



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUIGLES/MOUNT VERNON

Market Fair

The annual Mount Vernon Colonial Market and Fair was held Sept. 14-15 at the estate. Tents filled with handmade items were for sale from artisans in period costumes. More photos, page 8.



Helen Davis talks to Gary W. Robinson of Jack Mountain Crafters, about his handmade brooms and brushes. The craftsman has been coming to the Market Fair for 15 years and was delighted to find his tent on the cover of this year's program.



Laurel Dabs carves decoys and folk art birds for display. She's been carving for 25 years and learned from a family of multi-generational carvers who wanted her to continue the tradition.

Full Disclosure?

Forms plagued by a lack of information, absence of oversight; redacted documents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell is in hot water for taking gifts without disclosing them, and legislators are talking about increasing disclosure requirements for family members. But here in Northern Virginia, personal financial disclosure forms are often incomplete and inconsistent. Some elected officials choose to disclose a great deal of information while others disclose very little. Fairfax County officials have decided to redact information that's supposed to be part of the public record. And nobody is reviewing the forms to make sure they are accurate.

"During campaigns, the State Board of Elections reviews our campaign finance forms but the same thing does not happen when we file our annual forms of financial interest," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "You would think that someone was taking a look, but that's not hap-

pening. And it probably should be happening."

A look at the personal financial disclosure forms across Northern Virginia reveals a hodgepodge of disclosure, some meticulous and others lacking. One of the biggest disparities is in the disclosure of gifts. Bulova's form includes three pages of gift disclosures, everything from symphony tickets to Chamber of Commerce dinners. Some elected officials are meticulous in documenting events they have attended and noting the value while others simply leave the form blank.

"Virginia's disclosure laws are basically a big joke."

— Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics

"There's a lot of things we end up reporting that aren't gifts at all — things like when you are obliged to go to some dinner," said Arlington County Board member Chris Zimmerman. "So technically, that's a gift. But would these people be going to these events if they didn't have to? On the other hand, a Rolex watch is a gift."

THE FORMS are supposed to include information about every SEE LOCAL ELECTED, PAGE 18

Gerald Read, 58, Dies in Navy Yard Shootings

Resident of Riverside Estates in Mount Vernon was "rock solid."

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Gerald Read, 58, of Mount Vernon was one of the victims in the Navy Yard on Monday, Sept. 16, where 12 people died at the hands of shooter Aaron Alexis.

Read was working at his civilian job at Building 197 where he managed security risks as an information assurance specialist for the Navy Sea Systems Command. He had served for more than 25 years in both active duty and reserves for the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"He was rock solid, steady — all

those military traits," said wife Cathy of the Riverside Estates community. She works for the State Department and said she was bombarded by phone calls from the media on Tuesday.

On Monday morning, she sent him an email or text around 10 a.m. and didn't hear back, which she says wasn't unusual. "Some days we didn't email or text all day long," she said. "He had his meetings and I was always busy at work. It was only about 8 o'clock that we started being concerned."

At around 9:30 or 10 p.m., she said government officials arrived to give the news that her husband had been killed.

Married for 35 years, the couple traveled a lot in their early marriage but were homebodies in later life.

For a time, the couple had lived in Germany. Gerald Read also lived in London, Germany, toured Korea and traveled to Egypt with the Reserves.

He loved to walk his dog, a black Labrador retriever named Roderick. The couple helped rescue labs, and had three labs plus an English Setter and two cats.

He was passionate about reading, especially about the Civil War. He also enjoyed tinkering in the yard and planting flowers. A sports fan, he followed the Washington

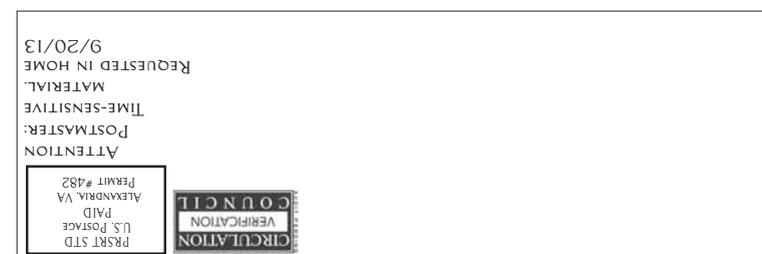
Redskins and Pittsburgh Pirates, and also loved going to the Nats games occasionally.

The couple has one daughter, Jessica, 32, and three grandchildren.

Cathy Read said that a memorial service is in the early planning stages. "We're going to do a me-

memorial service, but I don't know when yet," she said. "I think the community can be involved but we're not quite there yet."

Gerald Read is survived wife Cathy, daughter Jessica, three grandchildren, his father, a brother and sister-in-law, and two nephews.





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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon High student leaders La'Ciera Edwards, Anwar Muhammad, LaNaya Butler, Asante Foster and Dannah Pritchard in front of the new school mural.

MVHS Strives To Build Unity

Major Pride and Major Bucks programs focus on positive behavior.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

In its "Major Pride" program, Mount Vernon High School is making major strides to improve student behavior and emphasize the positive approach to things. Even though it has many components—including conflict resolution and peer mediation—its goal is simple: prevention and instruction.

"It's really a different approach to discipline," said Melinda Bloomquist, who heads the Student Government Association and The Em Vee Hi School Newspaper. "Instead of focusing on consequences and punishments after the fact, PBIS initiatives [Positive Behavior Intervention and Support] and the Major Pride initiatives focus on prevention and instruction before a negative behavior occurs."

To that end, leadership students created seven videos that focus on the Major Pride matrix—mocking negative behaviors and demonstrating positive ones. For example, they created a video that shows how to "walk with a purpose" and find the most direct route to class for students who linger too long in the hallways.

Another video demonstrates respectful cafeteria behavior by showing how leaving lunchroom garbage impacts the next group. The videos are aired on the morning news and Major Time, which is homeroom.

"The leadership students showed the wrong thing. Then they showed the table nice and clean," said Bloomquist. "It's much more effective when the students teach the students."

Special ed teacher Sam Hedenberg, who co-advises the newspaper and is on the PBIS Committee, said the program was sort of abstract when it started three years ago. "We had difficulty in getting traction," he said. "But as the years progressed, people started to believe in it."

He says the Major Bucks program that rewards positive behaviors is now very effective and doing well. It works like this: When students come to class on time, or give correct answers or have their materials ready, MVHS staff rewards them with Major Bucks—coupons that can be redeemed for T-shirts, a Nook, or pens and folders. Prices range from 2 to 100 for Major Bucks.

To help steer Major Pride, some 30 students in the MVHS leadership class plan school activities from top to bottom. They are elected SGA officers, SGA Executive Board members, and class officers (seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen); the others need to get approval from teachers and counselors to be admitted to the class.

"To me, they're the best of the best," said Bloomquist. "They're hard-working and highly motivated; they are all dedicated to Mount Vernon in serving the student body."

Each class has its own fund-raiser that they organize: freshmen do a Breakfast with Santa; sophomores create a Talent Show; juniors do a Miss Personality; and seniors run Mr. Mount Vernon. There are mulch sales, car washes, bake sales, poinsettia sales, and Valentine's Grams.

Their goal is to help build "school identity" through the Marching Majors program. They plan Homecoming Week, Oct. 7-12, with a pep rally, homecoming parade, and Powderpuff football game. On the first Friday of the month, students wear Mount Vernon Majors spirit wear, school colors and sports jerseys.

"It encourages students to have pride in their school colors; helping them to feel they are part of it and that they belong," said Bloomquist.

Unfortunately, for some teens, being involved, getting good grades and doing well is not a cool thing culturally. To combat that problem, MVHS has enlisted these highly-motivated students to switch the focus by working with them on a peer-to-peer level.

"Our goal is to get those students in the middle who don't know which way to go—the cool or the uncool side—to show those students which side to go to," said Bloomquist.

Sunshine Chair Alexis Sarner, 16, helps plan monthly birthdays with cake, ice cream and balloons.

SEE STRIVING FOR UNITY, PAGE 17

Citizens Weigh In On Housing Proposal

Concerns arise over impact in Route 1 corridor.

BY NAOMI SMOOT
THE GAZETTE

Community groups are hopeful that limits will be placed on a proposal to permit the development of small, affordable apartments in Fairfax County.

"The (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations) realizes that allowing studio units provides more flexibility and choices in the housing market; however, the Federation has reservations about the currently proposed amendment," the organization indicated in a proposed resolution that was reviewed recently by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations' (MVCCA) Planning and Zoning Committee.

The proposed amendment to the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance would permit builders to construct 500 square-foot apartments that would then be marketed to low-income residents. Known as Residential Studio Units or RSUs, the apartments are seen by proponents as a way to address the county's affordable housing needs. Others, however, question where the units might be located, and wonder what effect they might have on existing neighborhoods.

The Federation's resolution seeks to limit the areas in which the proposed studio units could be built. Specifically, the group seeks to ensure that the units are built only in areas zoned for commercial and multi-family-residential development. The resolution also requests that the studio units be placed a minimum of 500 feet from any other studio unit, and that the new construction does not interfere with the character of existing neighborhoods, among other things.

During the MVCCA's Planning and Zoning Committee meeting on Sept. 9, members discussed drafting a resolution of their own on the topic. As part of their discussions, they questioned what impact the units might have on the Route 1 corridor if they are approved, and why the proposed zoning amendment was being brought forward.

Tim Sargeant, at-large member of the Fairfax County Planning

Commission, told group members that the zoning amendment dates back several years, and has its roots in the county's comprehensive plan to end homelessness.

The plan, which was approved by the Board of Supervisor's in 2005, aimed to eradicate homelessness in the area within 10 years of its passage. The proposed studio apartments would be a step towards that goal, and could be occupied only by individuals who earn 60 percent or less of the area's median income.

