



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

The ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Costco, which opened Aug. 8 on Route 1 in Mount Vernon. From left: Carrie Grefe, assistant manager; Zade Parson, manager; Ashley McNeff Behrens, president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce; Taylor Holland of Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay's office; Julie Grimes of Costco, and John Tillman of Southeast Fairfax Development Corp.

And the Doors Open

Costco's grand opening attracts crowds.

Nick Wong of Belle Haven has a love affair with Costco. He rose bright and early last Thursday, Aug. 8 to be the first person in the line for Costco's grand-opening at 7:30 a.m. along Route 1 in Mount Vernon.

"I just want to be able to say that I'm the first one through the line," said Wong.

After 13-weeks of constructing the store next to Wal-Mart, and a two-and-a-half-day rush to stock

SEE GRAND OPENING, PAGE 9

A little before 8 a.m., Nick Wong of Belle Haven was the first shopper to go through the doors of the new Costco at its grand opening on Thursday, Aug. 8 on Route 1 in Mount Vernon.



Costco shoppers Stephanie St. Peter of Hollin Hall and Carol Bowden of Mount Vernon.



Bella Cardarelli, 8, of Alexandria samples the Phillips Crab Cakes.

Husband Charged With Murdering Wife

Charges filed after woman's body was found in the Occoquan River.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Neighbors at Pinewood Lawns condominiums say the Crew family seemed normal from the outside. The wife and girls were often seen at the neighborhood playground, and the husband spent time lifting weights on the porch. But court records show a different story, a troubled marriage that led the couple to the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, where Caleb Crew, 25, was charged with domestic assault on Andrea Crew, 31. Neighbors say the husband threw oil on the wife's

face in early July, although court records show Judge Janine Saxe dismissed the case at the request of prosecutors.



Caleb Crew

"I'm shocked," said Milena Henriquez, who lives across the street. "You don't think of things like this happening in the neighborhood, but then there it is."

The couple asked neighbors to watch their children while they went to court last Wednesday. Police say she was last seen getting

SEE MURDER, PAGE 9

Simpkins Leads Mount Vernon Woods

To collaborate with parents, teachers to build community.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Pamela Simpkins, Ph.D., 52, was named the principal of Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School in Mount Vernon — a school where its students are from 20 countries and speak 26 different languages.

Drawing from the Sequoyah community's 1,018-unit condos built in 1978, where most children walk to school, some 83 percent

SEE SIMPKINS, PAGE 5



Pamela Simpkins, Ph.D., is the new principal of Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

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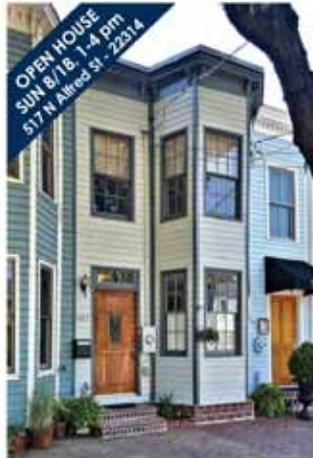


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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA \$579,000

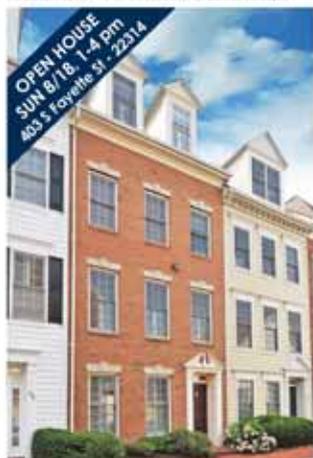


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Spotlessly renovated from top to bottom, this home is a keeper! Three bedrooms, two full baths. Dynamic kitchen, fit for a chef. Huge finished basement with adjacent storage, laundry room. Private and large backyard, perfect for play and entertaining. Walk to King Street Metro, shopping, restaurants and schools. Minutes to the Beltway!

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National Night Out events provide a way for neighbors to meet. Child-friendly activities make it fun for all ages.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Marine Recruiters Corey J. Quill and David J. Young manned a booth at this National Night Out event. Ulviyya Mammadli took on the pull-up challenge they issued.

Neighbors Gather for National Night Out



Victor is happily settled into the cab of the firetruck, talking to Lt. Rick Trudeau from Station 411. The young boy's mother, Angela Turcios gets the camera ready to capture the moment.



Kings Garden Apartment Complex provided this food for the National Night Out held on their grounds. Their staff, including Elmer (pictured), manned the grill and handed out food to the residents who attended.



National Night Out is a way to get to know the members of the Emergency Services in neighborhoods. Firefighters and EMT's from Station 411 participated in Kings Garden's event; a couple even joined in the fun at the karaoke tent.



The volunteer crew from Hybla Valley Target Store #1533. Target is a sponsor of National Night out. This group of volunteers handed out school supplies and snacks to many attendees of the event.



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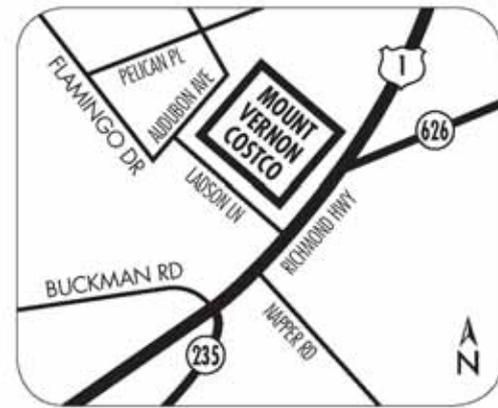
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To receive your Costco Cash Card: You must join in person at the Mount Vernon Costco. Costco Cash Card offer expires Sept. 29, 2013. Offers are available to non-members only for their first year of membership. Limit one Costco Cash Card offer per household. Offer is nontransferable and may not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Costco Cash Cards are not redeemable for cash. A Costco membership is \$55 a year. An Executive Membership is an additional \$55 upgrade fee a year and includes an annual 2% Reward (up to \$750) on qualified Costco purchases. Please include sales tax in all applicable states. Each membership includes a free Household Card. Terms and conditions apply to the 2% Reward. See the membership counter for details. Costco accepts cash, checks, debit/ATM cards, EBT, Costco Cash Cards, Costco Credit Cards and American Express. Departments and products may vary by location.

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Simpkins Leads Mount Vernon Woods

FROM PAGE 1

of the students receive free or reduced lunches/ breakfasts. The school's demographics are as follows: Hispanic 61.63 percent, Asian 7.97 percent, Black 26.74 percent, White 2.66 percent, and Other 1 percent. The school is 44 percent English proficient.

"This school is an absolute perfect fit for me," she said. "I've enjoyed every single day being here. I can't imagine being any other place as principal."

Makeeta Keys, instructional coach at Mt. Vernon Woods, added: "She loves, loves, loves the kids. She has a passion for building them up in their character development." Keys calls Simpkins a visionary. "She's purpose-driven. I think she has a great sense of balance in caring for the needs of her staff," she said.

"She is creative, innovative and an excellent listener," said Jean Bell, principal of Walt Whitman Middle School in Mount Vernon. "She's a pastor's wife; she's very caring and warm. She really loves helping others."

For goals, Simpkins wants to make sure every child reaches his/her fullest potential and has academic excellence. She wants to "Collaborate with teachers on best practices for instruction and using the professional learning community model, engage parents in meaningful workshops, partner with them, and allow them to volunteer ... Just building a community."

Simpkins said a challenge is a lot of the parents have to work more than one job to support their families, which might keep them from volunteering at school. "Yes, they are financially poor, but they are rich in their creativity — but they adapt and they have a different set of strengths."

About 708 students from the Lee District are expected to attend in September. There are about 80 staff members, including resource teachers and specialists, and five ESOL teachers. Fifty-one percent of students require English language service. "A lot of them have conversational language, but they don't have the academic language," said Simpkins.

Some Mount Vernon Woods teachers speak Spanish and will use it to teach a concept, but typically classes are taught in English, she said.

Correspondence to parents, however, goes home written in English and Spanish.

Ninety percent of its students are in the general education program. The school, built in 1966, also offers FECEP/Head Start, preschool programs, and special-ed services (for 14 percent of students). Adds Simpkins: "We also have a good amount of families where mom and dad are in the home, supporting student's education," said Simpkins. "All families



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

New Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School Principal Pamela Simpkins, Ph.D., with twin brothers Waris and Haris Mohammed, both 7.

want the best for their children."

The school was adopted by the ZETA Sorority, and Simpkins is in the process of building a school/business partnership with Costco, which opened on Thursday, Aug. 8 on Route 1. In addition, there is a Young Scholars program with parents who are championing the cause to provide books to students during the summer. The school also offers Chinese classes in grades 1-6 every week. And last week, Huntley Meadows brought in animals for the summer school children to see up-close during an assembly.

"I want to have them have as many experiences as possible," said Simpkins.

Above all, she is determined to reach out to every student and make a positive difference: "I want them to feel like they can approach me," she said. "And if they want to hug me, they're going to get a hug back."

Simpkins grew up in Baltimore and spent time in the U.S. Marine Corps, stationed in 29 Palms, Calif. She attended NOVA and then transferred to GMU where she completed her bachelor's in psychology, master's in education, and Ph.D., in education, administration and leadership. She started her teaching career at Rolling Valley in Springfield as an instructional assistant in kindergarten. She also taught students with disabilities as an LD teacher in K-6. Then she took the Lead Fairfax Cohort, a leadership program for administrators. From there, she went to Westlawn Elementary and was a LEAD intern. She became assistant principal of Hybla Valley Elementary for six years and took part in the Aspiring Principal Cohort.

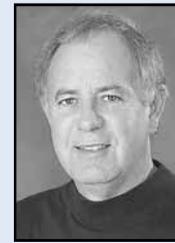
Simpkins's husband Donald is a pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Flint Hill, Va. The couple has four grown children: Don, 32; Amber, 29; Daniel, 27, and Michael, 24.

Plaque Acknowledges Beacon Field Airport



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Before there was a new Costco, before the drive-in movie theater called the Mt. Vernon Automobile Open Air Theatre, there was the Beacon Field Airport. The airfield operated from the 1920s and Beacon Field Airport received its license in 1932. Until it closed in 1959, it was used for recreational flying, U.S. mail delivery, military training, post-WWII and Korean War GI Bill pilot training, Fixed Based Operator and commercial aviation activities. The airfield was perched along Route 1 in the Groveton section about 3.6 miles north of Mount Vernon. It's now home to Lenclair Park, Target, Beacon retail shops (Giant, Lowe's), Beacon Hill Apartments and City View III. Above: Carrie Grefe, Costco assistant general manager, unveils the plaque shaped like a Delta wing on Aug. 2 at the corner of Route 1 and Ladson Lane near the new Costco.



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Alex/Mt. Vernon \$469,400
8719 Badger Drive
 Stunning 4BR, 2BA Split, w/carport, totally remodeled. Brand new kitchen w/ceramic tile floor, granite counters & oak cabinets, opening to a lovely screened porch, perfect for entertaining. Upgraded baths w/marble, refinished hwd floors throughout main level, new carpet on lower level. 2 MBRs, one on each level. Energy efficient double pane windows, freshly painted interior & a large spectacular fenced bkyd. Great location in Mt. Vernon: 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport. Great Price!



Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$529,900
9123 Volunteer Drive
 Over 3500 SF in this spacious 4BR, 3BA Rambler w/fully finished lower level. 2 level living minimizes your stairs. Large room sizes, gas fireplace in living & family rooms. Roof, furnace, A/C, & hot water heater all replaced since 2005. Sit on your deck & look out over your scenic .48 acre wooded lot. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to Ntl Airport & 30 mins to Pentagon/D.C. Great price for this house and location.



