

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 24, 2012



## District Champions

The Mount Vernon boys' soccer team won the National District championship with a 3-1 victory against Yorktown on May 18 at MVHS. See story, more photos, page 21.

Mount Vernon boys' soccer coach Robert Garza reacts after being doused with water in celebration of the Majors' victory over Yorktown.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Effort for Off-leash Dog Park Advances

Planning Commission to vote on issue May 31.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

The majority of residents who testified on May 17 before the Planning Commission supported the designation of Westgrove Park as the site of an Off Leash Dog Park (OLDA), according to county staff.

Prior to the hearing two actions set the stage for the current deliberations:

❖ A recommendation to approve the interim OLDA by the Park Au-

thority Board contingent on approval by the Planning Commission.

❖ And a Planning Commission staff recommendation that the OLDA was compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

These actions have pushed the prospect of an interim use designation to the brink of realization after years of debate that divided the community into two camps: environmental advocates who believe the Westgrove Park should remain as a natural resource park, and dog owners who wanted an off-leash dog park within the Westgrove Park.

The Planning Commission's recent public hearing is part of the process to determine if an OLDA would be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan as its staff  
SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 23

## 'Stamp Out Hunger' Fills Pantries for the Poor

Letter carriers are heroes at UCM and Rising Hope.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE

It's extra work and time for the letter carriers, but they enjoy doing it, they really do. It's amazing how a little bag here and a little bag there add up to something big," said letter carrier Brian McCormick, volunteer coordinator for last Saturday's "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive in the Alexandria and Mount Vernon area.

The national food drive, organized locally by Union Branch 567 of the National Association of Let-

ter Carriers, is timed for the second Saturday in May, a critical time for food pantries bracing for summer when students no longer receive free breakfasts and lunches at school, sometimes their only meals of the day.

At United Community Ministries on Fordson Road, Niki Wanner explains that summers are tough for emergency food pantries. Wanner, who is UCM's director of development & communications, says donors are especially generous at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but during the summer contributions drastically fall off because donors lose their awareness of the poor during vacation times.

Moreover, the desperately poor are growing rapidly in numbers due the recession.

A mile and a half south of UCM at Rising Hope Mission Church,  
SEE CARRIERS, PAGE 4

## Changes Coming to Penn-Daw

Now that comprehensive plan has been amended, development application is imminent.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

Now that the county's comprehensive plan has been changed to allow for higher density at the Penn-Daw Shopping Plaza, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay says he expects Combined Properties to file an application for redevelopment any day. The move would mark the beginning

of a long planning process that is expected to play out over the rest of the year, transforming a suburban strip mall into a five-story mixed-use development with residences and ground-level retail. In the process, county officials will ask developers to fund transportation improvements to the dysfunctional King's Crossing intersection.

"The community was concerned a little bit about traffic, and how redeveloping this site could potentially cause more traffic," said Southeast Fairfax County Development Corporation communications director David Ben. "But that's one of the beauties of going through a comprehensive plan amendment process."

The stakes are high for Penn-Daw because of what happened on the other side of Kings Crossing, where  
SEE PENN-DAW, PAGE 6

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Artist William S. Amlong was joined by his brother, Ranson, right, and Sue Howard, who lived at Huntley with her daughter Susan in the 1970s. At left are historic interpreter Geoffrey Cohrs and Erica Hershler who is wearing an 1830's house dress.



PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

The ribbon-cutting, led by Barbara Ballentine and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, took place in the back of the house where the ground is level.

# Huntley Opens with a Flourish Alexandria mayor built the home in 1825.

By ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE

**A** new gem in Fairfax County's growing collection of restored Colonial and 19th Century homes, Historic Huntley opened Saturday, May 19 with a flourish of welcoming speeches by county notables: Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay, Edward Batten Sr. who is Lee District Representative of the Fairfax Park Authority, and Tim Aiken who relayed congratulatory remarks from U.S.

Rep. Jim Moran. United in their salutes to Huntley's beauty and hilltop view reaching to the Maryland shore, the speakers voiced their appreciation for the contributions of the Friends of Historic Huntley — Barbara Ballentine, president — who worked with the county to bring the \$2 million restoration to fruition.

The first guided tours of Historic Huntley begin Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the opening day's festivities, a surprise came with the unannounced visit of the Amlong brothers, the last Huntley

residents whose family sold the property to the county in 1989 after occupying the home for 40 years. Park Manager Kevin Munroe introduced and invited them to join in the ribbon cutting, providing them with gold scissors.

The younger Amlong brother, William S. Amlong, 74, is a landscape painter whose paintings hang in galleries and museums in Washington, D.C. and Richmond. While a young man living at Huntley, he painted old Alexandria homes and buildings like Christ Church. Signed simply "Amlong," these paintings now hang in Alexandria private homes. He also painted Huntley.

Amlong, joined by his older brother Ranson, 79, a West Point graduate, not only wanted to attend the ribbon-cutting but wished to clear up a misunderstanding printed in Alexandria newspapers reporting the house as abandoned and in poor condition when the county bought it. Instead, he pointed out, the house was restored and in excellent condition but the county lagged in providing security and the home was severely vandalized.

Said Munroe, the park manager, "It's hard for me to speak to the details of when the house was first acquired, but we're incred-  
SEE HUNTLEY OPENS. PAGE 6

# Foundation Dedicates Fisher House at Fort Belvoir

Facility serves families of wounded warriors.

By GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**F**isher House, a temporary home for families of those wounded in Iraq, Afghanistan, and others was gifted to the U.S. Army in a dedication ceremony Tuesday morning, May 22, and attended by active and retired military, hospital staff, Pentagon leadership, and several military and civilian notables, including Medal of Honor recipient Retired Colonel Harry C. Barnum, Jr., U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff General Lloyd Austin, III, and Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital Commander Colonel Susan Annicelli.

Several of the attending donors spoke about the critically important effort needed to support families and wounded warriors as part of a long-range commitment to honoring those military who served their coun-

## About Fisher House

Located in close proximity to the hospital it serves, each Fisher House is handicapped-accessible, and consists of between 8-21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, dining and living room, with a library and toys for children. The Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is no fee to stay in a Fisher House. Since its inception the program has saved military and veteran families an estimated \$192 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

**Fisher House Chairman and CEO Ken Fisher, his niece Tora Fisher and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital Commander U.S. Army Col. Susan Annicelli cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Fort Belvoir Fisher House along with U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Lloyd Austin III and other officials on May 22.**



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PHOTO BY NAVY SEAMAN TINA STAFFIERI

try. Donors discussed their passion for raising the money to build the Fort Belvoir family comfort home on the Base property which will accommodate up to 12 families who are there to visit and support combat wounded and others who are otherwise in need of medical and rehabilitation care.

Ken Fisher, CEO and chairman of the

Fisher House Foundation said in his prepared remarks: "We are pleased to dedicate this house to serve the Fort Belvoir community and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. ... When they need it most, our military families will be able to count on this house as a place of refuge when so much of their world has been turned up-

side down." This is the third such temporary housing facility built in Virginia and is part of 57 Fisher houses built and located worldwide. As stated by several speakers, Fisher House is an integral part of the global strategy to provide patient and family-centered compassionate care for the whole military family.

# NEWS



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**“If we don’t do it, it doesn’t get done,” says organizer Brian McCormick, right. With him is letter carrier George Holmes and a UCM volunteer.**

## Letter Carriers Refill Food Pantries

FROM PAGE 1

the Rev. Keary Kincannon and pantry manager Linda Sturridge describe the same predicament.

For these workers of charity, and to those aware of the plight of the poor, the U.S. postal carriers are heroes. They volunteer to take on extra work and work late for no extra pay. Letter carriers also volunteer to pass out postcards that alert residents to the food drive, which increases loads they must carry. McCormick, a veteran carrier with 39 years ser-

vice, has been organizing the event, for no additional pay, for the past seven years.

“I remember one day I was at UCM,” he said, “and I saw a car pull up and a family go into the building for food. That car was clearly their home. As a postal carrier, I don’t often think about food because I have enough money. But there are so many in this community who can’t afford to do that.”

Said Wanner, “Participation of the letter carriers is voluntary with each local (union) branch deciding whether to undertake this daunting effort.”

McCormick wrote Wanner in an email, “I was amazed that one condo complex in Alexandria col-

SEE FOOD DRIVE, PAGE 5



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ALEXANDRIAGAZETTE 5.12



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

**Niki Wanner, right, says many loyal donors lose sight of the poor during the summer. With her is Jose Fratti, manager of the UCM food pantry.**



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

**“We were busy but it was a good busy — we were really blessed with all the food,” says Debra Brothman, left, who’s volunteered at Rising Hope for the past five years. With her is staffer Mary Hamilton.**



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# Food Drive

FROM PAGE 4

lected about a thousand pounds on their own." Letter carriers Scott Rosenblum and Angela Thornton both deliver at Carlyle Towers on Jamieson Avenue. The former carrier of 13 years, Ron Jones, who recently died, was so greatly loved and respected the apartment staff decided to collect food in his memory.

Wrote McCormick, "When one of our postal employees went by the building to pick up the food he was overwhelmed at the response. When he brought it all back to the Memorial Annex Post Office, it filled an entire wire cage with approximately 1000 pounds of food.

"The carriers really get into it and see who can bring in the most food.

"If we don't do it," he adds, "it doesn't get done."

At Rising Hope, postal trucks delivered over 5,000 pounds of food. At UCM, 4,430 more pounds were delivered. "It's about a two-week supply," said Wanner.

Jose Fratti, UCM's food pantry manager, said the level of donations has drastically fallen over the past 10 years. Originally from El Salvador and now a U.S. citizen, he said, "We understand the economy and people don't have the money to spend. But we're happy."