According to Earl Flanagan, who represents Mount Vernon on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, the proposed studio units would not be unlike efficiency apartments that are already permitted under the county's zoning ordinance.

"We've already allowed it," he said.

Sargeant, however, appeared to have reservations about the proposal, stating that if the amendment was approved, "I will be moving to Culpeper."

Even if the zoning change gets the green light though, developers may have to go through a competitive process before they could obtain the funding necessary to build such units.

"You can't limit it to that income level and get the rents you need. I don't see how you'd build this without subsidies," said Rick Edson, of AHP Virginia.

Edson's company has already undertaken development of several low-income housing communities in Fairfax County. He said that such projects are only economically viable if they receive tax credits and other government subsidies. The studio units would also likely require government financing, which doesn't come easily, he said.

"It could happen, but they're going to have to go through the same competitive process we do," Edson said.

Members of the MVCAA indicated that they plan to submit a resolution expressing their views on the proposed ordinance change.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission plans to hold its first work session on the issue on Sept. 25, with an official public hearing on the matter scheduled for Nov. 20 at 8:15 p.m. The hearing will take place in the Board Auditorium, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

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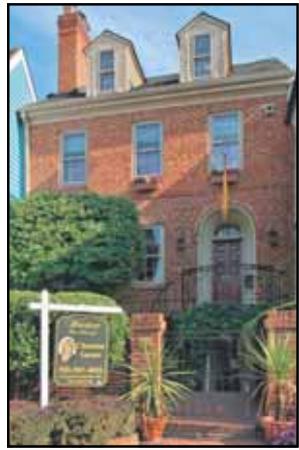


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PHOTOS BY RENEE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre held auditions for "Disney's High School Musical" on Sept. 9 and 11 at Bryant Alternative High School. Board members Kyle Roberts and Karen Kelly collected paperwork and signed in everyone who was auditioning.

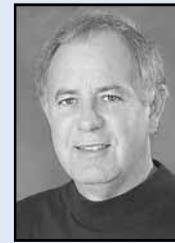
Youths Audition for Children's Theatre



After Austin Fodrie gets the young actors to line up, Producer Laura Webster gives them directions about the audition.



After everyone goes inside, the waiting begins for parents and younger siblings.



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Brad Bennink Leads Washington Mill ES

New principal not afraid to take risks, sings Justin Bieber tunes.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

On July 1, Brad Bennink, 39, was named new principal of Washington Mill Elementary in Mount Vernon.

At the start of school, Washington Mill had 665 students, of which 86 percent are

in the general education program. It has a staff of 100, including 59 teachers and specialists, with three administrators. The school ethnicity includes: Asian 8 percent; Black 30 percent; Hispanic 35 percent; White 21 percent and Other 5 percent. More than half of the students are on free or reduced lunches.

For academic goals, Bennink says his pri-

ority is to close achievement gaps. "I want to increase some of the opportunities that are available to students," he said.

For starters, he's implementing a two-way Spanish immersion program that begins in Kindergarten, where two of its four classes are devoted to half days in Spanish. The math, science and language arts are all in Spanish; social studies and language arts

are in English. The local Level 4 program, which provides advanced academics for grades 3-6, has also expanded.

At Washington Mill, about 31 percent of its students are in the ESOL program, which has three ESOL teachers who work with other teachers at various grade levels.

The school is also a cluster autism site, SEE NEW PRINCIPAL, PAGE 9



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NEWS



At the Invincible Spirit Festival on Sept. 11 at Fort Belvoir, Gary Sinise stopped to talk to the audience about Stephen Siller and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. He encouraged people to get involved in the upcoming Tunnel to Towers Run.



Mari Anne Jayme, of the Lt. Dan Band, stepped out and did a rendition of Mariah Carey's "Hero."



Dan Myers delighted audiences with his fiddling skills during a performance of Charlie Daniel's "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."



Chef Robert Irvine spent some one-on-one time with a big fan, 14-year-old Daniel Ruggles, asking him questions, smiling for pictures, and assuring him that he went on to better things after being eliminated from the Next Iron Chef competition. Irvine took off his Gary Sinise's foundation wristband and put it on Daniel, telling him it was important.



Invincible Spirit Festival

Pam Horton, USO Metro Warrior and Family Center manager, thanked the Gary Sinise Foundation, Chef Robert Irvine, and Cisco Systems for the event they brought to Fort Belvoir. The audience was given a timeline for the activities, including the Lt. Dan Band concert, later in the evening.



The cooks helping prepare food for the event were members of different branches of the military.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

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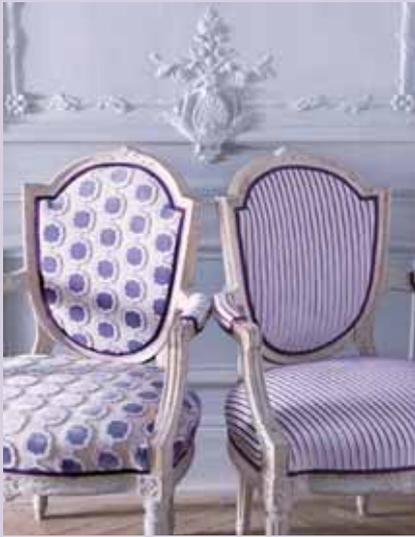
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PEOPLE



Historical interpreters and performers walked among the visitors at the annual Mount Vernon Colonial Market Fair on Sept. 14-15 at the estate.



Shoppers paused at the Fairthorne Pottery tent to watch Richard Nippert as he painted details on a large bowl. Inside their tent were pieces for sale that showed his 38 years of experience as a potter.

At Market Fair



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Families filled the entertainment tent to watch the Punch and Judy Puppet Show.



The Butteridge Forge tent was popular with visitors who stopped to watch Richard Clay at work. He has been a blacksmith for about 38 years, studying his craft under a number of Master Blacksmiths including Peter Rosso of Williamsburg.



Jonathan Stealey of Camera Obscura specializes in 17th & 18th Century Cameras. He built an exact replica of camera obscura, which he talked about with interested shoppers. Behind him was the tent-sized Grand Camera that he demonstrated during tours.



The annual Mount Vernon Colonial Market & Fair was held Sept. 14-15 at the estate. Tents filled with handmade items were for sale from artisans in period costumes.



A Revolutionary War Camp was set up near the back of the Colonial Market Fair. There historical interpreters shared canons and rifles with interested visitors.



Shoppers were treated to period music played by Rob Moulard of 18th Century Musick.

New Principal at Washington Mill

FROM PAGE 6

which means that students travel there from other schools for autism services. The school has autism specialists as well as instructional assistants with special skills.

Bennink's challenge is not to do too much too quickly, "because you'll fail if you try to do it all at once simultaneously," he said. "So you have to understand many different viewpoints and perspectives, and you have to systematically roll out supports so there are structures in place to meet those goals."

He can be seen greeting students and parents with a smile out front for arrivals and dismissals, as well as lunch duty every day. "I make sure I'm in classrooms, that I'm providing feedback to the teachers," he said. He personally works on three grade-level teams that monitor instruction and provide support.

Bennink is also working to strengthen the PTA so it better reflects the diversity of the student body. "I want to be sure that the PTA reflects those demographics," he said. To broaden communication, he started Ustream live video streaming at PTA meetings so that parents can watch from their laptops. All of the correspondence with parents goes home in both English and Spanish. And whenever parents attend meetings or assemblies, there are Spanish headsets.

Because historic Mount Vernon is so close, the school takes field trips there as well as the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Museum and monuments in the District.

Tim Kasik, principal of Crestwood Elementary, said: "His energy is unmatched and he will do great things for that community." He calls Bennink, who he's known for 11 years, a courageous risk-taker who's not afraid to do the right thing. "He's a visionary that will take Washington Mill on the path to academic success."

Kirsten Habib, a third-grade teacher, calls Bennink very down-to-earth with a personality that fits the moment. "When we're having fun with the kids, he's willing to get himself taped to a wall for a gift-wrap fundraiser. But he's also very serious and committed to our school and staff," she adds.

For a Boost-a-Thon fundraiser next week, Bennink



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Brad Bennink is the new principal of Washington Mill Elementary School.

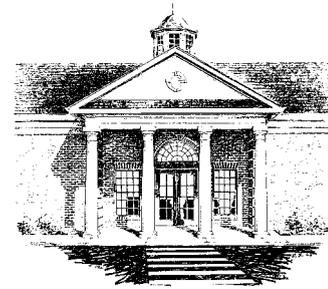
will sing a song by Justin Bieber over the announcements if students collect pledges from all 50 states. "He's got a great singing voice, too," Habib said.

Forrest Chilton, a sixth-grade teacher at the school, says Bennink is known for thinking of each individual child. "He also cares for the teachers, parents, and grandparents. We had grandparents at the PTA meeting last night."

The school has active business partners, including: Roy Rogers, Geranio's Ristorante, Dobson Building and Remodeling, City Finance Corp., Old Country Buffet, Hilltop Golf Club, the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. Occasionally Cake also contributes goodies.

Bennink grew up in York County near Hampton Roads, Va. He graduated in 1997 from Longwood College in Farmville with a history major. He received a master's degree in 2007 from GMU in education leadership. His first job was student-teaching first- and fifth-grade in Virginia Beach for two years. In 1999, he transferred to Forestville Elementary in Great Falls where he taught first grade. He left teaching for a while to work in financial services and sales. In 2005, he took a job at Brookfield Elementary teaching first grade. He transferred to Washington Mill in 2009 as an instructional coach, then assistant principal from 2010-13. On July 1, he was named its principal. He is married to wife Maria, a teacher at Cunningham Park Elementary. The couple resides in Vienna and has twin daughters: Sofia and Zoe, age 7.

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OPINION

Addressing Virginia's Economy

Ending gridlock in Congress and supporting health care reform would be huge steps in supporting economic recovery in Virginia.