Alex./Mt. Vernon Terrace \$664,900
5108 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy
 Stunning 5 BR, 3 BA brick Cape, remodeled from top to bottom on an absolutely spectacular .53 acre lot. Updated kit & baths w/beautiful family rm addition across the back opening to a beautiful deck. Refinished hwd flrs, fully finished w/o basement to a huge patio overlooking expansive fenced back yard. An amazing setting - 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town & 30 mins to Ntl Airport - Gorgeous, Gorgeous Home!



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$462,000
8620 Curtis Avenue
 Lovely, spacious 4 BR/3 BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Hardwood floors throughout main level, eat-in kitchen with ceramic tiled floor. Walkout lower level offers a family room w/wood FPL, new carpet and new sliding glass door to a large, fenced backyard. Also, a 4th BR, 3rd bath and den. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport and 30 to D.C./Pentagon. Priced for a quick sale.



Alex./Hollin Hall \$454,900
7926 New Market Road
 Absolutely lovely home w/over \$130k in recent improvements in great location! Stunning front porch and Family Room addition in 2009 by custom builder. Slate floor on front porch and back patio. New in 2012 & '09: large shed, cedar fence, driveway, roof, dishwasher, hot water, stove, humidifier. Beautiful backyard. It's a gem! Waynewood Elementary, close to G.W. Parkway, Potomac River and minutes to Old Town.



Alex./Woodleigh Woods \$544,900
3804 Maryland Street
 Lovely, updated, 4 BR, 2.55 BA Contemporary Colonial on a pristine lot backing to scenic woods. 3 finished levels including w/o from the LL to a lovely patio. Large screened porch sits off the living rm, open kitchen w/breakfast area & wood-burning FPL. Large windows surround the house taking full advantage of the exquisite landscaping & woods. Enjoy the wildlife. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Huntington Metro & Old Town, and 30 mins to Ntl Airport & Pentagon. Great buy!



Alex./Riverwood \$769,900
3713 Riverwood Road
 Fabulous 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in prestigious river front community of Riverwood. 3 finished levels, updated & expanded kitchen w/plenty of storage - large sun room addition with wrap-around deck overlooking a beautiful, fenced bkyd. 425 SF of storage below sun room - remodeled baths - finished walkout lower level w/2 BRs, rec room, den and full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, 25/30 mins to Pentagon/D.C.

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Fairfax County Public Libraries: Version 2.0?

Staff, volunteers urge supervisors to reconsider “disastrous” library reorganization plan that cuts staff and services.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

In a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint, e-books have supplanted paperbacks and the latest films stream directly to laptops, how do public libraries compete?

Like almost every other institution, public libraries are adapting. Self-check-out, online renewal and computer catalogues have replaced the fusty file drawers of index cards and leather-bound periodicals of the past.

“I think changes have to be made to the way libraries operate — to accommodate ways people get their information, do research and use libraries as community centers,” said Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman, on Monday, Aug. 12. She cautioned that any change, however, “needs to be done with the engagement of our staff and the community.”

But the changes proposed by the Fairfax County Public Library administration — which include reduced staffing and cross-training staff members — have sparked outrage among library volunteers, staff and patrons who call the plan “misguided,” and a “radical reinvention” of the library system.

CRITICISM OF THE PLAN has been building since July, when Library Director Sam Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. The reorganization, Clay has said, streamlines staffing while retaining a high level of service.

“It includes a one-desk model of customer service, with cross-trained staff answering account and information questions, and increased programming conducted within the branch as well as in the community,” Clay said.

In response to questions and criticism of the reorganization, Clay and his staff prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). In the document, Clay said there are multiple factors driving these changes.

“The way customers use the library has been changing over time; technology is having a major impact on library customers and staff with 76 percent of customers now checking out their own materials. The county is still undergoing a budget crunch, and the library is required to reduce its annual budget,” reads the FAQ document.

“Libraries in general are at a pivotal crossroads as we are called upon to meet the



The Reston Regional Library, one of the busiest libraries in the Fairfax County Public Library system, was scheduled to be one of two libraries tested with a reorganization plan on Sept. 1. The plan included staff reductions. However, that plan has been put on hold after vocal criticism from library volunteers, staff and patrons.

changing needs of our customers, brought on by technology and the Internet while providing resources with shrinking tax dollars. Libraries all across the country are trying new ways of operating,” Clay stated in the document.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook, who met with library supporters, said Fairfax County Public Libraries are facing the reality of budget restrictions and “are adjusting to the fact that with the Internet and electronic books, libraries are changing”

But critics of the plan maintain that the “sweeping changes” proposed by the library board will have “disastrous effects on the quality of library service that Fairfax County residents expect and deserve.”

On Aug. 3, a group called “Friends of the Library” launched an online petition urging the Library Board of Trustees to halt the reorganization plans and reevaluate the changes. The petition states:

“For the good of the community, this plan must be re-evaluated with thorough input from those who will be affected by the changes. This petition serves as a chance for library patrons, staff and friends to make their voices heard.” By Tuesday morning, Aug. 13, 547 people had signed the petition.

“The lack of input, transparency and respect is the greatest fatal flaw in the whole

plan. ... This entire plan is hugely unpopular with staff, volunteers and patrons,” said Charles Keener of Oakton, an information assistant at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library who has worked in the library system for nearly 40 years.

One widely criticized proposal in the reorganization: lowering the educational standards for librarians. Instead of requiring a master’s degree of library science for librarians, the job description will say that the advanced degree is “preferred,” but not “required.” Clay has said the change will allow more flexibility in hiring.

Keener counters it will “dumb down” the library and take the “librarian out of the library.”

Scott Railton of Great Falls, a long-time library patron who contacted the Connection on Monday, agrees.

“Who would believe you can replace professionals with untrained clerks and retain quality? Current advancements in technology simply will not suffice to replace libraries and professional librarians,” Railton said.

LIBRARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS have been meeting with Fairfax County supervisors — who appoint the 12 volunteer members

of the Library Board of Trustees — urging them to hold off on tests and hold public hearings on the proposed changes.

“Those who use libraries and pay for libraries need to be included in decisions which will drastically change the character and quality of library services. Parents have a right to be part of any decision to eliminate youth services staff,” said Jennifer McCullough, president of the Fairfax County Public Library Employees Association.

Kathy Kaplan, a Reston resident and library volunteer who is actively involved in Fairfax Library Friends, said the group is already working with the union on a post-card campaign, online petition, email campaign, web site and other ideas to reach out to the broader public and get their input on changes to the libraries.

“One reason staff and Friends are only now organizing a response is that they were unaware of plans until they were dropped like a ‘bombshell’ not long ago. People can’t formulate a reasonable response to such a massive proposal overnight. It takes time for information to be absorbed, understood and reacted to,” Kaplan said.

Kaplan said the effort is picking up steam. Early Tuesday, Aug. 13, she said in an email that the fall calendar for the Fairfax League of Women Voters and the Fairfax libraries are on the schedule for Oct. 1 for

Fairfax County Public Libraries — By the Numbers

USAGE STATISTICS—2012

(source: [fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aboutthelibrary/factsht.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aboutthelibrary/factsht.htm))

- ❖ 495,831 registered customers.
- ❖ 5,246,854 visits to library branches.
- ❖ 13,034,816 items loaned.
- ❖ 4,162,599 visits to the library’s Internet website.
- ❖ 172,630 people attended 8,934 events.

PHYSICAL LIBRARY VISITS

Overall decreasing trend since 2008 with bump in 2009. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 5,794,036
- ❖ 2009: 6,128,289
- ❖ 2010: 5,685,827
- ❖ 2011: “over 5.4 million visits”

VISITS TO WEBSITE

Overall increasing trend since 2008. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 16,732,257
- ❖ 2009: 17,483,534
- ❖ 2010: 22,025,596

BRANCH HOURS PER YEAR

Decreasing with budget. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 65,174
- ❖ 2009: 67,473
- ❖ 2010: 58,119

Map of Library Locations

View at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/branchesmap.htm>.

Bond Referendum

Passed in November with 70.6 percent majority vote. \$25 million allotted: \$10 million for new Reston Public Library, \$15 million for renovations (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/library-bond-2012.htm>).

discussion at all localities in the county, on an emergency basis.

“We are moving heaven and earth to delay this,” Keener said. “I have never seen lower morale or greater anxiety, fear, discouragement and anger from our staff. ... We want people to contact the library board and to contact their supervisor. Tell everybody breathing what’s happening at the library.”

It’s likely the Board of Supervisors will consider a motion at its Sept. 10 meeting, the day before the library board’s monthly meeting on Sept. 11, requesting further community outreach through public hearings or other forums, according to several Fairfax County officials.

❖ For more information on the petition, go to www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-and-re-evaluate-proposed-changes-to-fairfax/.

❖ To read the strategic plan on the library website, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/strategicplan.pdf>.

❖ To read a copy of the FAQ document, or to provide comments or suggestions regarding the Fairfax County Public Library, email libcustomerservices@fairfaxcounty.gov.

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Station.

ASSAULT, 7700 block of Richmond Highway, Aug. 1, 12:45 p.m. Officers were called for a man running in and out of traffic. They located a 21-year-old man from Alexandria. He was charged with being drunk in public and assault on a police officer.

LARCENIES:
 1500 block of Belle View Boulevard, Vodka from business
 6500 block of Boulevard View, license plate from vehicle
 6800 block of Donora Drive, tool box from vehicle
 2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, purse from vehicle
 8100 block of FernLake Court, bicycle from residence
 7900 block of Flamingo Drive, bicycle from residence
 8000 block of Janna Lee Avenue, license plate from vehicle
 3800 block of Joshua Place, license plate from vehicle
 8400 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, keys from school
 8100 block of Old Pohick Court, cell phone from residence
 2500 block of Parkers Lane, decals from vehicle
 2500 block of Parkers Lane, license plate from vehicle
 6500 block of Potomac Avenue, scooter from residence
 7500 block of Republic Court, electronic device from business
 6100 block of Richmond Highway, keys and cell phone from business
 6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
 6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business
 6300 block of Richmond Highway,

wallet from business
 6800 block of Richmond Highway, purse and cell phone from vehicle
 7600 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business
 7900 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business
 7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
 7900 block of Richmond Highway, money from business
 8200 block of Russell Road, beer from business
 2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, beer from business
 1800 block of Hackamore Lane, wallet from business
 3900 block of Mariposa Place, bicycles from residence
 3400 block of Memorial Street, wallet from business
STOLEN VEHICLES:
 6100 block of Richmond Highway, 2001 Chevrolet Malibu
 6800 block of Richmond Highway, 2004 Suzuki GSSR 740 motorcycle
 6600 block of Wakefield Drive, 2010 Honda Elite motorcycle
 2900 block of Furman Lane, Honda CBR600 RR
 4400 block of Pembroke Village Drive, Infinity G35
 6100 block of Richmond Highway, 2005 Ford Explorer
 8500 block of Richmond Highway, Ford E-350
 7400 block of Vernon Square, 2004 Suzuki GSXR600
 6700 block of Tower Drive, 2004 Ford Crown Victoria
 6600 block of Boulevard Westview, 2005 Honda Civic
 6300 block of Chimney Wood Court, 1998 Ford Mustang

NEWS BRIEFS

Convenience Store Robbed

Mount Vernon Police District police are investigating a robbery that occurred Monday afternoon, Aug. 13.

Around 3:02 p.m. two men entered the 7-Eleven located at 8146 Old Mount Vernon Road and one displayed a handgun and demanded money from the 57-year-old employee. The suspects took money and fled on foot. There were no injuries.

The first suspect was described as black, 20s, about 5 feet 11 inches tall and wearing a blue pullover and white ball cap. The second suspect was described as black, 20s, about 5 feet 5 inches tall and wearing a dark hoodie.

