provides strong, progressive representation, and has helped strengthen the region's economy through his work as a senior member on the Appropriations Committee as a leader who understands the importance of the federal role in our regional economy."

ON THE ISSUES, Shuttlesworth says he would have voted differently than Moran on a number of key votes. One is the F136 engine, developed by General Electric and Rolls-Royce. Shuttlesworth says that he would have voted against funding for the project, which the Pentagon opposed. Shuttlesworth says the project was unnecessary, adding that Moran took campaign contributions from General Electric and Rolls-Royce.

"It puts him in a conflict of interest position," said Shuttlesworth. "I disagree with any congressman who will embrace that kind of conflict of interest, especially if they're voting against the Pentagon's wishes."

Supporters of the project say it's important to consider the cost ramifications of eliminating the project, which some people call "the alternative engine." They say that the military would have benefited from improved engine performance, increased contractor responsiveness and enhanced operational readiness while sustaining an industrial base for future aircraft programs.

"In Econ 101, you learn that competition brings down costs," said Durrer. "In this case, having an alternative engine would have saved taxpayers more than \$20 billion over the life of the F-35 program."

ANOTHER ISSUE where Shuttlesworth would have voted differently than Moran is the 2005 bankruptcy reform. Shuttlesworth criticized the law as making it harder to declare bankruptcy, preventing people from getting a fresh start. He described the law as a "big win" for the credit card companies, repeating the charge that the congressman took a loan from credit card company MDNA in

Bruce Shuttlesworth, 47

A native of Amsterdam, N.Y., Shuttlesworth grew up in Severna Park, Md. He has a bachelor of science in history from the Naval Academy and a master of business administration from the Harvard Business School. He was in the Navy from 1983 to 1995, stepping down as a lieutenant. He is currently a strategy management consultant and was formerly employed by the Boston Consulting Group.



advance of the vote.

"Four days later, he cosponsored legislation to make it harder for citizens to declare bankruptcy, the very bankruptcy he avoided by taking that sweetheart loan," said Shuttlesworth. "So there's another example of having an extreme conflict of interest."

Moran supporters scoff at the idea that a 10.7 percent mortgage loan is a "sweetheart deal," dismissing the idea that there was any relationship between the loan and the congressman's support for the reform.

SHUTTLESWORTH ALSO SAYS he would have voted against the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act, which he says helped contribute to the global financial crisis. Moran voted to repeal the act, and Shuttlesworth says he would have voted to maintain a separation between investment banking and commercial banking. Because that was at the heart of the financial crisis, Shuttlesworth says, Moran bears some of the responsibility for the downturn.

"Too many investment bankers are intent on getting those short-term bonus checks," said Shuttlesworth. "They take wild risk knowing that the downside is capped but the upside is not."

In a meeting with Connection Newspapers reporters and editors, Moran pushed back on criticism of his actions during the height of the financial crisis. He criticized a book titled "Throw Them All Out" by Peter Schweizer, which reports that the day after a meeting between Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson and New York Federal Reserve Chairman Tim Geithner that Moran sold 92 stocks.

"The book says two things, and then you naturally assume there's a connection. It doesn't actually say I was at the meeting. I wasn't. I never attended the meeting," said Moran. "To suggest that you would make a decision based on some meeting is a little absurd."



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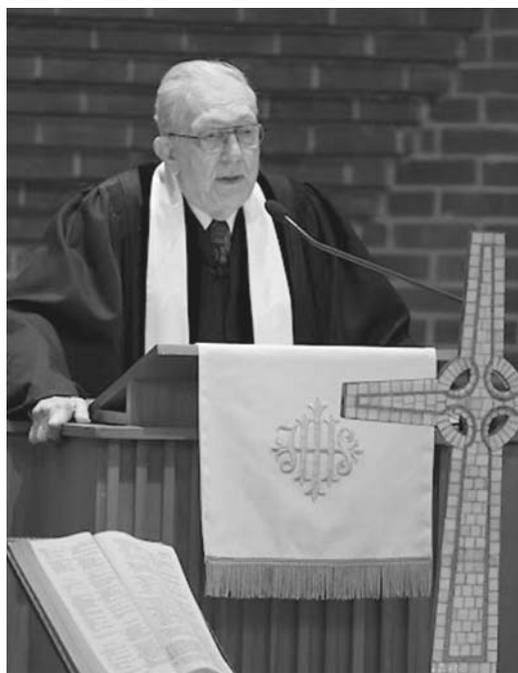
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Del. Scott Surovell presents the Rev. William Teng with a Virginia House resolution recognizing Heritage as Krieger Henderson looks on.



Heritage Charter Members (front row) Nita and Paul Potts, (back row) Krieger Henderson, Anniversary Committee chairman and John Hayes.



PHOTOS BY RICH COOPER

Church Celebrates 50 Years

Heritage Presbyterian Church celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 22. Pastor Emeritus Larry Glassco led the worship service which included a children's skit and a special music program. Several charter members, former pastors and representatives from the National Capital Presbytery and PC(USA) General Assembly were in attendance. Del. Scott Surovell presented the Rev. William C. Teng with a framed copy of a Resolution approved by the Virginia House of Delegates recognizing Heritage's faithful service to its members and the Mount Vernon community. The celebration culminated in a Jubilee banquet luncheon.

The Rev. Larry Glassco delivers the anniversary sermon.

AT THE LIBRARY

THURSDAY/MAY 17

B Is for Birthday. 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Celebrate the May birthdays of Margaret Wise Brown, Leo Lionni and other children's book authors. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-765-3645.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

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

TUESDAY/MAY 22

Practice Your English. 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-765-3645.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

eBook Drop-in Session. 7 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Learn how to download library eBooks to an eReader or portable device. 703-765-3645.

Practice Your English. 7:30 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-765-3645.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

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

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Practice Your English. 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-765-3645.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

eBook Drop-in Session. 7 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Learn how to download library eBooks to an eReader or portable device. 703-765-3645.

Practice Your English. 7:30 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-765-3645.

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Alex./Riverside Estates \$534,900
8319 Cherry Valley Lane
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'Smiles for Life' Supports UCM

Alexandria dentists Dr. James Geren and Dr. Zeyad Mady are participating in the Smiles for Life program, which will allow their patients to whiten their smile and help needy children at the same time. Running until the end of June, the dentists will offer professional teeth whitening services to the community at a reduced rate and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to support children in need. Half of these donations will go to United Community Ministries (UCM) to support the Bryant Early Learning Center, while the other half will go to national children's charities.

To participate, call Geren and Mady's office at 703-360-5881 and make an appointment for professional teeth whitening services. The special rate is \$29, which is paid directly to Smiles for Life, who will then send half to UCM and half to other children's charities. The appointment must be conducted by the end of June in order to be included in the campaign.

Smiles for Life is a fund-raising program conducted to raise money locally and nationally for seriously ill, disabled, and underprivileged children. Since 1998, the program has raised over \$30 million, benefiting hundreds of children's charities. Smiles for Life is sponsored by members of the Crown Council, a group of dentists throughout the United States and Canada.

Boating Safety Patrols To Begin

On Saturday, May 26, firefighters from Fire and Rescue Station 20, Gunston, will begin safety patrol duties in Fireboat 420 on the Potomac River and Mason Neck Area. The patrols will continue through the month of September.

The National Safety Council recommends the following tips for recreational boaters:

- ❖ Don't drink and boat. Boating while intoxicated is just as dangerous as drinking and driving. The "designated driver" system doesn't work in boating. Everyone is at risk because the boat's motion, coupled with alcohol, increases the chances of losing balance and falling overboard.

- ❖ Everyone on the boat should wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket. A PFD is the best protection against drowning.

- ❖ Check the weather and water conditions before leaving the shore. If it looks like storms are brewing or the water is very choppy, wait for another day to go boating.

- ❖ Limit the number of passengers in a small boat. Don't exceed the limit allowed by the boat's capacity plate. Keep in mind the size and weight of each person — equal distribution of weight will limit the possibility of capsizing.

- ❖ Have visual distress devices approved by the Coast Guard on board. Pyrotechnic red flares, orange smoke, orange distress flags, and electric distress lights must be in good working order and easily accessible.

- ❖ Use the "one-third rule" in fuel management. Use one-third of the fuel to go, one-third to get back, and keep one-third in reserve.

- ❖ Always tell someone where you will be boating, when you will be back, what your boat looks like, and other identifying information.

For more information on this or other safety issues, contact Public Affairs and Life Safety Education at 703-246-3801 or TTY 711.

'Trends in Green Development'

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) will present "New Trends in Green Development," a community event aimed at discussing the environmental aspects of revitalization with the citizens of Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. This event will feature presentations from public and private sector experts in several fields representing a diverse set of perspectives. The summit will focus on how good development can enhance the natural environment.

The summit will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the Lecture Hall at Carl Sandburg Middle School, located at 8428 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria.

To register, visit SFDC's EventBrite page. There is a \$10 registration fee for registrations received before Friday, May 25. The price for registrations received after that date will be \$15.

If unable to register online or for more information about New Trends in Green Development, contact David Ben at 703-360-5008 or david.ben@sfdc.org.



MVYC Officers bow their heads at the annual "Blessing of the Fleet," presented this year by Chaplain Ruth Walsh of St. James Episcopal Church on Old Mill Road.

Mount Vernon Yacht Club Launches Season

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland knows where he will likely spend the first Sunday in May each year, and plans to drop by the Mount Vernon Yacht Club at the end of Tarpon Lane to meet and greet members and guests at the launch of the annual boating season gala.

