

Warming Up For Festival Concert

The “Mirage” Advanced Women’s Chorus at Mount Vernon High School was in rehearsal on Tuesday, March 6, for this Thursday night’s “I Hear A Voice” Festival Concert in the Mount Vernon High School Little Theatre.

In addition to the advanced women’s chorus, “Measure for Measure” Madrigals, “Montage” Concert Choir and Guitar IVIII will perform. Thursday’s 7 p.m. concert will be different from any other, as applause is not allowed until the three choruses have performed their three pieces and the entire concert is finished.

Mount Vernon High School Director of Choirs and Guitar Studies Judith A. Belzer is attempting to duplicate the intensity that the students will experience on Saturday, March 10, when they perform in front of judges for their choral assessment — equivalent to a choral Standard of Learning.

Gabrielle Wineberger sings solo along with Sarah Busch, Lily Chong, Elle Parks and De’ja Wanzer.



Choral director Judith Belzer leads the advanced women’s chorus in “Veni, Sancte Spiritus” by Andrea Ramsey. The chorus members are: Desha Brown, Sarah Busch, Lily Chong, Rebecca Dyson, Lizett Giron, Elizabeth Gregory, Savanna Lindsay, McKenzie Moore, Gilda Nimoh, Elle Parks, Catherine Perryman, Aylana Randall, Catherine Ray, Gabrielle Salvado, Brooke Scutt, Alliyah Stevens, Ashley Vanlandingham, Jessica Viera, De’ja Wanzer and Gabrielle Wineberger.



Elle Parks works on her part in “Veni, Sancte Spiritus.”

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE

What Recession?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

As local governments across America are laying off firefighters and teachers, governments in Northern Virginia are experiencing record levels of spending and an all-time-high number of employees. Budgets now under consideration in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria are higher than they’ve ever been. Experts say the trend is driven by the region’s ties to the federal government, which have traditionally insulated the region from downturns in the market. It’s also a reflection of a

growing population and an increasing number of students in public school.

“When you have the best economy in the country, people move here,” said Stephen Fuller, director of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. “Northern Virginia has been pretty hot — not like it used to be but compared to the rest of the country, it’s doing just fine.”

A look at the past decade shows that spending levels rose dramatically along with the real-estate market. When that bubble burst, local governments across America fell on hard times. Even now, years after the recession technically

came to an end, statistics from the Commerce Department show local governments have become a drag on growth. But Northern Virginia belies this trend, in some ways acting as a counterbalance to it.

At least for now.

Because the economic health of the region is so closely tied to the fate of the federal government, any changes to federal spending could have dramatic consequences in Northern Virginia. One scenario that has many local governments worried involves the Government Control Act. That was the legislation that ended the debt-ceiling crisis last year by creating a super-committee that failed to reach an

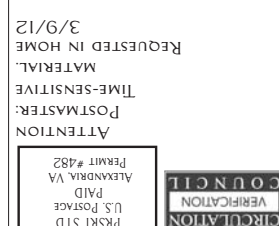
Bucking national trend, Northern Virginia governments have record employment and record spending.

agreement in November. That could mean dramatic reductions in discretionary spending early next year.

“You’re not going to gain the savings you need by cutting an aircraft carrier, so you’re going to have to cut employees and sala-

ries — the things you need to gain the savings next year, which is required by the law,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Lead-