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

Arrest in Hybla Valley Shooting

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, around 8 a.m. the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force apprehended the suspect in the Aug. 2 shooting in the Hybla Valley area. The 31-year-old man from in Accokeek, Md., has been charged with robbery,

malicious bodily injury, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and abduction.

He is currently awaiting extradition to Fairfax County.

On Aug. 2, around 12:58 p.m. Mount Vernon District police responded to an apartment in the 8400 block of Richmond Highway for a report of a man shot. Inside the apartment, responding officers discovered an adult man with injuries to the upper body and he was transported to a local hospital in serious condition.

Bank Robbery in Hybla Valley Area

Mount Vernon Police District police are investigating a bank robbery that occurred Monday, July 29. Around 9 a.m. a man entered the TD Bank located at 6615 Richmond Highway, and demanded money. The 23-year-old teller complied and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as black, around 180 pounds, medium build, and wearing a blue hat and sunglasses.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at 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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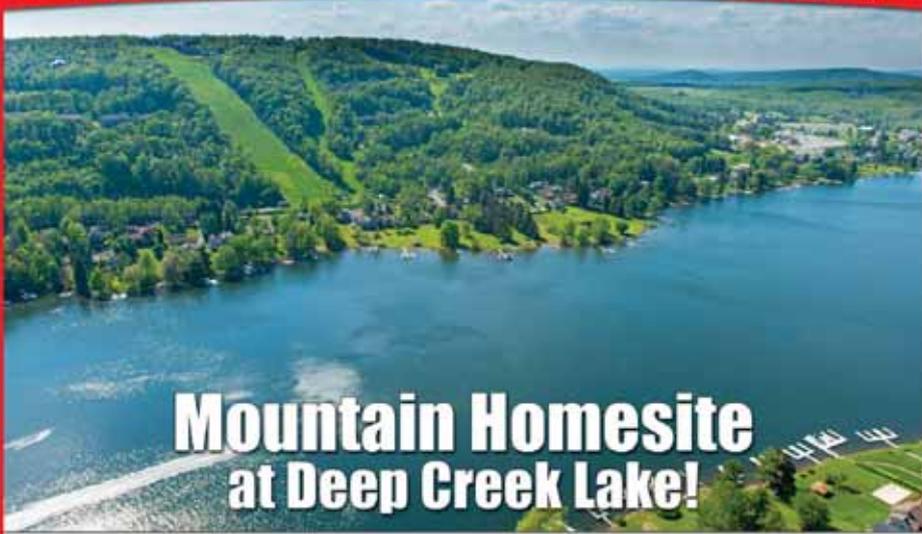
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**Mount Vernon
Gazette**

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

All families welcome. Contact trumbo@successfactors.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Open House. 3-5 p.m. at United Methodist Mission Church, 8220 Russell Road. Meet staff and volunteers and learn how they help the indigent and homeless along Route 1. Call 703-360-1976 or visit www.risinghopeumc.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Community Fun Fair. Enjoy live music, Irish dancers, a vendor marketplace, and a moonbounce and safety demonstrations for children. Free. Call 703-360-9450 or visit funfair@woodlawn-umc.org

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

NAACP Freedom Fund Meeting. 2-5 p.m. at Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.fairfaxnaacp.org or call 703-591-4488.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Community Festival. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital, 2501 Parker's Lane. Enjoy a rock wall, pet adoptions, food, live entertainment, kids' zone and more. Free. Visit www.celebrationMVL.com for more.

SCHOOLS SUPPLIES NEEDED

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services is accepting donations of new backpacks and school supplies. This includes: composition notebooks, pocket folders, glue sticks, thin and thick markers, Fiskars blunt and pointed scissors, zippered pencil pouches, subject index tab dividers, highlighters multi colors as well as yellow, colored pencils, 3x5 index cards, hand held pencil sharpeners w/ plastic lid, pink bar erasers and scientific calculators. Donations should be dropped off by August 26th at the Mt. Zephyr Business Complex at 8305 Richmond Hwy., Ste. 17B. Contact Betsy Damitz 703-768-9404 or bdmaitz@goodhousing.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Program needs a volunteer to greet people and answer phones one day per week from 10:30 a.m.-noon as soon as possible. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels needs drivers and a coordinator. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Volunteer to **host an exchange student** for the school year 2013-14. These foreign teens (15-18 years old) want to attend high school here in Northern Virginia, and experience life as an American teen. Academic Year in America (AYA) is a non-profit organization, and the Department of State does not allow payments to host families. Visit www.academicyear.org or call local coordinator Louise at 540-286-1561. VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Church-Wide Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Vendor tables available for \$25, seller keeps all profits. Entire community welcome. Call 571-332-8056 or email gwenlinton@aol.com.

Registration Deadline. Fairfax County NAACP Inaugural Golf Tournament takes place Friday, Aug. 23 with a 2 p.m. shotgun start at Ft. Belvoir Golf Course. \$100 per golfer. Visit http://www.fairfaxnaacp.org/REGISTER_GOLF_TOURNEY_CA06.php.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The meeting will take place in room 112 and will feature a presentation by Christine Rose entitled "Bounty Land Records to Help Solve that Problem." Call 703-866-2478 or visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club Dinner. 7 p.m. at Pema's restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway. Lion Mike Ryan will speak on the ways Lions serve. Learn about activities the Lions do in the local community as well as their sight and hearing projects. Call 703-960-4973.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

Dance Team Master Class. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Paul McGill, who has been in movies such as "Man on Wire" and "Meet Dave" as well as a variety of Broadway shows including the Tony award winning "Memphis," will teach the class. The class is open to local middle school and high school dancers. Call 703-980-1219.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Open House. 2-5 p.m. Celebration as Spring Hills Mount Vernon hosts an open house to show off the renovations just completed at this assisted living adjacent to the nation's beloved Mount Vernon. Springs Hills recognizes the Fort Belvoir-Mount Vernon Lions Club as an example of being the "promise for the future." In their honor, Spring Hills is launching the "Promise for the Future Award" to recognize valued members of the neighborhood. With historic character-actors portraying George and Martha Washington and others who will be participating through the day, the festivities will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by the award presentation and fun activities, including a tour, entertainment, raffles and refreshments for all. Spring Hills Mount Vernon, 3709 Shannons Green Way. Visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com or call 703-650-0779.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25

Choir Concert. 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7730 Fordson Rd. The Carter Gospel Singers of Alexandria celebrate 44 years with the theme "I'm Just Praising the Lord!" Call 571-659-9165.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Stratford Landing Popsicle Party and Open House. 2:45 p.m. at Stratford Landing Elementary, 8484 Riverside Road. The event is to kick off Stratford Landing's 50th birthday. Popsicles and DJ Bob will be on site.



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—John Mutchler

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Signing up new Costco card customers are (from left): Makiz Hoagland, Matt Milano, Elmer Avelar and Lisa Mendoza.



Displaying their purchases are Joe Pham of Mount Vernon with first-through-the-door customer Nick Wong (right) of Belle Haven.

Grand Opening Attracts Crowds

FROM PAGE 1

its shelves, the 140,000-square-foot warehouse was ready for its debut. And serious customers were ready to spend.

Whatever they needed — a Chanel black flap handbag that sells for \$2,159 or Phillips Crab Cakes or a Samsung Galaxy Note 8.0 Tablet — it was all on display.

Store manager Zade Parson called the morning's stream of customers "overwhelmingly supportive." The previous evening, some 1,400 people attended a preview party. "It's a really warm feeling," said Parson, a 25-year-employee. "It kind of feels like we've already been here; it's going to be a great partnership with the community."

— STEVE HIBBARD



A Chanel black flap handbag sells for \$2,159 at the new Costco.

Husband Charged with Murdering Wife

FROM PAGE 1

out of a beige Jeep in the 5500 block of Cherokee Avenue. She was reported missing on Thursday, and police pulled her body out of the Occoquan River on Saturday. By Sunday evening, Caleb Crew voluntarily came to the Mount Vernon District Station, where police took him into custody and charged him with murder. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be asphyxia due to strangulation.

"The charge was based on the totality of the investigation," said Lucy Caldwell, spokeswoman for Fairfax County Police Department.

NEIGHBORS IN Pinewood Lawn say the Crews lived there for three or four years. She was originally from Colombia, and he was from Woodbridge. Neighbors say he was an Army veteran who had recently returned from Afghanistan. Although the July 1 incident leading to the domestic assault charge caused some discussion in the neighborhood, Crew enjoyed a solid reputation as someone who did not cause problems in the neighborhood.

"He seemed to be a real stand-up guy," said Jessie Testerman, who lives in the neighborhood. "That's why this whole thing has really blown me away."

Both of the parents have Facebook profiles that show a happy family. The two are kissing in one photo. Other shots show the parents enjoying time with their children. Many of her friends have changed their profile pictures to black ribbons in honor of the slain mother. Several of the neighbors are still in shock that the family they have come to know and love has been torn apart.

"They just seemed normal," said Henriquez. "And she was such a good mother to those children."



The front door to the Crew home has become a memorial to the slain mother.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE



Caleb Crew and Andrea Crew

FROM FACEBOOK

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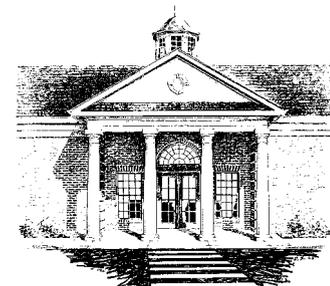
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OPINION

Library Mission

Further cuts to library budget must be analyzed for impacts on families in need.

The current proposal to “streamline” services at Fairfax County Public Libraries comes on top of disproportionate, and some would say Draconian, cuts since 2009.

Here is a summary of those cuts from the library department’s own strategic plan:

“In FY 2010, ... the library’s budget was reduced by 15 percent. Drastic adjustments to staffing levels occurred. Virtually all of the library’s exempt part-time staff were lost and with them, the flexibility needed to operate libraries under existing hours of operation. Consequently, hours of operation were reduced 19 percent. ... In FY 2011, the library’s budget was reduced an additional 6 percent. Additional staff were lost and operating hours reduced again by 9 percent. ... With a more stable budget outlook, the focus has shifted from survival, to becoming as vital to the lives of Fairfax County residents as possible.”

In 2012, Fairfax County libraries welcomed 5,246,854 visitors to library branches, and loaned 13,034,816 items.

In Fairfax County, where nearly 20 percent of the households have annual income of under \$50,000, about 8 percent live below the poverty line and more than 47,000 public school students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals, the public libraries are indispensable. Access to library resources goes beyond books, and includes the very digital access that many people cite as a threat to libraries. Public access to computers and to the

Internet for those who do not have other access is a critical service.

According to a 2010 report, Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:

❖ 44 percent of people in households living below the federal poverty line (\$22,000 a year for a family of four) used public library computers and Internet access.

❖ Among young adults (14–24 years of age) in households below the federal poverty line, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for educational purposes.

❖ Among seniors (65 and older) living in poverty, 54 percent used public library computers for health or wellness needs. “People of all ages, incomes, races, and levels of education go to the library for Internet access

“This access has also proven to be critical in times of disaster, where libraries may be the only access point still operating that can provide a delivery point for government and social services to those displaced.”

Budgeting and restructuring must take into consideration the disproportionate effect of cutting library services on lower income households especially. But it is also true that the libraries are vital to all residents.

EDITORIALS

On Federal Dollars in Virginia

We received some emails and phone calls about the expansion of Medicaid in response to last week’s editorial. Many asserted that Virginia should not accept federal dollars for its residents without health insurance in order to help control federal spending.