*Niki Wanner, director of development & communications at United Community Ministries, contributed to this report.*

## Church Robbed Of Cash

Aldersgate UMC at Fort Hunt and Collingwood Road was broken into and robbed of cash Friday night, May 18, according to an email sent out Saturday by Becky Connell, church business administrator.

"Someone broke into the church," she wrote, "as well as several of the staff offices. Some damage was done and cash was stolen, but no one was hurt. The police are investigating the incident. If you have any information that would be helpful, please contact Becky Connell, church business administrator, at b.connell@aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555, ext 604."

The Sunday worship services were not interrupted.

— ED SIMMONS, JR.

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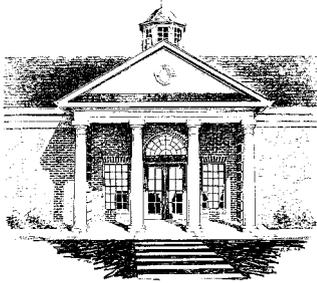
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# Huntley Opens

FROM PAGE 3

ibly grateful to the Amlongs for keeping the house in such good condition." He said the county sometimes must rush to purchase historic property before it's sold off to developers, but then there can be a lag in raising funds to prepare the house for the public.

Munroe also said he's looking forward to involving the Amlong brothers in developing the account of Huntley's history. The home, built circa 1825, was the summer residence of Alexandria lawyer and mayor Thompson Mason and his wife Betsey. Mason was born at Gunston Hall.

Among other visitors Saturday was Linda Miner. In 1974, when a student at Walt Whitman Middle School, she and her friend Patty DaVeau knocked on the door inquiring if they could visit and take pictures for a school project. William Amlong welcomed them and showed them around. The report, which for reasons unknown was graded a B, still exists, said Miner.

Another visitor was Dwight Hulvey who as a young boy in 1958 delivered the Washington Post, Evening Star and Alexandria Gazette to the home. He recalled the family's big dog he was careful not to annoy.

Visiting also was Tony Case, owner of Hybla Valley Nursery, who as a young boy was intrigued by the home but stayed off the property because it was private and said to be haunted.

Attending as well was Erica Hershler, a member of Friends of Historic Huntley, who came wearing a reproduction of a house dress



**Alexandria Mayor Thompson F. Mason built Huntley in 1825.**



**Betsey Mason preferred her Alexandria town home to the rustic charm of Huntley.**

which might have been worn by Betsey Mason in the 1830s. The dress, a calico-flowered print with a high collar and intricately-pleated front, was made by her mother Martha Armbrust. If she is chosen as one of the tour guides, she said she may wear the dress when giving her tours.

Preparing for the Saturday tours starting June 11 is Geoffrey Cohrs, historic interpreter and site coordinator, who graduates from George Mason University in December 2012 with a master's in



**William Amlong reminisces with Linda Miner who knocked on the door in 1974 to write a school report about Huntley.**

American History/Applied History and Digital Media. He explained that in addition to Huntley's exterior walls, the interior walls are also brick to keep the house cool in summer and warm in winter.

The walls of the north wing are left incomplete so visitors can view the inner construction.

The home is not furnished because the original furnishings are not yet known. Said Munroe, "We want to be very careful not to create a fake furnished site." Instead the sunny, breezy uncluttered rooms feature display cases of ar-

tifacts and accounts of Huntley history with photographs.

For example, it's noted that Betsey Mason preferred their Alexandria home to Huntley, which was isolated in the country. Thompson Mason preferred otherwise, reveling in the rustic farm property which reminded him of his childhood home, Gunston Hall.

More can be learned about Historic Huntley by visiting FOHHuntley@aol.com. Those who'd like to be part of the Historic Huntley team can call 703-768-2525.

PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

## CORRECTION

### '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 \$295 [the amount was printed incorrectly last week], 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.

# Changes Coming to Penn-Daw Shopping Plaza

FROM PAGE 1

a developer tangled with neighborhood interests for years. In that case, the developer gave up on the negotiation and decided to build "by-right," building a Wal-Mart within the existing zoning rather than spending more time negotiating bonus density with county officials and neighborhood residents. Now that change is coming to the other side of the street, many are anxious to find out what that might mean for residents and businesses.

"There's not a day that goes by that someone doesn't ask, 'Do you know? Do you know? Have you heard? What's going on?'" said Jamillah Scott, manager of the Books-A-Million at Penn-Daw. "I mean every single customer. And what we say is we don't know. It's a waiting

game for us."

**EVER SINCE** the Shopper's Food Warehouse closed in April 2011, neighbors have been warily eyeing the future. Many say they want to avoid what happened at Kings Crossing, which is viewed by many as a failure of the county's planning process. That's why McKay convened a task force so neighborhood residents and business leaders could work together to forge a path forward.

"Instead of letting the developer tell us what to do or having county officials come up with a plan in a vacuum, we want to get a sense of what the economy will support," said McKay. "This is unprecedented, at least in my experience."

Walking through the Penn-Daw Plaza, it's clear that change is in the air. The vacant grocery store was once a major anchor at

the strip mall, bringing customers to the other businesses. Now that it's gone, the remaining businesses say they have already seen a dramatic decline. Many say they are worried about a future that includes high-end mixed-use development, a change that some say would price them out of the market. Others say they are eager to transform the area from a suburban strip mall to a mixed-use urban development.

"Just think about where we are," said Spring Bank resident Martin Tillet. "We're less than a mile from a Metro stop. You go anywhere else in the Washington metropolitan region and you're this close to a Metro stop, you see a lot of development going on. For some reason, we're missing the ball down here."

**THE PENN-DAW PLAZA** takes its name from an old cottage-style inn named the

Penn-Daw Hotel. It was named for an Alexandria contractor named Samuel Cooper Dawson and Detroit hotel operator Edward Pennell, who worked together to create the cottages. For decades, the shopping plaza that bears their names has been a central part of the community, a place where customers could buy a book, go grocery shopping or bowl a few frames in an alley located in the basement. Now that redevelopment is imminent, many say a mixed-use development should be at the top of the agenda. Others are not so sure.

"Some are happy. Some would like something better," said Scott. "A lot are not. They are upset. They say so more about our store. Because once this goes down, there will be no bookstore anywhere near or on Route 1."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### 50 Years of Hits

The West Potomac High School Choral Groups will be presenting their annual spring show "Now & Then, 50 Years of Hits! 1962-2012" in Springbank Auditorium at West Potomac High School on May 31, June 1 and June 2. All shows will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Online tickets are available this year at [www.westpotomacchoirs.org](http://www.westpotomacchoirs.org). The fully choreographed show features all students in the West Potomac choral program, along with special guests — students from the Carl Sandburg Middle School and the theater comedy sports improvisational team, with assistance from Philip Clarke, West Potomac drama director. Above, from left, are Catherine Canary, Haley Narins and Lyndsay Leisher.

### An All-Around RC Event at West Potomac High School

West Potomac High School on 6500 Quander Road is hosting a family fun day, June 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Participants will be able to fly, drive or float RC planes, RC helicopters, RC trucks, RC cars. Free flight planes, control line planes and RC boats. The day will also include pony rides for children, concessions and prizes. For more information, visit [www.westpotomacengineeringstore.com](http://www.westpotomacengineeringstore.com).

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## Remembering on Memorial Day

**Time to honor, also time to ensure proper care of veterans.**

In February, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war on terror. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,400 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2012, there is just one reported death in Iraq, and more than 115 in Afghanistan.

Nearly 50,000 U.S. Military service members have been wounded in the war on terror, although that number is likely to be revised upward. The New York Times reported earlier this month that the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the 2.3 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The long-term consequences of many of these injuries are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care for both active duty military personnel and veterans.



**Command Sgt. Maj. Guitaud Leandre, 13th ESC, hands Cindy Hildner an artillery shell moments after it was fired from a cannon in her husband's honor at Fort Hood Feb. 9. Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner of Fairfax died in Afghanistan Feb. 3.**

### EDITORIAL

On Memorial Day, we honor and thank all those who have served in the military, in times of war and peace. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Steps to provide better, faster and more responsive health care to veterans, including mental health care are underway, but have a long way to go. This is one place where we must commit the resources to do better.

More than 175 U.S. Military service personnel from Virginia have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including several in the last year.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Other Virginia losses since Memorial Day 2011:

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died earlier this month on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked his unit with a roadside bomb.

Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Stanley, a Seabee, was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3

Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Parwan province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 25th Signal Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade, 335th Signal Command Theater, East Point, Ga.

SEE TIME TO HONOR, PAGE 18

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Sign Blight On Route 1

To the Editor:

Someone should sue VDOT for not enforcing its own laws. Yes, there is a law on the books that forbids commercial or other advertising signs along Virginia roads (unless they get permission to do so). The fine is \$100 for each sign. If one drives along the Route 1 Corridor from the intersection of I-495/Fort Hunt Road south until Walmart (near where the new Costco will go) there are at least 50 or more signs. Let's do the math: 50 times \$100 = \$5000. I know VDOT doesn't have the manpower to keep up, but they could hire a firm which would be paid out of the fines — make it a revenue-sharing deal. Win-win for everyone — our community, VDOT and the contractor. In the end, these illegal signs are a blight along this stretch of road that continuously strives to improve. You don't see these signs put up along road in Great Falls or McLean — why on Route 1 or anywhere?

**Danny Selnick**  
Alexandria

#### Must Consider The Source

To the Editor:

As a devoted fan of the Mount Vernon Gazette, I was disappointed at the May 17 editorial, "Most Endangered?". That piece merely parroted unsubstantiated claims by American Rivers, Inc., that the Potomac River has somehow shot to the top of the list of the nation's most endangered rivers, and urged readers to join that group's fight to keep Congress from reining in the EPA.