The strength of Virginia's economy, especially Northern Virginia's economy, comes significantly from federal spending.

So while the governor and other elected officials claim that Virginia's success is because Virginia is a low-tax state with fewer regulations, it's worth considering that the sequester and continuing gridlock in Congress threaten Virginia's most important resource, federal spending.

Virginia 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.)

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.

Current Virginia elected officials have barricaded the doors against expansion of an industry that would add more than 30,000 quality jobs in Virginia at no cost to taxpayers. The

expansion of Medicaid, which would provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 Virginians who currently cannot afford health insurance, would give Virginia's economy a significant boost, and create more than 30,000 jobs. Virginia taxpayers will still pay the taxes that will fund the expansion of Medicaid in other states without reaping the benefits of a healthier population and economic stimulus.

Private sector growth in Virginia depends on its educated and sophisticated workforce, on top school systems and universities. It depends on reliable transportation systems and access to high-speed Internet. And it depends on continuing to attract federal contracting dollars.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner both work in the best interests of the commonwealth when they work to promote a culture of moderation and compromise in Congress.

EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Generous Community

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to all area residents.

You blew us away with your enthusiastic support on Tag Day last Saturday. We simply cannot thank you enough.

Our kids knocked on your doors, and you responded with incredible generosity.

Fairfax County Public Schools doesn't fully fund the arts, but because of your donations, our programs will have the instruments, props, equipment, costumes, travel budgets and other things that allow us to provide a top-notch learning experience.

We truly hope that you will tape that "tag" up on your refrigerator, and come see as many of our performances as you can. The students in band, chorus, drama, orchestra and guitar are eager to show you what they're learning in the Fine Arts Department at West Potomac.

The Directors of the West Potomac Fine Arts Department



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

More than 200 West Potomac students canvassed the area on Sept. 14 seeking support for the school's Fine Arts Department. The students delivered a "tag" inviting residents to their band, drama, chorus, orchestra, and guitar events for the year.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/SEPT. 24

Hearing Loss Program. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing presents a three-part program titled "I Can't Hear You." Free. Registration required, 703-765-4573 TTY: 711.

WEDNESDAYS/SEPT. 18-OCT. 23

Free Seminar Series. 1-3 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Join Fairfax County's Independent Living Project, a free seminar series along with exercise classes for strength and balance that help older adults remain independent. The program also offers professional home safety reviews. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm, call 703-324-7210, TTY 711 or e-mail Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Kickoff Dinner. 6:30 p.m. at Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway, Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW will discuss their activities for the year. \$27/dinner. RSVP by Sept. 15 at 703-768-8996.

Discussion and Film. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Model Railroad Club presents "Railway Journeys of the World." 703-765-4573.

Home Fit. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn how to stay independent and injury free at home. Free. Reservations required, 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Celebrate the Groveton Community. 4-6 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Meet neighbors, share memories and meet Charlotte Brown, author of "Groveton." Free. Visit www.historichuntley.org or 703-768-2525.

Art and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. Local artists will sell a variety of handcrafted items including musical instruments, jewelry, paintings and

more. Lunch and baked goods will be sold.

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.

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Free fall risk assessments will be conducted by physical therapists and physical therapy assistants from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne Center. No registration required. 703-339-7676 TTY 711.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Alzheimer's Association Presentation. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about the 10 warning signs. Free. Reservations required, 703-765-4573.

MONDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 23-29

Rabies Awareness Week. Throughout the week, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and

the Virginia Department of Health will promote guidelines to prevent families and pets from being exposed to rabies, offer educational opportunities to learn more about the destructive virus, and encourage veterinarians to communicate the dangers of rabies with patient families and others in the veterinary medicine community. Dr. Julia Murphy, State Public Health Veterinarian with the Virginia Department of Health, recently recorded a podcast discussing rabies awareness and prevention. She also explains that rabies is most commonly found in Virginia's wildlife; however, it is important to remember that any mammal can get rabies. In Virginia, approximately 10 percent of animals diagnosed with rabies annually are domestic animals such as dogs and cats. For tips on preventing this disease and to hear additional information from Dr. Murphy, download the podcast at www.mmipublicrelations.com/podcasts/entry/virginia-veterinary-medical-association-recognizes-rabies-awareness-week/. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 16

NEWS

Vibrant Streets Summit Planned

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation is hosting a business forum at Hampton Inn on Route 1 on Sept. 25, 8-10 a.m.

Executive Director Edythe Kelleher, in announcing the Vibrant Streets Summit, said, "This Summit makes the community aware of current trends in real estate development and allows the district to stay in touch with what's going on." Speakers invited are Steve Bannister, Capital Investment Advisers; Heather Arnold, Streetsense, and John Tschiderer, Federal Realty Investment Trust.

The guest speakers will discuss public-private partnerships, mixed use development, land use issues, design and construction management, real estate trends and opportunities in the Route 1 Corridor, among other subjects.

Coffee and a continental breakfast will be provided. Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation is a non-profit corporation that promotes the revitalization of Richmond Highway.

See www.SFDC.org. Call: 703-360-5008

— GERALD A. FILL



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out to patio with waterfall and koi pond. Family room opens up to deck. 4 BD, 2 full and 2 half BA in cul-de-sac location. ~ \$685,000

1909 Sword Lane Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 2-4



New Construction only steps to Fort Hunt Park and Potomac River. 5/6 bedrooms, 5 full baths. BR/den/library on main level. High ceilings, 2 fireplaces, copper shingles and arched roof. Backyard fenced w/deck. ~ \$1,195,000



8911 Charles Augustine Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 2-4



Stunning waterfront home on the Potomac River on .86 acres in Hallowing Point. 2-level contemporary style with 4 bedrooms, 2.5



baths and 2-car garage with room to expand. Swimming pool and gardens overlook a two mile expanse of river views. ~ \$1,395,000

5813 River Drive Lorton, VA 22079

Open Sunday 2-4



Spacious, split foyer in sought after Riverside Gardens. Great location and ready for immediate move-in! New



carpet, new roof, updated kitchen and baths, with large deck just off the kitchen overlooking the large, lush backyard. ~ \$685,000

8417 Riverside Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Potomac River Views



This extraordinary French Country style home is the epitome of elegance and comfort. 8500 sq. ft. on .61 acres with spectacular views of the Potomac River. Impeccable attention to detail. 6 BD, 4 full & 3 half BA, 3-car garage. ~ \$2,950,000



7715 Northdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

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Beautiful villa with panoramic views of the Potomac River. Sited on a hill with idyllic privacy, this home features authentic Mediterranean architecture, terraced gardens, patios, multiple French doors opening to expansive rear flagstone terrace, high ceilings, spacious rooms and incredible attention to detail. Three bedroom, four and a half baths with two car garage. ~ \$1,950,000



7608 Southdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

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Gorgeous waterfront lot located in a premier neighborhood of luxurious, upscale homes. Stunning



views on .56 acres in a lush, serene environment. Please call for more information. ~ \$1,500,000

884 Andalusia Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

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Completely remodeled kitchen with gas range, SS appliances, tall cabinets & mineral jet countertops. New carpet, freshly painted, master



with attached bath and walk-in closet, 130 sq ft balcony. Fees include 2 parking spaces, storage unit, fitness center, water and gas. 3 BD /2BA. ~ \$309,000

51 Skyhill Road Alexandria, VA 22314

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Build your dream home on the waterfront. Approx. 6,000 sq ft on 2 levels on 1/3 acre overlooking the serene waters of Little Hunting Creek with Potomac River



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Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



Rivergate in Old Town \$1,148,000
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Terrific Potomac Rvr lifestyle in Old Town! 3BR/4.5BA/2CG. Qual TH, open floor plan, fab kit & baths. Stroll, ride, bike, to all of Old Town, take metro bus or subway to DC.
Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Thompson House \$899,000
211 Fairfax Street A, Alexandria, VA 22314
Historic Thompson House c1780 townhouse style condo. 3BR/3.5.5BA, 3 levels, fin basement, 4515 sqft & brick terrace. 2 blocks from King St shops & restaurants.
The York Group 703-409-3377



Heywood Glen \$599,999
4315 Dahill Place, Alexandria, VA 22312
Lovely home, move-in condition. 4BR upper lvl, fam rm, FP, fresh paint & refin hardwoods, bsmt for expansion, deck, patio, gar, level lot, located on 2 quiet cul-de-sacs.
Lauren York - The York Group 703-409-3377



NEW LISTING



Mason Hill \$829,500
1722 Hollinwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307
Beautiful Center Hall Colonial in Mason Hill. This home has been updated inside & out. Chef's gourmet kitchen, 4BR/3.5 remodeled BA. Professionally landscaped yard.
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



The Point At Twin Lakes \$699,000
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This elegant, light-filled, 5BR/4BA home is an easy commute via Fredericksburg's VRE. Enjoy country living with conv access to DC, Alexandria & Ft. Belvoir.
Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823



Ridge View \$449,900
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\$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. **OPEN SUN 9/22, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd.**



8412 Washington Ave
\$469,900
True One Story - No Stairs!
 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. Major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electrical panel, siding, gutters and more—in short, almost everything! Family room with fireplace and private master suite. Large back covered deck. **OPEN SUN 9/22, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Woodley Dr; R-Washington Ave.**



9127 Continental Dr
\$598,500
Major Updates!
 Nothing like it for under \$600,000! Spacious home with numerous recent updates. Fabulous features include: large room sizes, bright open floor plan, brand new custom kitchen, updated baths, 4 bedrooms, gleaming hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, family room, and garage parking. Prime location on large lot—walk to neighborhood school!



9409 Ludgate Dr
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Just Down River from Mount Vernon Estate!
 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.