"I've enjoyed it every year and look forward to it," said Hyland. Attending for the first time this year was Del. Dave Albo, who came with his son, and said he was surprised to see such a spectacular event presented by the all-volunteer club of 230 family memberships. The marina for 134 power and sail boats is managed by members, along with a club house and pool.

Del. Scott Surovell was unable to attend but sent staff member Meghan Howard who spoke about his commitment to protect the Potomac and its environment.

Captain Scott Smith noted that the Fire and Rescue Operation has managed to keep afloat despite threats of budget cuts and thanked Hyland for his support.

Chaplain Ruth Walsh of St.



MVYC Member Joe Castor prepares to decapitate a champagne bottle for the toast to the MVYC Commodore Ron Reinsel. The Fairfax County Search and Rescue Boat stands by at the marina.

James Episcopal Church, a former military chaplain, commended MVYC for its role and example of volunteering in the community.

Commodore Ron Reinsel noted the history behind the rite of Commissioning Days and Blessings of the Fleet. He stressed how these traditions keep the boating spirit alive in the community. Past Commodore Bonnie Breneman served

as master of ceremonies for the event, which concluded with a race by the Mount Vernon High School Crew Team. Four crew attended the event on shore along with Coach Ryan Ward, who was presented with a \$500 check from the club.

MVYC members Jacque Knight and Susan Rehe serve as co-chairs for the annual ceremonies.



Susan Rehe, MVYC Co-chair.



MVYC Co-chair Jacque Knight.



PHOTO BY MATT ALLEN

Hearing from Living History

Tuskegee Airman William T. Fautroy, Jr., age 86, gave a talk recently to Boy Scout Troop 1509 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Fort Hunt. After World War II, Fautroy went on to become the first African American civil engineer hired by the National Capital Transportation Agency — the predecessor to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to 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.

The MVHS Junior/Senior Prom is Friday, June 8, and the 2013 class officers, sponsors, teachers, and staff have been working hard to make it a special occasion for the Senior Class of 2012. The Junior Class presents "Casino Royale" from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight

at the Springfield Waterford. The Prom King and Queen will be announced at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$65 per ticket. Tickets will be on sale May 22, 24, 29 and 31; and June 4 - 7 during all lunch periods.

Andrew Reese of Alexandria has been awarded a Boren Scholarship to study Swahili in Tanzania. Reese, a senior at James Madison University majoring in international affairs, is a former president of the JMU Student Government Association. Reese also served on the JMU presidential search committee and recently returned from a U.S. Department of

State internship in Kigali, Rwanda.

Abby Power, Eleanor Morrison and Emily Sun, of Alexandria, have been selected by their schools to participate in the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar. Power, a sophomore at Hayfield Secondary School, along with Morrison and Sun, both sophomores at Bishop Ireton High School, will take part in a series of programs designed to inspire today's youth to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation, on May 18, 19 and 20 at James Madison University.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

ROUTE 1 IMPROVEMENTS AT FORT BELVOIR FAIRFAX COUNTY

Meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2012; 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM; Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22315, in the High School Cafeteria (Room 1534).

Purpose: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with Fairfax County, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, is completing studies for improvements to U.S. Route 1 through Fort Belvoir from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Among the components of the studies were the identification of transportation needs, analysis of alternatives to meet those needs, and analysis of the environmental consequences of those alternatives, all of which are documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act. Public involvement and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies has been ongoing throughout the study, and at this stage, citizens will be given the opportunity to review the preliminary project design and the findings of the EA. All comments received during the public meeting and public comment period will be considered, and all substantive comments will be addressed in subsequent NEPA documentation and in reaching a decision on the study. Informational displays and handouts will be available at the meeting. The EA will be made available for public review by May 30, 2012 on FHWA's website, <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/environment.aspx>, and at the following locations: Sherwood Regional Library, South County Center, and the offices of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and FHWA.

Comments: Comments or other information relevant to the study may be submitted at the meeting or sent to FHWA's Project Manager, Mr. Jack Van Dop, Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, 21400 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling, VA 20166 by the end of the business day on **June 29, 2012**. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail to: Jack.VanDop@dot.gov.

Special Assistance: If you require additional information or special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting, please call Parsons Transportation Group at 202-469-6481.





In recognition of Stroke Awareness Month, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital is pleased to offer our community members with FREE screenings and an innovative, informative seminar.

Music for the Heart and Soul

Presented by Donald Brideau, MD
Vice President, Medical Affairs, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital;
Asst. Clinical Professor, Georgetown University, School of Medicine and George Washington University, School of Medicine

Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 6 - 8 p.m.
Eng Conference Center
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
2501 Parker's Lane
Alexandria, VA

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. **FREE Stroke Assessment Screening and Risk Calculator for Heart Disease**

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Join Dr. Donald Brideau for an informational and musical lecture, "Music for the Heart and Soul", a mixture of American Heart Association Guidelines for Preventing Heart Attack and Stroke and inspirational music to warm both your heart and soul.**

Screenings and lecture are FREE, but to better serve you, we ask that you register by calling 1-855-My-Inova (1-855-694-6682).



INOVA™ MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

OPINION

Most Endangered?

Unless your home is served by well water, you are almost certainly among the five million people in the Washington Metropolitan area who get their drinking water from the Potomac River.

This week, the organization American Rivers named the Potomac River as the most endangered river in the nation. The Potomac River is far cleaner than it was 40 years ago when the Clean Water Act was enacted.

"Before the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972, the Potomac was a cesspool of sewage and industrial pollution," says American Rivers. "Thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Potomac and rivers across the country are cleaner and safer for drinking, boating, and fishing. But ... a University of Maryland report card has given the river a 'D' grade for water quality for the past two years."

Now it's safe for high school crew teams to take to the river by the dozens. Kayakers and paddle-boarders join them in intimate contact with the water. Motorboats, marinas and fishermen all show the confidence we now have in the integrity of the Potomac River.

Still, after a rain, stormwater washes agricultural waste, suburban and urban runoff carrying loads of pollution into our area's small streams, into the Potomac River and on into the

Chesapeake Bay. Bacteria in the river after big rainstorms, from dog waste in suburban areas, agricultural runoff in more rural areas, has led to the recommendation by some that people avoid contact with the river for two-to-three days.

Slowing stormwater runoff, limiting the amount of "nutrients" that are swept down the river into the Chesapeake Bay, and improvements in methods of treating sewage are all critical to the ongoing health of our water supply.

Fish in the Potomac River also continue to show symptoms of exposure to endocrine disruptors, with male bass carrying eggs and other signs. Scientists suspect variety of pharmaceuticals and chemicals are causing these abnormalities, and it is not known whether current water purification systems are removing those pollutants fully from the drinking water.

American Rivers called on Congress to kill any legislation that weakens the Clean Water Act or prevents the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restoring protections for small streams and wetlands under the Act. American Rivers also called on the Obama Administration to finalize guidance clarifying the scope of the

Potomac River has made great strides, has miles to go to save the Bay.

Clean Water Act and issue a rule-making to ensure that all waters get the protections Americans expect and deserve.

The Potomac River continues to serve as the scenic backdrop to much of what we do here. Let's continue to push for improvements.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Gazette puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, 2012 and once again the Gazette will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 8.

You can submit your photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect Stables

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland.

I am writing to you with a very simple message: Woodlawn Stables must not be destroyed.

It is impossible to exaggerate the positive impact that this facility has had in our area (I say "our," even though I now live in Philadelphia, because I grew up in Northern Virginia).

I spent every spare moment of my childhood at Woodlawn Stables, from the age of eight until the day I left for college, and it was an education I value deeply. I learned to ride and train horses. I learned to throw a bale of hay that weighed nearly as much as I did. I learned the specific dietary requirements of 60-plus horses, as well as their supplement and medication needs. I learned to assist the farriers and vets with a nervous, half-ton animal than needed reassurance and patience. I learned to administer intramuscular injections. I learned how to drive a truck and trailer. I learned how to teach young children the art of cleaning a stubborn pony's hooves. I learned to wield a shovel and pitchfork with prowess. I learned to answer phones politely, to balance books, to order supplies, to manage clients, and to work more than 12 hours a day in the heat of the sum-

mer without complaint. I learned all of this before I had even graduated from high school.

There is not a moment of my current life that has not benefited from this education, and I speak for endless scores of young women (and men) who have received the same invaluable resources of strength, patience, perseverance, and business acumen. I am deeply indebted to Joan and Cindy Mitchell, under whose direct and constant guidance I blossomed all those years ago, and I cannot impart upon you enough how devastating it would be should their livelihood be sacrificed in lieu of finding an alternative solution to a traffic issue.

It is not simply about property lines and boundaries: this is about a culture that enriches lives by teaching work ethic, empathy, and responsibility: destroying it would be unconscionable.