Virginia already receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in 2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by State and County from the Census Bureau, analyzed

by 247wallst.com)

Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending. Do the people (who almost certainly have their own health insurance) who think that we should turn away federal money to expand Medicaid think we should lobby to reduce defense and transportation spending in Virginia to help control federal spending?

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cherishing Tauxemont

To the Editor:

It was interesting to read about Hollin Hills in the Gazette [“Mad Men’ Modern: Hollin Hills receives historic designation from Virginia Landmarks Register,” July 18]. It is about 2 miles from our home, and our neighborhood shares many of their ideals. Yet the article had several inaccuracies that were repeated. To make it short Tauxemont is almost 10 years older than Hollin Hills with the same sort of wooded landscaping and one-story homes. Hollin Hills was not the first neighborhood to take account of the land. Of course this is understandable since Robert Davenport and Charles Goodman were part of the co-op that bought the land where Tauxemont was built. They then went on to develop Hollin Hills.

I have lived in the Tauxemont Community for almost 49 years. Our neighborhood is between Fort Hunt Road and the George Washington Parkway near Hollin Hall. Tauxemont like Hollin Hills is on the Virginia Landmark and National Register of Historic Places.

Our home was built in 1948 and

is in one of the newer sections of the community. A group of people, who were working for the Federal Government, formed a cooperative and bought 12.3 acres here in early 1941. There were only 20 houses built at first, but more followed until about 110 houses were completed in different stages. Robert Davenport was designated to be the builder. It is said he had doubts about his job as he knew nothing about building. There were several lawyers in the group who handled the purchase and finances.

The first homes were built in 1941 the section was called “Tauxemont 1.” Tauxemont was built in three sections between 1941-1955. There was nothing much down here at the time 5 miles south of Old Town. Certainly not Hollin Hills which began to be built 9 years after Tauxemont. Like Hollin Hills the original homes were carefully situated into the wooded land. This siting of the houses is one of the reasons for the VA Registry. Also considered were the Co Op Nursery school, and having our own great water from



PHOTO FROM NANCY FORD-KOHN

Our pond with about 800 fish, no frogs at the moment.

deep wells. Each of us owns a share of stock in our community.

Our home is situated on 2/3 acre with many 100-125 year old Oak trees, and is a certified Wildlife Habitat. When the lots went up for sale in 1941 there were a few options. One option was buying more than 1/2 acre. Some folks bought 2 or more lots so we still have open spaces in our community. There are community areas like the community house, a field for picnics

and a 4th of July party, well sites, and a commemorative garden for a deceased neighborhood woman.

When you come off of Fort Hunt Road the temperature drops several degrees because of the woods and mature gardens. The last Tauxemont “pioneer” to pass on was Flossie Surovell, grandmother to our state delegate, Scott Surovell who now lives on her

SEE TAUXMONT, PAGE 25

Mount Vernon Gazette

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To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Louise Krafft
Photographer
lkrafft@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
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Display Advertising, 703-778-9446
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Display Advertising, 703-224-3028
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
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Cleaning Up Virginia's Ethics and Disclosure Laws

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



Media reports of Gov. Bob McDonnell accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars of “gifts” and loans have provoked discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of Virginia’s ethics laws. Some have called for a special session of the state legislature.

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is requesting a special session after he failed to report his only stock holding — Star Scientific — and \$18,000 in gifts from Star Scientific head Jonnie Williams, including a lake house vacation and a catered Thanksgiving dinner. Another state delegate has echoed that call after his undisclosed trip to Taiwan was reported by the media.

We will be back in session in four months. While a special session to consider the Governor’s impeachment should be on the table, a special session four months before regular session focused on a series of interrelated complex new laws to be considered by a lame duck governor distracted by a federal criminal ethics investigation would not be productive. The General Assembly can thoroughly debate and decide appropriate ethics reforms in the normal 60-day ses-

sion starting in January when the process can be more deliberative and the public can be involved more easily.

HERE IS WHAT should be on the table for 2014:

First, the reporting requirement for gifts should apply to all state and local elected officials’ immediate family members, closely-held entities and their staff. Some of the specifics need to be carefully worked out, but the disclosure law should at least include individuals living in the same household as a state elected official and entities such as limited liability companies, limited partnerships and trusts in which the elected official or family member owns substantial interest or control.

Second, Virginia should have a financial cap on gifts to elected officials from all lobbyists or individuals and entities with business before the state or local governments. This cap should also extend to all state and local government employees. Anyone accepting a gift should be prohibited in par-

ticipating in procurement or regulatory decisions.

Third, Virginia should limit all campaign contributions to \$5,000 by any person or entity controlled by such person per campaign. Virginia’s unlimited campaign contributions are another side of the problem. No candidate or campaign should be able to accept a \$100,000 contribution.

Fourth, disclosure laws should require disclosures of activity throughout an entire 12-month period and not just a “snapshot” of what exists on the date that the disclosure is filed. Plus, the actual details of investments and holdings should be disclosed. Elected officials and gubernatorial appointees should not be able to list real estate as a “Condo in Halifax County” or their brokerage account as “Fidelity Brokerage Account,” actual examples from current reports. They also should not be able to evade reporting by selling assets or paying off loans just before the reporting deadline.

Fifth, officials should not be allowed to use campaign funds for personal expenses such as gas, meals, and mobile phones. Campaign expenses should be used for true campaign expenses, not personal expenses.

Sixth, we must create an entity to be responsible for ethics policy, independent from the legislature and empowered to

perform several functions. It must have the power to investigate and prosecute ethical violations, including alleged violations of campaign finance, political campaign and financial disclosure laws governing all elected officials. We should not rely on politically-elected Commonwealth’s Attorneys, our criminal prosecutors, to be put in the position of policing fellow partisan elected officials with virtually no support from law enforcement. There are too many conflicts of interest and political pressures in play.

The entity should also be empowered as the oversight body, provide advisory opinions to elected officials, recommend changes to state laws addressing ethics and financial disclosures, issue clarifying regulations and audit a portion of all disclosures filed by statewide officeholders, political action committees and elected officials’ campaign accounts. Filing fees should fund the commission’s activities.

WITH THESE CHANGES, Virginia can start to move toward meaningful ethics reform and provide the transparency necessary to ensure accountability from our elected officials.

It is an honor to serve as your state delegate. If you have any feedback, please contact me at scottsurovell@gmail.com.

COOKIE IS MISSING!!!



She was last seen at home in Stratford Landing early Saturday morning (Aug 3rd).

Pictured above, she is an 8-year old tortie-point Himalayan cat, weighing about 8 pounds. Cookie is a beloved member of our family and is greatly missed. If you have any information about her, please call Susan or Ken at **703-780-3140**. Reward for safe return. Thank you!!

Geocaching Diversifies

Urbanites embracing new game.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE GAZETTE

Geoaching usually has been portrayed as someone with hiking boots and a walking staff gazing afar from a hilltop in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not so anymore.

Substantial numbers of those joining the sport are placing and hunting for caches in urban settings, and that includes Northern Virginia.

Geocaching is the electronic age blend of a scavenger hunt and orienteering. The U.S. military was ordered to cease jamming satellite navigation signals in May 2000. An unforeseen by-product turns out to be the game of geocaching.

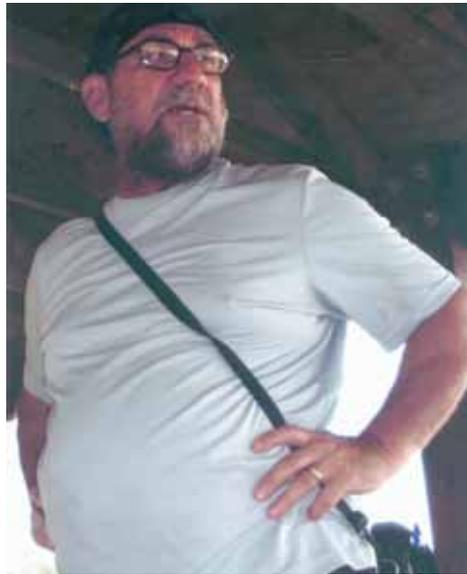
Scavenging games have been around for ages because everyone likes to hunt for treasure. Players receive a list of items and a deadline. The one returning within an allotted time with the greatest number of listed items wins. Orienteering involves use of a map and compass. A series of compass directions, very precisely followed, leads from point-to-point-to-point to the final target site. Running the course in the shortest time determines the winner.

Now add GPS, the Global Positioning System. Some portions of the military's navigational system had been available for civilian use since the 1980s. On May 1, 2000, the President issued a directive which meant "that civilian users of GPS will be able to pinpoint locations up to 10 times more accurately than they do now."

Portable GPS units could lock in on a location within 15 to 30 feet.

It took one week for an engineer in Oregon to connect the concepts of GPS and treasure hunt. He placed a bucket in a wooded area near his home. It contained a logbook and some trinkets for exchange with finders. Posting geographic coordinates via the Internet, he announced a single rule: "Get some stuff, leave some stuff." It was called The Great American GPS Stash Hunt.

In short order, the game went international. There are over 2 million hidden "caches" and more than 5 million "cachiers" world-wide. Those figures for the Commonwealth of Virginia are "about 15,000" and "several thousand," respectively. Northern Virginia is peppered with caches; for example,



Dave Prebeck, NOVAGO leader.



A family searches for a cache.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE GAZETTE

"Geocaching brings families together because it is a fun activity for all ages."

— Dave Prebeck



A variety of cache containers.



Helen Wirka and Susan Hellman of Carlyle House.

it is estimated that several hundred are hidden within 5 miles of the intersection of Glebe Road and Columbia Pike in Arlington. Locations range from mountains to the seashore and from public parks to lamp-posts in urban settings. Each listed cache on the central register appears with a "difficulty level" and a "terrain level," allowing players to select the right searches for their individual interests and physical conditions. Many "smart phones" have a GPS application, so buying a separate, portable GPS unit is no longer necessary.

Dave Prebeck, a leader of NOVAGO, cannot hide his pleasure at how the sport has grown over the last few years. He adds "there always is room for more cachiers. That is why we hold so many of the free 'Geocaching 101' classes across the area." His employment involves quite a bit of travel abroad, and Prebeck says that finding or hiding a cache is becoming easier every day as people in more than a hundred countries discover the game.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION is very encouraging. Young people have no fear of electronic devices (unlike some of their seniors), Prebeck observes. Recognition in the form of a Boy Scout or Girl Scout badge leads many to the sport.

There are a number of benefits to geocaching. A search can be combined with a hike or long walk into beautiful natural areas, Prebeck said. "Virginia has many

wonderful natural locations." Urban and neighborhood hunts also involve exercise, but are more convenient and less time-consuming. Regardless of location, some participants simply like the mental challenges of solving complicated "puzzle searches," he said. Of great importance, Prebeck added, "Geocaching brings families together because it is a fun activity for all ages." Grouping people into pairs and trios can teach teamwork, so the sport has found its way into company and agency employee training programs.

Chris Gaida of Alexandria admits he is not much a disciple of the game; he has not worked in classes offered by NOVAGO. He has, however, participated in "trash out" forays where cachiers remove rubbish from parks and other locations. To Gaida, a major benefit is learning the history of wherever a search leads, which in his case includes the City of Alexandria. Caching also holds opportunities to display a sly sense of humor. He tells of a cache placed in the Del Ray neighborhood: A "puzzle hunt" keyed to the famed musician Jim Morrison who attended school nearby.

Herndon's Ron Staley also cites learning more of historical events as a positive factor. His example centers on the grave of Laura Ratcliffe, a female Confederate spy buried not far from his home. As to the technical and recordkeeping aspects of geocaching, Staley finds little difference when comparing it with birding

Curious?

Read "The Geocaching Handbook" (2d ed. 2011) by Layne Cameron (Falcon Guides, Guilford, Conn.). Several public libraries hold a copy, as well as other books on the topic.