But the editorial — and the American Rivers report — never mention that EPA is a major source of funding for American Rivers, a tax-exempt "advocacy" group that has no business lobbying on behalf of a government agency that has come under fire for some embarrassing instances of overreach.

Just since April 2011, American Rivers has received more than \$3 million in grants from the EPA for its Potomac programs. Is naming the Potomac the "most endangered" and simultaneously launching a media blitz to protect that agency just a clumsy form of pay-

back — and an effort to protect its own honeypot?

Worse, the editorial even hints that "dog waste" (which is not mentioned at all in the American Rivers report), is a bigger source of bacterial pollution than agricultural runoff.

Who or what was the source of this unsubstantiated claim? In fact, dog waste is nowhere near the threat that environmental zealots in this area would have us believe. According to an analysis by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission of "probable" sources of e-coli contamination, 62 percent can be attributed to waterfowl, deer and raccoons alone, with another 12 percent attributed to "other" species). Dog waste accounts for only 9 percent — about half of the amount attributed to human (17 percent). (Odd that we have seen little media attention to concerns about the impact of wildlife proliferation in this area.)

The only "scientific" justification given for the "most endangered" ranking is a widely-reported "D" given by another advocacy group — which also receives EPA fund-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

### POETRY

#### Memorial Day

in the shopping center  
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the window  
says "Peace"  
but displays war  
toy soldiers  
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— PETER LATTU  
MAY 2011

### Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

ing. But a closer reading of the source reports shows not only that the Potomac was not the focus of those studies (which addressed the entire Chesapeake Bay), but that the ranking changes were attributed for the most part to fluctuating weather conditions in those two years. Further examination indicates that "C+" is the highest ranking that group seems to have given any waters, and that was mostly for areas with lower concentrations of population.

Reality is that rivers running through heavily populated areas will always be affected by runoff; the greater the population concentration, the greater the impact. Improvements have been made, and the efforts should continue, but more balance is needed in journalistic coverage.

**Mary Tracy**  
Alexandria

## Unfair Advantage?

To the Editor:

On May 17, Mr. H. Jay Spiegel goes through his listing of people and organizations supporting the off leash dog park or OLDA at Westgrove Park. "Those in support of the OLDA proposal include the MVCCA." I find it ironic that Mr. Spiegel has for the past several years devoted much time and attention writing editorials in this paper making claims that the MVCCA does not represent the broad consensus of the majority of the citizens of the district. Just this past March he wrote "the MVCCA does not represent the Mount Vernon community. It only represents the small percentage of residents whose neighbor-

hood associations are MVCCA members. At that, insofar as community association representatives do not vote in accordance with the consensus of their respective communities, the MVCCA doesn't even represent them.

<http://www.mountvernongazette.com/news/2012/mar/22/letter-community-disconnect/>

In the October 1, 2010 edition, <http://connection.membershipsoftware.org/article.asp?article=344701&paper=69&cat=110>

Mr. Spiegel asserts that the number of member organizations present at the monthly general meeting and casting votes on resolutions is inadequate and cites attendance records as evidence saying "it would be inappropriate to credit the MVCCA with the influence attributable to more than 37 member associations" when attendance is low as given by his examples.

Does Mr. Spiegel believe that the MVCCA is credible only when their vote is in agreement with his views and the remainder of the time the organization is lacking credibility and behaving badly?

Mr. Spiegel cites and references rules, bylaws and legalities when critical of the MVCCA and other community issues and to his credit as a legal professional, his often strident position on such issues seem rational if you are one to believe that grass roots democracy and life in the civic arena must comport entirely to a strict adherence of such rules. Unfortunately the lack of civil discourse and fear of large vocal special interest groups that has become so ingrained in our political arena is now seemingly spilling over into the governance of our local institutions.

I find it odd that one who so forcefully argues his

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

position on the written rules and laws is backing a group of rule breakers with many cited by the Fairfax County Animal Control for violating a well known FCPA ordinance on dogs in parks. It is unfortunate that the FCPA stepped away from master planning Westgrove Park in 2005 because it was too difficult to obtain community consensus. It will now be more difficult to gain a fair community consensus in the now promised master planning to begin several months after the interim use is granted because by granting PACK this use, FCPA is literally giving PACK a leg up and permitting them like a canine to mark their territory. FCPA is deliberately creating a master planning scenario where five wolves and three sheep get to vote on what is for dinner. This display of favoritism to one group to help them solve their dilemma of getting legal citations and becoming victims because they did not wish to follow the rules is nothing less than rewarding bad behavior. What of the other groups that did not break the rules and have since 2005 advocated for a nature park with forest restoration and preservation of a natural connective corridor between the upland forests of Mount Vernon Park and the Dyke Marsh Nature Preserve? Isn't the purpose of a master planning process meant to keep an even playing field?

One public speaker at the May 17 Planning Commission (PC) hearing stated before the PC that he let his dog run loose on 400 visits in a two-year period. Admitting to 400 infractions of the law in front of a government commission that itself runs by strict adherence to rules and legalities, I was surprised that the speaker received no admonishments from a single member of the PC. The speaker was the second to last public speaker and quipped back and forth with a few of the commissioners. Such a display was highly inappropriate in the first place and insulting to speakers that followed FCPA ordinances and were asking for fair treatment.

I am not at all surprised given the fact that the primary clients of the PC, developers in Fairfax County, have long engaged in a practice of asking for forgiveness rather than having sought permission for environmental infractions. All this forgiveness over several decades has added thousands of seemingly benign cuts when examined individually but when examined cumulatively have led to the poor environmental rankings of both the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay ecosystems. Granting the FCPA the right to an interim use is giving a county agency with an expressed commitment to land preservation of environmentally sensitive areas they control the right to experiment with potentially destructive practices and uses on those lands without conducting any rigorous science study and to reinforce a precedent that undermines a fair approach for citizen input to a master planning process meant to insure equal treatment and consideration between competing interests.

**Martin Tillet**  
Friends of Quander Brook and Belle Haven Watersheds

## Room for Many Views

To the Editor:

My letter in the May 10 Gazette expressed my strong support for a plan, proposed by the National Park Service (NPS), to restore 30 acres of Dyke Marsh, including construction of a promontory wall to dissipate forces generated by tidal surges. I went a step further, advocating additional filling of a few more acres north of the wall to assure that the goal of dissipating those forces will be achieved. I also expressed my opposition to other NPS proposals that would include filling 130 or 180 acres of the Potomac River, respectively, because those proposals would destroy a year-round habitat for fish and result in the closure of Belle Haven Marina.

Apparently, my reasonable, balanced approach to this important issue has not convinced the president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM). At its quarterly meeting on May 16, 2012, an attendee requested a comment from FODM President Glenda Booth concerning my letter. Ms. Booth replied, describing me as a "chronic letter writer" and stating that "I don't know where he gets his science from." I probably "get my science" from the same sources used by FODM. The difference is that I don't exaggerate or misrepresent the science to further a political agenda. Ms. Booth has written over 60 columns for a local internet publication and this is besides her letters and columns in the Gazette and her lobbying of County officials behind the scenes seeking support for her agenda. If I and others didn't write letters expressing the point of view of a significant segment of our community, Ms. Booth and her fellow activists would have the field to themselves.

In last week's Gazette, my letter described a community epidemic in which individual civic activists claim they are expressing the views of an organization when this is in fact not the case. This epidemic has another dimension: organizations and their representatives that exaggerate or misrepresent the condition of our natural resources to serve a political agenda. This phenomenon is discussed in the May 20, 2012 Washington Post in a column by Robert McCartney in which he criticized American Rivers for describing the Potomac River as "America's #1 Most Endangered River." According to Mr. McCartney, The Potomac River has never appeared on American Rivers' endangered rivers list since 1986 and was only named #1 to serve the political purpose of marshalling opposition to efforts in Congress to water down the Clean Water Act on its 40th anniversary. Quoting Mr. McCartney, "Just because you're promoting a worthy cause doesn't justify distorting the truth."

Unfortunately, FODM is guilty of this practice. Last week, the Planning Commission held a public hearing concerning the proposal of Westgrove PACK to establish an off-leash dog area (OLDA) at Westgrove Park. Edward Stone testified on behalf of FODM and in opposing the proposed OLDA asserted that Dyke Marsh is the only remaining tidal wetland in our area. This testimony was clearly intended to convince the PC to



**Cadette Girls Scouts from Carl Sandburg Middle School and Walt Whitman Middle School**

## Don't Text And Drive

To the Editor:

We are Cadette Girls Scouts from Carl Sandburg Middle School and Walt Whitman Middle School and want to alert the community to an issue that is important to us: The dangers of cell phone use while driving. We will be driving in just a few short years and think it is important that the roads are as safe as possible. We urge drivers today to make a commitment to not text or use any handheld device while driving. We also hope that our law makers will support a law that bans drivers from talking, texting, or using handheld devices while driving. We have made this commitment ourselves for when we will be new drivers. We also have produced car bumper magnets to promote "Keep Both Eyes on the Road, Don't Text and Drive."

Texting while driving has become a relevant issue in current years because practically every driver owns a cell phone. In fact, 69 percent of drivers admit to talking on the phone while driving. When someone is driving and using a hand-held device, they are 50 percent less aware of what is going on around them, accord-

ing to a study by the National Safety Council. Accidents that could have been avoided are caused by distracted and unaware drivers. A person using a cell phone while driving is four times more likely to get in an accident that would cause them to go to the hospital than one who is not. All of this information adds up to one thing: Distracted driving is an issue of significance today, and there is no reason that it should continue.