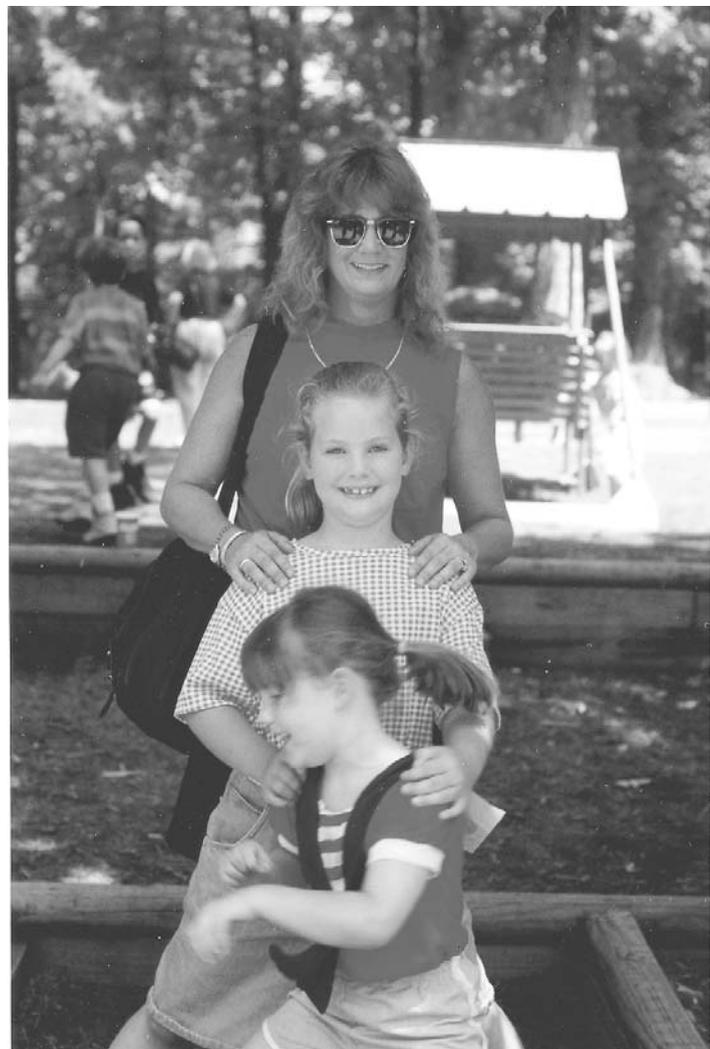
Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes
Philadelphia

Help Make A Difference

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Alice's Kids, a new charitable organization that provides direct assistance to needy children

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20



Me & My Mom Mary, Maggie and Jessica Hines at Aquinas Montessori School. Mary sports her Katie Holmes shades, Maggie in her jorts, and Jessie ... always on the go.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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1786 Rampart Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

Resort Living on the Potomac



Resort Living on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River from every room! Only 30 minutes to the Washington DC, but with a remote feeling and renovations just completed! Idyllic for relaxation with all the luxurious modern touches. Grand entertainment areas inside and outside w/ pool and cabana. Impressive bedroom suites, sunfilled morning room and spa inspired lower level . 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. **\$2,950,000**. Adjacent parcel of .34 acres also available for **\$1,050,000**.

9326 Old Mansion Road Alexandria, VA 22309

A Gem in Fort Hunt! Open Sunday



Stunning like-new colonial situated on almost half acre in quiet cul-de-sac! Over 4300 finished square feet, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, hardwood floors throughout main level, formal living and dining rooms. Sunny eat-in kitchen opens to large family room with vaulted ceilings. Updated bathrooms, large fully finished lower level and huge rear patio! Walk to swim and tennis club ~ **\$899,000**



2717 Woodlawn Trail Alexandria, VA 22306

Build Your Dream Home



Stunning three quarter acre lot with seasonal water views in the most sought after neighborhood along the George Washington Parkway Small home on property conveys as is. 3 miles to the heart of Old Town and along the scenic bike trail. 20 minutes to Downtown DC. Design your own home

7855 Southdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Stunning in Alexandria



Beautifully renovated and expanded colonial with exquisite finishing details. Every room thoughtfully planned, flows well and is useful. Light filled spaces and expansive rooms create a contemporary openness in a traditional setting. Windowed French doors lead to a charming patio, putting green and landscaped yard. 5 bedrooms-one with attic hideout, 3.5 baths and 3 family living areas. ~ **\$1,099,000**



600 W Windsor Avenue Alexandria, VA 22302

Chic and Historic in Old Town



Simply the most outstanding restoration in Old Town. Originally built at the end of the 18th century, this unique residence is a blend of history and modern



design. Original materials alongside elegant urban finishes creates the ultimate sophisticated home. 3 sides of windows, outdoor fireplace, reclaimed floors, commercial appliances. 2 bedrooms + Office, 2.5 baths, over 2200 finished square feet. ~ **\$1,295,000**

555 S Washington Street #100 Alexandria, VA 22314

8728 Thomas J. Stockton Parkway
Coming Soon

529 N Alfred Street
Coming Soon

7503 West Boulevard Drive
Coming Soon

900 Clifton Drive
Coming Soon

New Price in Mt. Vernon



Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ **\$649,900**



4309 Sheridans Point Ct Alexandria, VA 22309

Live Life Along the Water



3 level custom brick colonial sited on large waterfront lot with sandy beach and 3 car garage. Over 6500 finished square ft w/



5/6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, expansive water views, soaring ceilings, elevator, screened in porch, large eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms , 2 story family room. Plus main level master suite. ~ **\$1,995,000**

9403 Ludgate Drive Alexandria, VA 22309



With a volume of \$38 Million in 2011, why turn anywhere else? I am your Alexandria Real Estate Expert.

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Directions: NORTH on the Beltway take Exit 468 onto Rt. 123N-McLean. Go 3 miles- Turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. (Rt. 309). Go 1/2 mile thru two traffic lights. We are on the right next to Shell Gas.
SOUTH from Md. - Cross over the Amer. Legion Bridge - Take the VERY first right Exit 43-44 to VA 193 toward Langley - Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Balls Hill Rd. Go 9th mile - Turn left onto Old Dominion Drive - Go thru 3 traffic lights - We are on the right next to Shell Gas. We are less than 5 minutes from the Bridge.

COUPON GREAT PRIZES

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for 250,000 points

These prizes to be awarded

1. Samsung 40" LCD TV, \$549 Value.
2. Canon PowerShot Camera, \$400.
3. Saeco Espresso Maker, \$350.
4. Canon Camcorder, \$290.
5. DeLonghi Food Processor, \$250.
6. Garmin GPS System, \$160.
7. Keurig Coffee System, \$160.
8. Frigidaire Toaster Oven, \$150.
9. Kick Sound System, \$115.
10. Tiger Rice Cooker, \$100.

Game Ends 6/02/2012

No Purchase Necessary

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

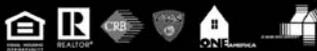
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Currently Offered

A REAL GEM! Beautifully appointed kitchen with corian counter tops, stove with double ovens, special closet for washer/dryer, hardwood foyer and hallway plus lovely view of the Alexandria skyline. Unique to this model is the glass enclosed terrace with three entrances; ideal traffic flow for entertaining. Garage space included in price. Community is pet friendly.



CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through May 11.

COMMERCIAL BUGLARY

7940 Richmond Highway, May 3 at 7:02 a.m. Employee of WhitingTurner Contracting Company discovered the office trailer burglarized. Entry made through a window in the door. Computer equipment and a camera were taken.

COMMERCIAL BUGLARY

6138 North Kings Highway, May 6 at 5:30 a.m. An employee of the Best Smokes store arrived to work and discovered the glass of the front door smashed out. It appears the burglary occurred during the overnight hours. Numerous cartons of Newport 100 cigarettes were taken, valued at more than \$3,400.

LARCENIES

- 3500 block of Buckman Road.** Wallet stolen from residence.
- 2200 block of Harbor Terrace.** Wallet stolen from vehicle.
- 3500 block of Lady Anne Court.** Tools stolen from vehicle.
- 3800 block of Miramonte Place.** Bicycle stolen from business.
- 6500 block of Quander Road.** Cell phone stolen from school.
- 6300 block of Richmond Highway.** Merchandise stolen from business.
- 6300 block of Richmond Highway.** Cell phone stolen from business.
- 8600 block of Richmond Highway.** Soap and lotion stolen from business.
- 3900 block of San Leandro Place.** Sticker decals stolen from vehicle.
- 8200 block of Treebrooke Lane.** Cell phone stolen from business.
- 8500 block of Wyngate Manor Court.** Rings stolen from residence.

Byers' Choice[®] Ltd. AT MOUNT VERNON

JOYCE BYERS, CREATOR AND DESIGNER OF THE BYERS' CHOICE CAROLERS, WILL SIGN CAROLERS PURCHASED DURING THIS SPECIAL EVENT AT THE SHOPS AT MOUNT VERNON ON SATURDAY, MAY 19



The program will begin in the Smith Auditorium and feature a conversation between "General and Lady Washington." Guests will have an exclusive opportunity to gain insight into the Washingtons' life in the 18th century.

Joyce Byers will be on hand to sign Carolers in the Vaughan Lobby immediately following each program. Programs will be offered from 12pm to 12:45pm and 3pm to 3:45pm

Enter through The Shops at Mount Vernon.
The event is free and open to the public. Free parking.