1503 River Farm Dr
\$1,395,000
Grand Colonial Minutes from Old Town!
 Best price for Estate caliber residence in highly sought after GW Parkway area! Special home custom designed to capitalize on its park like setting and seasonal River views. Special features include 3 fin levels, w/ LL. 5BRs with dual master suites, expansive glass walls, multi-level deck and amazing four car garage. Combination of size, features & location add up to a truly unique value!



9124 Volunteer Dr
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It's our turn to serve you!

Wes Foster, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of The Long & Foster Companies is no stranger to military service. A veteran himself, Wes has chosen to demonstrate his gratitude to those who serve in the US Military by providing active duty personnel, honorably discharged veterans and the spouses of both groups with scholarships for real estate licensing classes so they can transition to a career in real estate.

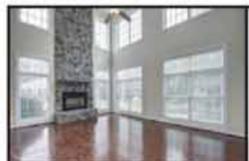
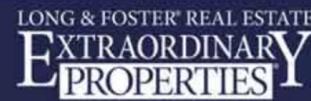
To learn more about the P. Wesley Foster Military Service Scholarship, contact your local Long & Foster office.



Thanks to all of you who have served in the Military. Please feel free to give me a call if you have questions about the Military Scholarship Program. I am also available to meet with you to discuss a career in the Real Estate industry.

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Val Klotz 703.303.9744

*Source: Information based on data supplied by MRS 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 MRS or Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. ©2013 All rights reserved.

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 September 21, 2013 9am-3pm

Fall Festival at Messiah Lutheran Church
Sept. 21st from 9 am to 3 pm
Flea Market - Silent Auction

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Go to Festival. MessiahELCA.org for more information.
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10:00-3:00
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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Vibrant Streets Summit. 8-10 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway. Learn about the benefits and challenges of this concept. Hosted by Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. \$10 donation suggested. Visit www.sfcd.org for more.

Medicare and Social Security Meeting. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Free lecture presented by AARP. RSVP to 703-303-4060.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Talk. 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about aging in the home and community. Free. RSVP to 703-303-4060.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Education Summit. 8 a.m.-noon at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road. Parents, students, and community members are invited to attend the fourth annual Education Summit. This free event will focus on a Portrait of a 21st Century Graduate and School System. Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza will be the keynote speaker. Following the keynote presentation, 10 breakout sessions will focus on skills parents can use to help students succeed. Interpreters will be available. For information and to register for the Education Summit visit www.fcps.edu.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Barbeque Fundraiser. Noon-3 p.m. at Lee District Park Shelter adjacent to the Spray Park, 6601 Telegraph Road. Colonial Republican Women's annual fundraiser with Republican leaders and candidates. \$35/individual; \$50/couple; \$60/family. E-mail pauleigh@gmail.com for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 7

Fall Vegetable Gardening. 7-8 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn how to extend the gardening season by planting broccoli, beets and spinach. Free, but registration requested. 703-228-6414. Visit mgnv.org for information.

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

Meet and Greet. 7-9 p.m. at Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Meet the candidates for sheriff and state delegates for districts 39, 43 and 44. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations. Contact Peggy Knight at 703-532-4417 or peggy.knight1@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

Candidate Meet and Greet. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Hosted by The local League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. Learn the candidates' positions on various topics. Free.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Fall Rummage Sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse items for infants, children and maternity such as clothing, toys, games and furniture. All sales benefit the preschool.

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In his only Washington, D.C.-area appearance, best-selling author John Trent leads a unique **Family Life Weekend** at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church.

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Plymouth Haven Baptist Church
8600 Plymouth Road, Alexandria, VA
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Dr. John Trent is the author of the Blessing Series and one of the most sought-after speakers on enriching relationships, marriage and parenting.

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- We are to treat the people that God brings into our lives with high value.
- Stepping toward, not away from, our children and others we love is at the heart of building strong personal faith, a strong marriage and family.
- Ways you can encourage and build up children, couples, single parents, grandparents, friends and families.

Reserve your spot: www.plymouthhaven.org or call 703-360-4370. \$25 per couple or \$15 per person, including a light dinner on Friday. Pre-register for free child care by Oct. 18.



Striving for Unity

FROM PAGE 3

She invites as many as 100-200 students a month into room G-100 to celebrate by singing "Happy Birthday" and dancing.

And with MVHS's diverse mixture of black, white and Hispanic leaders, Bloomquist says this year's SGA is a reflection of the Mount Vernon student body. "I encourage them when they are planning these events, to take that into consideration."

Pep rallies always include Ritmo Latino, a dance group for Hispanics. "It's very popular," she added. "We are embracing that part of the students' culture."

The student newspaper has a page written in Spanish. Susi Calles Revelo is its editor-in-chief as well as the section editor for *Expresion Latino*, a page in Spanish. Her translated stories about scoliosis, Google Apps, and technology for Hispanic readers were just published.

SGA President LaNaya Butler, 16, of Mount Vernon wants to get more students involved and connected. She's a peer mentor and

mediator, certified mental health aide, and a member of the morning news crew with a 3.5 GPA. "I'm just trying to have more unity in the school," said Butler, whose parents are mixed black and white. "Kids sometimes don't want to participate, and that's the only way we're going to make the school better."

Angelina Benedetti-Flores, 17, is the executive historian on the Executive Board who plays softball and maintains a 3.45 GPA. She helps publicize events using Twitter, posters, banners, chalk writing, and school announcements. "I like it because it allows me to experience something that I've never experienced before," she said. "I want to do communications, and it's preparing me for college."

The PTA also provides financial support for the Poetry Expo where students and teachers read original poems and showcase their creative writing. "That's really an event just for fun," said Bloomquist. An end-of-year carnival offers water rides, bungee cord runs and a flag football tournament.

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Local Elected Officials' Disclosure Forms Lack Oversight

FROM PAGE 1

thing from real estate and business interests to gifts and liabilities. That includes employers of elected officials and their family members. But a request for the public disclosure forms from the Fairfax County School Board was returned with a stack of redacted documents. The employer of one member was concealed, and several telephone numbers and addresses were blacked out of others. The names of immediate family members — required information to be disclosed to the public — was redacted from all the documents.

"Personal information is exempt from disclosure obligations," wrote Brandynn Reaves, public information specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools, in an email response to questions about the redactions.

Unless the Fairfax County commonwealth's attorney is willing to prosecute the school system for failing to disclose required information, that information will not be available to the public. And because the law merely requires the School Board clerk to receive the documents without scrutinizing them, any mistakes or missing information will not be identified or fixed. That leaves the public in the dark about information that could explain conflicts of interest among their elected leaders.

"Virginia's disclosure laws are basically a big joke," said Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "It doesn't seem like there's any penalty at all for bad reporting."

THE ONGOING political scandal involving a Virginia businessman showering the governor and attorney general with gifts — many of which were initially unreported — has brought a spotlight to the issue of ethics reform that is expected to dominate

An example of a redacted disclosure form from the Fairfax County Public Schools.

the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) is preparing legislation that would move the repository function from the local clerk to the State Board of Election in an effort to create one publicly available statewide database. That would allow elected officials to file their documents electronically, a change that would remove some of the inconsistency in terms of how individuals choose to fill out the documents.

"I think there are going to be folks uncomfortable with this level of disclosure and this level of accessibility to their data," said Krupicka. "We've made the migration to use technology with campaign finance, and I think we need to make the migration to use technology with our ethics and conflicts disclosure forms."

Last month, Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling outlined a series of ethics reform measures he would like to see the next General Assembly take up. One of his recommendations would expand the gift disclosure requirements to spouses and dependent family members. Another one of his recommendations would lower the threshold of reporting sources of income from \$10,000 to \$1,000. A third recommendation would require elected officials disclose all memberships on boards or other committees of public or private companies that

are held by themselves, their spouses or their dependent family members.

"Over the past few months, a series of unfortunate events have revealed to us several deficiencies in Virginia's current ethics laws," Bolling said in a written statement outlining his proposal. "As a result, the confidence of the people of Virginia in their state government has been eroded. In order to begin the process of restoring this confidence, we need to take immediate action to strengthen Virginia's ethics laws and the proposals I am releasing today are designed to do just that."

DESPITE THEIR FLAWS, the forms reveal the broad financial outlines of elected officials in Northern Virginia and some of their economic interests. In Arlington County, for example, the forms show that none of the members of the Arlington County Board have full-time jobs. Two of the members listed the employment of spouses. And although County Board member Jay Fisette once disclosed information about his partner, he has since decided that he will no longer provide that information until Virginia ends the constitutional prohibition against gay marriage.

"The symbolism of it was just not worth it," said Fisette. "It was so hard because he makes a lot more money than I do and he

Elected Confidential

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:** John Foust lists the largest number of securities at \$1.7 million; Jeff McKay lists the lowest number of securities at \$70,000. Three members list no securities: John Cook, Michael Frey and Peggy Gross.

❖ **Fairfax County School Board:** Jane Strauss lists the largest number of securities at \$2.1 million; Pat Hunes lists the lowest number of securities at \$10,000; Two members list no securities: Ryan McElveen and Elizabeth Schultz.

❖ **Arlington County Board:** Libby Garvey lists the largest number of securities at \$500,000; Jay Fisette lists the lowest number of securities at \$80,000. One member, Mary Hynes, list no securities.

❖ **Arlington County School Board:** Abigail Raphael lists the largest number of securities at \$1.2 million; Noah Simon lists the lowest number of securities at \$400,000. Three members list no securities: Sally Baird, James Lander and Emma Violand-Sanchez.

❖ **Alexandria City Council:** Paul Smedberg lists the largest amount of securities at \$590,000; Allison Silberberg lists the lowest number of securities at \$20,000; One member, John Chapman, listed no securities.

❖ **Alexandria School Board:** Marc Williams lists the largest amount of securities at \$1.3 million; Kelly Carmichael Booz lists the lowest amount of securities at \$10,000; five members list no securities: Bill Campbell, Ronnie Campbell, Pat Hennig, Justin Keating and Christopher Lewis.

had a lot of things to report. It was too much work, so I don't do that anymore."