SEE NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
PAGE 3



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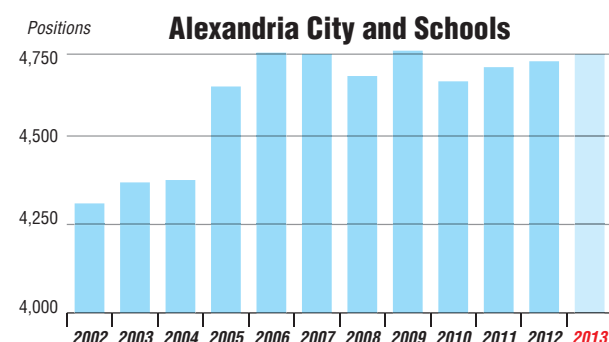
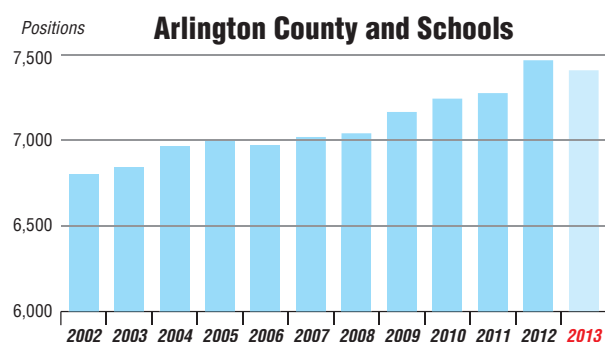
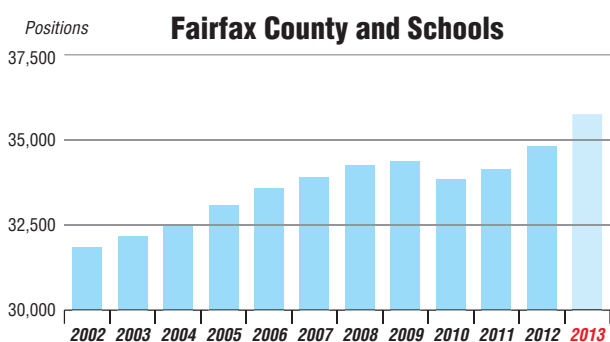
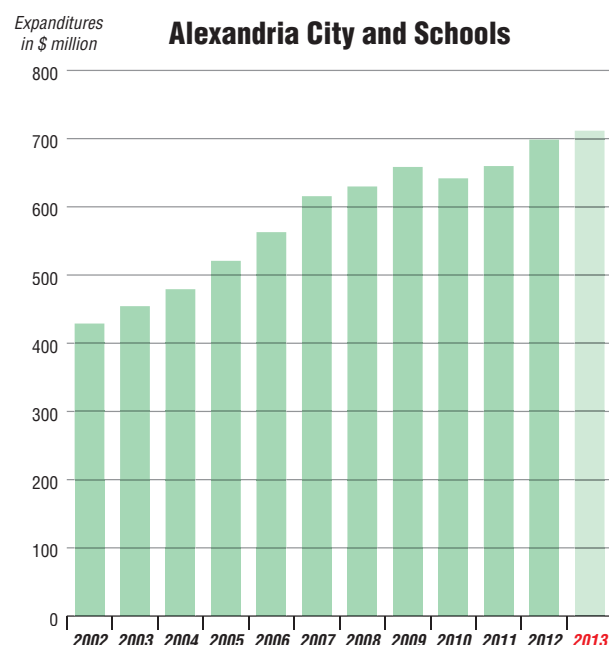
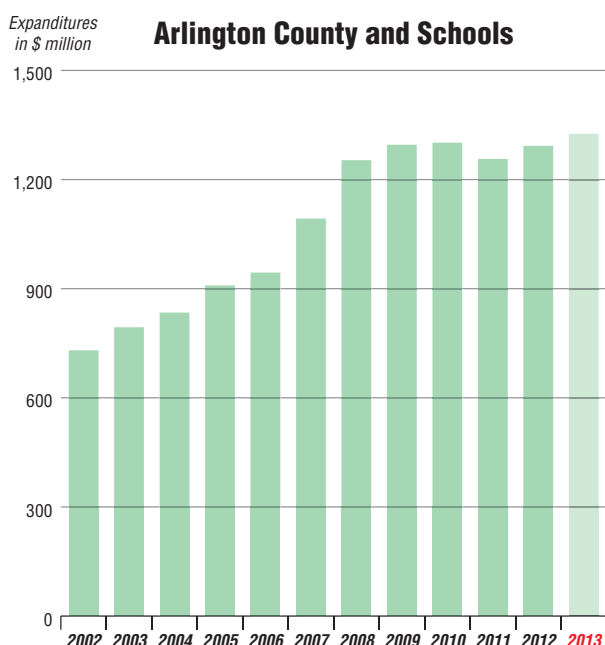
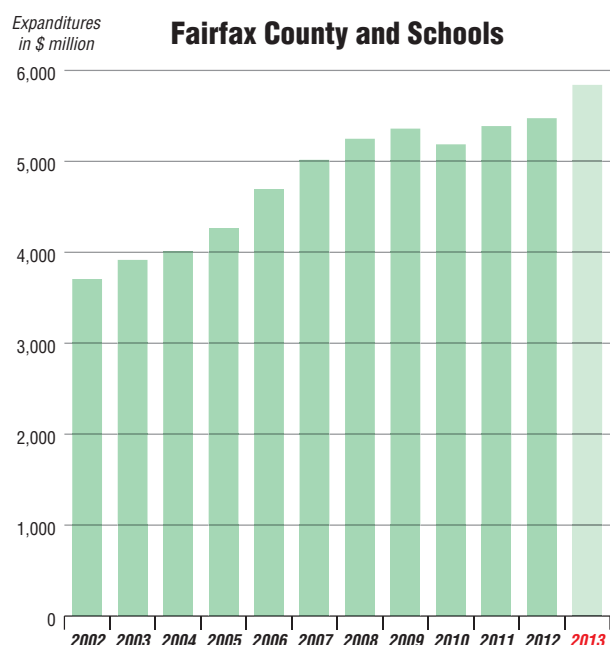


CHART BY LAURENCE FOONG/GAZETTE

Northern Virginia Governments Buck National Trend

FROM PAGE 1

ership. “For federal agencies, that means disproportionate elimination of positions.”

OVER THE LAST two years, local governments across America have cut about half a million jobs. Since the federal government started recording local government jobs in 1955, the statistic declined in only six of those years. The first three were the beginning of the Ronald Reagan administration. And the second three are the beginning of the Barack Obama administration. In the last three years, government employment is down 2.6 percent. In the last 12 months alone, the government sector lost 276,000 jobs.

Contrast those numbers with Northern Virginia. In the last three years, Fairfax County has added about 1,400 jobs. Arlington and Alexandria have added more than 200 jobs. Budget officials say that growth has been built on the strength of the real-estate market.

“We only had one negative year,” said Richard Stephenson, budget director in Arlington County. “Because our tax base remains stable, we were able to continue the funding of programs that our population wanted. So we didn’t go in and make dramatic cuts to services.”

And yet the budgets in local jurisdictions don’t always reflect that growth. Libraries and parks, in particular have seen major cuts in all the municipalities. In Fairfax County alone, for example, almost \$5 mil-

lion has been slashed from the library budget over the last four years. And even now that revenues are growing again, County Executive Anthony Griffin’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 suggests cutting another \$860,000 from the library system.

“We’ve had to make some pretty draconian cuts to the library system, and it’s one of our most used facilities,” said Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth. “A lot of constituents really use the library and they’re feeling that pinch.”

PART OF THE STORY of growth in Northern Virginia in recent years has been tied to the growth in the federal government, especially the growth in defense spending as a result of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Government contracts to Northern Virginia businesses such as Northrop Grumman have been a cash cow for years, pumping money and jobs into the region. Census records indicate the Fairfax County population grew 12 percent in the last decade. Arlington grew 10 percent, and Alexandria grew 9 percent. Nowhere has that growth been more challenging than in the public school systems, which are pushing the limits of enrollment to the point that school administrators are closely monitoring the fire code.

“You can only have so many children in a building,” said Tammy Ignacio, chief administrative officer for Alexandria City Public Schools. “Many of our elementary schools are at that limit.”

In the last five years, Fairfax County Public Schools has added 15,000 new students and currently has the largest Kindergarten class ever. And more students are expected next year. Much of that growth is from students who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. Because those students cost more to educate, school administrators are seeing budget demands increase at a time when the rest of the country is cutting back.

“We see a lot of immigrant families arriving to Fairfax County in search of a better life, and we see the economy continue to have an impact on our families. Thus, we see more kids who are falling below the poverty line.”