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Chapel Hill \$1,995,000

911 Vicar Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302

Located in one of Alexandria's most highly sought-after neighborhoods, this custom built 6BR + 4 1/2 + 1/2 colonial features pine floors, 3 fps, 2 huge screened porches + 2 car garage. **Donnan C. Wintermute 703.518.6156**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Old Town Alexandria \$614,900

1170 N Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

New Price! Traditionally inspired 3BR/2.5BA TH in Canal Way. \$33,000 in recent updates: 1st Flr Pwdr Rm, hrdwds, EE heat pump & wndws; SS appl; MBR w/ vaulted ceilings, walk in closet & fpl. **Chris Upham 202.359.1308**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Eddington Terrace \$1,195,000

2917 Eddington Ter, Alexandria, VA 22302

Beautiful, light-filled 5BR/3.5BA/3FP Colonial in priv enclave. Elegant details thruout 3 lvls w/ many recent imprvmnts. MBR Suite & Lux Bath. Garage & DW. www.UphamRealEstate.com **Chris Upham 202.359.1308**



WayneWood \$529,000

1106 Croton Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308

Great Home & Price! Fabulous 3BR, 2.5 BA, 3 Level, Salem model w/addition w/FP. Freshly painted throughout. Large newer Kit w/island. Warm wood flrs. Newer double pane windows. clean, vacant & ready. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Valley View \$339,000

3211 Spring Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

\$10,000 Price Reduction/Owner Say Sell It! Updated kit, freshly painted, hardwoods, 3BR's, FR, new HVAC, private patio on 1/4ac lot high on a hill with great vistas. Fantastic close in opportunity. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



NEW PRICE

Belle Haven On The Green \$525,000

1789 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sun! High Ceilings, Large Rooms, Bright 3 Br, 3.5 Ba, Brick Th w/ Lib, Eat-In Kit, 2 Fp! Gas Heat, Finished LI, Gar + Parking -- Bellehaven CC, Metro. See: Www.1789Duffield.Com **Marie Louise Meyer 703.836.2080**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Del Ray \$885,000

106 E. Maple Street, Alexandria, VA 22301

Turn key and enjoy! All new in 2010, this stunning 3 level, 4BR, 3 full BA offers a gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, new systems, off-street parking & more w/n blocks of 2 Metros. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Seminary Valley \$575,000

700 N. Latham Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

Delightful all brick 4BR, 2.5 Bath single family home offering large a family room addition, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, newer windows, 2-car garage minutes to schools, parks & more. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Riverside Estates \$475,000

8604 Cherry Valley Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309

Spacious light-filled Concord model featuring 4BR, 3 full baths, hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen, private master suite, open living & dining rooms, abundant storage & 2-car garage. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Watergate at Alexandria \$575,000

400 Second Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Unique corner 3BR/2-1/2BA TH renovated w/built-in's, FP & french doors to European style patio. Attic w/lots of storage. Grand location in historic Old Town--Nat'l Airport&DC only min's. **Eloise Brantley 703.408.4887**



Wilton Woods Area \$499,000

3095 Madison Hill Ct., Alexandria, VA 22310

Great cul-de-sac location near Huntington Metro. 3BR, 3 levels, 1-car garage, 2 fireplaces, fenced backyard with treehouse. Nicely updated. See photos at www.RitaMcR.com **Rita McCauley-Redmond 703.447.9114**



Del Ray \$649,000

2512 DeWitt Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

Too Late! Under Contract Here is your opportunity to have a fixer upper in a detached bungalow in Del Ray! Sold 'as is', but great bones! Corner, double lot, parking and potential! **Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788**



Old Town Alexandria

310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

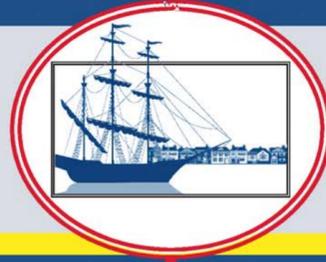
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Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

OPEN SUN! **JUST LISTED!**

8700 Parry Ln
\$589,900
Stratford Colonial! Great Price!

Unique opportunity—three level, 4BR, Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac for remarkably reasonable price! Many fabulous features include: expanded family room, finished LL, hdwd flrs, thermal windows, oversize two car garage & gorgeous fenced yard. Many major updated components. Combination of size, condition & location rarely found for under \$600K! **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; R-Vernon View; L-Elkin; L-Linton; L-Sword; L-Parry**

OPEN SUN!

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 fin levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fab gourmet eat in kit, formal dining, 5 FP, elevator. Direct river access. **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Washington Woods; R-Ludgate.**

OPEN SUN!

8355 Justin Rd
\$799,900
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 kitchen, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning master bedroom suite and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home! **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon; L-Old Vernon Ct; R-Justin Rd.**

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$824,000

Cameron Station
5213 BRAUNER PLACE

Stunning 4 level Stoneyhurst w/3BR/2.55BA! Fabulous features inc: sumptuous owner's suite w/ loft & frpl + built-in bookcases, 10' ceilings, wood flrs on main/lower lvs, library, 2 frpls, deck & brick patio.

www.mikelekas.com
Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$624,900

Alexandria South
2601 BOSWELL RD

Amazing property in the Hollin Hills area off Elba Rd! Totally renovated, 4BR/2.5BA, large, open floorplan, very private

huge corner lot across from beautiful parkland & sanctuary! Easy commute to Old Town, I-95 and Fort Belvoir. A Must See!

www.homesfromanita.com
Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809

\$234,000
Alexandria
"THE SKY IS THE LIMIT"

Top fl 2BR/2BA w/ vaulted ceilings. This unit is the perfect roommate layout w/ bedrooms on opposite sides. Open galley kit w/brkfst bar. Gas frpl. W/D in unit. Assigned parking. Nice walk-in closet in master bedroom. Storage closet on balcony. Close to shops, restaurants, Old Town & Metro.

www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

NEW PRICE!

9017 Stratford Ln
\$899,000
Totally Expanded and Updated!

Understated elegance—modern 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.

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.

JUST LISTED!

9403 Ferry Landing Ct
\$755,000
Large Colonial-Custom Pool!!!

Fabulous Colonial in prime location on one of area's most attractive streets. Home features unique courtyard effect with "L" shaped two car garage. Exceptionally well maintained home with bright floor plan and spacious rooms. Open kitchen and family room. Gorgeous professionally manicured 1/2 acre grounds with custom pool. Exceptionally well price.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!
\$994,000 & UP

Hollin Hall Knolls
8115 YORKTOWN

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THEATER

Don't Miss 'Lonely Planet' at MetroStage

AIDS play never mentions the word.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Like the American city where Steven Dietz's "Lonely Planet" takes place, the disease paralyzing the gay community with fear remains unnamed in the powerful and moving production of the award-winning work now playing at MetroStage in Alexandria.

Told through fanciful, game-playing dialogue, the AIDS play that never mentions the word is a story of two men who ponder friendship and death within the sheltered confines of a map store.

Poignantly realized in the performances of Michael Russotto and Eric Sutton and under the expert direction of John Vreeke, "Lonely Planet" is about two gay friends: Carl (Sutton), a flamboyant man with a vivid imagination and ever-changing occupations; and Jody (Russotto), a quiet and cautious man who lives in fear of venturing outside the map store that he owns.

Afraid to venture out in the world and get tested for AIDS, Jody immerses himself in his maps as Carl turns up time and again



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

MetroStage Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin, left, celebrates opening night of "Lonely Planet" with Michael Russotto, director John Vreeke and Eric Sutton.

toting seemingly random chairs that begin cluttering the shop. With a maddening habit of describing his imaginary jobs, Carl insists on storing chairs there as Jody's frustration and isolation grows.

It is only as the play evolves that Jody and the audience learn that both chairs and occupations once belonged to friends who have died, an increasing reminder of everything Jody is laboring to forget: the horrors of disease and the fact that he has yet to be tested for H.I.V.

"I have wanted to do this play for years," said Russotto at the

opening night reception May 13. "I didn't think I'd ever get the chance but then Carolyn [Griffin] and John called. I've done many shows with John and known Eric for years so this is a dream show for me."

Russotto and Sutton brilliantly sustain a verbal tug of war and create a powerful friendship based on need, comfort and strength.

Sutton is a tornado of energy as Carl, who is trying to memorialize his friends in some way. As the map store steadily fills with chairs, Carl gets Jody to confront his fears and leave the shop to get tested for H.I.V.



Eric Sutton and Michael Russotto in "Lonely Planet."

Russotto's Jody is more subtle and indirect, delivering a performance full of effective silences in his many monologues. The two actors make the friendship credible and engaging.

"Lonely Planet" is perfectly cast with a handsome set by Jane Fink and piercing lighting effects provided by Jessica Lee Winfield, notably in the final scene where Jody returns to his shop to find Carl's favorite chair sitting in the store.

"This is a timeless and universal story, maybe even more important today than it was in 1995," Griffin said.

By examining a relationship be-

tween friends and not lovers, Dietz has crafted a haunting memorial to lives lost, and the MetroStage production of "Lonely Planet," with deep reflections of grief, denial and struggle, is a timely reminder that the fight against AIDS is not over.

With a superb cast and poignant message, "Lonely Planet" is a must-see end to the MetroStage season.

"Lonely Planet" is playing now through June 22 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

FINE ARTS



Caroline Sedgwick, Mieke Baran, Tim Shaheen, Lindsay Stowe, and Rob Kimmitt enjoy the Third Annual Lawrence Miller & Company Kentucky Derby Party at the silversmith shop, located at 121 South Royal Street, Alexandria.

On Saturday, May 5, the studio of local artist Mieke Baran (born and raised in Alexandria) was open to visitors during the Third Annual Kentucky Derby Party at Lawrence Miller & Company, 121 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Mieke's most recent oil-on-canvas paintings focus on various historic townhouses that line the streets of Old Town. Mieke's inspiration for the series is the intense winter light that falls on the brightly painted Old Town houses, where vibrant and defined shadows are cast by barren trees. Mieke has recently studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art, in particular with Washington, D.C.-based artist, Joey P. Manlapaz, M.F.A.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 17

Artist Donald Depuydt. Fusions of lithographs, intaglios, and collagraphs, Donald Depuydt's works include haunting figurative and architectural references, rich textures, and mark making, both precise and spontaneous. At the Athenaeum in Old Town Alexandria.

NOW TO JUNE 3

The Biennial Ikebana Show and Tea Ceramics Exhibit.