Alexandria City Councilman Paul Smedberg, on the other hand, includes economic disclosure information for his partner. In an interview, he said he is probably not required to do so but he feels that it's best to err on the side of disclosing too much rather than not enough.

"It is a little unclear as to what you should put there," said Smedberg. "But I've always made the habit of including Mike on there."

BUSINESS NOTES

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

New Hope Housing has received a \$5,000 grant from the TD Charitable Foundation to support its Housing First Apartments Program. This program provides long term affordable housing with ongoing support services for previously homeless single adults. New Hope Housing is committed to finding creative and lasting solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed. Visit www.newhopehousing.org.

The newest **Zinga Frozen Yogurt** store is located in the Beacon Shopping Center, 6676 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. The new store is the first Northern Virginia store to be opened by Zinga franchisee Ashley Langland, an Arlington resident. Langland indicated that the new store would be involved with local charities and civic organizations, high school groups and local sports programs. To celebrate the opening, there will be a free Fro-

zen Yogurt Grand Opening blast to anyone who "likes" the new store on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ZingaBeaconCenter. Store hours are Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Call 703-341-6797.

Art at the Center welcomes three new members of the teaching staff:

Lori Kelly is a first year student at George Washington University's graduate art therapy program. She graduated from Murray State University with a bachelor's degree in English literature in 2008. She has lived abroad and has spent the last four years teaching English as a Second Language. Kelly will be working with classes Wednesdays and Friday afternoons.

Maureen Dixon is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in pre-art therapy at Marymount University. She spent two years working toward a degree in graphic design and museum studies at Towson University before transferring to Marymount to pursue art therapy. She will be teaching on Tues-



days and Fridays.

Sarah J. Coffin, a native of the D.C. metro area, serves the community through her Arts Commission involvement in the City of Fairfax, her own ceramic and mixed media work, as well as hosting alternative arts ventures like The Empty House

Studio. Her work is augmented by apprenticeships, travel, and four years as a K-8 art teacher. She is currently pursuing a masters in arts management at George Mason University. Coffin is working with Art at the Center in two capacities: teaching drawing as well as working with Kathryn on a special project. She will be helping Art at the Center connect with local makers and artists, grow into offering teen and adult classes, and create a sustainable organizational structure and marketing plan for Art at the Center's continuation.

Art at the Center is located at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit artatthecenter.org or call 703-201-1250.

Robberies May Be Linked

Police from Mount Vernon and Franconia districts are investigating a series of robberies that have taken place over recent weeks. The most recent robbery took place on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at around 1 p.m. Two men entered the convenience store at 6550 Edsall Road, approached the clerk with items as if to pay, assaulted the cashier, took money and fled. In three of the other robberies, two men entered a 7-Eleven store, displayed a handgun, took money and fled. In another case, suspects attempted to rob a 22-year-old woman while she walked in the 6300 block of Backlick Road in Springfield at around 1:45 p.m.

The robberies occurred at the following locations:

- ❖ Aug. 12 – 7-Eleven – 8146 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria.
- ❖ Aug. 21 – 7-Eleven – 2305 Huntington Ave., Alexandria.
- ❖ Aug. 22, 2013 – (Attempt strong arm robbery of citizen) – 6300 Backlick Road, Springfield.
- ❖ Aug. 24 – 7-Eleven – 7225 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

Both suspects should be considered armed and dangerous. Both are black, between 20-26 years old, and around 150-180 pounds. One suspect was seen in all black clothing and he was between 5 feet 6 and 5 feet 8 inches tall with medium build. The other suspect was around 5 feet 11 to 6 feet 1 inches tall and wore hooded sweatshirt and black pants. If seen, do not approach and call 911 immediately.

SCHOOLS

Stokowski Leads Clermont ES

People-person and collaborator focuses on children.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

After 20 years in education, Anne Stokowski was named the new principal of Clermont Elementary on July 1. A collaborator and people-person, she said: "I want to bring the belief among staff, among the community, that together we can make a difference, that we are here for all children, and that every child can be successful."

She's already met her staff of 74, including 35 teachers, and calls them "amazingly dedicated and welcoming." She said: "Their energy and their heart is in the right place That was so nice to feel that you were part of the team right away."

At the start of school, Clermont has 527 students whose ethnicity includes: White 54 percent, Hispanic 22 percent, Asian 10 percent, Black 6 percent, and Other 5 percent. About 20 percent receive free or reduced lunches.

In addition to being a general education center for 94 percent of its students, Clermont is a local Level 4 school with an advanced academic program, which means every child can be serviced there or go to Springfield Estates to get Level 4 services. It also has a Chinese FLES program with two weekly, half hour lessons in Chinese for grades 1-6. The school has an ESOL and Special Education Program that also serves children who have autism.

Stokowski's challenge is to make sure that all of the children are receiving the individualized instruction that they need to reach their potential. "That we are cognizant of all children in making sure that we are not letting anyone fall through the cracks," she added.

She enjoys greeting students and parents in front of the school during arrival and departure times. "It's a nice way to interact with the children; often if parents have a question, it's a nice time to build those relationships in the community."

"Her greatest strengths are in her deep thoughtfulness in the actions she takes and the recognition she gives to people in all of the efforts she puts in," said Elizabeth Obester, principal of Rose Hill Elementary. "She also has this uncanny ability to relate to everybody."

According to Sari Kaye, assistant principal at Rose Hill, who worked with Stokowski for six years, "She gets people included so that everybody has their say. She looks at the big picture as well as the details so she sees it from both angles."

When they worked as testing coordinators together, she says Stokowski always made sure that records were accurate, everything was in on time. She added: "Even in tough situations, she remains very calm."

Jennifer Boyle, the lead special education teacher at Rose Hill, added: "She is very stu-



Anne Stokowski is the new principal of Clermont Elementary School.

dent-centered; she makes sure all of her decisions are based out of the goodness of what would benefit the students."

With her special-ed background, Boyle says Stokowski was helpful in offering suggestions in scheduling and how to support students who needed a little extra attention.

"If you had an issue, she always made herself available to talk to and help problem-solve situations."

Clermont is currently undergoing a \$13.6 million renovation project that includes a new library, stage, wing of classrooms and administrative offices. Stokowski is focused on making sure the renovation runs smoothly and communicating its progress with families as the work is completed by February of 2015.

Two weeks ago Friday, the PTSA sponsored a picnic at Twain Middle that had a tremendous turnout. "It shows how close this community is and how closely they have built relationships," she said. The PTSA parents do volunteer work and help plan activities. They created a "wish list" that's tied into what teachers need to support the students — so parents can make smart donations or buy materials to support a classroom.

Stokowski grew up in Dighton, Mass., and graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth with a psychology major and elementary education minor. She earned a master's in special ed at GMU and an educational endorsement from GMU's Leadership in Education.

Stokowski started in the Title One program as an ESOL teacher. Since moving to Fairfax County in 1997, she's worked at Crossfield Elementary and Hunt Valley as a special education teacher, then department chair for special education and assistant principal both at Frost Middle School, and Rose Hill Elementary as assistant principal.

Prior to her education career, Stokowski was in a military family that moved often. She has four grown children: Alyson, 31, Adam, 28, Lauren, 25, and Scott, 23.

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OBITUARY

Ricky Mann Moon, 56, passed away in his sleep on Thursday September 12, while working in Columbus, Ga.

He was born December 7, 1956, and is the beloved son of Marion Moon of Alexandria, VA and Norman Moon and step-mother Joan of Manassas, VA. He is preceded in death by his brother Craig Moon and is survived by his Grandmother Myrtle Lebkicker of Leesburg and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and devoted friends.

Rick was a native of Alexandria and graduated from Fairfax High School. He was a natural entrepreneur, and started his first company at age 17. He went on to be the founder of World Express that became Convention and Tradeshow Freight Specialists, where he served as Vice President until his death.

Rick loved the Freight and Tradeshow Industry, he enjoyed country music, boating, and being on the water. He had a big heart for people in need, especially children, and his generosity touched the lives of many.

Those who knew him will remember his wonderful sense of humor, his smile, laughter, and the authentic way in which he lived his life.

Friends may call at the Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 where the family will be present on Friday, September 20, 2013 from 6-8:00pm and where the memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alexandria Police Youth Camp, PO Box 25273 Alexandria, VA 22313.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Richard (Rick) Preston Swigart, 69, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 9, 2013, after a long and courageous battle with complications from a liver transplant performed in June 2012. He was surrounded by family and friends. Loving husband of Laurel A. Bedig; beloved by father-in-law Robert G. Bedig; sister-in-law Cynthia (Rich) Meyers and their children Audrey and Robbie; sister-in-law Marcia (Ira) Bernstein and their children Rebecca and David; brother-in-law Ronald (Alexander) Bedig; cousins Debbie Burke, and her children Tim and Bryan and, Brian (Betty) Tracy, and their children Megan and Michael. He will also be greatly missed by countless friends, Beverley Hills' neighbors and colleagues.

Born in DC, Rick attended the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, NY and went on to receive a B.A. from Earlham College. He studied Mandarin Chinese at Stanford, Taiwan Normal University and Nan Yang University, Singapore and was Director of International Marketing for China Consultants, International. From 1967-69 he was a refugee relief officer under USAID in Vietnam and Laos. Dean of Students at Oakwood from 1970-72, he served on Oakwood's board for many years culminating in receipt of a Distinguished Alumni Award. From 1975-1982, he was the Manager of the Washington Office for American Can Company. Thereafter, he worked in various senior capacities for the National Grocers Association, National Center on Occupational Readjustment, and the Grocery Manufacturers of America. He was Vice President of Public Relations at Seagram Company for several years. More recently he was part of a team that started the Transportation Security Administration and was a State Coordinator at the Department of Homeland Security. He retired on June 30, 2013.