— Barbara Hunter, spokeswoman, Fairfax County Public Schools

“We see a lot of immigrant families arriving to Fairfax County in search of a better life, and we see the economy continue to have an impact on our families,” said Barbara Hunter, spokeswoman for the county school system. “Thus, we see more kids who

are falling below the poverty line.”

WHEN THE GREAT RECESSION hit in late 2008, local governments in Northern Virginia responded by imposing hiring freezes and scaling back services. That may seem like an obvious response, but the federal government offered a 7 percent cost-of-living increases at a time when none of the jurisdictions in Northern Virginia were making any cost-of-living adjustments.

“They tightened up early,” said Fuller. “They were cutting stuff in 2009 that a lot of people were still waiting and talking about, Maryland particularly was still giving salary raises where they stopped doing that in Virginia.”

The story behind the growing expenditures and government employees couldn’t have happened anywhere else. Unlike jurisdictions across America, local governments in Northern Virginia have benefited from a growing tax base and an increasing population. That means more money for services at a time when other municipalities are laying off employees and cutting back on programs. But it also means that other sources of revenue have become increasingly reliant on an economy that’s still considered by many to be a cash cow.

“The cost of providing services have continued to keep pace with inflation since the Great Recession hit,” said Shaffroth. “Meanwhile, the federal government and the state have eliminated a number of services. Guess who gets to pick up the tab?”

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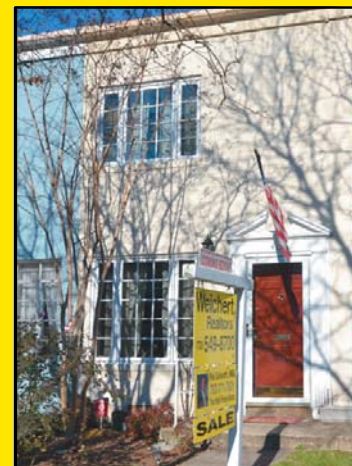
Alexandria \$299,900
3 BR, 2 BA beautiful condo with many updates including granite counters and ceramic tile floor in kitchen. Appliances are all less than two years old. Great Master bdrm w/two walk-in closets, private bath w/soaking tub, separate shower and double sink. Open floor plan with a totally private balcony that backs to the woods.
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Wonderfully updated & expanded home built in 1900 on a large corner lot with off-street parking, steps from shops & restaurants on "The Avenue". Open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a sunny kitchen with breakfast bar and large fenced yard with patio.
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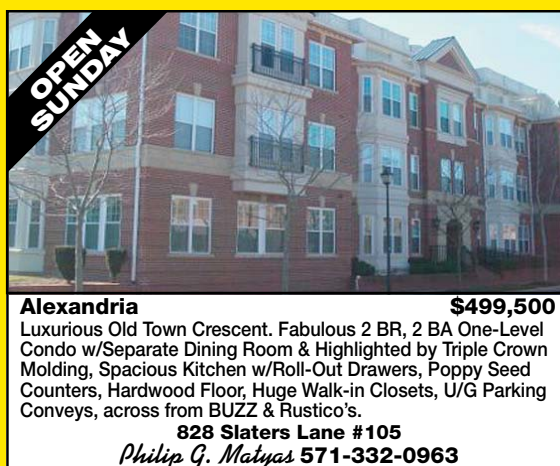
Alexandria \$874,900
Fabulous 5 bedroom/3 full bath detached home in sought-after Douglas MacArthur school district features over 3,000 sq ft of finished living space on a private 1/2 acre lot. Updated kitchen w/granite countertops & stainless steel appliances, screened-in porch & master bedroom suite w/California closets & sitting room. 2-car garage & private drive for off-street parking.
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You can't beat this value in the heart of Old Town! Leave the car at the curb! Brand new windows. Full bathroom completely redone. Main level has a half bath. Renovated & large eat-in kitchen with granite, xtra wine fridge! Hardwoods recently refinished! Walk score of 91! Minutes to D.C., Pentagon, DCA, PTO, Mark Ctr & Ft Belvoir.
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Great open floor plan with a split bedroom configuration. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo with a balcony and large bay window. Large kitchen with granite breakfast bar & SS appl. 2 full-size garage parking spaces & 24/7 fitness center in the building!
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NEWS

Ms. Jones' third grade class at Stratford Landing Elementary assembles an American Girl raffle for the upcoming auction.



Spring Fling chairperson, Frances Sankey, meets with school staff to go over auction plans.

Auction To Benefit Elementary School

Stratford Landing hosts annual auction and ice cream social.

Stratford Landing Elementary School will host its annual Spring Fling Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social on Friday, March 23, from 6-9 p.m. at the school located at 8484 Riverside Road.

Ice cream will be served in the cafeteria by teachers and volunteers and a local DJ will play music in the gym for children to enjoy a dance party while parents browse the various auction items and raffle baskets donated by families and businesses from the community. There is no charge for attending the event, except for any items purchased during the auction.

"Stratford Landing's Spring Fling and Silent Auction is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a night out with your family, socialize with friends and neighbors, and raise some money to help benefit our children's education, support our teachers, improve our school, and reach out to members of our community," said Michele Nellenbach, PTA president at Stratford Landing.

For over 10 years, the silent auction has raised thousands of dollars for programs benefiting students, teachers and families at the school and throughout the com-

munity, including funding for field trips and performing arts programs, updated technology, new library books, and establishment of a Discovery Garden used by students and teachers.

"The PTA raises the money to pay for the extra programs that the school does not have the money to fund like field trips and the performing arts and assemblies for all our students which is a substantial cost," said Katie Savage who is the treasurer for the PTA.

In light of recent county budget

cuts, Stratford Landing's PTA has also provided more than \$5,000 this year to further staff development and \$8,300 in start-up funds for all teachers to offset expenses they privately incur to set up their classrooms for a new school year. The PTA has also sponsored community outreach programs, including literacy nights held in the Gum Springs Community center to help students and families focus on reading strategies.