Reception is May 31, 6-8 p.m. Some 200 ceramic artists from all corners of the United States and Canada turned out to submit various wares associated with the ritual of drinking, serving, and presenting tea. Juror John Neely, ceramic artist and current Professor of Art in Ceramics and Assistant Department Head at Utah State University in Logan, UT, selected 47 pieces created by 33 artists from 19 states and Canada. The Tea exhibit is open now through June 3, but the Ikebana Show does not open until May 31. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 18

Variations. A photography exhibit featuring new works by Alan Sislen. Opening reception is Sunday, May 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com

NOW THROUGH MAY 19

Word Incarnate. The Gallery at Convergence presents "Word Incarnate" featuring visionary artist Anita Breitenberg Naylor. Come explore as Biblical passages are brought to life and rearranged as visual images to provide a focal point for contemplative thought. Artist's reception is Saturday, May 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260. Visit www.convergenceccf.net.

Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tour celebrates the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington," and live jazz on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 18, 19, and 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 per person. Private reserved tables featuring a fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and VIP table service are available for \$1,000. Visit MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center. Note: individual tickets for Friday and Saturday are sold out.

Historic interpreters will conduct special candlelit tours of the Mansion throughout the evening. The interpreters will discuss Washington's attempts at creating a vineyard and highlight various wine-related items inside the Mansion, including the basement's brick vaults where Washington stored his wine.

To accompany the wine tasting, Fruit & Cheese Boxes are available by advance purchase for \$26. A variety of hot and cold food and desserts including baguettes, gourmet sandwiches, and specialty sweets will be available on site from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Pets are also not allowed. Guests can take home a remembrance of Mount Vernon's Wine Festival and Sunset Tour from the Shops at Mount Vernon, open until 9:30 p.m. each evening.

ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 17, 23, 31

"Tea" Talk. 10:15 a.m. Experience the world through Tea with your guide, Lee Maguire. Join tea aficionado and Hollin Hall Senior Center Assistant Lee as he leads this four-part series about the world's second cheapest drink. Learn about the history of tea, its role in society, and how it has even changed history. Participate in blind tea tastings and help decide what tea best captures the essence of Hollin Hall Senior Center. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

Mount Vernon At-Home Gala. 4 to 7 p.m. Includes music, food, auctions and raffle. Tickets are \$35/members; \$40/non-members. Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization that helps seniors 'age in place.' Held at George Washington's River Farm. Advance reservations required; call 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org.

Ascension Day Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster, will direct the Adult Choir in an Ascension Day Choral Evensong. Donations of non-perishable foods will be accepted for St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., corner of Pitt and Duke Streets in Old Town. Call 703-549-3312, grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

"Pennsylvania Railroad." 10 a.m. Model Railroad Club presents the story of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the history of the famous Broadway Limited Passenger Train, the Pennsylvania Railroad and World War II, and HO display of PRR Locomotives and Cars. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Spring Flower Show. 12 to 3 p.m. Free. At Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8532 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Presented by the Garden Club of Waynewood, which is celebrating 50 years of gardening, education, service and friendship.

Consciously Exploring Your Legacy. 10:30 a.m. Free. Bev Hitchins of Alexandria is a professional organizer who will show seniors how to shed light on clutter so they can let go and move on. At The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 703-845-5000.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Tristan. 7:30 p.m. With Justin Townes Earle. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.Birchmere.com.

Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Owen Hammett will conduct the live band. Light refreshments will be provided by Sunrise @ Mount Vernon. Cost is \$4 at the door. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Music for Woodwind Quintet. 8 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit homepage: www.usafband.af.mil

SATURDAY/MAY 19

EMS Week Activities. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme is EMS: More Than a Job, A Calling. EMS providers will be available with various displays, educational materials for adults covering cardiac and stroke subjects, will provide blood pressure screenings, apparatus displays. At Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-3224.

Kingstowne Canvases for a Cause. 2 to 6 p.m. Dr. Nikki Waddell will be holding an Open House to showcase her practice, and her not-for-profit art gallery, Kingstowne Canvases for a Cause. A part of Dr. Waddell's practice is providing a service to the community and one of many ways she does this is by providing a platform for local artists to showcase and auction off their work. The office is at 5901 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Suite 300, Kingstowne.

Princess for a Night. May 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Monday,



SUNDAY/MAY 20

Cosmic Quest. 2 to 4 p.m. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present its annual Children's Arts Festival, "Cosmic Quest," at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. in Alexandria. In addition to activities that range from face painting, yoga, and an instrument petting zoo, the symphony will present two concerts featuring selections from Holst's The Planets. Tickets \$5, free parking.

May 21 from 2:15 to 6 p.m. The "Princess" program at Mount Vernon High School (Room H208), 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, allows high school students to shop for prom dresses, handbags, shoes and jewelry — all free. Students will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Katie Basinski, School Social Worker at 703-619-3304 or kabasinski@fcps.edu.

Bra Drive. Bloomers of Alexandria will conduct its annual Bra Drive benefitting the BraRecyclers. The bras are distributed around the world to deserving women and girls in transition. Customers who donate gently used bras will get 20% off a new bra. At 924 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Bloomers' owner Kim Putens (202-297-9090) or kim@shopbloomers.com.

Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. at George Washington Middle School. A fundraiser for the Therapeutic Recreation Program of Alexandria.

Registration can be completed online at kelleycares.org. The Kelley Cares Foundation is a mission of love for Kelley Swanson. Call 703-772-0638 or email Lindsey.Swanson@gmail.com.

BPAC Ride. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Bring a bicycle, water and a sense of adventure. The group will do an 18-mile ride up to D.C. to try out the protected bike lanes on Pennsylvania Ave. and 15th St., NW. RSVP to jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Open House. 4 p.m. With refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. At the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. RSVP by May 16 at 703-797-3815.

The Planets. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35/adult; \$30/senior; \$10/student. Featuring Kim Allen Kluge, conductor; Carlos Rodriguez, piano; Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, Holst: The Planets. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Estate Planning and Life Transitions Seminar. 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Free. Presentations by expert attorneys, certified financial planners, stock brokers and others. A catered lunch is available (\$15 each/\$25 couple) by pre-purchase when you register. Hosted by Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Collingwood at Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

Boutique's Give Back Charity Day. Some 30 retailers from the Old Town Boutique District and 30 charities will be participating. On this day, retailers will create an activity or promotion in their stores that would benefit that charity of choice. To be held at participating stores in the Old Town Boutique District. A listing of shops and charities is at www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Sidewalk Sale for ALIVE. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. On South Payne street between Commerce and Prince Streets, Old Town Alexandria. Rain date Sunday, May 20. Donations are welcomed. Bring to the Ice House, 200 Commerce St., Saturdays May 5 and 12 from 9-5 p.m., Sundays May 6 and 13 from 1-5 p.m. Call 703-684-1430 or email

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 16

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

alivehouse@alive-inc.org or more information and for pick up of large items. A fundraiser to benefit ALIVE! House Women's Shelter. Continuing Education for Seniors. 9:30 a.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 13.

St. Rita Parish Festival. Free. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., games, raffles, food, white elephant, clowns, moonbounce and dunk-the-priest. At the parish parking lot at 3815 Russel Road, Alexandria.

Talk on School Desegregation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join AARP, NAACP, DOVE, and Urban League of Hampton Roads at a "School Desegregation: Learn, Preserve, and Empower" event. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Registration is required. Call 1-877-926-8300.

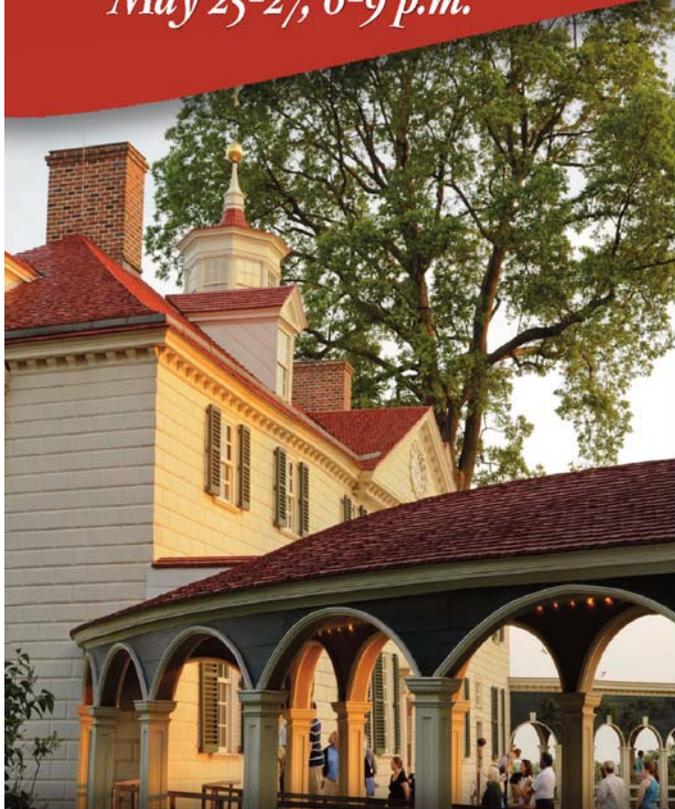
Fort Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward will be held in honor of Armed Forces Day. The tours will feature museum staff member Kevin Moriarty in Union uniform, providing an orientation to the defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. Cost is \$20. Presenting Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto with violinist Marliisa Del Cid, Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 6, and 2011 Composition Competition Winner Jonathan Kolm's Renewables. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Visit

SEE PAGE 17

Sunset Celebration AT MOUNT VERNON

May 25-27, 6-9 p.m.