We Cadette Girl Scouts will all be new drivers in two or three years, and because we are the future of the road we think it's important that current drivers set a good example for us. Don't text and drive!

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 862  
**Aishah Omotosho, Alex Bailey, Anna Evans, Audrey Boling, Claire Barber, Erykah Moorer, Grace Kennedy, Jordan Spence, Josie Robson, Kayla Lawrence, Meredith Barber, Michelle St. John, Nicole Freewalt, Olivia Ireland, Rachel Skopp-Cardillo, Skye Ray, Sydney Nixon, Taylor Stephens**

*Note: To obtain a bumper sticker, contact Advisor Jenny Kennedy at [Jenny.Kennedy@att.net](mailto:Jenny.Kennedy@att.net)*

oppose the OLDA given Westgrove Park's location upland of (but not adjacent to) Dyke Marsh. While Dyke Marsh includes important tidal wetlands worthy of preservation, they are far from the only ones in our area. The Potomac River and its tributaries have hundreds upon hundreds of acres of tidal wetlands which are defined in Section 28.2-1302 of the Virginia Code as "lands lying between and contiguous to mean low water and an elevation above mean low water equal to the factor one and one-half times the mean tide range at the site of the proposed project." This definition also defines the jurisdiction of the County Wetlands Board of which Ms. Booth is the chairman. As such, she and FODM know better. A visit

to the website at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Google-Earth.html> allows one to locate the plentiful tidal wetlands in our area. The photo accompanying this letter was taken from my dock on the shore of Little Hunting Creek and shows acres of tidal wetlands.

I know it doesn't serve FODM's political agenda, but Katie Conaway of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently stated that the draft DEQ report indicates that Little Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek, which were listed as impaired in 2010 for presence of E. Coli bacteria will both be delisted in 2012 given

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**Beverly Hills** \$899,500  
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Updated and expanded for today's living. Center Hall Colonial with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, renovated kitchen which opens to large family room and outside patio. Don't miss it! **Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788**



**Sulgrave Village** \$1,050,000  
1912 Prices Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308  
**Owner Ready for an Offer Now!** 4BR, 4BA, 3 LVL, 3 Car Gar, 9' ceilings, Gourmet Kit, 61" TV & sound system, brk circular drive, warm wd flrs, plantation shutters. Shows like a model. \$150K reduction. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



**Popkons Heights** \$469,000  
2430 Ross Street, Alexandria, VA 22306  
**Lots of space for under \$470K** Recently updated throughout; incl windows, painting, roof w/ridge vent & more. 5BR, 2BA 2LVL, walkout rambler w/FP, deck & patio on private lot in close-in neighborhood. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



## Old Town Alexandria

310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

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# LONG & FOSTER

## OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



# ALEXANDRIA

## #1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA 2011



Managing Broker  
Bill Jourdan



**4311 Ferry Landing Rd**  
*Large Rambler-Prime Location!*  
Exceptionally spacious 2 level rambler in Yacht Haven Estates-area's premier water front community. All major rooms are on main level-no steps! Bright, open floor plan with expansive window walls bring natural light to every corner of the house. Finished lower level with family room and direct outside entrance. Full bath and two bonus rooms (guest room, exercise room, etc) Ideal for in-law suite!



**9405 Ludgate Dr**  
\$1,890,000  
*Stunning Price Reduction!*  
Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fabulous gourmet eat in kitchen, formal dining, 5 fireplaces, elevator. Direct river access. Amazing views of Potomac from virtually every room.



**9514 Mount Vernon Ld**  
\$1,950,000  
*MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK*  
Unique opportunity to capitalize on waterviews. Dramatic open floor plan, soaring ceilings, expansive glass walls and all brick exterior. All major components in place-personalize interior.



**JUST LISTED!**  
\$ 619,000  
Alexandria  
"STRATFORD LANDING"  
Spacious 5BR/3BA home. Large rooms, nice backyard & deck. Eat-in kitchen w/granite & baths renovated in 2006. Newer AC & heating. Approx. 2,600 sq ft of living space. A must see!



Anne Hambley 703.946.7266



\$ 515,000  
Springfield/Terra Grande  
"IT'S A 10"  
• Updated & Polished  
• Gorgeous kitchen  
• 4BR/2BA/3 1/2  
• Closet Savers



The Powers Team  
Sheryl Powers Vermont & Paula Powers 703.472.6925



**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
\$ 765,000  
Alexandria  
3710 IVANHOE LN  
Sought after Wilton Woods! This beautifully finished, upgraded home has over 3,300 square feet on a wooded lot in Wilton Woods. 4BR, newer kitchen, huge bonus/media room and backs to woods.



Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449



**1917 Stratford Ln**  
\$899,000  
*Totally Expanded and Updated!*  
Understated elegance-modest front elevation belies stunning expanded interior featuring room sizes and amenities typically associated with new custom homes. Many fabulous features include gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, hardwood floors, upgraded HVAC system, imported tile and many additional luxurious amenities. No cost was spared in renovation resulting in top of the line brands throughout.



**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.



**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.



**NEW PRICE!**  
\$ 799,000  
Kingstowne  
"FALL IN LOVE"  
An exceptionally stylish 4,700+sqft home w/ beautifully appointed rms & a smart, versatile flr plan. Striking features begin w/the 2-story foyer, lg fam rm off chef's kit, huge LL rec rm w/add. full bath & sumptuous master suite. Deck, patio & gorgeous landscaped garden. Travel by 2 Metro stops + 1-495/395.



Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



**NEWLY LISTED!**  
\$ 355,000  
Alexandria  
"CANAL PLACE"  
This 2BR unit has just about everything you could want - W/D, a wood-burning FP, a charming Juliet balc w/ sun & light pouring in, access to a pool & bus practically at the front door. Lots of decorator touches such as dental moulding, chair rail, hardwood floors, decorative kit tiles & ample storage space. For more info, call...



Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



**NEW PRICE!**  
\$ 725,000  
Alexandria South  
"VACATION AT HOME"  
If you love the outdoors, you will love this 4 level contemporary backing to Dyke Marsh National Waterfowl Refuge. In-ground pool, outdoor sauna, detached pool house, w/in walk distance to bike path & river. Ideal home to entertain in!



The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367 & Elke 703.967.7633



**8700 Stratford Ln**  
\$589,900  
*Stratford Colonial! Great Price!*  
Unique opportunity- three level, Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac for remarkably reasonable price! Many



**9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd**  
\$650,000  
*Stunning Renovation-Borders Vernon Estate!*  
Mt.



**4006 Ren Mt Pl**  
\$489,000  
*Nature Lover's Delight!*  
Absolutely unique property with stunning floor plan featuring marble floored sun room



**\$ 659,000**  
Hollin Hills  
7507 ELBA RD  
Lovely 3BR/2B remodeled Goodman designed home offers open flrpl, updated kit w/granite, SS, modern cabs, & Carrera marble backsplash & hdwd flrs, new floor-ceiling windows. SGD opens to parkland. Rare, oversized gar. Int/ext painted.



moderncapitaldc.com  
Sean Satkus & Michael Shapiro 703.887.2116



**NEW PRICE!**  
\$ 775,000  
Alexandria South  
"CLASSIC"  
Meticulously maintained & upd classic Colonial in highly sought after, seldom available Ferry Point Estates. 4 spacious BRs, 2.5 updated BAs, updated kit w/ granite & SS, all on a lush, level .5 acre lot in one of Alexandria's best locations.



www.susanmovesyou.com  
susan@sells@longandfoster.com  
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



**\$ 759,000**  
Alexandria South  
"NEW PRICE"  
This exceptionally beautiful home has 4BR/2.5BA & is worthy of Architectural Digest! Lots of windows create unusual amounts of light & a happy warm atmosphere. There is an eat-in kit, sep. DR, LR w/wood-burning FP& a fam rm w/built-in bookshelves. The yard has lovely landscaping & is sunny & open. For more info, call...



Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



**8617 Yantley Dr**  
\$549,500  
*Gorgeous Custom Pool & Grounds!!*  
Spacious two level rambler with bright open floor plan. Expansive glass walls on both levels overlook gorgeous pool and g



**2413 Cavendish Dr**  
\$547,500  
*Stratford Colonial! Classic 4BR Colonial in prime location in Stratford Landing. Many features include: updated kitchen with granite*



**9115 McN Dr**  
\$549,500  
*Picture Book Cottage-Park Like Setting!!*  
Character abounds in this uniquely attractive Cape located on gorgeous,



**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



**NEW PRICE!**  
\$ 479,900  
Mt Vernon  
"FANTASTIC"  
Beautiful & spacious 4BR/3BA home on one of the best & largest landscaped lots in the area. All BRs on one level. Updates include new windows, new siding, new HVAC, updated BAs. Close to Ft Belvoir. Fantastic neighborhood.



www.soldbyanya.com  
Anya Macklin 703.518.8720



**OPEN SAT & SUN 1 - 4!**  
\$ 994,000 & UP  
Hollin Hall Knolls  
8115 YORKTOWN  
GOING FAST... ONLY 2 LEFT of these exquisitely built homes by Long Homes of VA located in heart of Mt. Vernon. EZ access to GW Pkwy, shopping, bike trails, swimming & more. Luxury homes with all the upgrades & options.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