Consult the web page of Northern Virginia Geocaching Organization (NOVAGO) at www.novago.org.

Follow the link in NOVAGO's webpage to the authoritative clearinghouse of information at www.geocaching.com. Free registration makes you a cachier.

Attend one of NOVAGO's free classes titled "Geocaching 101." They are offered throughout the year and ordinarily meet in a public location, such as a library. The entire game is explained, and operation of a GPS unit is taught.

(birdwatching).

Apart from finding and hiding things, cachiers socialize. According to Prebeck, cachiers love to tell stories of successful searches. They also enjoy relating how and why they camouflaged the target containers, the clever places in which caches were hidden and the reasons behind selection of the trinkets left for trade. Get-togethers are informal and include potluck dinners, cook-outs and competitive meets.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has been involved with geocaching for about five years according to Ken Moss, a founder of NOVAGO. Carlyle House, a unit of that Authority next to Alexandria City Hall, holds a long-term cache that he hid.

Moss notes that original emphasis was on caches in natural settings, usually coupled with hiking. Presently, he endorses a balance in locations through growth of "urban-style hides." Moss is quick to add that gaming in established neighborhoods requires a greater sense of responsibility on the part of cachiers; trespassing is to be avoided and permission of property owners is encouraged.

Manager Susan Hellman and curator Helen Wirka at Carlyle House say that cachiers do hunt there, but the numbers are not large. This is surprising in light of a Federal program begun three years ago. The National Park Service created the "Star Spangled Banner Geotrail" as part of the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812. Carlyle House was selected as one of the trail locations.

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8412 Washington Ave \$469,900
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 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electrical panel, siding, gutters-in short, almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable reasonable price!
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9127 Continental Dr \$598,500
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9124 Volunteer Dr \$649,900
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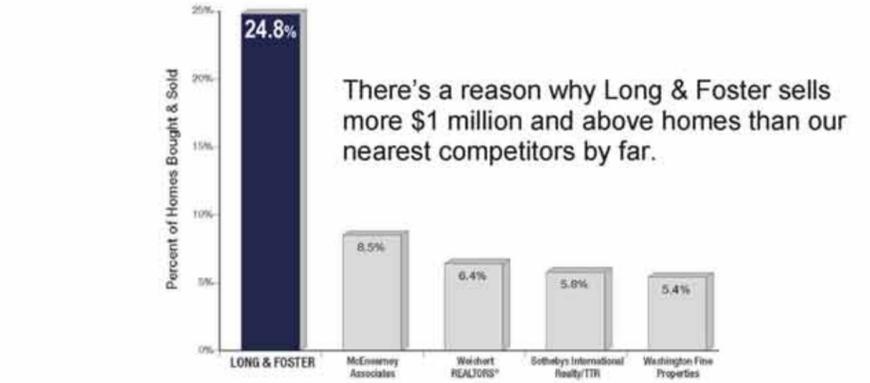
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 Stately Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition. Magnificent setting on high bluff overlooking Potomac. Views protected by conservation land. Home is truly spectacular with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrooms, each with private bath, breathtaking river view master suite. Walls of windows capture magnificent views. App. 300 ft dock with lifts. A true VA Estate just minutes from Old Town.

9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd \$1,295,000
 Craftsman Masterpiece!
 Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list.

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This wonderful Dutch Colonial is ready for a new owner! Recent upgrades include a new eat-in kitchen, new cabinets, appliances and granite; hardwoods; new windows; all new bathrooms; freshly painted thru-out; LL rec room with half bath - plus a very nice room flow including 5BR/2.5BA. Close to GW Pkwy, Old Town, shops & more.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

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Alexandria "LOCATION"

Spacious and elegant home in great location! 4BR/4 FULL BA, 3,984 sq ft, gated entrance, marble foyer, hardwood on main level, gourmet kitchen, large granite counter, SSA, master bedroom with separate shower and tub, walk-in closets! Sideload 2 car garage. Walking distance to West Potomac HS. EZ access to Rte 1, GW Parkway, shopping and restaurants.

Nancy Song 202.368.7280

\$ 229,500
Lorton "NEW PRICE"

This south facing 2-level Hampton model has been meticulously updated. Open concept floorplan, eat-in kitchen, fireplace, UL laundry, walk-in closet in master. HVA replaced. New carpet. Great community center with exercise and party rooms. Pool. Close to VRE, Ft Belvoir and new INOVA EMC.

Louise Devers 703.795.9944

\$ 549,900
Alexandria "LOCATION"

Looking for a 4BR split foyer in sought after location just off the GW Parkway? HVAC, hot water heater, roof have all been replaced recently and the exterior / interior have been painted. Then look no further than this spacious home in Stratford on the Potomac.

Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4!
\$ 549,000
Waynehood
8417 CROSSLEY PL

Well-maintained 3BR/2FBA split level, cherry sunroom off kitchen with Anderson windows, refinished hardwoods on 2 levels.

fresh paint thru-out, new carpet in family/sunrooms, walk to schools and river.

D'Antonio Realty Group
 www.waynewoodrealtors.com
Elke, Liz and Anita
 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633

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Alexandria "RENOVATED & LANDSCAPED"

Large and beautiful home sited on a tree-line street in George Mason ES district. Completely remodeled thru-out, including new gourmet kitchen, baths, floors. New exterior features include HardPlank, windows, fence, and gutters. Awesome 3-season porch and a completely landscaped yard. Walk to shops and eateries. 4/5BF - 2.5BA.

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Calling all builders! Large lot 1.19 acres currently zoned R2. Beautiful wooded lot. Plenty of land to build 2 homes (or more). Already planned development on the adjacent lot.

Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562

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Alexandria / Collingwood "LOCATION"

Beautifully maintained Colonial with 5 levels, 1 fireplace, 5BR/2.5BA on quiet cul-de-sac. Large, fenced, private back yard. Gorgeous hardwoods thru-out. Walk to elementary and middle schools.

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Heidi 703.609.7367 & Elke 703.967.7633

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Waynehood
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Renovated and expanded Haddon Model with separate addition including a kitchenette, LR and full BA, perfect for in-laws, office, tenants or teens. 4 finished levels, 5BR/3BA, screened porch, fenced backyard. Walk to school, park, pool.

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Woodbridge "LOOK NO MORE!"

This gem is move in ready, fully equipped and finished. Loaded with stainless appl, granite, 42" cabinets, HWV floors, kitchen island and lovely ground level deck. Catwalk overlooks 2-story family room and library. Massive master BR with luxury bath; closets are plentiful and so are rooms sizes to included rec, exercise rooms and 2 car garage. Indeed it is a gem.

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Alex. / Hollin Hills
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Spacious 1-level home with 3BR + den (could be 4th bedroom) and 3FBA. Walls of windows make for beautiful views and lots of light. Parquet floors, fireplace and great space for storage. Nearby community swimming pool. Easy commute to Old Town and DC. Please come see for yourself or call for an appointment to see.

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 309,000
Alex. / ParkFairfax
3204 WELLINGTON RD

Don't miss this light filled 2 level, "Madison" model TH style 2BR/1BA condo located in ParkFairfax. Beautiful parquet floors and new custom built-in bookcases. Ceramic tiled kitchen with stacked WD. Walk-to-wall carpet and 3 new ceiling fans. New AC / heat. 3 pools/tennis/walk to Shrlington.

The Kohler Team
Heidi 703.609.7367 & Elke 703.967.7633

*Source: Information based on data supplied by MRIS and its member Association (s) of REALTORS, who are not responsible for its accuracy. Does not reflect all activity in the marketplace. January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012. Information contained in this report is deemed reliable but not guaranteed, should be independently verified, and does not constitute an opinion of MRIS or Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. ©2013 All rights reserved.

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Fall Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Early bird registration through Aug. 30. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

National Park and Recreation Month: Open Play Days and Nights. Through Aug. 18. Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park Field, 4800 Brenman Park Drive and at Four Mile Run Soccer Field, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, Four Mile Run Soccer Field and Witter Fields, 2700 Witter Drive. Call 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

Art Exhibit. Noon-4:30 p.m. at the Green Spring Garden Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Grace Rooney's watercolor paintings on display through Aug. 25. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Art Class. Running through Saturday, Aug. 31, classes meet 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Classes held at Art At The Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Register online at www.artatthecenter.com.

Visiting Artists. Through Saturday, Aug. 31, the Visiting Artist Program is a professional development opportunity for emerging and experienced visual artists from all over the country and provides an opportunity for visitors to interact with a rotating group of visual artists. Torpedo Factory located at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Guests who visit George Washington's Mount Vernon and the International Spy Museum will be able to take advantage of **Operation: George Washington** and save 50 percent off the ticket purchase at their second destination. To redeem the offer, guests must present their receipt for admission or ticket stub from one site when purchasing their ticket to the second site. Both Mount Vernon and the International Spy Museum will honor receipts and tickets throughout August. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

Dog Days Dog Show. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 in the Athenaeum Gallery. The show includes a variety of photographs about dogdom, portraits are also included. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-683-5058.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at The Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The exhibit is "Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void". An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m. in the gallery. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target or call 703-838-4565.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. The exhibit features seven Del Ray Artisans following their own theme and inspirations to create their own artwork. The gallery is free and open to the public. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Art Exhibit. Through Sept. 2, see "Shapes" and "scapes" at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. An opening reception for both exhibits is planned for Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Paisano's Pizza is going to "Share the Pie" with the Boys and Girls Clubs of greater Washington. For all

customers who mention "BGC" when placing an order, Paisano's will donate 10 percent of their purchase price to help support the organization. The fundraiser goes until Sept. 15. In Alexandria, Paisano's has locations at 269 S. Van Dorn St. and 6937A Telegraph Road. Visit www.pizzapaisanos.com.

Distillery Open. George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill open through Oct. 1. \$17/adult, \$8/child, 5 and under are free.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this time, as well as period photographs and collections items. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone figure drawing skills. Drop-in with your supplies to draw our live models. Fee: \$8-12. View the calendar at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

The **West End Farmers Market** will run Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. through November. Located at Ben Brenman Park, browse food, crafts and more. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org.

This **exhibit at Fort Ward**, located at 4301 W. Braddock Road, features objects from the museum collection, to tell this story of the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Free. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwaRoad.org or call 703-746-4848.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

African American Activists Exhibition. Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwaRoad.org or call 703-746-4848.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of



"Untitled One," Mixed Media on Paper, by Mei Mei Chang

'Voyage in Tangible Space'

A mixed media exhibition by Mei Mei Chang, "Voyage in Tangible Space," will be on display from Friday, Sept. 6 through Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. The opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances. The Fisher Art Gallery is located on the upper level of the Schlesinger Center, and is named for local artist, the late Margaret "Peggy" Fisher and her husband, Joseph Fisher. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Book a Librarian. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

Computer Tutoring. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

Mobile Market. Thursdays through October, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Landmark Mall parking lot on the Duke Street side. The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Mobile Market is a refurbished school bus offering produce, meat, eggs and more from small farmers and food artisans within 100 miles of the area. EBT cards and WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted. Visit arcadiafood.org.

Friday Affair Market. 12-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held July 26, Aug. 9 and the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Metro Club After-School Program. Beginning Sept. 9 and running through June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents a new after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton

studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs offered will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run after school on Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. MetroClub offers MetroRide buses so students can be transported from certain area schools. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SUMMER CAMPS

August Art Explorers. Aug. 2-23, every Friday, 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3-SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

Art Gallery. Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. www.torpedofactory.org/target.

AUG. 7-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit. At the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The annual August landscape exhibit "Scapes" features a variety of artwork from all media, inspired by the environment. Juried by Elizabeth Klimek. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 16

Andy Poxon. Opening for JD McPherson at The Birchmere 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now. Visit www.andypoxon.com/ or www.birchmere.com.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Mount Vernon Swing Band, conducted by Owen Hammett, provides live music. Open to the community. \$4. Call 703-765-4573, TTY 711.