Rick loved his country deeply and was a proud member of the Thailand-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood. He loved nature and animals, especially his beloved dog Pal. Rick was kind, thoughtful and a loyal and wonderful friend with a great sense of humor. He was one of a kind and his passing is an enormous loss. Memorial services will be held on September 28, 2013 at 3 PM. For details and donation options please visit EverlyWheatleyFuneralHome.com.

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ABC LICENSE

Picat, Inc trading as Pica Taco, 6480 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL(ABC) for a Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Patrick S. Villalta, President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Anthony Manough as Macon and Roz White as Sadie in the MetroStage production of "Gee's Bend."



Roz White (Sadie), Margo Moorer (Nella) and Duyen Washington (Alice).

PHOTOS BY CHRIS BANKS

A Stitch in Time

Powerful "Gee's Bend" debuts at MetroStage.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

It's officially known as Boykin, Ala., with a population of 275. But the former slave plantation on the banks of the Alabama River gained prominence as Gee's Bend, an isolated African American community known for the role its folk art quilts played in the struggle for Civil Rights.

Making its Washington area debut at MetroStage is the powerful "Gee's Bend," Elizabeth Gregory Wilder's story of the quilters of Gee's Bend and their determination to overcome crippling poverty and

racism.

Commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in 2006, the story begins in 1939, when the families of Gee's Bend become landowners, and follows the central character of Sadie Pettway through the trials of marriage and racial indignities. Together with her mother Alice and sister Nella, Sadie perseveres, inspired by a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965 and the discovery of her quilts by a local minister.

"Dr. King gave the sermon of a lifetime in Gee's Bend," said Arlie Schardt, a Time Magazine reporter who traveled throughout the south with King and attended the

Sept. 15 performance at MetroStage. "It was a horribly stormy night and with the roads washed out, he knew the Klan was waiting for him. But he went anyway and infused everyone with courage, dignity and hope in what was the most inspiring talk we ever heard him give."

Also in attendance was Peggy Treadwell, cousin of Francis X. Walter, the Episcopalian priest who founded the quilting co-op to help foster economic independence for the women of Gee's Bend.

"Francis was the rector of a black church near Gee's Bend and saw these incredible quilts hanging on a line," Treadwell said. "But when he approached the house to ask about them, everyone scattered into the woods because they were so afraid of a white man. But Francis sat there and waited, literally for hours, he was so intent on learning more about the quilts."

Walters' discovery of the quilts transformed the lives of the women of Gee's Bend, as adeptly chronicled in Wilder's script, directed at MetroStage by Thomas Jones and starring Roz White as Sadie, Margo Moorer as Nella, and Duyen Washington in the dual role of Sadie's mother Alice and later as Sadie's daughter Asia. Rounding out the cast is Anthony Manough as Macon, Sadie's husband.

Betsy Muller's rustic setting reflects the artistry of the quilts and costumes by Janine Sunday define the ages of the characters over the years. But it's the hauntingly beautiful score of gospel melodies under the direction of William Hubbard and William Knowles that makes this production soar.

As Sadie, White anchors the incomparable cast and transitions beautifully from young naïf to long-suffering wife to bloodied participant in the March on Selma.

Moorer is sassy as sister Nella, reprising her dynamic performance from the original production. Washington and Manough complete the tour de force ensemble that pays homage to the resilience of the African American spirit in times of struggle.

"This is a magnificent play," Schardt said. "It captured a rare moment in the Civil Rights movement that got little coverage at the time. It was a thrill to see it."

Today, the quilts crafted in Gee's Bend command high prices and line the walls of museums. They can also be seen in the MetroStage production that brilliantly stitches together a powerful story of triumph.

"Gee's Bend" plays through Nov. 3 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 29, see "In the Flesh 4" at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit examines contemporary figurative art. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Oct. 6, 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 www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more information.

Art Exhibit. See "Collaborations"

through Oct. 20 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists share inspirations to create pieces combining the input of two or more artists. It is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. everyday except on Thursdays when it is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Deep, Full, and Not Quite Real" at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., through Oct. 20. Features four artists exploring concepts of depth and three-dimensionality. Visit <http://www.nvfaa.org/> for more.

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

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.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition. Through 2013 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.fortwardroad.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

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

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.

Theater Performance. Through Sunday, Nov. 3, see the premiere of "Gee's Bend" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Watch as the true story of the Pettway family unfolds during the Civil Rights Movement and they become famous for their iconic quilts. Performances for Gee's Bend will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For

ticket reservations call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044.

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.

African American Activists Exhibition. Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, 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

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through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23, 2014. 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.

Metro Club After-School Program. From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an 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 will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Art Exhibit. See the second Front Porch Installation by Ned Egan. "Leci n'est pas une Magrite" is on display at 18 W. Linden St.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Full Theater Classes. Children ages 6-7 can enjoy a theater class and pretend to be all sorts of characters on Mondays, starting Sept. 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$135 for the 8-week class. Register at www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-5778 ext. 2. Classes available for all ages and days.

Learn How to Make Pasta. Saturday, Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane. Learn how to make the dishes with Chef Carmine Marzano and then dine on the food you've made. \$85/person. RSVP with name, number of participants, and contact info to info@osteriamarzano.com.

Learn How to Make Sicilian Food. Saturday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane. Learn how to make the dishes with Chef Carmine Marzano and then dine on the food you've made. \$85/person. RSVP with name, number of participants, and contact info to info@osteriamarzano.com.

Art Classes. Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. For children ages 12 and up. Begin with drawing figures and lines and work up to drawing in detail and on larger scale. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Art Classes. Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for children ages 9 and up. Focuses on clay work in the studio. Begins Sept. 11 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Registration Still Open. The Art League School has openings in more than 200 classes and 50 workshops, from painting, jewelry, photography and more. Visit www.theartleague.org to register.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Yappy Hour. 5:30 p.m. Artfully Chocolate, 506 John Carlye Street. Artfully Chocolate has teamed up with pet care company Pawk Ave to create happy hours with a twist. Call 703-575-8686 or visit www.pawk-ave.com.

Martha's Poetry Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Discuss the poetry of Dorothy Parker. Free. 703-768-6700.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

Brewing History: Beer Tasting & Dinner Menu. Enjoy dinner and a private Mansion tour at Mount Vernon Estate. There will be four courses paired with beer. \$95/person. Tickets available at mountvernon.org.

Film. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Watch an independent film about Captain John Singleton Mosby's combat operations in Fairfax County. Free. Call 703-746-4554 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

Wee Got the Beat. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6 months to 5 years can enjoy singing, movement and instrument play. Free. Reservations required, 703-339-4610.

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

Alexandria Poetry Slam. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. At 7 p.m., Tony Greenberg will perform with poetry at 8 p.m. with Shelly Bell. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Joe Sample & The Creole Joe Band will perform. Visit www.birchmere.com for tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Community Dance and Music. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy live music, dancing and refreshments. \$4/door. 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 20-22

Old Town Boutique District Scavenger Hunt. Visit all of the Old Town Boutique District stores and get your passport stamped to receive a swag bag and chance to win big prizes. Return the fully stamped card to Periwinkle. Visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com to download the passport.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Beatley Open House. All day at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Enjoy music, face painting, book swaps and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Lil' Pals Pet Photography. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. \$10/sitting fee will benefit the Friends of Beatley Library. Portrait session will take place in a climate controlled studio. 703-746-1702.

Art and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. Local artists will sell a variety of handcrafted items including musical instruments, jewelry, paintings and more. Lunch and baked goods will be sold.

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 a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Carlyle House Fashion Show. 10:30

a.m.-noon at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. A living-history interpreter will describe the various styles and types of clothing of the 18th and 19th centuries as they come down the runway. Enjoy a tour of the house after the show. \$10/adult; \$5/child age 5-12. Reservations recommended. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or 703-549-2297.

Opening Day Ceremony. 1 p.m. at Kelley Cares Miracle Field at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The ceremony will honor the Miracle Baseball League players and volunteers. Registration is open for children and adults who want to play a less intense game and want to learn new skills and have fun. Visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com or 703-746-5402.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Olde Towne Theatre, 815 King St. See a performance of "The Big Meow," adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spire. \$10-\$20/person. Visit www.oldtowntheater1914.com or 703-544-5315.

Sketching Skills Series. 2-3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Participants age 15 and older can learn how to add sketches to their nature journal. \$6/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes and search for keyword Sketches.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Princess Story Time Tea. 2-4 p.m. at The Grill at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. Children can play dress up and enjoy an activity. Children can enjoy a pot of hot chocolate, sandwiches and more. There is an adult menu available, which includes scones, tea, smoked salmon and more. Reservations are required. \$38 for adults and \$28 for children. To book, guests can call 703-838-8000 or e-mail storytime@morrisonhouse.com.

Civil War 150th Anniversary Concert. 3 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. There will be music by Federal City Brass Band, who will perform in period dress and play instruments of the period. Free. 703-746-4848.

Celebrate the Groveton Community. 4-6 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Meet neighbors, share memories and meet Charlotte Brown, author of "Groveton." Free. Visit www.historichuntley.org or 703-768-2525.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road. Fuse Box, an Alexandria band will perform. All ages. \$10/advance; \$15/door. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/217029268462845/> for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 21-22

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Richard Thompson performs. \$39.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

Beatley Open House. All day at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Enjoy music, face painting, book swaps and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

American Doll Tea. 11 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Bring doll and enjoy a tour of the museum and then food and tea. For the young and the young at heart. \$15/person. Reservations required, 703-549-2997.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24
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The Third Annual "Fore" the Kids Golf Tournament will be held October 7th, 2013 at International Country Club in Fairfax County. Each year the event brings together golf enthusiasts for a round of golf, skills competitions, great food and wonderful raffle and silent auction items all to support Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region.