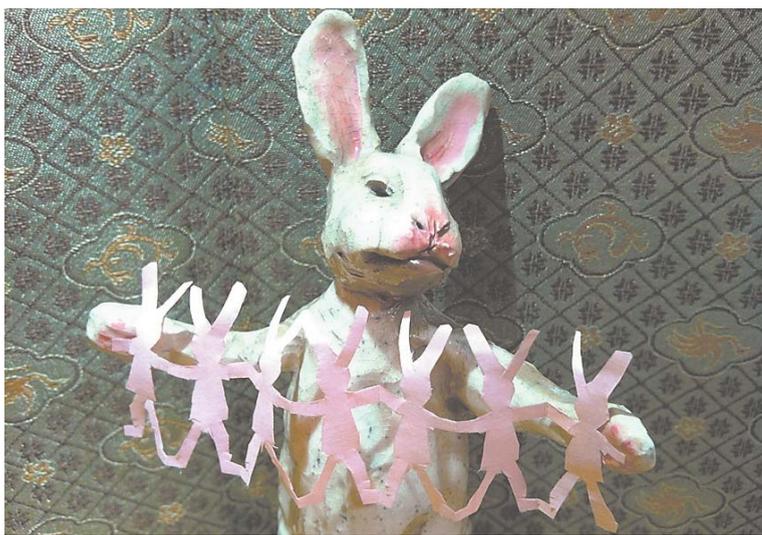


PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA SCHUMAIER

**Lisa Schumaier, a juried artist at the Torpedo Factory, works primarily in 3D sculptures.**



PHOTO BY MONTIE MARTIN/THE GAZETTE

**“Fragments,” by Torpedo Factory artist Alison Sigethy, is a different style of work compared with her traditional glass medium.**



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Torpedo Factory artist Lisa Schumaier’s Microwave Project.**

## Artomatic

After a three-year hiatus, Artomatic returns to the Washington, D.C., area. The 11-story office building at 1851 South Bell St. in Crystal City has been converted to a gallery. There are 1,300 artists with work on display, which means no single trip can do the event justice. Artomatic is free, and proper identification is required for alcoholic purchases at cash bars. Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays noon to 1 a.m., and Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Artomatic is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information and list of planned events visit: [artomatic.org](http://artomatic.org).



PHOTO BY MONTIE MARTIN/THE GAZETTE

**The Batala Washington all female drummer group opened for this year’s Artomatic. The 40-woman drummer group wowed the audience with high-energy rhythms grounded in Brazilian and reggae beats.**

# Unleashed Creativity

Local artists test new material at Artomatic 2012

BY MONTIE MARTIN  
THE GAZETTE

**O**n Friday, May 18, an immense display of synchronized drumbeats and vibrant rhythms performed by Batala Washington hailed the grand opening of Artomatic 2012.

Forty all-female members drummed the signature Brazilian-reggae-samba tunes of Giba Gonçalves, who created the international Batala groups in 1997. The Washington, D.C., chapter is one of 23 ensembles that perform worldwide.

“We’re very excited to play at Artomatic, we’re really amped,” said conductor Ellen Arnold Losey. “A lot of the women joined after hearing us the last time we played at Artomatic in 2009.”

Many in the audience were keen to take up the offer. “It was fantastic, I want to join now,” said Alexandria native Arden Colley. “It was worth coming out just to see that.”

This year’s Artomatic boasts 1,300 artists in the largest location to date for the D.C. area’s chief artistic event — filling the 11 stories of 1851 S. Bell St. in Crystal City.

Artomatic is an unjuried event, and the only requirement for artists is a nominal fee to cover building expenses as well as several volunteer shifts. The open, non-judgmental nature of the event means amateur and professional artists alike can take risks in ways they may not otherwise be able to.

“It’s crazy wild and so much fun,” said Torpedo Factory artist Susan Finsen. “It’s an opportunity for artists to play.”

Torpedo Factory artist Lisa Schumaier embraced the quirky atmosphere of Artomatic with a large installation of her untitled work on the ninth floor. The work highlights the role of women as producers, and includes motifs of eggs, nests and diversity.

“The work is about women as producers and protectors of the future,” said Schumaier. “It stems partly from micro loans, when you give money to women it comes back five-fold.”

Schumaier’s sprawling installation is a sharp departure from her standard 3D sculptures. “I wanted to do more than just showing sculptures. At Artomatic everybody is making a statement, they’re driven to say something and make a big impact,” said Schumaier. “At Artomatic you rub up against other artists doing so many amazing things, there’s great energy.”

Fellow Torpedo Factory artist and Alexandria native Alison Sigethy used her installation space on the third floor to move away from her signature style of glass sculptures. The result was a series of “cliffscape” images made from bark, kelp and other environmental material.

“The whole placeless, timeless aspect appeals to me, I like that nebulous look,” said Sigethy. “For me Artomatic is a chance to get some exposure for new things I’m trying, it offers an opportunity to do



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE DUVAL

**Torpedo Factory artist and Alexandria native Alison Sigethy traditionally works in glass sculptures with environmental materials.**

installation art which is hard to show.”

Opportunities for creative exploration are at the core of Artomatic. While the artists themselves have taken a leap with innovative concepts, visitors are invited to step outside boundaries and to learn more about personal tastes.

“What is shocking to one person might be run of the mill for someone else. It’s a chance for self-analysis, to see what your personal perceptions are,” said Angela Fox, president and CEO of the Crystal City Business Improvement District.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## WEDNESDAYS

**Summer Rehearsals.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. May 30, and June 6, 13. Potomac Harmony Chorus will host a series of open rehearsals at The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Each week through May and June, women (13 years and up) are invited to join the chorus on the risers to learn how to sing four-part a cappella, barbershop harmony style. Call 703-764-3896 or email chorus@potomacharmony.org or www.PotomacHarmony.org.

## MAY 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 24

**Confederate Memorial Day.** 6 p.m. Service of Remembrance hosted by the Gen. Samuel Cooper Chapter #105 MOS&B at Christ Church in Alexandria at the intersection of N. Washington St. and Cameron St., Alexandria. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the service will start soon thereafter followed with a presentation at the mass grave in the churchyard. A garden party catered by Dixie Bones will follow at the Mary Custis Lee UDC R.E. Lee Camp Hall located 4 blocks south from the church at 806 Prince St. The service at Christ Church is funded by the Samuel Cooper Chapter of the Military Order of Stars and Bars and is of no cost to you; the cost of the Garden Party is \$25/person. RSVP to Quartermaster, Lawrence Graham, P.O. Box 4024, Oakton, VA 22124. Phone: 703 217-7871 email: lawrence@goccim.net

## MAY 25 TO MAY 27

**Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon.** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$18/adults; \$12/children. Visitors may take evening tours of the Mansion, relax and enjoy wine and desserts available for purchase in on the lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Tickets may be purchased online in advance at MountVernon.org or at the Ford Orientation Center ticket window until 8 p.m. the evening of the event. At Historic Mount Vernon.

## FRIDAY/MAY 25

**Child I.D. Fingerprinting & Safety Fair.** Noon to 5 p.m. The Alexandria Police Department will assist the Beatley Library with a child identification event to fingerprint local children and help parents learn about ways to keep their children safe. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria.

## SATURDAY/MAY 26

**Memorial Day Salute.** 8 p.m. The Virginia Grand Military Band will be performing works by Sousa, Gilmore and Liszt. With special guest, John Philip Sousa, IV. Adults \$20, band directors, students and those under 18 free. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call Jeff Arwood, 703-426-4777, www.vgmb.com

**Unsinkable Women, Stories and Songs of the Titanic.** 8 p.m. A one-woman show written and performed by actress Deborah Jean Templin, who toured with the Broadway production of the musical "Titanic." The 90-minute program tells the story of nine different women who sailed on the ill-fated luxury liner. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.victoriansocietyatfallschurch.com or contact Terry Hooper at 703-241-2751. To purchase tickets, mail your check, made out to the VSFC, to P.O. Box 7436, Falls Church, VA 22040 Attn: Unsinkable Women. At The Lyceum in Alexandria.

**Master Vinyasa Yoga Class.** 1-2:30 p.m. With guest teacher Jonathan Miles. \$20 if pre-registered. At 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com suzanne@532Yoga.com. Call 703-209-0049.

**Acro Yoga.** 3-5:30 p.m. With guest teacher Jonathan Miles - Partner Yoga fun! All levels welcome \$40 if pre-registered. At 532Yoga, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com suzanne@532Yoga.com 703-209-0049.

**Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. At Del Ray Artisans' gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, rain or shine. Profits support Del Ray Artisans. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/YardSale or Fundraising@TheDelRayArtisans.org

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 8 p.m. A Salute to Patrick



## THURSDAY/MAY 24

**Civil War Concert.** 7 p.m. Free. Featuring the Washington Revels Heritage Voices at Fort Ward's Amphitheatre. Their repertoire of Civil War music includes military and patriotic songs, African American spirituals, and popular folk tunes from the period. Fort Ward Museum and Park is located at 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

May 27, from 4 to 9 p.m. featuring beer can chicken, BBQ ribs and sides. On Monday, May 28, hamburgers and hotdogs and sides all day. A Remembrance Table ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 27, and the National Remembrance ceremony is at 2:45 p.m. on Monday, May 28. At Alexandria Elks Lodge #758, 7120 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Visit http://www.elks.org

## SUNDAY/MAY 27

**1964 The Tribute.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. A tribute to the Beatles live. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.1964site.com.

**Alexandria Running Festival.** Half marathon at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8 a.m., and children's race. Register on-line at www.mc-coop.org/arf or call 703-927-4833. Race-day registration opens at 6 a.m. near Eisenhower Avenue Metro, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue.

## TUESDAY/MAY 29

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

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

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

**Author Talk.** 7 p.m. Come and hear local author Chet Nagle speak about his book, The Woolstorters' Plague & The Iran Covenant. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us

## THURSDAY/MAY 31

**"Then, Life Gave Me Lemons."** 6 to 8 p.m. A night of shopping, sushi, sweets and more! At Lou Lou Boutique of Old Town, 132 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-299-9505. To RSVP, go to http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3582636763

## MAY 31, JUNE 1-2

**West Potomac Spring Show.** 7 p.m. "Now & Then, 50 Years of Hits, 1962-2012." Presented by the West Potomac High School choral groups. Produced by Ernest Johnson and Jennifer DeFillipo, choreographer. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Online tickets are available at www.westpotomacchoirs.org.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 1

**Dr. John in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere. 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.