The Dixie Melody Boys. 7:30 p.m. Mount Calvary Community Church, 6731 Beulah St., Alexandria. After earning Grammy nominations for its four-part harmonies, the Gospel quartet brings them to a local stage. Visit www.mountcalvary.cc and www.dixiemelodyboys.com for more information.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Auditions for the Washington

School of Ballet. The Washington Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Ages 4-5 will audition 10-11 a.m. in the England Studio. Ages 6-7 will audition 11:15-12:15 in the England Studio. Ages 8-10 will audition 12:30-2 p.m. in the England Studio. Ages 11-13 will audition from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Phillips Studio. All other ages will audition at 12-1:30 p.m. in Phillips Studio. Audition fee is \$30 and registration is required. Visit www.washingtonballet.org or call 202-362-3606.

Board Gaming with Wargame

Wake. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can play a variety of games. Beginners welcome. Join an existing game or bring your own board. Free. 703-746-1702.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to Chester, a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Demonstration. 11 a.m. at Del Ray Variety, 203 E. Custis Ave. Enjoy live canning demonstration with tips and recipes. RSVP at canningparty.eventbrite.com.

Music and Movin' with Miss

Susan. 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children up to age 5 can enjoy sings, music and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Justin Trawick opens for Edwin McCain. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

India Independence Day

Celebration. 1-5 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. The store is offering henna tattoos and Indian food and drink. Handwork by artisans in India will be on display. Call 703-684-1435 or visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Marine Chamber Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Maj. Jason K. Fettig, concert highlights include Vittorio Giannini's Prelude and Fugue for String Orchestra. Free. 202-433-4011 or www.marineband.usmc.mil.

SUNDAY/AUG. 18

Pride and Prejudice Celebration 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" turns 200. Celebrate and discuss the novel. Reservations are \$29. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

Back Alley Blues Boys. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The local band will play an acoustic set of blues, folk and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Chamber Music. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Washington's Camerata, Baroque music for traverso flute and baroque guitar. Presented by Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. Free. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpmusic.org.

Concert. 5-8 p.m. at JV's Restaurant, 6666 Arlington Blvd. Alexandria's Fuse Box will be performing. Tickets are on sale now. Visit www.jvrestaurant.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 19

Early Words. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy songs and stories. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Baby Lap Sits. 1:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Make it and Take it for Teens. 4 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 8-12 can "dig" into reading with craft projects. Free. 703-768-6700.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/AUG. 19-23

The Big Meow Half Day Camp. 9 a.m.-noon at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A camp inspired by Elizabeth Spire's book "The Big

Meow" teaches about movement, creativity, problem solving and story telling. For ages 5-7. \$150 for the week. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

Fun for 2s and 3s. 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for ages 2 and 3 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Scientist and author Lou Massa discusses his time interviewing Nobel Prize winners and the importance of their work. Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Craft Night. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. All skill levels can bring their own supplies and get help with their knitting, crochet or sewing project, or just come for the conversation. Free. 703-746-1703.

Evening Storytime. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 1-5 can wear pajamas and enjoy stories about bedtime. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Harambee Readers. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can discuss "My Long Trip Home" by Mark Whitaker. Free. 703-765-3645.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-10:30 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Enjoy this DJ swing dance with TK the DJ playing hits from the 1930s-50s. Free. Call 703-548-5953.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose

Hill Drive. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Family Night. 6-8 p.m. Hosted by Alexandria city public schools at TC Williams High School, 3330 King St. Register at www.acps.k12.va.us.

Cool Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga offers, outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Open to all skill levels. Free. Call 703-967-8884 or visit www.prasadayoga.com.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss "In the Garden of Beasts" by Erik Larson. Free. 703-746-1705.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Blues band Johnny and the Headhunters performs. \$10. Call 703-751-8900.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Elephant Day. At Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. For the third annual Elephant Day, the store offers 20 percent off all elephant items, as well as elephant themed snacks. 15% of sales for the day will be donated to the International Elephant Foundation to help protect elephants in Africa and Asia. Call 703-684-1435 or visit www.alexandria.ten-thousandvillages.com.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

World Short Story Discussion. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free. Call for title. 703-746-1704.

Evening Story Time. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 1-5 can enjoy stories. Free. 703-768-6700.

Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John



Fall Art Classes

Registration is now open for fall classes. Art at the Center is located at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Early bird discounts through Aug. 30. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Week. More than 50 restaurants throughout Alexandria offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. To browse the list of restaurants participating, visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com or 703-746-3301.

FRIDAY/AUG. 23

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. CD Release Show for Olivia and the Mates. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 23-SEPT. 1 Alexandria Summer Restaurant

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 23-25

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd. Metropolitan Performing Arts Theatre's ensemble presents "Fame: the Musical." \$20. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.metro-theatre.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Free. Call for title. 703-746-1743.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

VietFest. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Celebrate the Vietnamese culture through art, food, history and entertainment. \$5/advance; \$7/onsite; free to people wearing full Vietnamese dress. Visit www.VietFest.com or 540-497-1661.

Grave-Marking Ceremony. 10 a.m. at the Peake Family Cemetery in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 8115 Fordson Rd. Hosted by the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the grave-marking ceremony will honor Revolutionary War patriots Humphrey Peake Sr. and Lieutenant William Peake. The ceremony includes the presentation of colors by the SAR Color Guard and brief discussion of the lives of the Peakes. Open to public attendance. Visit www.gwsar.org.

Art Material Market. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street. Artists from all over are invited to buy, sell, or trade their new or gently used art supplies, tools, materials, and ephemera. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565 ext. 5.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to Chester, a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Free Meditation Workshop. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn breathing technique and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Concert. Johnny Lappen at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 24-25

Begonia Show and Sale Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society sponsors the annual display and sale various begonia species. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Kitten Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at King Street Cats, 25 Dove S. Cuddle some kittens and find a new best friend. This is a two day event, everyone is welcome. Visit www.kingstreetcats.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25

VietFest. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Celebrate the Vietnamese culture through art, food, history and entertainment. \$5/advance; \$7/onsite; free to people wearing full Vietnamese dress. Visit www.VietFest.com or 540-497-1661.

Pride and Prejudice Celebration 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" turns 200. Celebrate and discuss the novel. Reservations are \$29. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Film. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

Gospel Singers in Concert. 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7730 Fordson Road. Carter Gospel Singers will be celebrating 44 years of singing ministry. Original Carter Chorus Singers will also be featured at the service. Call 571-659-9165.

MONDAY/AUG. 26

Biography Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

TUESDAY/AUG. 27

Craft Night Social. 5-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans. Bring unfinished projects that are in progress and be social with other creative individuals. \$8 DRA members / \$10 non-members. Register: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/craft.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1705.

Martha's Mystery Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "Field Gray, a Bernie Gunther Novel" by Philip Kerr. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28

Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All abilities and all levels can join in for stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

Cool Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga offers, outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Open to all skill levels. Free. Call 703-967-8884 or visit www.prasadayoga.com.

Book Signing. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Jide Familoni discusses and signs his novel "Losing My Religion." Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Movie Matinee for Children. 4 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in grades K-8 can watch a movie. Free. 703-746-1783.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

Film Series. 6 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch "Moonrise Kingdom." Free. 703-746-1704.

Martha's Family Movie. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. All ages can watch a film based on a children's classic book. Free. Registration required. 703-768-6700.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Theater, 815 King St. Caravan of Thieves and the Funhouse perform. \$20. Call 703-544-5315 or visit www.oldtowntheater1914.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 29-31

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd. Metropolitan Performing Arts Theatre's ensemble presents "Fame: the Musical." \$20. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.metro-theatre.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 30

Annual Big Chalk Draw. 8-10 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Join in a morning of chalk drawing in the parking lot. Free, everyone welcome. Art at the Center will also be collecting new school supplies and backpacks for children in the community. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Three Dog Night. At The Birchmere 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now for \$69.50. Visit www.threedognight.com or www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 31

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see The Outlaws perform. \$35. visit www.outlawsmusic.com. Robyn Ludwick will open.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at The

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Violinist Benjamin Scott will perform music by Beethoven, Ravel and more. Visit www.wmpamusic.org/free or 703-799-8229.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6-SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Art Exhibit. See "Voyage in Tangible Space" by Mei Mei Chang at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. It is a mixed media exhibit. Free. Visit <http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html> for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet local artists and hear live music. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/artmarket for more.

Alexandria King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

Family Dig Day. At Alexandria Archaeology 105 N. Union Street Learn and assist City archaeologists as they examine soil and artifacts gathered from a real dig. The day begins with a lesson on the history and archaeology of Shuter's Hill and continues with a tour and an opportunity to sift through excavated soil in search of artifacts. \$5; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment provided. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. see and meet Mei Mei Chang, the artist of "Voyage in Tangible Space" at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Visit <http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html> for more information.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Alexandria King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

"Bounty of the Bay" Party. 6-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. All-you-can-eat feast of summer favorites like a Chesapeake crab boil, oysters, fried clams, red potatoes, summer corn and cole slaw. \$45 inclusive of tax and gratuity. Visit jackson20.com or call 703-842-2790.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St., will present hundreds of rugs from Bunyaad, a fair trade company that works with Pakistani artisans to produce hand-knotted rugs from their villages. Ten Thousand Villages will hold a one-hour introduction to the event on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Registration encouraged. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun, as well as the Daryl Davis Band. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Annual Community Fun Fair. 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Events include free health screenings, zumba and nutrition classes, vendors, game trucks, food and more. Vendor and sponsorship opportunity still available. Call 703-360-9450.

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Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

olderadultservices and click on volunteers.
AARP Tax-Aide, a national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season. The program offers free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing and passing the IRS examination. Visit www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html.

ONGOING

The Groveton High School class of 1964 is looking for contact information for as many classmates as possible. The planning for the 50th reunion is underway, however only a small number of people have been contacted. If you are a Groveton graduate of '64 and interested in attending next September's reunion please email contact information to GHS64@verizon.net.
 The New Gum Springs Civic Association will start a new **Cub Scout Pack** for boys ages 6-10 and adult leaders. For more information call 888-740-6009 or visit www.gumspingscivicassociation.com.
 School Board Member, **Dan Storck**, Mount Vernon District representative, hosts community office hours the second Saturday of each month: Sherwood Hall Library: 1-3 p.m. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns. No appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant, Barb Larsen at Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.
 Band musicians are invited to join the **Mount Vernon Community Band**. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com.
Alzheimer's Association support groups provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends

to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns throughout the Alzheimer's journey. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. There is a meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 703-359-4440 or 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Boy Scout Troop 1906 is seeking members. They meet every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church Parsonage, 7836 Fordson Road. Visit www.boyscouts-ncac.org/colonial.

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

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$70-\$110 and are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

Dance for Parkinson's Disease. Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Rd. Those with Parkinson's and caregivers are welcome. No dance experience necessary.