The event helps to fund programs run in the region's clubs. These range from daily homework help, participation in local sports leagues to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming and financial skills building. Our clubs are helping members build confidence, develop character and learn skills that will help them become productive, civic-minded, and responsible adults.

MON, OCTOBER 7TH, 2013
9:30 A.M.
LOCATION:
INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY CLUB
13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway
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Post Tournament Awards
Banquet
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REGISTER!

www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/golf-tournament-2/

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Mean Girls

“The Children’s Hour” at Port City Playhouse.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

In 1809, a girls’ boarding school opened in Edinburgh, Scotland, closing a few months later amid rumors involving two of its teachers. The decades-long lawsuit that followed was the inspiration for playwright Lillian Hellman, who more than a century later penned the critically acclaimed “The Children’s Hour,” now playing at Port City Playhouse.

Making its Broadway debut in 1934, Hellman’s play takes place in then present day Massachusetts, where two women, Karen Wright and Martha Dobie, run a boarding school for girls. Their lives are shattered and the school shuttered when a troublesome student, Mary Tilford, starts a rumor about the headmistresses as a way to avoid being disciplined.

Michelle McBeth as Karen and Chelsey Magli as Martha anchor a cast filled with some of the finest young high school thespians in the region. With a riveting emo-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEBLOIS

Classmates gather to confront Katelyn Wattendorf as Mary (center) in the Port City Playhouse production of “The Children’s Hour.”

tional intensity, the two skillfully navigate a script that highlights the extreme homophobia that was rampant in the early 20th century.

As Karen, McBeth is the more thoughtful of the two, with a poignant tenderness directed toward Martha and Joe, her fiancé. Magli is the determined but conflicted Martha, who ultimately confronts her own feelings for Karen with a bittersweet forbidden confession of love. Together, they are superb in their performance as friends facing unfounded and unrepentant harass-

ment. Carole Steele as Mrs. Amelia Tilford, Mary’s grandmother; Robin Ann Carter as Mrs. Lily Mortar, Martha’s aunt; and Ric Andersen as Karen’s fiancé Joe round out the capable and commanding adult cast.

But it’s the students that take center stage in this production, led by Hayfield High School junior Katelyn Wattendorf as the villainous Mary. Wattendorf is brilliant in her portrayal of the young student who will stop at nothing in her quest to manipulate everyone around her, including blackmail-

ing fellow classmate Rosalie, played by Jenni Patton.

Other area students appearing onstage include Burgundy Farm Country Day School eighth grader Cassie Cope as Helen, Robinson Secondary School freshman Gate Davis as Catherine, West Potomac High School freshman Paige Edwards as Leslie, Robert E. Lee High School sophomore Ellie Milewski as Evelyn, Washington-Lee junior Brandi Moore as Lois, West Potomac senior Cynthia Mullins as Peggy, and T.C. Williams’ Morgan Vaughn as Janet.

“This is an incredibly talented group of high schoolers,” said director Mark McCarver. “They absorb so much and have so much energy. And they are happy to come to work each day. They really are great to work with.”

With producer Carol Strachan at his side, McCarver has assembled an award-winning technical crew, including costume design by Kit Sibley and Jean Schlichting, sets by Raedum de Alba, lighting by Nancy Owens and sound by David Correia.

Superlatives are not enough: anyone fortunate enough to see the spellbinding Port City Playhouse production of “The Children’s Hour” will not easily forget the haunting performances of such a stellar cast.

“The Children’s Hour” plays through Sept. 28 at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets or more information, visit www.PortCityPlayhouse.org.

FRIENDS OF FORT HUNT PARK, INC.

FORT HUNT PARK COMMUNITY DAY
Sunday, September 29th 1:00-5:00
Fort Hunt Park
8999 Fort Hunt Rd. Alexandria, VA 22308

Come help improve the resources of our local national park and commemorate National Public Lands Day.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
1:00— 4:00 Park Clean-Up Projects
3:00-4:00 One-Mile Walk; Talk on General Henry Hunt
4:00-5:00 Mount Vernon Dixieland Band
Free Light Refreshments

Special Thanks to **Mount Vernon Gazette**

Contact: John Elliff, jtelliff@aol.com, 703-360-1265

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The Children’s Hour

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produced by Carol Strachan

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Sep. 21 & 28 • 2pm
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

Children Arts Workshop. 1-3 p.m. at The Athaneum, 201 Prince St. Children age 6 and up can learn about 3-D drawing. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Sketching Skills Series. 2-3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Children ages 9-13 can learn how to add sketches to their nature journal. \$6/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes and search for keyword Sketches.

Rhythms and Roots W. African Festival. 2-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Enjoy dancing, food, stories and more. \$15. 202-695-6651.

"Cherry Blossom" Party and Cruise. 5-8 p.m. Hosted by Old Town Civic Association. Board at Potomac Riverboat Company Dock behind the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. \$30/member; \$35/non-member, includes food and drink. Visit www.oldtowncivic.org or 703-489-4088.

Music Performance. 6:30 p.m. at Ireland's Own, 111 N. Pitt St. Seamus Kennedy will perform. \$15. 703-549-453.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Banned Book Read-Out. 4:30 p.m. at The Athaneum, 201 Prince St. Choose a passage from your favorite banned book and read aloud. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Baby Lap Sits. 10:30 a.m. or 2:30 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.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 24

Martha's Mystery Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "Of All Sad Words" by Bill Crider. Free. 703-768-6700.

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Meet author E. Ethelbert Miller. Free. 703-765-3645.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Alejandro Escovedo performs. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-10:30 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Free. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 13-23 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Aoife O'Donovan opens for Sarah Jarosz. \$20. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Yoga. Enjoy free outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave., from 6-7 p.m. Taught by Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga, Harvest Moon Yoga classes are suitable for all levels. Contact Maureen at yoga@prasadayoga.com or 703-967-8884.

Music Performance. Tower of Power plays at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

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

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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

Event. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. See "The Official Blues Brothers Revue." \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Costume Symposium. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. This year's symposium, "The Road to Regency Fashion," will explore the evolution of clothing from 1770 to 1820, culminating in a ball. Enjoy lectures, workshops, and vendors through two days of costume scholarship. Visit <http://alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern> to download the brochure and to register.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Native Plant Sale in Parkfairfax. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in DC Metro Area hosts 15 vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic Parkfairfax, 3601 Valley Drive parking lot. 571-232-0375 or www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.

Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. throughout Old Town. Browse homes and gardens. Proceeds benefit the Inova Alexandria TWIG Surgical Center. Admission is to be determined. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/events/Historic-Alexandria-Homes-Tour/4930/ or 703-703-5337.

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.

No Sand in the House. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 4-8 can enjoy stories and activities with author Jennifer L. Crawford. Free. 703-971-0010.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. See The Wailin' Jennys perform. \$39.50. Visit www.thewailinjennys.com/.

Re-Enactment of Rose Hill Raid. 11 a.m. at Rose Hill Elementary School, 6301 Rose Hill Drive. See Confederate raider Major John Singleton capture Colonel Daniel Dulany, an aide to the Union appointed governor of the Restored

State of Virginia. Listen as passages will be recited, see the Signal Corps use flags to communicate with distant units, browse artifacts and information provided. Refreshments will be for sale, along with other items. After the event, re-enactors will be available to answer questions, pose for photos. 703-309-2182.

Ideas and Inspiration. 3-5 p.m. at Broadway Gallery, 5641 B General Washington Drive. Vickie Williamson will discuss the signs, symptoms and remedies for "Model Home Syndrome." She will also showcase designer fabrics. RSVP at broadwaygallery@broadwaygalleries.net or 703-354-2905.

Costume Symposium. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. This year's symposium, "The Road to Regency Fashion," will explore the evolution of clothing from 1770 to 1820, culminating in a ball. Enjoy lectures, workshops, and vendors through two days of costume scholarship. Visit <http://alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern> to download the brochure and to register.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Art Talk. Kreshnik "Nick" Xhiku will discuss his work at 2 p.m. at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Gallery, 105 N. Union St. His exhibit "Structural Elements" explores the bounds between figurative and abstract sculpture. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Fort Hunt Park Community Day. 1-5 p.m. at the park on GW Memorial Parkway. Celebrate the park's contribution to the community with volunteer clean-up activities, a park walk, music by the Mount Vernon Dixieland Band, special guests and more. Free. 703-360-1265.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Nursing & Rehab Center, 8111 Tiswell Drive. The Alexandria Harmonizers will perform. Free.

Nativity Preview Party. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Enjoy a sneak peek of the new nativities and buy one before they are taken off the shelves until the end of October. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com or 703-684-1435.

MONDAY/SEPT. 30

Rainbow Readers. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Reservations required, 703-339-4610.

Rock, Paper, Cocktails Fundraiser. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Hotel Monaco in Old Town, 480 King St. Shopping benefit supports the Foundation for Women's Cancer's National Race to End Women's Cancer. The event includes a raffle and small auction with items from Alexandria boutiques and salons. Fifteen percent of all revenues go to the Foundation for Women's Cancer. To attend the event, visit www.rockpapercocktails2013.eventbrite.com. To register for the race or donate visit www.endwomenscancer.org.

Golf Tournament. The Dulles Airport International Rotary Club hosts 17th Annual Opportunities Open Golf Tournament in Leesburg at the Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club. Since its inception, the annual event has raised over \$500,000 for local charities. This year the Dulles Rotary has chosen to support local disability resource nonprofit, ServiceSource, as well as three other charities dedicated to helping make a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities. For more information contact Teresa Guzik, 703-970-3642



3rd Annual Jeans Day: Putting the ZIP on Homelessness

Friday, October 18, 2013

Help end homelessness in our community.

Get involved!