**Contribute to Time Capsule.** Youth up to age 18 are invited to submit an essay or art work representing the present day library. Submit on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Entries should be submitted at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Entries will be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 50 years. Deadline to enter is June 1. Call 703-768-9840.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 2

**Mosaic Harmony.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25/advance; \$30/door. A Silent Auction begins at 6 p.m. An interfaith, multicultural community choir that draws on the rich heritage of African-American inspirational music to lift the spirits. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased online at http://mosaicharmony.org/tickets.php. contact promotions@mosaicharmony.org or call 301-717-1221.

**Buy, Sell, Trade Event.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Aunt E's Closet. Come buy, sell, trade jewelry, cosmetics, crocheted items, electronics, games, clothing, books, household items, etc. At Meade Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

Thanks  
to this **Chair Donation**, a House  
Was Built in Northern Virginia

This used chair was donated to  
**Habitat for Humanity ReStore.**  
It was purchased at the ReStore for \$35.  
The \$35 will go towards building a home  
for a family in need in Northern Virginia.

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of Northern Virginia  
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703-548-1616 • www.theroyalrestaurant.com  
Award-winning wine menu • Major credit cards accepted

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

Call Dana Dishman at 571-447-8317.

**"We're Still Here: Celebrating an African American Community at Fort Ward."** 1 to 4 p.m. Free. A commemorative program recognizing the post-Civil War African American community known as "The Fort" at Fort Ward. Program held on the front lawn of Fort Ward Museum, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave site of Clara Adams, a matriarch of the community who was born on June 2, 1865. The program continues in the Park amphitheatre where public remarks will include an overview of the history of "The Fort" families, remembrances of and reflections on daily life in the area by individuals who lived on the site or whose ancestors resided there, and a performance by the Oakland Baptist Church Choir. Fort Ward Park is at 4301 West Braddock Road.

**Volunteer Training.** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Curious about early American medicine and health? Then consider volunteering as a tour guide at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary in Old Town Alexandria. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers can complete an application online at [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org) or email Michele.longo@alexandriava.gov. Visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org) or call 703-746-3852.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 3

**Come Fly, Drive, Float or Spectate.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your RC Planes, RC Helicopters, RC Trucks, RC Cars, Free Flight Planes, Control Line Planes, RC Boats and more. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Contact engineering teacher Joseph Franco at [jfranco@fcps.edu](mailto:jfranco@fcps.edu) or visit [www.westpotomacengineeringstore.com](http://www.westpotomacengineeringstore.com).

**KIN: Songs by Mary Karr and Rodney Crowell.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. With special guest Stuart Smith. At The Birchmere. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

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



## NOW THROUGH JUNE 18

**"Lonely Planet."** An homage to friendship in an age of potential terror and suffering. A fascination with maps, absurdist flights of fantasy and surprising moments of humor create a world where friendship and fear collide. Steven Dietz's award-winning play, will be in performance May 10-June 18, Thurs. and Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sun. at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50. TKTS 800-494-8497/[www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org), Groups/Info 703-548-9044. MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria, VA. Fully accessible, free parking.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 5

**"What the Heck is a Sesquicentennial?"** 6 to 8 p.m. Morrison House presents author William S. Connelly who will discuss the details of his book on the Civil War Sesquicentennial. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or call 703-838-8000.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. With the band, Bluejazz 2012. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

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

Pickett St., Alexandria.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 8

**Musician Jonathan Coulton.** 7:30 p.m. With Justin Townes Earle. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

**Valentina Lisitsa, Pianist.** 7:30 p.m. Free; unreserved seating. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 9

**Jefferson-Jackson Dinner.** Keynote speaker is ex-Gov. Tim Kaine, Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate. Also honored will be Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and City Councilman Rob Krupicka, who are leaving the City Council this year. Tickets are \$125. At the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria.

**Wine Tasting Event.** While sipping a variety of wines and tasting an array of cheeses and charcuterie, you can walk around the boat-building workshop sponsored by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Tickets are \$45; \$55 after June 1. Sponsored by Grape + Bean of Alexandria. Tickets are available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/243578](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/243578) or phone 1-800-838-3006.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 12

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. Featuring King Teddy. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

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

**Paul Thorn.** 7:30 p.m. With Jamie McLean. Tickets are \$25. Will perform the new release, titled What the Hell Is Goin' On? At The Birchmere. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

**James McLean Band.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Will be playing "Live at Gibson" CD Release. At

The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 14

**Tony Denikos.** 7 p.m. Cost is \$10. Part of Second Thursday Concerts at the Athenaeum. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 15

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

## SATURDAY/JUNE 16

**CASA Info Session.** 11 a.m. to noon. Fairfax CASA trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court. Meeting at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. For reservations or information, contact Elisa Kosarin, Associate Director - Recruitment and Training, at 703-273-3526, ext. 22, [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org), or visit [www.fairfaxcasa.org](http://www.fairfaxcasa.org).

**Juneteenth Celebration.** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. Music, entertainment, vendors, food. A history of Juneteenth and Multicultural Health Fair. At Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, 1501 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call Randy Stephens at 703-501-3431.

**Author William Connelly.** 10 a.m. Friends of Alexandria Archaeology hosts William Connelly, who will speak about his recent book, "Civil War Northern Virginia 1861." At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Alexandria. Free but reservations required. Visit [archaeology@alexandriava.gov](mailto:archaeology@alexandriava.gov).

## TUESDAY/JUNE 19

**"All the King's Women."** 7 p.m. Cost is \$30. Wine and cheese reception in the Green Room and a benefit performance. Silent auction. Enjoy a night at the theatre and help support Carlyle House Historic Park. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria, or by calling 703-549-2997. Visit [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

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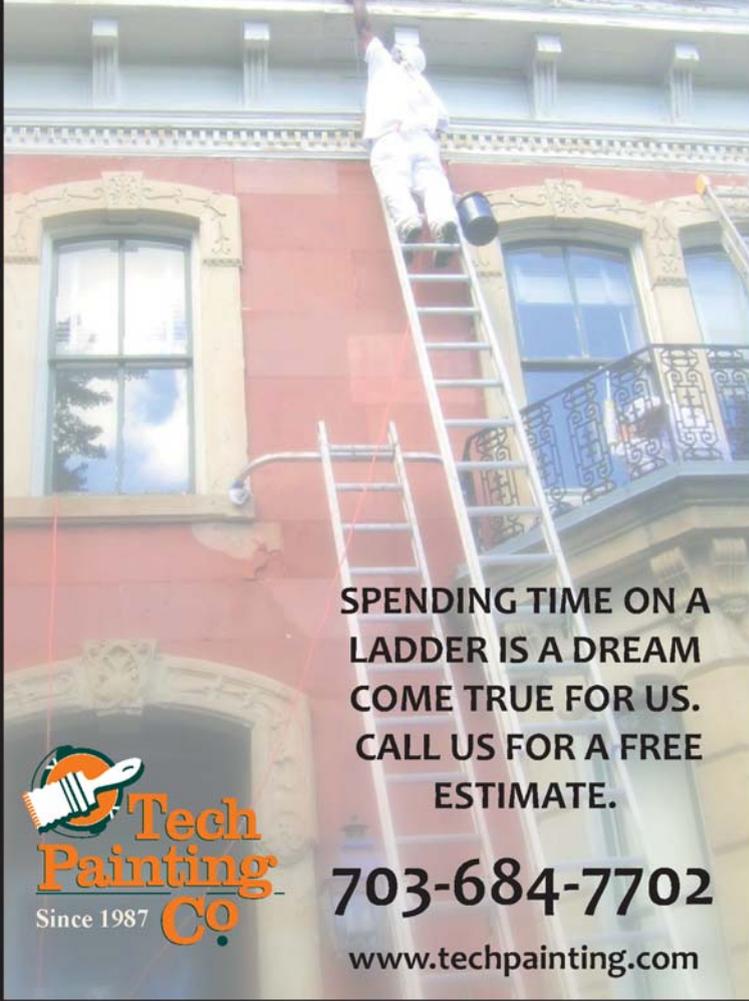
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Mount Vernon Gazette

# 'Xanadu' Is a Zany Spoof of the 1980s

**Signature's production not to be missed.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

**D**on't bother telling "Xanadu" that it's based on one of the worst movies of all time. It's already in on the joke, reinventing itself as an outlandishly zany spoof of the 1980 movie about a muse descended on skates from Mount Olympus to inspire the creation of a roller disco in Venice, Calif.

Directed and choreographed by Matthew Gardiner, the Signature Theatre production of Douglas Carter Beane's 2007 Tony Award nominated version of "Xanadu" focuses on Clio, a muse sent on a quest to inspire struggling chalk artist Sonny to build a roller disco. Disguised as an Australian rollerblader in leg warmers, Clio changes her name to Kira and falls into forbidden love with Sonny.

Helen Hayes Award winner Erin Weaver is the comically endearing Clio/Kira, whose jealous sisters place a curse on her in hopes of



PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

**Erin Weaver (center, as Kira) with her Greek Muses (from left to right) Nickolas Vaughan, Kellee Knighten Hough, Nova Y. Payton, Sherri L. Edelen, Mark Chandler, and Jamie Eacker. "Xanadu" plays at Virginia's Signature Theatre through July 1.**

her eternal banishment to damnation or worse — the 1980s.