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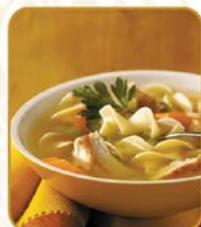
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

www.wmpmusic.org.

Spring Virginia Native Wildflower Sale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Native trees, shrubs, ground covers, ferns and wildflowers will be for sale by the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Visit www.vnps.org or call 703-642-5173.

Historic Huntley Re-opens. A rare architectural gem, Huntley House, located at 6918 Harrison Lane in Alexandria, will open to the public on Saturday, May 19. The house is a federal period villa built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason.

Kathie Truitt Book Signing. 1 to 4 p.m. Alexandria author Kathie Truitt will sign copies of her book, *False Victim*, at Books A Million, 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Woodbridge.

MAY 19 AND MAY 20

Tea With Martha Washington. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Here is your chance to experience history with Martha Washington as she discusses 18th-century tea customs as well as clothing and dancing of the period. Party attire requested. \$25 per person, \$20 each for groups of 6 or more with reservations. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4739.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Stories and Music in the Garden. 4 to 6 p.m. Set amid an enchanting boxwood garden, Stories and Music in the Garden offers lively storytellers, entertaining musicians, and delicious refreshments for kids of all ages. At Fort Hunt Preschool, on the grounds of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com or call 703-768-7584.

Presidential Salon with James Madison. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/person; \$10/students. Join President James Madison in Gadsby's historic Assembly Room as he discusses and engages guests about political and personal issues of 1812. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

Family Walk for Childhood Cancer. Noon to 4 p.m. Speakers and family activities such as arts



SUNDAY/MAY 20

Family Walk for Childhood Cancer. Noon to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation. Speakers and family activities: crafts & games, 26 ft. rock climbing wall, LEGO build tables and train display, football and soccer clinics, Zumba, food from Clyde's, magic show, games, learn to juggle clinic, face painting, nail art, balloon animals, fantastic raffle prizes, moon bounce, and a walk around the track to benefit Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation and fund a ChildLife Specialist position at Georgetown University Hospital. Admission is \$25/adult; \$15/children. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School Campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. More information and to Register: www.mattiemiracle.com OR https://www.mattiemiracle.com/Cancer_Walk_2012.html

and crafts, cooking demonstrations, magic show, 26 ft. rock climbing wall, games, raffles, and a walk around the track to show support for the cause. To benefit Mattie Miracle Foundation and fund a ChildLife Specialist position at Georgetown University Hospital. Admission is \$25 Adults/\$15 children. Includes T-shirt. At St. Stephen's upper campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.mattiemiracle.com

Women's Day. 11 a.m. Featuring the Rev. Dr. Jean Robinson-Casey. Lunch will be served. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-836-7332.

Jazz at Meade. 4 p.m. Donation is \$15. Featuring Kenny Sanders and Friends. At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-1334 or visit <http://www.meadechurch.org>.

Marty Nau Jazz Trio. 3 to 5 p.m. Will be performing at Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7116 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Admission is free and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Call 703-768-0234.

Workshop on How to Prune Trees, Shrubs and Perennials. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.. Join Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards, and VCE Extension Agent Kirsten Buhls at a workshop that provides hands-on experience in pruning small trees and shrubs and deadheading/cutting back perennials. Bring your own pruning tools (hand pruners, lopping shears, pruning saws) if available. At 2416 Ridge Road Drive, Alexandria. To register, call 703-228-6414 or visit www.mgnv.org.

The Songs of Bob Dylan. 7 p.m. A Hungry for Music benefit featuring Chatham Street, Tim Bracken, Willie Barry and Rod Deacey. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-

6061.

Spring Concert. 7 p.m. The Wakefield Chorale will present its annual Spring Concert — 30 Years of Song with "Our Music Man." Tickets available at door. At the Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, NOVA Community College. Call 703-451-7917.

MONDAY/MAY 21

Mini Open House. 1 p.m. Tour Hollin Hall Senior Center with Jan Kestyn, enjoy refreshments, and peek in on some ongoing sessions. An opportunity to participate in programs on this day. Questions? Call 703-765-4573.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. John Philip Colletta will present "Turning Biographical Facts into Real Life Events. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Information about the meeting, the Research Center and MVGS can be found at <http://www.MVGenealogy.org>. Call Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.
Agenda: Alexandria. "A Fireside Chat with New City Manager Rashad Young" Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner (members with reservations by May 15: \$28; with reservations after deadline: \$33; without reservations: \$38/non-members with reservations by May 15: \$33; after deadline: \$38; without reservations: \$43) at 6:45; program (\$5 non-members) 7:15. Dinner reservations required. For information or reservations, email agendaalexandria@aol.com or contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089.

TUESDAY/MAY 22

Boating Safety Courses. An eight-week comprehensive safety course which includes basic piloting and navigation. Three classes will be held at various locations in Northern Virginia beginning on May 22, July 24 and Sept. 25. Fee is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Contact Sean Gallagher at education@NVSPS.org or 703-625-1500.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Blue Suede Bop. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

Mount Vernon at Home. 2 p.m. An information session on this fast-moving grassroots movement for residents to age in place in their community. Come hear about the organization and how you can become a member or about the volunteer opportunities. Call 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org. Meets at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria.

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

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Housing Discrimination on Rise

FROM PAGE 1

reports that in recent years he has seen an increase in the number of complaints received by his office that are related to national origin or involve disability-related issues.

"If you're still thinking this is only about color and race, you're way behind the curve...more recently, there has been an increase in discrimination cases involving national origin and disability related issues," Saunders said.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS, Saunders said, are not filed by one particular group. "It runs the gamut. We have complaints from Latin Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, as well as individuals from the Continent of Africa."

During the past decade, Fairfax County has become more diverse. Today, 48 percent of county residents are ethnic or racial minorities, and in 2009, one-third of new residents were immigrants.

"In Fairfax County we consider our diversity to be one of our greatest assets," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large). "It is so important for us to make sure the rights of our minority communities are respected."

When it comes to complaints related to disabilities, the problem matches state trends. In Fairfax County, these complaints accounted for 28.4 percent of cases from 2006 to 2010. Similarly, disability-related discrimination comprised 27 percent of complaints to the Virginia Fair Housing Office in 2010.

When it comes to disability-related issues, the county's housing stock may contribute in part to the problem. Three-quarters of the county's housing was built prior to 1990. The Fair Housing Act was amended in 1988 to include disability as a protected class. Fair Housing Accessibility Requirements for new multi-family buildings did not go into effect until 1991, and many of the existing structures were not originally built to meet modern-day requirements.

ALTHOUGH MANY CASES may go unreported, conservatively there are four million incidents of housing discrimination in the U.S. per year, according to estimates by the National Fair Housing Alliance.

In addition to its education and outreach activities, OHREP investigates and enforces fair housing laws through the Human Rights Commission. The agency also investigates complaints related to employment, public accommodations, education and credit.

Saunders said his staff does a significant amount of education and outreach to communities with limited English proficiency. Brochures detailing rights and how to file a complaint are published in six languages – Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Amharic, the second most-spoken Semitic language in the world, after Arabic, and the official language of Ethiopia.

"Some landlords are uninformed about relevant fair housing laws, which is why we have a proactive education and outreach

program for both sides – leasing agents landlords, and prospective tenants," Saunders said.

WHAT HAPPENS when the office receives a complaint?

OHREP has 11 full-time investigators, most of whom are attorneys who are juggling 35-45 cases at any given time. When someone makes a discrimination complaint, both parties are given the option to participate in mediation. If mediation doesn't resolve the issue, the investigation continues.

"A large percentage of our cases are resolved through mediation and conciliation, where both parties agree to meet and settle complaints," Saunders said. "It is very rare for one of our cases to go to court." Saunders said there's usually a paper trail to give investigators enough evidence to determine if a case has merit.

While some cases involve blatant discrimination, others are more nuanced, a matter of one or more parties not understanding the law.

For example, in April 2010, a Fairfax County woman filed a complaint with the OPEHR alleging discrimination based on her disability, which required a dog as an "emotional support animal."

The property manager of the rental apartments where the woman lives told her that the association has a "no pets" rule. According to the property manager, the woman did not provide any details that showed the dog had been trained as a "service animal," and asked her to leave within a month if the dog remained in the apartment.

HOWEVER, there's a crucial legal difference between animals governed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which requires animals to be trained so they can be out in public - and animals governed by the Fair Housing Act (FHA), said Patricia S. Fawcett, a human rights specialist and attorney with OHREP.

"Under the Fair Housing Act, you have to demonstrate that you are disabled and that you have a need for an emotional support animal that's connected to your disability," Fawcett said, stressing that even if there is a "no pet" policy, a person still has a right to have an emotional support animal living with him or her under the FHA.

The confusion in this case is not uncommon among property managers.

"This was an opportunity for education... In fact, I was educated about this when the complaint was filed, and I contacted HUD for guidance," she said. "There's a lot of confusion out there with housing providers and the public about what's protected and allowed under the Fair Housing Act, and what the ADA allows and requires."

In this case, an OHREP fair housing outreach and education specialist provided free training to the property manager, and the woman was able to keep the dog in her apartment.

"The important point here is to know your rights under the Fair Housing Act," Fawcett said.

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21 Announcements

Major General, U.S. Army, Retired, William H. Moncrief, Jr.