Over the past few years, the silent auction has been increasingly successful. In 2009, the auction made a profit of \$25,000. In 2010, that profit increased \$7,000, and last year the Silent Auction raised \$34,000.

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Springtime! Reset Your Clocks!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$434,900
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Burke/Burke Centre \$349,900
10222 Quiet Pond Terrace
Stunning 3 Finished Level Town House, updated from top to bottom. Beautiful new kit-new cabinets, SS, granite & ceramic tile. 3.5 refinished baths. LR/DR offer beautiful refinished hwd floors, stone FPL, SGD to lovely wrap around deck perfect for entertaining. New carpet in BRs. Lower level offers 4th BR or Family Rm, 3rd full bath, SGD to ground level deck. Could be an in-law suite or perfect for a teenager. Close to schools, shopping & library. This is a gem!!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$669,000
3120 McGeorge Terrace
The Best of Riverside Estates! Spectacular 2 level 1000sq ft addition which offers a gorgeous great room w/3 skylites, 4th & 5th BRs & 4th full bath- perfect for a growing family or In-law suite. Remodeled kitchen-custom cabinets, corian & SS. Inter/exterior painted, refinished hwd flrs & spacious 2 car garage. This home exudes charm & class! Private & serene setting backs to woods. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 30 to Pentagon & 35 to D.C. You've got to see this home!!



Alex/Hollin Hall Village \$409,000
2007 Clark Place
Lovingly and meticulously maintained home on cul-de-sac in sought after Hollin Hall/Waynewood Elementary. New roof, refinished hwd floors, freshly painted, replacement windows, carport, family rm addition w/washer/dryer and gas FPL. Wood burning FPL in living rm. Deck and beautiful bkyd. Fabulous location-walk to neighborhood shopping. 1 mile to GW Pkwy, Potomac River and Bike Trail. 5-10 mins to Old Town.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900
3202 Norwich Terrace
If you love nature & gardening, serenity & privacy, you'll love this home-a beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA Col w/3 finished lvls, 2 gas FPLs, on a quiet cul-de-sac. Lower lvl offers rec rm, den, wet bar, gas Fpl, workshop & w/o to a spectacular greenhouse w/its separate heating sys. Throw in a whole house back-up generator & spectacular backyard. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to Ntl Airport, 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C. This is special!!!



Alex/Stratford Landing \$409,900
2412 Londonderry Road
Solidly built 5BR, 2.5BA Cape Cod with carport in lovely community near Potomac River and Gw Parkway. Needs work but it is priced accordingly. Great opportunity to renovate and put sweat equity into your home.



Alex./Wilton Woods \$635,000
6006 Beech Tree Drive
Stunning 3 BR, 2 BA brick rambler with gorgeous gardens/landscaping in sought-after Wilton Woods. Detached brick garage. This home is spectacular with beautiful upgrades, attention to detail, and elegant design. Offering over 2,200 square feet of one-level living, it is both classy and charming. Extensive built-in storage systems. Hardwood floors throughout. Three fireplaces. Living Room with vaulted ceiling. Luxurious master bedroom suite with private patio. Fabulous home for entertaining, with gardens that inspire - it is a must-see!

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Poetry Slam Winners

Two West Potomac High School students are winners in a Poetry Slam at Reagan National Airport on Monday, Feb. 27. **Bernice Kear won second place and Nick Hyman won third place.** Bernice and Nick are also featured on YouTube and can be seen using the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/washingtontimes?feature=watch>

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through March 2.

BURGLARY

7500 block of Snowpea Court, Feb. 25, 8:45 p.m. A neighbor called police for an open door. Officers found the house had been burglarized. Electronic equipment and cash were taken.

ROBBERY

8200 block of Russell Road, Feb. 26, 11:20 p.m. The victim was walking home when she saw two men running after her. They caught her, pointed a gun at her and took her purse.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

6640 Richmond Highway, Feb. 18, 12:20 a.m. Officer responded for a fight at T.G.I. Friday's. A 25-year-old male of Alexandria was allegedly involved in an altercation with two other patrons in the parking lot. He was charged with obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct.

ATTEMPTED LARCENY

3400 block of Buckman Road, Feb. 18, 12:40 a.m. The hired security for the community stopped a 48-year-old male of Alexandria for suspicious

activity. An investigation led officers to arrest him for allegedly preparing to steal an air conditioning unit. He was charged with attempted larceny, attempted larceny with intent to sell and possession of burglarious tools.

ANIMAL LICENSE VIOLATION

5900 block of North Kings Highway, Feb. 19, 12 p.m. An animal control officer responded for the report of possible cruelty to a dog. No evidence of cruelty was found, however, the owner could not produce required documents and was issued a summons. A 21-year-old male of Alexandria was charged with having no county dog license.

7500 block of Republic Court, Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m. Animal Control Officers were called to check on the welfare of a dog. A 25-year-old male of Alexandria was charged with having an unlicensed dog.

LARCENIES

1600 block of Belle View Blvd.
Body wash and razors from business.
8200 block of Colling Ridge Court.
Jewelry from residence.
2500 block of Parkers Lane.
Jewelry from residence.
8600 block of Richmond Highway.
Liquor from business.
6700 block of Richmond Highway.
MP3 player from business.
8600 block of Richmond Highway.
License plates from vehicle.
1200 block of I St. Radio from vehicle.
5900 block of Grand Pavilion Way.
Briefcase from vehicle.
2300 block of Huntington Ave.
Beer from business.
7500 block of Richmond Highway.
Wallet from business.
6000 block of Richmond Highway.
Television from business.
7900 block of Richmond Highway.
Video games from business.
7100 block of Richmond Highway.
Bicycle from residence.
9100 block of Richmond Highway.
Keys from vehicle.
8700 block of Sacramento Drive.
Wallet from business.
7900 block of San Leandro Place.
License plates from vehicle.
7900 block of Sausalito Place.
Electronic tablet/pad from residence.
3300 block of Southgate Drive.
Cologne from residence.

VEHICLE THEFTS

3000 block of Kings Village Road.
2007 Buick.
6300 block of South Kings Highway. 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe.
2900 block of Huntington Grove Square. 2009 Ford Explorer.