Register and allow your employees or members to wear jeans to work on Friday, October 18, in exchange for a \$5 employee contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness!

jeansday2013-eorg.eventbrite.com



West Potomac Football to Face Woodson

The West Potomac football team will travel to Woodson on Friday, Sept. 20 in search of its first victory.

The Wolverines are off to an 0-2 start, losing to Centreville (51-7) and Fairfax (39-25). West Potomac had a bye last week and will now face a 0-2 Woodson team that is averaging just 5 points per game.

SPORTS BRIEFS According to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com, DeMornay Pierson-El, who moved from running back to quarterback, leads the Wolverines with 230 yards and four touchdowns on the ground, and 196 yards and a score through the air. R. Marquis Saldona leads West Potomac with 91 receiving yards and a touchdown.

Mount Vernon Football To Host Robinson

The Mount Vernon football team earned its first win of the season against Herndon on Sept. 6 and will be back in action on Friday, Sept. 20 for its home opener against

Robinson. Mount Vernon opened the season with a 56-7 loss to South County on Aug. 30 but bounced back to beat Herndon, 19-17, the following week. The Majors will now face a 1-1 Robinson team that lost to Lake Braddock and beat Woodson. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School.

West Potomac Field Hockey to Host Hayfield

The West Potomac field hockey team will host Hayfield at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20.

The Wolverines fell to 2-5 with a 1-0 loss to South Lakes on Sept. 17. West Potomac picked up its second win of the season on Sept. 11, beating Wakefield 6-0. The Wolverines' first win came against Yorktown (1-0) during the Herndon Invitational on Aug. 31.

Bishop Ireton Hosts Episcopal

The Bishop Ireton football team will host Episcopal at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Bishop Ireton is 2-1 after beating St. Stephen's & St. Agnes 18-15 on Sept. 14. Episcopal won its season opener, 48-28, over Flint Hill on Sept. 13.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MARLE

James Harkless and the West Potomac football team will travel to face Woodson on Friday, Sept. 20.

Skaters Build Network of Support for Olympic Dream

Guests from around the world arrived at the Belle Haven Country Club in the summer for the first Sochi fundraising event for international ice dancers Emme and Bruce Porter, Jr.

The gala kicked off at 4 p.m. with an acoustic set led by local country music singer Sara Gray.

There were ice skaters and diplomats, parents and students that came together for Washington, D.C. native, Emme Porter, and her husband Bruce Porter, Jr. After competing internationally for Azerbaijan last year the two have their sites set on Sochi. To get there they plan to train at an Olympic training camp in Italy in the weeks leading up to the Olympic qualifying event. To skate

at this level requires the support of the community and the skaters have built a network of friends, clients, and family.

"We believe, that with the support of our family and friends, hard work and dedication, we can achieve our goal of skating in the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia this February," said Bruce Porter, Jr.

"For me, it was an emotional day seeing the support of so many who came out to encourage us and believe in our skating," said Emme Porter. "I always joke that the Mount Vernon Recreation Center is the building that raised me. I am a native Washingtonian and grew up skating at Mount Vernon in their county-run, group lesson, learn-to-skate program."

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the U.S. Elin Suleymanov and his wife Lala join international ice dancers Emme and Bruce Porter Jr. at the Belle Haven Country Club for the first Sochi fundraising event for the international ice dancers.



PHOTO BY LINDSEY BOGCESS

The gala attended by the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States Elin Suleymanov, his wife Lala, and his mother

and daughter. Suleymanov extended his support offering words of encouragement to the Azerbaijan ice dance team.



PHOTO BY JULIE RUAMTHONG

Tim Bainton and Spencer Kooshian

Club's Tennis Academy To Manage Burke Racquet Tennis Programs

Mount Vernon Athletic Club's Blue Chip Sports Management will now run the tennis programs at Burke Racquet and Swim Club through its Blue Chip Tennis Academy.

This expansion exemplifies parent company Van Metre Companies' desire to continually innovate while providing best-in-class products and services.

Blue Chip Tennis Academy director and two-time USTA Teaching Professional of the Year Tim Bainton is a USTA High Performance coach, director of a USTA Competition Training Center, Regional Training coach for the USTA, as well as a USPTA P1

and USPTR Professional. Bainton has been zonal, intersectional, national and Nike Junior Tour coach for the Mid-Atlantic and also coached with the USTA HPCE at the Davis Cup and the US Open. He joins forces with Burke Site Director Spencer Kooshian, former ATP ranked tour professional in both singles and doubles, and USPTA P1 rated. Spencer, a former national grass court champion, was the 2010 and 2011 Mid-Atlantic hard court singles champion. He has been a director or head tennis pro for over 23 years.

Blue Chip Tennis Academy now manages

over 14 locations in Northern Virginia.

Both the Mount Vernon and Burke locations have private and group lessons, clinics for all levels and ages, as well as the Top Performance juniors program. Contact info@bluechiptennis.net or 703-272-2712.

The Mount Vernon Athletic Club, at 7950 Audubon Ave., has been a community fixture for more than 40 years. Providing tennis programs through Blue Chip Tennis Academy, the facility is also a health club offering a full fitness facility, exercise classes, expert personal training and an onsite Wellness Spa. Visit www.mtvac.net.

Art Matters Local experts say art classes help children develop new skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

If you walk into Art at the Center in Mount Vernon on a Tuesday morning, you might find a group of preschool students and their parents or caretakers squishing potting clay with their fingers. In the same room, several other tots could be brushing an array of paint colors across art paper, making a mess but having fun. The children are part of the Center's Art Explorers class, designed for children ranging from 18 months to 5 years old.

"Parents say it is their happy place where they can explore with their child without worrying about a mess," said Kathryn Horn Coneway, director of Art at the Center. "It brings both parent and child into the present moment."

In addition to having fun, art educators say that art can help children develop a myriad of skills and abilities that range from self-expression to self-confidence.

"Creating art can help them work through their emotions," said Gioia Chilton, an art therapist who teaches art at Marymount University in Arlington. "It gives them a place where they can be confident, and where they can feel powerful and in con-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER

Creating art projects, such as these, which were made by students at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon helps strengthen artistic behaviors such as observation, persistence and reflection.

rol over something."

Creating art teaches patience, said Coneway. "When children are working with clay, for example, there is little instant gratification. You make a piece, it has to be fired and then glazed. It is a process. But at the end, they can tell the story of how they made it."

Chris Haggerty, a professor of fine and applied arts at Marymount University, says

research shows that art develops the right side of the brain, which affects perception rather than logic. "Creating art teaches problem-solving skills," she said. "They get to try things out, see if they work, change their minds and start over."

Coneway, who is also an art therapist, said she has seen first-hand how art can help children share feelings that are difficult to verbalize. "Making things is a wonderful

way for kids to connect ideas, express emotions and share what is going on with them," she said. "Additionally, art is noncompetitive. Children progress at their own rate."

Art also helps establish a sense of community, she added. "Sometimes connections happen when children share their art," she said. "It is neat when kids ask questions of each other. The sharing of what they make is as important as what they make."

Carolyn Webber, an art teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said, "Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them. [It] provides life-long learning in areas of visual arts, art history, interdisciplinary connections, multiculturalism and job opportunities."

Haggerty said, "The most successful people are creative thinkers, people who don't just think linearly, but who think outside of the box."

Coneway hopes that both her classes and others establish a life-long appreciation for art. "One of the things that I hope is happening is that parents and children are leaving my classes, going home and asking, 'Can we set up a corner our basement and have an art studio at home?'"

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This service campaign has been organized as a 501(c)(3) fund project under the direction of Conor Mears and BSA Troop 116. Your support and participation are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you have questions or are unable to donate on Saturday, September 28, 2013 please contact Conor Mears by e-mail: porygon56@gmail.com or visit <http://bikesfortheworld.org>



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Let's Go Places

(1) DUE AT SIGNING INCLUDES DOWN PAYMENT (COROLLA: \$2,199, CAMRY: \$2,699, RAV4: \$2,999), FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT, \$499 PROCESSING FEE AND NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. TAX, REGISTRATION AND INSURANCES ARE EXTRA. CUSTOMER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE WEAR AND EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES OF \$0.15 PER MILE IN EXCESS OF AGREEMENT'S MILES (COROLLA/RAV4: 36,000 MILES; CAMRY: 24,000 MILES). OFFER AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. (2) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS. OFFERS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$16.67 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. (3) PURCHASERS CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$2,750 CASH BACK FROM TOYOTA OR CAN APPLY CASH BACK TO DOWN PAYMENT. AMOUNT VARIES PER MODEL. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE PARTS AND FLUIDS. (6) COLLEGE GRAD AND MILITARY REBATE AVAILABLE ON TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED CREDIT THRU TFS. ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN U.S. MILITARY TO RECEIVE REBATE. (7) 2012 OR 2013 EPA-ESTIMATED MILEAGE. ACTUAL MILEAGE MAY VARY. (8) CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE A \$500 INCENTIVE FROM TOYOTA UPON LEASING A NEW 2013 RAV4 AND TRADING IN A TOYOTA VEHICLE. (†) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (††) FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (†††) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CPO VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$17.05 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. ONE INCENTIVE PER TRANSACTION. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 9/30/13.

Five out of

Inova is the only local health system with all five of its hospitals ranked among the DC region's top 15 by U.S. News & World Report.



Inova Alexandria Hospital



Inova Fairfax Hospital



Inova Mount Vernon Hospital



Inova Loudoun Hospital



Inova Fair Oaks Hospital

No matter where you live in the Washington, DC area, you can trust that world-class healthcare is just right around the corner at any one of Inova's five hospitals. U.S. News & World Report has also ranked Inova Fairfax Hospital the #1 hospital in the DC area for the second straight year, and it's the only hospital in the region to be ranked among the nation's best in women's and children's care.

At Inova, we are leading the future of health. Learn more at inova.org/usnews