August 16, 1921-April 10, 2012

William Henry Moncrief, Jr., Major General, was born 16 August, 1921 in Denver, Co. and died at The Fairfax, Fort Belvoir, Va. on April 10, 2012. His younger brother, Col. John A. Moncrief, M.D., preceded him in death in 1977 following a career in burn surgery and research. MG Moncrief attended Vanderbilt University and graduated from Emory University School of Medicine, with post graduate work at Barnes Hospital, Fitzsimmons General Hospital and Walter Reed General Hospital. He was board certified in general surgery and thoracic/cardiovascular surgery. Over 31 years military service, MG Moncrief served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. A graduate of the National War College in 1966, MG Moncrief was detailed to the State Department where he oversaw the civilian health program in the Republic of Vietnam for USAID and was senior advisor to the RVN Ministry of Health. MG Moncrief then served as Commander, Brooke General Hospital, Letterman Army Medical Center, and finally Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He received the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

Following retirement from the Army in 1973, Dr. Moncrief practiced general and thoracic/vascular surgery in San Francisco Ca.. A strong patient advocate and sponsor of external oversight of quality of care, he served as president of state and national peer review organizations including the California Medical Review, 1984-1987, and the American Medical Peer Review Association, 1988-1991. He retired to Durango Colorado in 1995 where he hunted and fished, and was an avid reader of history, political science, health policy as well as anything on Scotland where he traveled regularly with his lady, Ms Dale Gibb, Alexandria, Virginia. He retired to The Fairfax near Fort Belvoir in 2006, spending much time in Old Towne where he regularly marched in the Scottish Walk, attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church and enjoyed Wolfe Street neighbors.

He is survived by his children Jeff Moncrief of San Diego, Laura Grady of Burlingame, Calif., Candace Anderson of San Francisco and Scott Moncrief of Temecula, Calif.; and six grandchildren. A son, Stephen, preceded him in death in 1960.

Burial with full military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery on May 15, 2012 at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please support Planned Parenthood's work at the local or national level.

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21 Announcements

Movie Star Tax Credits, a Gay Judge and Session Ends

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



**RICHMOND
REPORT**

Well, it's over. The 2012 General Assembly ended on May 15 at 2 a.m. after a 13-hour House of Delegates' session involving 117 of Gov. Bob McDonnell's amendments and the election of 40 judges. It was a fitting end to a very contentious session.

The day was not without controversy. This year, we authorized a bonus and raises for state employees for the first time in five years to be funded with unanticipated revenues. These state employees include state troopers, corrections employees and people who work for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), Department of Transportation (VDOT), judges, court clerks, game wardens, and colleges. On a 0 to 95 vote, the House of Delegates rejected the Governor's proposal to allow raises only if employees could find millions of dollars of cuts in 45 days.

The Governor also proposed to increase funding for Virginia's Movie Production Tax Credit by \$2 million first enacted during my first session in 2010. I had serious concerns about enacting a \$4 million tax credit program for Hollywood movie producers during the most serious budget crisis since the Great Depression. In 2011, Virginia gave over \$5 million in tax credits and in-kind services to billionaire Steven Spielberg as part of the production of the movie "Lincoln" in Richmond. I voted against and spoke against this gift to Hollywood.

The House of Delegates defeated over 20 of the Governor's amendments. The Governor withdrew a proposal to cut services by \$2.5 million to agencies that assist the elderly after a public outcry. We also rejected a measure to undermine programs which provide supplemental education funding

to Northern Virginia because of our higher cost of living.

The Governor also proposed an additional \$2 million to promote third-grade reading proficiency, but he added a whole series of reporting requirements to the bill. Because of the state funding formula, Fairfax County stood to gain \$100,000 and a massive set of new reporting requirements. I moved to sever the funding from the reports. The funding passed 91-3 and the reporting requirements were rejected on a 50-45 vote after my motion.

Unfortunately, one of our last acts was the rejection of an openly gay prosecutor for a General District Court judgeship. Mr. Tracy Thorne-Beglund has prosecuted criminals for 12 years including supervising Richmond's murder docket. By all accounts, he was a decorated and honorably discharged naval aviator and a stellar prosecutor. Several members

argued that he was unqualified because he revealed he was gay over 10 years ago while serving in the U.S. Navy and was a leader in the effort to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." No objection was raised to his appointment until last week. Only 32 of 100 delegates voted to elect him including me.

The 2012 session is now over, albeit 60 days late and with a whole new level of partisanship. While this has been common in Washington, D.C., the General Assembly has traditionally been more bipartisan. Although House of Delegates has been passing bills mandating transvaginal ultrasounds and banning contraception in almost every session since I was elected, the media is finally paying attention. So are others. As I wrote this column on the floor of the House, the Family Foundation's three representatives were the only people in the Chamber balcony late at night exerting

quiet pressure before our vote on judgeships.

We consumed entirely too much "legislative oxygen" this session debating contentious social issues. Next year, I hope to spend more time working to fund secondary education, reduce the cost of higher education, secure the future of our safety net, bringing Virginia's tax system up to speed with the 21st Century economy and permanently addressing transportation.

As always, if you have any questions, would like me to speak to your community group or civic association or if you have any feedback, please send me a note at scottsurovell@gmail.com. And be sure to read my online newsletter, The Dixie Pig, at scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

The 44th District is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I continue to work hard to keep it that way. It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

in Mount Vernon, I would like to thank the Riverside Estates community for participating in our "Fun Run" on Saturday, May 5. I especially wanted to thank 11-year-old Beth Pyles who was the inspiration for this event.

Children living in poverty are affected in many ways. Their families may need housing assistance, food or money to keep the electricity or water running. And in Mount Vernon we are fortunate to have a number of non-profits that provide help in these situations. But when that child goes to school with holes in their shoes, wearing the same shirt five days in a row or missing a lens in their glasses, their poverty becomes more public. As one who lived on welfare as a child, I remember how we could generally keep our plight

within our four walls but when we went to school it was a different situation. Alice's Kids is designed to help those children with "minor" needs that nonetheless affect them in a big way.

Working primarily with Target, we helped a young man buy a pair of soccer cleats so he could try out for the high school team, we have helped numerous families buy clothes for their children and we've bought beds for two children at Hollin Meadows Elementary School who were sleeping on the floor. We've purchased trophies for the Janna Lee community dance troupe to replace the used trophies they got last year, paid for school supplies for an 18-year-old girl who is working her way through college and helped stock the "clothes closet" at Woodlawn Elementary that is used for children who spoil themselves during

the school day.

One person described Alice's Kids as the "petty cash drawer" of non profits and, indeed, our effort has been endorsed by all the major Mount Vernon non profits. Working with referrals from county social workers, church staff, teachers and other charitable organizations, we have seen how a little help can go a long way. It doesn't take much to raise the self esteem of a young child and we are thrilled to be making a difference.

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to Alice's Kids (www.aliceskids.org), please send it to PO Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

Ron Fitzsimmons
Executive Director
Alice's Kids

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 23

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Game On

George Mason University students develop video games aimed at curtailing gang recruitment in Virginia.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Law enforcement officials now have two unlikely weapons in the fight against gang activity in Virginia: video games and college students.

Students in the Computer Game Design program at George Mason University partnered with Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office to create video games designed to show children the consequences of joining a gang. The result of the collaboration is a series of interactive and educational computer games and mobile phone applications designed to reduce gang recruitment. The games were unveiled earlier this month on the George Mason campus in Fairfax.

"Gangs are constantly working to recruit new kids to replace those going to jail and getting killed. Their recruitment techniques are evolving, even to the point of using online gaming and other technologies. We have to work even harder to stop them," said Cuccinelli. "The goal of this partnership with GMU is a novel approach in the war against gangs to beat them at their own game."

Students enrolled in the university's GAME 232 Online Gaming and Filesharing course presented game proposals to Cuccinelli's office. The attorney general's staff selected three:

- ❖ "A Second Family," created by Michael Katz, Romel Ramos and Brandon Miller. The game tells the story of Justin, who is trying to fit in at a new school and becomes involved with some questionable people. He is forced to rely on his friends and mentors



PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLENN/GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Seth Hudson, assistant director of the Computer Game Design Program at George Mason University, plays a game created by Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus in Virginia. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

to overcome these negative influences.

- ❖ "Influenced," created by Austin Fain, Tiffany Nguyen, Con Son and Lamesha Coley. In this game, the player chooses vari-

ous scenarios in which he or she can either help or betray members of the local community, and influence the impact gangs have on the community.

- ❖ "New Kid on the Block," created by Stephen Berrigan, Steven Fernandez, Devin Gibson, John Murphy and Daniel Paquette. In this game, the player has just moved to a new town and has to assimilate into a new school. He or she must make the right decisions and find a trustworthy group of friends.

THE GAMES ARE TARGETED at middle and high school students. "This is an attempt to reach kids using devices that they already have in their hands," said Arlington resident and George Mason adjunct professor Matt Randon. "The kids are already addicted to these devices so we have a better chance of reaching them with our message."

During the course, Randon, who also works as an English teacher in Manassas, taught students about the history, practice and design of online games and smartphone applications. Throughout the semester, the

students developed written scripts and storyboards, art and sound design, programming, coding and musical compositions.

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful. Finding that balance wasn't easy, but ... we were able to create a game that's educational, but

also fun to play," said Daniel Paquette, who helped design one of the games.

THE GAMES will be available for mobile download free of charge by summer 2012. The games will also be available on the attorney general's website, as well as

the websites for George Mason University, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Virginia Rules.