Exhibition Fundraiser / March 3rd-18th

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Art Party / March 16, 7-10pm Tickets: \$15 advance/\$20 door

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- **Raffle**: awesome raffle prizes donated by local businesses
- **Music, Games, & a Wing-Off Competition**
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OPINION

Reenacting a Dark History?

Turning back the clock in Richmond.

Who could have anticipated that our elected officials would take African American History month and Women's History month so seriously that they would literally try to turn back the clock?

First in February, African American History Month, the assembly voted to make it harder to vote, knowing that the bill would make it less likely that some African Americans in Virginia would vote.

The bill, which "eliminates the provision that allows a voter to sign a sworn statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in lieu of showing identification." There is no evidence that this longstanding provision has been abused.

In an action that reminds many of the poll tax, the General Assembly voted to require specific forms of identification at the polls in order to vote, knowing that this will disproportionately affect minority voters, poor voters and older voters, knowing that 15 percent or more of minority voters and older voters do not have such ID.

In the House of Delegates, the measure passed 69-30, with Northern Virginia delegates Dave Albo, Barbara Comstock, Tim Hugo, Jim LeMunyon and Tom Rust voting in favor; voting against were Robert Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell

and Vivian Watts.

All Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria senators voted against the bill that forces voters to provide one of a short list of identification in order to vote, but the bill passed 20-to-20. Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw voted against.

Now on to Women's History.

Northern Virginia holds a special place in women's struggle for the right to vote.

From the Workhouse Museum in Lorton: "In 1917, women began demonstrating in front of the White House for the right to vote. They decided they would rather be imprisoned than be quiet. In response to their outspoken protests during World War I, they were sentenced to fines or imprisonment. They chose imprisonment. Some of those arrested were sentenced to the Women's Workhouse at Lorton. The protestors were held under deplorable conditions. As news of the sentences spread, sympathy for the suffragists was aroused. ... Finally the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1919 and for the first time women were allowed to vote in the November 1920 national election."

Women's right to self-determination and equality has not come easily, and the transformation to full equality is not complete.

The Virginia General Assembly nevertheless became the butt of jokes and a source of outrage as it pursued a variety of bills that seek to deny women the right to have control over their own bodies.

We don't need to revisit the many references to "transvaginal ultrasound." The literal inva-

sive parts of this bill were deleted, but still the assembly passed legislation that will require women to have an ultrasound view of their fetus before having an abortion.

A bill that would provide "that unborn children at every stage of development enjoy all the rights, privileges, and immunities available to other persons, citizens, and residents of the Commonwealth," passed the House of Delegates 66-32. Local delegates Dave Albo, Barbara Comstock, Tim Hugo, Jim LeMunyon voted in favor; and voting against, Robert Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Ken Plum, Tom Rust, Jim Scott, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell, and Vivian Watts.

This bill died in the Senate at least for this year. Northern Virginia senators voting to kill this bill were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, David Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw. No senator from Fairfax, Arlington or Alexandria voted to keep the bill alive.

Outrage over these bills, assaults on women's rights, sparked demonstrations over the weekend.

Apparently the protest that ensued, with hundreds descending on Richmond, was darn scary; scary enough to turn out the riot squad and to prompt police to arrest protesters for sitting on the Capitol steps.

"Our state Capitol is becoming an armed garrison," said state Sen. Janet Howell. "Not since the massive resistance days in the '60s have I seen such a disgraceful display of excessive police presence in my state."

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fiscally Prudent?

To the Editor:

I am concerned by efforts to portray cuts to the state's safety net by the legislature as fiscally prudent while not harming Virginians with low incomes. Examples that indicate the harm done by some

of the measures are:

- ❖ Limiting families' access to state child care subsidies for a specific length of time means that only the first one or two children in a family can receive child care. Parents cannot obtain child care if they have more than one or two children because of the time limitation; then they cannot work. This provision does not save the

state any money while leaving over 10,000 families on the waiting list for child care.

- ❖ Laws requiring people to have certain forms of identification to vote discriminate against non-drivers, the elderly who have no need for identification, and Black Virginians who did not have access to hospitals in the past and may not have birth certificates. There have been practically no cases of "fraud" that need to be "corrected" by these ID laws that, far from providing savings to the state, will be costly to implement.

- ❖ Medicaid is the nation's health insurance program for disabled and low-income citizens, mostly children and the elderly. The failure of Virginia to take adequate advantage of Medicaid programs by having unusually restrictive eligibility rules costs the state large amounts of federal dollars. While Virginia has the ninth highest per capita income, Virginia has the 48th lowest Medicaid eligibility rules in the country. Local governments, non-profit agencies, and our insurance companies must

compensate for Virginia's failure to utilize available Medicaid dollars.

- ❖ Mean-spirited legislation to require ultra-sound procedures for pregnant women or drug tests for people receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families have no factual justification and, far from saving the state money, add unnecessary costs to the budget.

Thank you for letting me try to set the record straight.

Anne A. Andrews,
Convener

Route 1 Task Force for
Human Services

Standing Up For What's Right

To the Editor:

The bills that didn't pass listed by H. Jay Spiegel ("Truly Representative?" March 1-7, 2012) made me proud to have a delegate who is brave enough to depart from the "mainstream" in Richmond. Virginia needs every one of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Snapshot

3:16 p.m., March 5: American Horticulture Society at River Farm.

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OPINION

Budget Stand Is About People

BY LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Democrats in Virginia's State Senate voted down the Republican budget last week. Although this move is being used to label Democrats as obstructionists, the real story is much more complex. Senate Democrats are fighting to save important quality of life issues for the people of Virginia, not for political gain!

I have written about Republican overreach on "personhood," birth control, adoption, abortion and voter suppression. Some extreme bills that threatened personal freedoms were stopped with the help of a few Republicans who support moderation rather than extremism. For this all of us should be grateful. Unfortunately, this Session has been more focused on social issues rather than jobs and the economy.