Weaver is irresistible in leg warmers on wheels, the signature look made famous by Olivia Newton-John in the movie. Her brilliant Broadway belt shines as does her devastatingly funny parodying of Newton-John's breathy vocals. With charisma to spare, Weaver masterfully couples Newton-John's wholesomeness with a de-

lightful touch of trampy.

The object of Clio/Kira's inspirational light is frustrated artist Sonny Malone, a slab of buff beefcake in tube socks and denim cutoffs played to endearing perfection by Charlie Brady.

With music and lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar, "Xanadu," an Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical and a Drama Desk Award for Best Book, retains hits

from the film but adds new arrangements of "I'm Alive," "Magic," "Suddenly," and "Dancin'." The interpolating rendition of two classic Electric Light Orchestra songs, "Strange Magic" and "Evil Woman," is a side-splitting show stopper.

Working from an unpromising original screenplay, Beane ingeniously pays mock homage to the cult classic with a devilish shtick for two of Clio's sister muses — Calliope and Melpomene, played respectively by the stage-devouring comic actresses and Helen Hayes Award winners Sherri L. Edelen and Nova Y. Payton.

The wickedly funny duo time and again steal the show, highlighted by their theme song "Evil Woman."

Veteran actor Harry A. Winter is polished perfection as Danny Maguire, a magnate who bankrolls Sonny's disco dreams after messing up his own brush with a muse 35 years earlier. His comical talents especially shine when he later channels the plucky tones of the Greek god Zeus.

Among the multitasking first-rate ensemble members, Nicholas Vaughan cranks up the sassy attitude as mister-sister muse Terpsicore while Mark Chandler

rounds out the hilarious drag duo as Thalia.

"This is like children's theater for 40-year-old gay people," deadpans Edelen's Calliope, and indeed Beane cleverly lampoons '80s pop culture with a deft touch and complicitous wink at the audience that lets them in on the joke.

With a masterful production team of Misha Kaufman (scenic design), Kathleen Geldard (costume design), Chris Lee (lighting design) and Matt Rowe (sound design), Signature Theatre has created an engagingly goofy spoof filled with witty humor and magnetic performances.

The epitome of pop-rock cheese, "Xanadu" is a feel-good experience from beginning to end — a 90-minute hilarious romp filled with insider references sophisticated enough for pop culture cognoscenti yet hilariously entertaining to even the most novice of theatergoers. Dig out those leg-warmers and head over to Signature Theatre for the must-see show of the summer.

"Xanadu" is playing now through July 1 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, call 703-820-9771 or visit [www.signaturetheatre.org](http://www.signaturetheatre.org).

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# Remembering on Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 8

Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu near Iskandariya in Babil province, Iraq.

Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire in the Narang district of Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Meymaneh, Faryab province, Afghanistan.

**HERE ARE** the names of other local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan and in support of the "war on terror." We repeat these names at least twice a year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton was one of two Marines who died April 23, 2011 in combat in Helmand, Afghanistan:

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, in a non-combat incident. Venetz had been seriously wounded months before.

Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, Va., died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk, was one of two soldiers who died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach, was one of two soldiers who died July 5, 2010, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked their vehicle with a roadside bomb.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, Va., died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghani-

stan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 29, 2005.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother.

2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in the confusion of a firefight. Just last month, April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up, according to Tom Jackman of the Washington Post.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund ([www.yellowribbonfund.org](http://www.yellowribbonfund.org)).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors ([www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)), an amazing organization which provides emotional support and other services for families of the fallen. This Memorial Day weekend, TAPS will bring together survivors in Arlington for the 18th National Military Survivor seminar, along with a "good grief" camp for children who have lost a parent.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on

Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Airman 1st Class LeeBernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11. Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort

Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2005.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM.

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**On April 3, Meg Silva (left) and Jen Kyser (right) from Battelle delivered 236 pounds of food and diapers to UCM's food pantry manager, Jose Fratti (center). The items were collected at Battelle's Crystal City office during their spring food drive for UCM. The donations will be distributed by UCM's food pantry, which provides 500 families in need with food each week.**

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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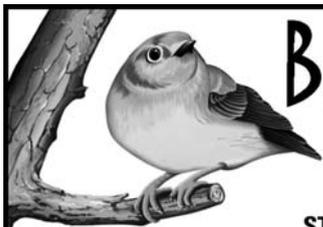
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## PEOPLE

# At Home At River Farm



Michelle Mislch and  
Maura Barrillaro.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Supporters of  
Mount Vernon At  
Home gathered  
Thursday, May  
17 at George  
Washington's  
River Farm.

MVAH execu-  
tive director  
Barbara  
Sullivan talks  
with Franki  
Roberts and  
Becky Hebert.



MVAH president Virginia  
Hodgkinson welcomes all to  
the third annual celebration  
at River Farm.



Theresa Dixon and Cheryl Bates  
look over the items donated for  
the silent auction.



Joe Mulholland talks with guests  
at the celebration.



Dr. Tom Cleary gets bidding  
instructions from auctioneer  
Daniel Sanders.



Mount Vernon senior Amardo Oakley, right, dribbles against Yorktown's Jack Walten during the National District tournament final on May 18.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Mount Vernon junior Rahim Costa-Dorsey, left, competes against Yorktown's Stephen Catalano on May 18.

## MV Boys' Soccer Captures National District Title

**Majors beat Yorktown for first district championship since 2005.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon boys' soccer program won 25 games during the 2010 and 2011 seasons, including regional victories against Langley and Robinson, but something was missing. The Majors couldn't translate regular-season success into a National District championship.

In 2010, the Majors started the season 6-0 and finished 4-1-2 against district foes, but lost to Stuart in the district tournament semifinals.

Mount Vernon was even better in 2011, starting 8-0 and finishing with a 6-1 district mark. The Majors reached the district tournament final, only to be trounced by Washington-Lee, 6-0.

This season, Mount Vernon opened with a 7-0-2 record and finished 6-0-1 in district matches. The Majors once again reached the district final, but this time, they brought home the hardware.

Simond Kargbo's goal in the 60th minute broke a 1-all tie, Amardo Oakley converted a penalty kick for insurance and Mount Vernon captured its first district title since 2005 with a 3-1 victory against Yorktown on May 18 at MVHS. After the game, the Majors celebrated by soaking head coach Robert Garza with a customary water-bucket bath.

"It's just passion — passion is the difference," Kargbo said. "It seems last year and the year before we had all the skills and everything ... but the passion wasn't there — the desire to win it. ... This year, we all just tried to come out and win it all."

Mount Vernon led, 1-0, at halftime, but Yorktown tied the score with a goal in

the 54th minute. It didn't take long for the Majors to regain the lead as Rahim Costa-Dorsey crossed to Kargbo in the 60th minute and the first-team all-district forward headed the ball in the net for what proved to be the game-winning goal.

After a disappointing runner-up finish in 2011, Kargbo was glad he could contribute to a championship.

"After last year in the finals against W-L, not doing anything, that meant a lot to me scoring that goal," Kargbo said, "and actually being able to hustle for my teammates."

Four minutes later, Oakley added to the Mount Vernon lead by converting a penalty kick.

"My coach told me if you're confident, go grab the ball and lead this team and that's what I'm doing," said Oakley, a senior captain and first-team all-district midfielder. "... Miss or not, I know my team's going to have my back, so I just went up and did what I had to do."

Sophomore midfielder Erik Villanueva, recently pulled up from the junior varsity, gave Mount Vernon a first-half lead with a

left-footed goal off the crossbar in the 34th minute.

"That kind of woke us up a little bit," Garza said.

Yorktown was the only district opponent Mount Vernon didn't beat during the regular season as the teams played to a 1-all tie on April 10. The Majors took care of business the second time around.

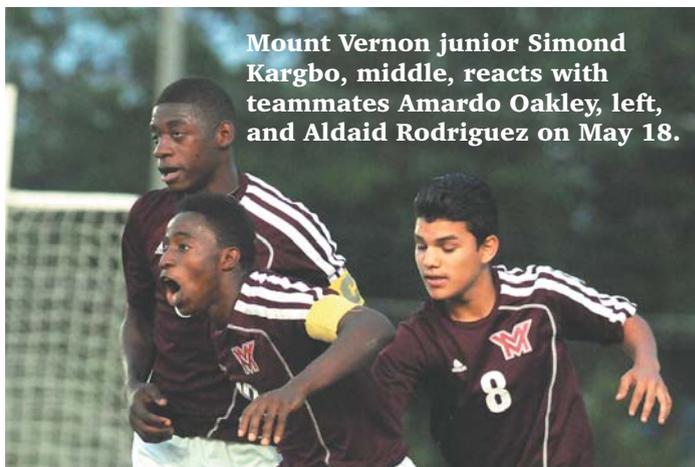
"Every season we say we're going to [win a district title] and we always fall short because we fall apart as a team," Oakley said. "But this year, we kept our heads together, never got cocky, kept our focus, set a goal and we reached that goal. Now we're happy and excited [but] we've still got more to go."

Four days after winning the district, Mount Vernon defeated Woodson, 2-1, in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament on May 22 at MVHS. The Majors, who improved to 14-1-2, will host Robinson in the quarterfinals at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 24.

As of Tuesday morning, Mount Vernon was ranked No. 5 in the Washington Post's

top 10 poll. The Majors were also ranked nationally, climbing to No. 19 in the ESPNHS POWERADE FAB 50 rankings for the 13 spring soccer-playing states.

"They played with heart tonight," Garza said after the district championship game. "... Even our school sometimes doesn't really understand where we're at, and we showed our school and our commu-



Mount Vernon junior Simond Kargbo, middle, reacts with teammates Amardo Oakley, left, and Aldaid Rodriguez on May 18.

nity who we really are tonight."