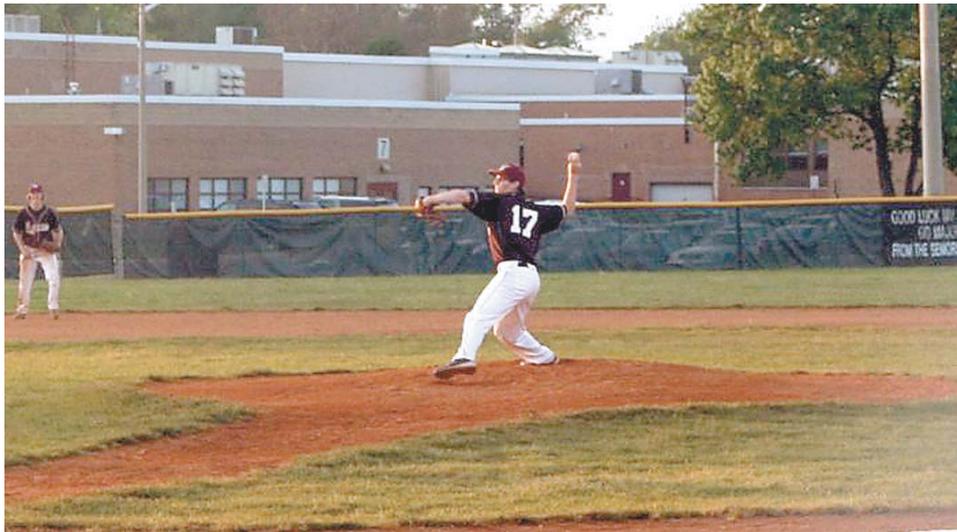
"Games have a pretty bad reputation in the media. What I hope this project shows people is that the greatest asset of games is that they make learning fun ... which is a talent school systems around the world should look into," said Stephen Berrigan, lead writer and narrative designer for "New Kid on the Block."

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful."

— Daniel Paquette



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli plays a game created by George Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.



Mount Vernon pitcher David Lehner threw an eight-inning, no-hit shut-out against Edison on May 7.



The Mount Vernon women's crew lightweight 4 (from left): Ginna Doss, Raven Woody, Taylor Snyder, Stephanie Restifo, Helen Sudhoff.

MVHS Baseball Closes Regular Season with No-Hitter

Mount Vernon senior right-hander David Lehner threw an eight-inning no-hit shut-out against Edison on May 7 — Mount Vernon's first no-hitter since 2003.

Lehner dominated with his curve ball and cut fastball, facing 26 batters with six strikeouts and forcing 11 batters into ground outs. The Majors rallied around Lehner and their fielding was perfect on the night with spectacular plays from senior shortstop Justin Boutin and an iron clad defense in the outfield led by senior Jordan Parker and sophomore Colin Clark.

The Majors' hitting came on in the top of the eighth with six runs. Senior leadoff man Mike LeMorta had two hits with two RBIs, senior Austin Purkey had two hits and senior Kyle Quigley had one. Boutin had a single and a double with two RBIs, junior Jeremy Larkey had a hit and an RBI and junior Michael Butts had a sacrifice fly for the last RBI of the night.

The Majors ended their regular season May 8 with an 11-10 victory over Wakefield. This was senior night for the Majors, with parents and family members walking senior players onto the field one last time. It was a hitter's night with the Majors striking in the first inning on a hit from senior LeMorta and a big home run by Larkey. Lehner batted in another RBI for three runs. Wakefield came back with one run in the second, four runs in the third and four in fourth inning, making the score 9-3 Wakefield. The Majors added two in the fifth with a double from Boutin and a couple of singles from Kyle Quigley and Jordan Parker. The Majors added four more runs in the sixth inning with hits from LeMorta, Larkey and a triple by Quigley, leaving the Majors trailing 10-9. The Majors closed the deal in the bottom of the seventh, with a triple from Colin Clark, two base on balls and a walk-off single by Boutin to clinch the victory for the Majors. Quigley came in as relief pitcher during the latter part of the fourth inning, stopping the Wakefield onslaught with five

strikeouts and just two earned runs for the night.

Mount Vernon Crew Wins Medals

The Mount Vernon women's crew program ended its season by earning medals in its respective state championships. The novice women's 8 won a bronze medal by placing third at the Ted Phoenix Championship on May 5. The varsity women's lightweight 4 won a bronze medal by placing third at the Virginia state championship on May 12.

West Potomac JV Softball Goes Undefeated

The West Potomac JV softball team finished 14-0 in 2012, outscoring opponents 290-24. The Wolverines had five shutouts and allowed only two teams — Lee and Lake Braddock in the final two games — to score more than two runs.

West Potomac JV softball was led by head coach Julie Treherne.

All-Patriot District Lax Teams

Several members of the West Potomac boys' and girls' lacrosse teams received all-Patriot District honors.

For the girls, midfielder Emily Hauptle earned first-team honors, while midfielder Annmarie Wood and attacker Livvy Mickevicius made the second team. Defender Jessie Dartoozos and midfielder Karley Zdebski garnered honorable mention.

For the boys, sophomore Kyle Matthews earned first-team as a midfielder and Jean-Luc Maigrot was honorable mention. Connor Phillips and Musie Seyoum were honorable mention as defenders.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



The Mount Vernon women's crew novice 8 (from left): Cassie Pelkey, Meagan Cantwell, Kelsey Shaw, Bailey Lustig, Dina Chevez, Becca Plate, Mary Robinson, Ann Gailliot, Monica Rayman.



The West Potomac JV softball team finished 14-0 in 2012.

LETTERS

Verify Claim Of Organization

To the Editor:

Finally, the big day is here. Tonight (May 17) beginning at 8:15 p.m., the Planning Commission is conducting a public hearing to determine whether the proposed interim use off-leash dog area (OLDA) at Westgrove Park complies with the comprehensive plan. Interested persons may testify in person at the County's Board of Supervisors' Boardroom or at a satellite location at the South County Center on Richmond Highway.

Those in support of the OLDA proposal include Supervisor Hyland, Mount Vernon Park Authority Commissioner Linwood Gorham, the MVCCA, virtually every closely adjacent community, Westgrove PACK (the sponsors) and 500+ petition signers. The staff report came out two weeks ago and recommends approval. It can be read at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/2232/staffreports/2232-v11-25.pdf

The opponents are few and far between, but illustrate an epidemic we have in the Mount Vernon District, an epidemic of people in the civic arena who must realize their view of the issues is not shared by the majority, so in order to leverage their position and make it seem like it is shared by a larger universe, they create organization names that don't credibly exist and sign their names as representing those fictional organizations, or alternatively claim they are speaking on behalf of established organizations when that is not in fact the case. The posterwoman for the former practice is Mary Jo Detweiler whose letter in opposition to the proposed OLDA was published in last week's Gazette and then submitted to the Planning Commission. She signed her letter as submitted on behalf of "Friends of Westgrove Park." Does this "organization" exist?

A search at www.google.com revealed only 11 total hits, a few of which were in reference to the Gazette letter. The others were in connection with correspondence with the National Park Service (NPS) and a Congressional resolution submitted by Congressman Connolly which praised another OLDA opponent, Glenda Booth, who is the president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM). It turns out that Ms. Detweiler is a member of the Board of Directors of FODM. A search of the Virginia Corporate records revealed no corporation, non-profit or otherwise, under the name Friends of Westgrove Park. Meanwhile, the leaders of Westgrove PACK, the OLDA proponents, reported that they have never received any communication whatsoever from anyone claiming affiliation with Friends of Westgrove Park. If Friends of Westgrove exists, it certainly isn't very active. Having surfaced just days prior to the Planning Commission hearing, its views shouldn't be accorded much deference.

That brings us to the aforementioned Glenda Booth who has been quoted in a prior Gazette as opposing the OLDA proposal. In one e-mail she sent to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) seeking information, she signed her name identifying herself as chairman of the County's Wetlands Board. There is not a square inch of Westgrove Park that falls within the jurisdiction of any possible issue that could come before the Wetlands Board. As such, although Ms. Booth is, in fact, its chairman, her self-identification as Wetlands Board chair is but another example of an attempt by a community activist to improperly leverage her position to her advantage.

Sally Kiefer presents another compelling example. When the MVCCA's Environment and Recreation (E&R) Committee was debating a resolution last year concerning the OLDA, she made her

views known as the representative of River Towers Condo Association (RTCA), proclaiming that she was there on behalf of the residents of River Towers to oppose the proposed OLDA. A subsequent investigation revealed that the OLDA had never previously been on RTCA's agenda and there had never been a vote taken by RTCA on the OLDA. Thus, Ms. Kiefer's views were her own and not necessarily representative of the River Towers community. I spoke to a member of the RTCA Board this week who confirmed that, to date, the Westgrove Park OLDA has never been an agenda item at one of their Board meetings.

Eleanor Quigley is our Mount Vernon Tree Commissioner who famously admitted to the Planning Commission, during their debate concerning a proposal to re-zone the Leatherland property, that she has no technical expertise concerning trees. This hasn't stopped Ms. Quigley from opposing the OLDA and suggesting that the open grassy area proposed for the OLDA would be better served as a location to plant trees. Of course, those who have even minimal knowledge concerning the site understand that beneath the grass are the buried remnants of a sewage treatment plant that would have to be excavated at considerable cost before any significant trees could be planted. Who does Ms. Quigley propose should pay for that excavation and restoration?

These are the main OLDA opponents — quite a crew. In the future, I urge the Gazette to more closely scrutinize letters to the editor coming from people who claim to be writing on behalf of organizations that are actually fictitious. I also urge civic activists to refrain from claiming they are asserting a position on behalf of an organization, when that is not in fact the case.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon District



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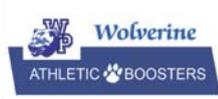
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