RICHMOND REPORT

Four years ago every Republican senator voted against the budget. In 2004 the Republicans held up the budget until May. The new budget does not take effect until July 1. There is a long way to go to work out the differences. In reality, we have almost four months to reach some compromise and advert any shutting down of the government.

The media is sensationalizing this issue and labeling Senate Democrats as "obstructionists." This couldn't be further from the truth. We are trying to keep Virginia as one of the best places to do business, keep it well managed, and a great place to raise a family. If we do not, businesses will stop locating here. I believe that education is a cornerstone for a good quality of life and essential to keeping our Commonwealth and nation strong.

Budgets are complex. The budget that has been presented to us would fund K-12 education at the lowest level since 2007, "\$400 million less than we spent in 2007." Education funding is repeatedly being cut as student enrollment continues to increase.



This is an assault on public education and is jeopardizing the future of our Commonwealth. Without adequately funded education, our people will not be able to compete and keep our economy and quality of life strong.

The budget we defeated does not "adequately address the needs of our children, the elderly, and the

poor." And, there is no will to fund our transportation needs on a continuing basis. Gridlock continues to impact the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas. Roads and bridges are being neglected at the risk of safety and imperiling our hard fought effort to keep Virginia the "best managed state" in the nation.

Fees and tolls, privatization of road building, and taking funding from the General Fund that now goes to education, public safety, health care, and the environment seem the only route many members of the General Assembly are willing to go.

Elected officials must be willing to fight for their constituencies, vote for what's right for the people not for political gain. That's what Virginia Democratic senators are doing. We need to arrive at a compromise, not shut down the government, to protect the people of Virginia. I hope we can achieve this goal just as we were able to stop some very contentious legislation that impacted our people.

Working together requires compromise on both sides of the aisle. Once again, this is about the people not politics. Senate Democrats are not seeking a government shutdown but trying to protect the priorities that have made our Commonwealth strong. After all, this is what we were elected to do.

Please continue to contact me on issues of concern:

Senator Linda T. Puller, P.O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218; phone: 804-698-7536; fax: 804-698-7651; email: district36@senate.virginia.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

the things Delegate Surovell voted for, and it's a shame more legislators didn't recognize that. Raise the gas tax? Reinstate a very limited estate tax? Repeal tax credits to the coal industry? Of course. These are part of a realistic agenda, not a radical one. I am glad that Scott Surovell stands up for what is right, no matter which way the wind is blowing.

Ron Brandt
Alexandria

MVHS Crew Tag Day a Success

To the Editor:

The Mount Vernon High School Crew Team would like to thank the local community for their continued support to our athletic program. Your donations during Tag Day in February help provide the monetary support needed for maintaining our equipment and meeting operating expenses to

keep the Crew Team competitive. We know many of you were taking advantage of a well-deserved holiday weekend, as a result you may have found a self-addressed stamped envelope in your door when you returned. Please consider sending in the envelope with your tax-deductible donation. Your donations and generosity do make a difference. Last year the crew team had three boats place in state championships. The team also had a boat qualify and compete in the national championship.

Please visit our website and follow the team this year. mvcrew.com

Fred Snyder
President Mount Vernon Crew Boosters

Serving Constituents

To the Editor:

I find it fascinating that Mr. H. Jay Spiegel appears to have just

discovered that Del. Scott Surovell votes (gasp!) left-of-center in the House. Even more entertaining is the implication that, after winning the election with almost 60 percent of the vote, he pulled a Romney-like switcheroo on our "somewhat moderate politically" district. As for those examples that Mr. Spiegel cites as evidence of Del. Surovell's political malfeasance, they make me more likely, not less likely, to vote for him again next time around. Yes, we absolutely need the estate tax (in what imaginable alternate universe would it be considered fair for a Paris Hilton to inherit daddy's gazillions without paying tax on it?), and every time I contemplate the plastic bags hanging from my trees along Sherwood Hall Lane, I wonder if perhaps people wouldn't be such thoughtless slobbs if it cost them some cash. Bottom line: I certainly wasn't laboring under any misconceptions about his political leanings when I voted for Del. Surovell last year; I hope he

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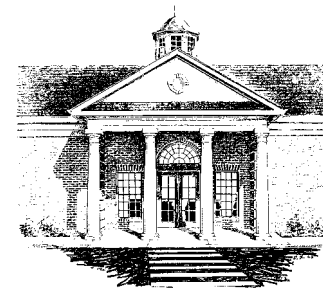
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OPINION

Protecting Residents in Tax, Road Debates

BY GERALD E. CONNOLLY
U.S. REP. (D-II)

Congress finally has acted to ensure payroll tax relief for 170 million individuals and families through the rest of 2012. This additional tax relief is critical for maintaining the momentum of the economic recovery, and Northern Virginians will realize an average savings of \$2,000 per household.

As part of that legislation, unemployment benefits will be extended for 2.3 million Americans. That action alone will boost GDP by 1 percent, which is significant in the current economic climate. Though our regional unemployment rate is about half of the national average, we still have thousands of our neighbors who are struggling to find work, and these benefits offer a vital lifeline to keep them and their families afloat during tight times.

In addition, the bill recently passed by Congress will preserve access to affordable health care for 48 million seniors by preventing a scheduled cut in the Medicare reimbursement rate for their doctors.

As you know, Congress has been debating these issues for the past several months and just before the New Year enacted a short-term extension. While I have consis-



tently supported extending tax relief and benefits for seniors and the unemployed, I have strongly objected to the way in which federal employees have been singled out to pay for certain provisions in this bill.

It will increase the out-of-pocket retirement costs for newly-hired federal employees by 300 percent. It is not fair to ask only one group of Americans to bear the burden of reducing our nation's deficit. Of course, such actions fall disproportionately on our community, which is home to the third largest concentration of federal employees in the nation. Like most Americans, public servants do not object to sharing in the sacrifice, but shared sacrifice should mean shared sacrifice. Already federal employees have contributed \$60 billion to deficit reduction by enduring a 2-year pay freeze while no others have been asked to sacrifice.