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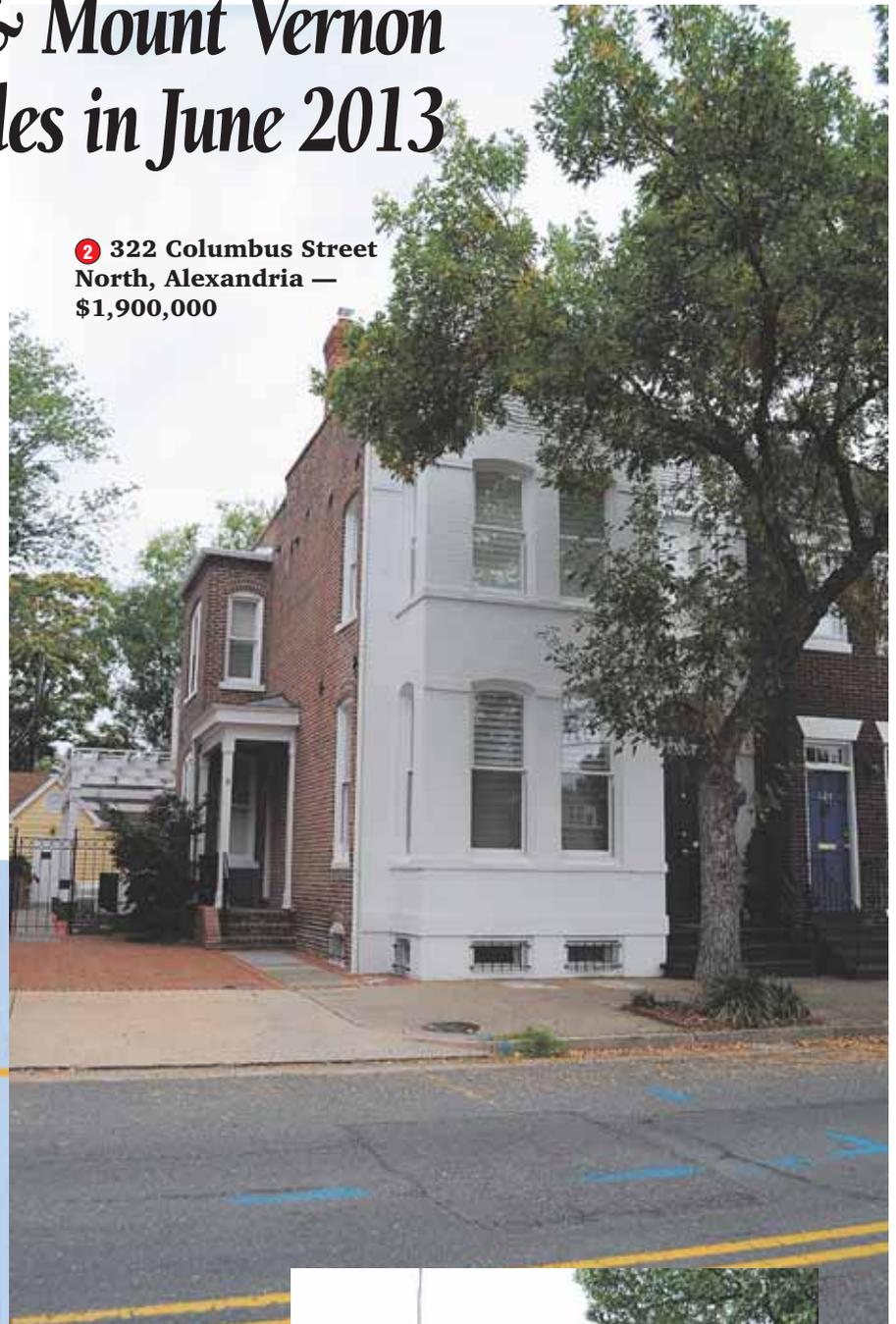
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Ready for Back To School?

Local designers offer tips for creating functional and stylish homework spaces.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Summer will soon come to an end, and children everywhere will be heading back to school and coming home with homework. To keep students engaged and excited, some local designers offer suggestions for creating a space so fun and inviting that your children will want to hang out there — even if that means doing homework.

When embarking on the task of creating a homework space, choosing a location is one of the first considerations.

Bill Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. in Bethesda, Md., said, “There are two schools of thought: One is to have the ‘homework space’ in a public area, ... so that a parent can be involved in the activity. The other school places more emphasis on teaching personal responsibility.”

According to Jean P. Freeman, associate professor of Interior Design at Marymount University in Arlington, homework space should be “away from television, but near an adult for any questions that need to be answered. It should be quiet for concentration, but having a window where the child can look up and out at the world is soothing.”

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, “A design option is the designated computer or desk area, typically found on the perimeter of the kitchen, so school work is kept out of the way. But the most popular homework space we design is at the island. This casual seating appeals to children and gives them a stylish, yet functional, open space to do their work without isolating them.”

Arlington resident Christie Doebel, lead designer at Sun Design Inc., which has offices in both Burke and McLean, says she gets frequent requests for a space that allows for multitasking. “Very often we are looking to create the kind of environment where a parent can make dinner while still rehearsing words for the spelling bee.”

ONCE A SPACE IS CHOSEN, it’s time to select the fixtures that will fill the space. Good indoor lighting with a window for sunlight is essential, said designers. Freeman said the most obvious components of a homework space are electrical outlets, a Wi-Fi connection and a comfortable, adjustable chair.

Designers suggest investing in a chair that fits your child’s needs. “Don’t use dad’s old chair ... or pull a chair from the dining room table,” said Deborah Wiener, owner of Designing Solutions in Silver Spring, Md. “If the back of the chair hits the back of their head, it is too tall. If their feet are dangling, the chair is too big. One of the many reasons kids tire when doing homework is that they don’t get back support. ... It’s a mistake to skimp on a chair.”

“The chair should support the student’s back and posture, and adjust to the growing needs of the student,” added Freeman. “There should be an adequate



PHOTOS COURTESY WENTWORTH, INC.

Bruce Wentworth of Wentworth, Inc. says a simple counter top with bookcases that includes a work surface for laptops, printers and scanners, like the one in this Alexandria home, is a desirable homework space.

work surface to accommodate books, computer, writing pad and task lighting, [as well as] storage.”

Lisa Magee, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., adds, “A place with upright seating — no swivel chairs or recliners — is best for learning. Good lighting ... helps children stay focused on their work and also keeps them alert.”

Centreville resident Liz Lee, a senior designer at Sun Design Inc., encourages parents to ensure that the homework area has “functional types of storage, [such as] file cabinets, baskets for crayons [and] scissors, so all of the supplies they need are right there.”

Bruce Wentworth, president of Wentworth, Inc. in Chevy Chase, Md., said, “A simple counter top with bookcases is very practical. A large work surface for laptops, printers and scanners is desirable, and grommets help hide the cords below the work surface.” Wentworth also suggests adding custom-built drawers and filing cabinets to homework spaces.

Arlington resident Allie Mann, project manager, Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., said “A fun or personalized calendar to teach time management,” she said. “Along those lines, have a clock nearby.”

Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda, Md., said, “One thing I always love to incorporate is a custom tack board. We choose a fun fabric that the children help pick out and then have [it] sized to fit specific workspace.”

WHEN DESIGNING A SPACE that is both functional and stylish, Moira Gannon Denson, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University, suggests using the elements and principles of design — color, shape, pattern and scale — to set the tone. This will allow the space to evolve as the child grows, she says: “Save the TV characters and cartoons for the stickers [for] their notebooks. ... Too much ‘trending’ can mean replacing in a year.”

When creating a space that is appealing to both children and their parents, Doebel does suggest teamwork, however. “It’s fun when a kid gets involved in the design process,” she said. “They are drawn to contrast and comfort [like] bold, bright colors [and] soft, warm surfaces. They are always honest about what they see and how they feel.”

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BY JOHN BYRD

If anything in the summer of 2013 points to still evolving homeowner expectations, it may be the frequency with which locals are integrating screen porches, patios, fire pits, and outdoor kitchens into original landscaping schemes that artfully marry the house to its setting.

Gone are the days of minimal outdoor improvements; today's homeowners are inclined to stay put and express themselves — which is why the traditional house as we've known it is becoming more personalized — in short, a home.

"It's a real renaissance," said Craig Durosko founder and chairman of Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, and one of the housing industry's more prescient trend spotters.

"Interestingly, when we started this company in the 1980s our core specialty was opening up views and creating visual continuum, so indoor/outdoor solutions are just a logical extension of what our culture has always been about."

Asked about current projects, Durosko said that Fairfax County's more affluent homeowners are actively seeking to better articulate the relationship of the house and grounds — an impulse which has gradually become a passion for outdoor spaces that can be used in both the hottest days of summer and fall's chilly nights.

"Homeowners want outdoor rooms — spaces that are wired for entertainment, useable for seven or eight months of the year, and so easy to maintain that the usual repair and replacement tasks are mostly eliminated," Durosko said. "Naturally, the changes must also enhance the home architecturally."

To meet a rising criteria, Durosko and colleagues constantly stay on top of a new generation of weather-resistant materials, absorbing and applying fine building techniques that will shape non-traditional materials into designs perfectly suited to the home's style and setting.

And as the standard has risen, so, too, the need to stay ahead of the curve.

TYING A NEWLY-DESIGNED outdoor feature to the existing home is fundamentally an architectural proposition, and one that Sun Design's Dawn Parker handles with practiced dexterity.

Starting with a blank canvas — the unadorned rear elevation to a Georgian-style brick home in McLean — Parker imagined a six-sided pavilion, with 10-foot ceilings and sweeping vistas.

The structure would segue from the pre-existing sunroom, courtesy of two sets of matching French doors. The white exterior trim is now crowned with a white balustrade visually connected to a columned "arbor trellis" that adds definition to the rear elevation. Since the high-ceiling interior the



PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

A fire pit adds appreciably to outdoor enjoyment. Cushioned wicker furniture can generally be left outside without cover, so the patio becomes a gathering spot that doesn't require a lot of use-preparation.

owners wanted precluded a conventional "pitched" roof — which would have obstructed a second floor window — Parker designed an inverted membrane ceiling that accommodates internal drainage tied into the existing underground system.

Rainspouts are concealed inside the trimmed porch columns and extended, unseen, along the ogee end "eagle head" trellis. The trellis "ends," in turn, continue as a decorative motif around the top of the porch.

The overall design, as Parker envisioned, perfectly elaborates the home's classic architecture while spotlighting the impressive "English garden" that dominates the backyard. The existing barbecue grill remains steps from either the kitchen or the porch, but now there are multiple dining venues. From the porch, in fact, the owners can keep an eye on the pool when the children are playing.

The patchwork design of the English garden, the old, flagstone patio, the small pond with running water, the crepe myrtles along the property line — all give the setting a refined textural elegance.

"I wanted the whole to look inevitable — as if the design had always been there," Parker notes. "This is what good architecture is always about."

"WE THINK OF AN OUTDOOR living plan is a creative response to an owner's personal requirements," says Bob Gallagher, whose extensive design/build portfolio extends back some 25 years. "The important point is not how much of it is open or enclosed, but how well the whole supports a lifestyle in which exposure to nature is the primary goal."

A recent dining decking plus sunroom solution in Oak Hill illustrates the point. After years of occupying a home custom-designed precisely to exploit a pretty wooded setting, the owners had decided they wanted a still stronger link to the out-

doors. Low-maintenance was an essential ingredient, but they initially envisioned an "outdoor room," free from insects — yet with dramatic views in all directions.

As the conversation developed, however, extending the room's seasonal usefulness gradually became a rising aspiration.

"If we could create a dramatic connectedness to nature and extend the room seasonally, we were heading to the right solution," Gallagher said.

At a glance, the resulting 10.5-foot by 12.5-foot sunroom is a neatly balanced space plan that seems neither closed nor overexposed to the elements. Floor-to-ceiling windows define the room on every elevation. Overhead, two skylights installed on a hipped roof allow 25 square feet of natural light. Ceramic tile flooring and other neutral finishes reinforce the natural, open ambiance, which is visually linked to the welcoming dining deck.

To preserve generous views on the existing rear elevation, Gallagher and team placed the sunroom directly off the kitchen to the left of the family room. Built-ins and a fireplace comfortably integrate the space to the existing interior. The room is a favored spot to watch the trees, and mostly opened-up for cross breezes on temperate days.