Along with first-team all-district honors, Kargbo and Oakley were named second-team all-region. Erik Rodriguez (midfielder) and Bryan Castellon (defender) received first-team all-district and honorable mention all-region accolades for Mount Vernon.

Damaro DaCosta (defender), Cedric Ekoue (defender), Costa-Dorsey (forward) and Diego Castro (goalkeeper) made second-team all-district.

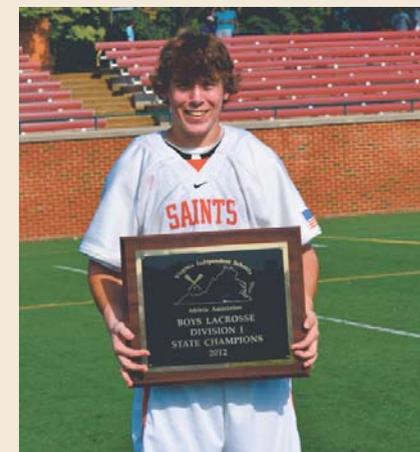


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### In State Lacrosse Championship

**Joe King, a Mount Vernon native and long-time Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association athlete, helped lead the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' lacrosse team to a VISAA DI state lacrosse championship in Charlottesville on Saturday, May 19. King scored two goals in the team's 7-4 victory to help the Saints secure the championship.**

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

their water quality improvement.

Having lived on Little Hunting Creek for over 15 years, I can say that I have never before seen such an abundance of wildlife as is the case this year, including plentiful fish, birds (including numerous raptors), foxes, turtles and snakes. Last week, I observed John Odenkirk of the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries travelling up the Creek in his shock boat, introducing electric current into the water to bring fish to the surface in the effort to capture snakehead fish. I was astounded at the number of fish I observed.

Obviously, things are looking up in the Potomac River and its tributaries, but you haven't heard that from FODM. After all, it doesn't serve the political agenda of closing Belle Haven Marina, filling 180 acres of the Potomac River at taxpayer expense and preventing the citizenry from enjoying the best management practice of an OLDA at Westgrove Park.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon



PHOTO BY H. JAY SPIEGEL

From the shore of Little Hunting Creek, showing acres of tidal wetlands.

## SCHOOL NOTES

**Waynehood School** will have its annual Patriots Day Celebration on Friday, May 25 at 10 a.m. This celebration is to give thanks to all the community helpers: Police officers, firefighters, sheriffs, and the military. Dan Storck, School Board representative will make a guest appearance in his Abraham Lincoln attire. Parents and friends are also invited to attend. Students will be singing patriotic songs: "It's a Grand Ole Flag," "This Land Is Your Land," "This Land Is My Land," and "God Bless America."

**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 24, 29 and 31; and June 4 - 7 during all lunch periods.

**Congratulations to MVHS student Katie Junrakan**, a student in German IB level 1, who was selected to attend the Governor's German Academy this summer. Her acceptance into this program is competitive, and both the students and the faculty at the Academy are outstanding. The Academy will be a challenging and exciting opportunity for Katie to improve her German language skills. Katie will attend the Governor's German Academy for three weeks at Washington and Lee University in Lex-

ington, Va.

**Mount Vernon High School** excelled at the Virginia State Leadership Conference. In competitive events these students were awarded the following medals:

- ❖ **Shahara Simmons**- Fashion Construction- Silver, Second Place in state, advanced to Nationals
- ❖ **Jennifer Ameyaw and Gilda Nimoh**- Illustrated Talk, Silver
- ❖ **Brianna Ragland**- Interior De-

sign- Silver

❖ **Moses Abraham**- Nutrition and Wellness- Bronze

❖ **Natalie Allen and Anika Arviso**- Focus on Children, Bronze

❖ **Danielle Allen, Beatrice Asuaa, and Annie Karina Vargas**- National Programs in Action, Bronze

❖ **Franqui Pierce**- Food Innovations, Bronze

❖ **Jessica Montoya and Angelica Santiago**- Environmental Ambassador, Bronze

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**Mount Vernon Gazette**

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# Planning Commission Defers Vote on Park 'til May 31

FROM PAGE 1

had concluded. After consideration of the testimony of 16 people representing individual and organizational views on May 17 the commission directed that the public record be kept open for additional input until the commission meets on May 31 to vote on the Comprehensive Plan review for the OLDA at Westgrove Park.

**COMMENTS** from several individuals and organizations on the Planning Commission and Park Authority deliberations include:

❖ Mary Jo Detweiler, Friends of Westgrove: "This is a very poor land use decision which the Park Authority is pushing through the County without benefit of the usual master planning process."

❖ Glenda Booth, Friends of Dyke Marsh: "Approval of an interim OLDA prejudices any future master planning process, shows favoritism to one group and fails to consider other sites" ... "How can the Planning Commission decide if this proposal conforms to a master plan when there is no master plan?"

❖ Eleanor Quigley, Mount Vernon Council Environment & Recreation Committee member and the Mt Vernon District Tree Commissioner, representing herself before the Planning Commission: "As the County's long-range planners it is within your power

to make visions reality. Please let this small, sensitive area return to nature. Let it cleanse and retain water. Allow it to grow a wide variety of plants, insects, birds, and mammals. Let it be a peaceful place that nourishes our need for open space and fresh air, a small pocket of nature and outdoor pleasures. Envision the jewel it could be in 50 years if it were returned to nature's care."

❖ Ned Stone, representing the Friends of Dyke Marsh, testified in detail regarding his organization's objections to the interim OLDA. Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is managed by the U.S. Park Service, is located immediately east of Westgrove Park, a freshwater tidal wetlands on the upper Potomac river. His testimony centered on two overarching issues of concern: "1. Westgrove Park should be retained as a natural resource park of passive recreation to complement the character of the larger natural corridor in which it exists. 2. The Fairfax Park Authority process to authorize one use at the request of one group represents favoritism, is unfair and prejudices any future master plan." On the latter issue Stone pointed out in his prepared remarks "that the proposal, if approved by the Planning Commission, would ignore a proposal for a protected natural area that the Friends of Westgrove Park submitted to the Park Authority in 2005; a proposal endorsed by 25 local organiza-

tions." Stone also criticized in detail the staff analysis as deficient, referring to the comprehensive plan application staff analysis.

❖ Steven Nixon, president of the local volunteer organization of dog owners, Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness (PACK), has spearheaded the effort to establish an interim OLDA at Westgrove Park. If the OLDA is approved his organization would be responsible for the maintenance of the OLDA under an agreement with the Park Authority. He said: "I am grateful for the overwhelming support for the interim OLDA at Westgrove Park, as evidenced by the endorsement of our District Supervisor, the Fairfax Park staff, the Fairfax Planning Commission staff, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, the community of Westgrove, and many other neighbor-

hoods and individual citizens. I also respect the experience and hard work of those few who oppose the dog park — they have ensured this proposal has been tested and scrutinized to an amazing extent."

If the commission votes in support of designating Westgrove Park for an interim OLDA, the proposal will then move back to the Park Authority to complete the designation of the management of the OLDA by the community applicant, PACK. Simultaneously, Park Authority staff will begin the process of including the development of a long-range Master Plan for Westgrove Park, including to determine if the OLDA is compatible with the long-term interests of the Park. Presently there are seven such OLDAs in Fairfax County. The nearest presently operating OLDA is at Grist Mill Park.

## Police Investigate Homicide

Mount Vernon District police officers, initially called for a noise complaint at the intersection of San Leandro Place and Mendocino Place at 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, found a 47-year-old man sitting in a vehicle suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper body. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The victim of this homicide has been iden-

tified as Morgan Detroy Monroe Jr., 47 of Landover, Md. The vehicle he was found in is a black, 1996 Honda Accord, four-door.

Police are investigating this as a homicide.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

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 WITH ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE<sup>§</sup>  
 ON EVERY NEW VEHICLE

COVERS 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, OIL & FILTER, TIRE ROTATION, MULTIPOINT INSPECTION

**\$500 DISCHARGED MILITARY  
 TOYOTA CASH BACK PROGRAM<sup>§</sup>**

**\$500 MILITARY REBATE INCENTIVE  
 FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL.<sup>§</sup>**

(1) INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$399 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE W/ 12K MILES PER YEAR. (2) 0.0% APR FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS WITH \$16.67 PER \$1000 BORROWED. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE AVAILABLE TO BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER 1+ THROUGH TIER III (EXCELLENT) CREDIT THROUGH TOYOTA FINANCIAL. DOWN PAYMENT MAY BE REQUIRED. BONUS CASH FROM TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. ON SPECIAL FINANCE CONTRACTS ONLY. MUST BE APPLIED TO THE TRANSACTION. NO CASH PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO CONSUMER. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. (3) ON SELECT 2011-2012 MODELS. ALL ACTIVE AND RESERVE U.S. MILITARY QUALIFY. MUST PRESENT VERIFIABLE PROOF OF MILITARY STATUS AT TIME OF PURCHASE. (4) BASED ON KELLEY BLUE BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS CONDITION, MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (†) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TOYOTA PURCHASE. (††) FROM DATE OF TOYOTA PURCHASE. (†††) WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. (5) WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. (6) OFFER VALID ON ANY NEW UNUSED AND UNLICENSED TOYOTA PURCHASED OUT OF DEALER STOCK DURING THE PROGRAM PERIOD AND REGISTERED WITH THE APPROPRIATE STATE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT. (7) REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD DUE AT SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION, OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER FINANCE OR LEASE TRANSACTION. NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TOYOTA COLLEGE GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ON ALL OFFERS. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 5/31/12.

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