This is just the latest in a string of assaults on our dedicated public servants. In fact, the major transportation bill now being considered by the House would raise retirement costs on current and future federal employees on top of the increase just

adopted. That bill also would reduce their overall retirement benefit by 40 percent. There is no justification for funding portions of our nation's vital transportation infrastructure on the backs of our federal employees, particularly given the fact that the bill will reduce the existing level of federal highway funding for Virginia by \$361 million.

Enough is enough. It is outrageous for the House majority to repeatedly foist a disproportionate burden onto federal employees for funding the very programs and services they provide to our constituents every day. These actions are creating an environment in which few will be interested in public service because the pay and benefits are so far below those in the private sector. Federal pay already lags behind the private sector by 26 percent, according to the Department of Labor, and over the next decade 47 percent of the federal workforce is eligible to retire. How do we expect to protect our borders, our food supply and our seniors, to name just a few, if we continue to hollow out the federal workforce?

Extending tax relief, providing benefits for the unemployed, protecting our seniors and investing in our roads and mass transit systems is the right thing to do, but not at the expense of our neighbors who are being singled out solely because they happen to work for the federal government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

will continue to do what he's doing; and I don't believe I'm the only one who feels that way.

And really, Mr. Spiegel, how can you possibly suggest that any of Del. Surovell's positions rise to anywhere near the level of "government intrusion in our lives" represented by the infamous "personhood" and "transvaginal ultrasound" bills pushed by the GOT (Grand Old Theocracy, formerly the Grand Old Party) this year?

Jeff Carver
Alexandria

Legislation Does Hurt the Poor

To the Editor:

In last week's Gazette, Jay McConville objects that the front page story, "New Laws Attack Poor" (Feb. 16-22, 2012) is filled with the assertion that "legislation promoting good financial stewardship ... is an attack on the poor." In the article to which McConville refers, Delegate Surovell and Senator Puller are cited as mentioning proposed regulations limiting

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PUBLIC NOTICE - ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comments on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding a landfill in Fairfax County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: March 17, 2012 to April 16, 2012

PUBLIC HEARING: Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079, on April 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: I-95 Sanitary Landfill, Fairfax County Solid Waste Permit Number 103

PERMIT APPLICANT: Fairfax County, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Solid Waste Management Program

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: I-95 Sanitary Landfill, Fairfax County; 9580 Furnace Road, Lorton, Virginia. This facility is an Environmental Enterprise participant in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Fairfax County has applied for a modification to its permit, in order to expand Phase III B of the ATLL Unit, redesign the Sediment Basin No. 26 to include a forebay, revise the Leachate Collection System to include the expansion area, and to increase the final slopes from 3.5:1 to 3.1:1. The proposed changes meet the requirements of Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations. In addition, the permit modification allows the facility to change the final grades of the Citizen's Disposal Facility and include retaining walls to improve functionality, to include design, technical specifications and Construction Quality Assurance Plan updates, reflecting the above referenced changes, and to incorporate revised Landfill Gas Monitoring Plan into the permit, to reflect changes to the perimeter monitoring network.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office specified below. Copies of the permit documents are also available at the Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Highway Lorton VA-22079

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Yurek Aurelson, Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3844; Email: Yurek.Aurelson@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821.

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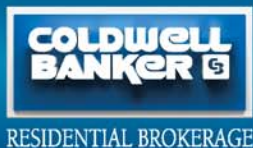
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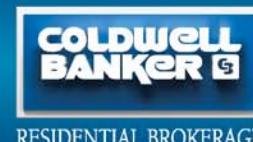


Gayl Warman



Old Town Alexandria

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LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



ALEXANDRIA

#1 OFFICE IN VIRGINIA IN 2011



Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan



9514 Mount Vernon Landing
\$1,950,000

- MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK**
- Prime location in Mount Vernon on the Potomac
 - Custom designed to capitalize on waterfront setting
 - Major components in place-personalize interior
 - Rare opportunity at this price for direct waterfrontage with dock in place
- OPEN SUN 3/11, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Mt Vernon Cir to Mount Vernon Landing



9219 Allwood Dr
\$525,000

Updated Home-Spectacular Lot!
Fabulous new listing! Move in ready! Stunning home on magnificent 3/4 acre grounds. Owner has updated almost every major component of the home including: kit, baths, roof, HVAC within past few years. Open floor plan! Covered parking! Fenced lot! OPEN SUN 3/11, 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Ferry Landing; L-Allwood.



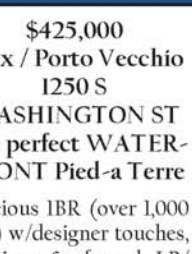
8355 Justin Rd
\$870,000

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



DR! You will love the panoramic vista of river & golf course w/dynamite sunsets! Larger units available.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



\$739,000
Alexandria
"NEW LISTING"

Gracious living in this 3 lvl Williamsburg Col. w/grand ctr hall - 5BR - 3FBA - Sep DR opens to lg deck - LR, lovely sunroom addition w/ ceramic tile flrs, frpl - Renovated eat-in kit overlooks lovely landscaped bkdyd - lg w/out rec rm w/frpl & bar - 2-car gar w/sep dark rm/storage - Fresh paint thru-out and more waiting for you!



Frank Roberts 703.898.0840



\$499,900
Waynewood
"NEW LISTING"

Expanded split level model w/carport, family rm addition & extra bath! Walk to school, park, pool and minutes to Old Town, Ft Belvoir. As-is condition, renovation needs to be finished by new owner. Great opportunity to gain equity.



www.WaynewoodRealtors.com
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633



9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd
\$668,000

Stunning Renovation-Borders Mt. Vernon Estate!
One of the most truly spectacular properties available on market today at any price! Spacious home with top quality renovations from. Features amazing open floor plan, dramatic glass walled sun room, new gourmet kit, 6BR, 3 remodeled baths, 2FP, finished LL, covered parking for 2, deck.