Since upkeep requirements were to be restricted to an annual pressure wash, even the sunroom's exterior paneling is low-maintenance Hardiboard. Trex decking, aluminum balusters and vinyl-clad posts further an outdoor design scheme that is also easy to maintain.

SOMETIMES DUROSKO'S FIRST CALL from a homeowner comes when some weather-exposed part of an existing house has conspicuously failed.

To repair the front facade of a Fairfax home, for instance, Durosko and team replaced a leaking flat roof portico with an architecturally-appropriate alternative that features a concave metal roof. In lieu of the original wood-trimmed front-window, the remodeler called for an aluminum-framed arch-topped window integrated with other exterior elements. For added weather-protection, new portico supports are trimmed in PVC.

In the rear, the outdoor living plan called for a 17-foot by 16-foot screen porch and a grilling deck, a ground-level patio and a stand-alone fire pit complete with cushioned wicker couches, table and settee.

"We were tasked with finding the best way to visually rationalize the whole," Durosko said. "Views and focal points were considered essential to the project's success."

To keep sightlines from the kitchen uncluttered, for instance, Durosko situated the grilling deck immediately outside the kitchen door, flanking the new screened porch to the right. From the grilling deck, a stairway descends eight steps before arriving at a landing where it splits in two directions.

"A steeper descent would have undermined the project's proportionality," Durosko said.

At ground level, the staircase reconnects with a semicircular stone planter. Several "built" features were designed to accommodate new landscaping. The curvilinear patio segues to a second platform crowned with an eight-foot stone hearth perfect for fire gazing.

The screen porch, meanwhile, demonstrates how durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. A Trex "transcend" railing with black aluminum balusters was selected since it won't interfere with views by reflecting light. Fiberglass charcoal screen, likewise, preserves an element of privacy.

Pressure-treated southern yellow pine flooring undergirded with screen mesh assures that bugs stay out. A fir-beaded tongue-and-groove wood ceiling lends the open-air setting a natural burnish.

Durosko chose paneled Hardiboard for the porch's inside wall — a neutral backdrop for the wide-screen plasma TV mounted next to a window that serves as a food and beverage pass-through.

Equipped with overhead fans and portable heaters, the porch is habitable in all but the coldest days of winter — an ideal place for fall football games, or almost anything.

"Fairfax County residents are using their outdoor settings more than ever," said Durosko. "Our job is to show homeowners how to stretch the seasons, and savor nature's changes."

More

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

OPINION

Cherishing Tauxemont

FROM PAGE 6

property. A pioneer was one of the original settlers who formed the co-op in 1940. (Since I have lived here, there have been three- and even a four-generation Tauxemont Family. Flossie said, "One of the ways you can tell a Tauxemont is they are 'nuts about trees.'"

I am respectfully saying that the article about Hollin Hills has inaccuracies. It was not the first planned subdivision. Tauxemont was, though never a subdivision as the home owners bought and owned the land. Davenport got his feet wet with Tauxemont and then developed Hollin Hills at a later time. The basic architecture and landscape is similar. Tauxemont began to be built 9-10 years before Hollin Hills.

Great care was taken to preserve the land and topography. Siting the homes not facing the roads was an important idea.

From the application for Historic District: Tauxemont 1 was begun in the early 1940s. Its original 100 houses, built sequentially in three areas were completed at the end of that decade, were a planned community to be situated in the woods with as little disruption of the natural setting as possible. Tauxemonters love the country feel of their community, and it has never had sidewalks or curbs and gutters, and has rejected streetlights.

Skeptical on Medicaid

To the Editor:

Judging by your editorial ["Issues That Matter: Mental health services discussion gives insight into real differences between candidates," Connection, August 7-13, 2013], gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli has a real problem with a key demographic: voters who believe in Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny. You fault Ken for being skeptical of what you see as Virginia's opportunity to expand health care for poor residents, with the bill paid by the federal government. Would that it were so.

Ken is trained as an engineer and given the opportunity will be Virginia's Innovation Governor. By training and experience he knows what works and what doesn't in the real world.

Yes, the federal government is supposed to pay the full cost for Medicaid expansion during the first three years (2014-16) but the costsharing rate would be reduced from 100 percent to 92.8 percent by 2019.

Medicaid is already the largest budget item for the states, accounting for 22 percent of their budget expenditures as of 2010, and recent studies such as that by Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute suggest that for some states, even without any expansion, Medicaid expenditures are already unsustainable. Moreover, the unprecedented federal budget deficits projected through 2019 and beyond put Medicaid support for states and all other general revenue-supported federal programs at risk. Therefore, perhaps you will forgive Ken for looking forward a bit and being skeptical of what you apparently regard as free money.



PHOTO FROM NANCY FORD-KOHN

Coming into our home — a lot of leaves to rake.

Unfortunately of late Tauxemont continues to see tear-downs. Folks want the land and are willing to pay many hundreds of thousands of dollars for it. Then there is a replacement of our ranch style homes that tuck into the land with Mac Mansions. That usually means first taking down all trees, shrubs, even our famous azaleas.

Nancy Ford-Kohne
Tauxemont, Alexandria

With respect to mental health, Ken has an outstanding, demonstrated record of personal dedication. He has served on the Virginia Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health in the Justice System and has personally represented individuals in Virginia's civil, involuntary commitment process.

Finally, perhaps we should be at least a little careful as to what we wish for. A University of Virginia study shows that surgical patients on Medicaid are 13 percent more likely to die than those without any health insurance at all.

Burton Jay Rubin
Burke

AN ASIDE

Anyone who visits George Washington's Mount Vernon learns that the mansion has two main entrances. The one on the side facing the Potomac River (the one with all the nice columns and stuff), while beautiful, is not the main entrance. The main entrance, through which George, Martha, Barack Obama and perhaps Brigitte Bardot would pass is the one on the rear of the house, which is really the front.

Why is it important that I inform you of this? Because it seems as if today's elite congresspersons are unable to distinguish fronts from rears, including their own; so I want to be sure the public is not confused.

— BART HEWITT

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Tre'Ron Brooks, center, will be a physical presence in the middle of the Mount Vernon defense.



PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Carlton Griffith broke the Mount Vernon single-season rushing record last season with 1,671 yards on the ground.

Record-Breaking RB Griffith To Carry Load for Majors

Coach Wells pleased with physical linebacker play.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon running back Carlton Griffith set the school's single-season rushing record last year, amassing 1,671 yards on the ground. Now a senior, Griffith figures to be the focal point of opposing defenses, which will likely stack the box to slow the Majors' run-heavy offense.

What motivates a record-holder to keep working hard in the face of an uphill climb? In Griffith's case, it's a fellow Northern Virginia running back who put together an even more impressive 2012 campaign.

"[Robinson running back] Joe Wilson, he was in front of me last year,"

Griffith said after a recent Mount Vernon practice. "He got 2,000 yards, and I want 2,000 yards, so that's my motivation. [I've] got to be No. 1."

Fourth-year head coach Barry Wells has reminded Griffith of the challenge that lies ahead.

"No one will remember last year if he doesn't do something spectacular this year,"

Wells said. "It is what it is; it's a fine accomplishment, but he's not going to be a secret anymore. He's going to be a marked man, so he's going to have to work twice as hard."

Griffith will need some help if he intends to reach 2,000 yards and the Majors plan on reaching the playoffs for the first time since 2010. Sophomore running back Josh McGrigg could help lighten the load for Griffith. McGrigg is a track star and a threat to go the distance when he touches the ball.

"You want to get the ball in the hands of the guy that's going to do the most for you," Wells said. "In space, [McGrigg] is a very dangerous, dangerous player. We've got to find a way to take advantage of what he does best."

Senior Brendon Maturey returns for his second full season as the Majors' starting quarterback. Wells said he needs better decision-making from Maturey, whose passing skills could help take defensive focus off the Majors' ground game.

Kurron Ramsey and Greg Smith are Mount Vernon's top receiving threats.

On the offensive line, Wells said the Majors need a big season from 6-foot-3, 320-pound right guard Jacob Allen. The senior also plays defensive tackle.

On the defensive side of the ball, Mount Vernon is moving from a 4-2-5 to a 4-3 alignment, based primarily on the strength of the Majors' linebacking corps. Middle backer Tre'Ron Brooks, and outside backers Jordan McClure and Christian Abenes

figure to give the defense a physicality injection.

"[McClure is a] very quiet kid ... but he's very smart," Wells said. "Of the linebacking crew, he probably is the most savvy with regard to what we're trying to do scheme-wise."

"... Tre'Ron Brooks is ... strong, he's heavy, he's going to fill up the middle and if he comes downhill the way he's been doing it, that's going to be more presence in the middle than we've had during my tenure, so I'm looking forward to that."

"... Christian Abenes is young, up-and-coming [and] strong. [He's] a little slow of foot, but not afraid to get his nose dirty. That's been our problem: getting guys to come downhill and not running kind of away from the flow or running lateral with the flow. [We want players] really stepping in gaps and filling. We hope to be a little more physical at the linebacker position."

Brooks has tried to establish an aggressive mentality with his fellow linebackers. "I told my linebackers, straight up,"

Brooks said, "our motto this year is either hit or be hit."

Griffith and Maturey could see spot duty at safety.

Mount Vernon will play in 5A North's Conference 13 after the VHS's six-class realignment. The conference is composed of teams from the former National, Liberty and Patriot Districts. Joining Mount Vernon is: Thomas Jefferson, Marshall, Edison, Falls Church, Stuart, Wakefield and Lee.

Mount Vernon will open the season on the road against South County at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30. The Majors will then face a pair of former Concorde District teams (Herndon on Sept. 6 and Robinson on Sept. 20) before hosting Stuart on Sept. 27.

"We've got a challenging first three games and coming out of those first three games on the positive side is going to really influence how things go for us coming down the stretch," Wells said. "We need the kids to be resilient. If we can steal a game here, steal a game there, we can make things very interesting."

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Cristina Chilstrom was a recipient of the dean's award for academic excellence during the 2013 spring term at Colgate University.

Christopher McDonough graduated from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

Ashley Lynn Thorpe graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor of social work degree.

The Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech awarded **Raymond Chaing** the Pamplin Leadership Award offered through University Honors for the 2013-14 academic year. Chaing, who graduated from Mount Vernon High

School in 2013, will be majoring in general engineering at College of Engineering at Virginia Tech.

The Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech awarded **Brian T. Smith** the Pamplin Leadership Award offered through University Honors for the 2013-14 academic year. Smith, who graduated from West Potomac High School in 2013, will be majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech at Virginia Tech.

William Rice was awarded an Illinois State Society Congressional Intern Scholarship and honored at a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. on July 30. Illinois State Society scholarships assist students from Illinois in offsetting the cost of a summer internship in the offices of the Illinois Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.



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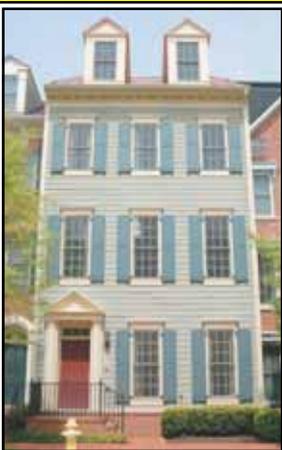


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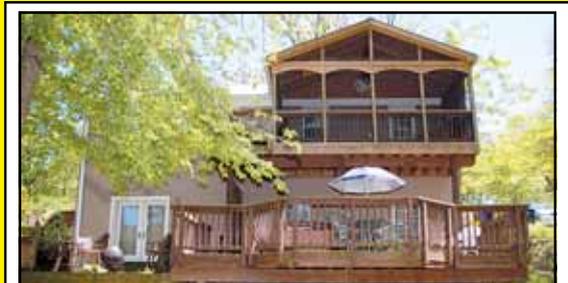
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