4009 Colonial Ave
\$749,500

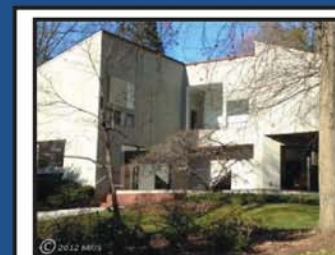
New Home-Gorgeous Site!
Pre-construction opportunity-fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value-priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)



Belvoir. The home features 4BR/3BA, eat-in kitchen - separate dining room - rec room w/fireplace - oversized garage - .5 acre level lot. DIR: from Alex S on GW Pkwy, R on Waynewood Blvd, L on Ft Hunt Rd to 8617

Beverly Morrison 703.517.1257

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$539,000
Alexandria South
8617 FT HUNT RD



\$800,000
Hollin Hills
"JUST LISTED"

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



Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



\$949,000
Accokeek, MD
"HISTORIC ESTATE"

"Bellevue" - Meticulously maintained Historic Estate on 10.23 acres. 23/30 minutes from Old Town / DC. 4BR / 3BA Main House, 1BR / 1BA Guest House, Orangery, Folly (Greek Temple) w/IBA (currently used as office). Gated, wooded & private estate w/open green space & exceptional landscaping.



Daniel Lusk 202.412.8885



9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000

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



9017 Stratford Ln
\$949,000

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



8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000

Country Club Views!
You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A + lot, updated kitchen w/granite countertops & SS appliances, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir.



HVAC, water heater, refig., W/D, carpets, fam.rm French doors. Community parks, playground, ball fields, pools & tennis. Sidewalks to WWES & rec center & IY Bus Stop - a Commuter's Dream!



Marty Mullen 703.216.0811

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$825,000
Waynewood
8822 Fircrest Pl



\$560,000
Alexandria
"RENOVATED!!!"

NEW PRICE - New kitchen & baths, hardwood everywhere, screened porch, deck & private fenced backyard. All this & a lovely quiet neighborhood close to Ft. Belvoir, Alexandria, DC & Huntington Metro. You have to see this home to appreciate it.



www.bonnieclarkrealtor.com
Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$675,000
Waynewood
1208 CROTON DR

NEW PRICE! 1-of-a-kind totally renovated home. Brand New apps, roof, windows, systems, & siding! 2 lvl Mstr suite, on 4th/5th lvls. Ig bsmt w/rec/mud/storage rms, FBA, open kit/DR w/bkfst bar, granite & SS.



www.WaynewoodRealtors.com
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633



7006 Stone Mill Pl
\$460,000

Classic Colonial-Reasonable Price!



4200 Kimbree Ct
\$949,000

Updated Custom Home!



4502 Phylliss St
\$525,000

SUPER VALUE!



8890 McNair Dr
\$699,000

Pristine Custom Colonial!



2300 Candlewood
\$569,000

Expanded Tri-Level!



8528 Monticello Ave
\$559,000

Updated Colonial!



perfect for guests or in-laws! Newly updated kit & BAs, lg formal rms, in home office, cul-de-sac location w/oversized deck & fab fenced yd. Walk to Metro & convenient to Pentagon, Old Town & more!



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

\$729,000
Alexandria South
"WALK to METRO"



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$409,000
Alexandria South
6910 COLUMBIA DR

Newly Refinished Floors * New Paint complete this expanded 3BR/2BA Cape plus newer kit, HVAC, HWH & landscaping West Potomac school district. Convenient to Ft Belvoir, Old Town and Reagan National Airport.



Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$609,900
Springfield
6430 MELIA ST

4BR/2.5BA/3lvl center hall colonial w/2-car garage on flat, wooded .5 acre lot. Gazebo & shed in rear w/ electricity. Remodeled kit w/granite & hrdwd. 2-story first fl FR w/brick frpl. No HOA fees. DIR: from Belvoir Van Dorn Exit S, R on Franconia L on Elder (becomes Melia) to home on L.



Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012



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www.OldTownAlexandria.com



Two Surovell Bills Become Law; State Budget Stalls

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Governor McDonnell signed two of my bills into law on Feb. 29. One clarifies that when a person files an action for child custody, child support or spousal support, any powers of attorney between the parties would automatically terminate. My second bill clarifies deadlines for calculating compounded interest in appeals to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

A companion of another of my bills is moving through the Senate. It clarifies that the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts

RICHMOND REPORT

have jurisdiction over protective orders in situations that do not involve family members. Because of changes in the law last year in response to the Yeardley Love case, confusion had arisen and several children's petitions were rejected in Fairfax County because the courts lacked jurisdiction. I expect that bill to pass this week.

I have been working with three Republican delegates on bills to give Northern Virginia better representation on the Common-

wealth Transportation Board. Our bill passed the House of Delegates, but hit a roadblock in a Senate committee. It was continued to the 2013 session. We will be back.

I had two other bills continued to 2013. One directs the Virginia Depart-

ment of Transportation (VDOT) to explore leasing right-of-way for solar power production to help fund road construction. Virginia's solar industry will be a fountain of future jobs. I also helped pass Senator Chap Peterson's legislation prohibiting homeowners associations from banning solar panels on homes. My third bill continued to 2013 would create a cause of action against companies who sell information relating to criminal records that have been expunged.

Another of my bills was incorporated into a Republican Delegate's bill and passed the Senate. It would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to electronically transmit voter registration applications sub-

mitted at DMV branches and save taxpayer resources.

BUDGET CHALLENGES CONTINUE

The state budget is still stuck. The House passed a second budget this week. It has as many flaws as the first budget.

There are more problems beyond the ones I noted last week. In February, the Attorneys General across the country negotiated a \$25 billion settlement with the banks for "robo-signing" and other illegal foreclosure practices. Virginia will receive a \$69 million cash payment intended to help provide affordable housing, first-time homebuyer assistance, foreclosure counseling, and rental vouchers. The House budget puts the \$69 million in the General Fund instead of directing it to the people who need it. I introduced an amendment to direct the money to the Virginia Housing Development Authority where it was intended. My amendment was rejected on a largely party-line vote.

The proposed budget has massive cuts in Medicaid, the state's health insurance program for the disabled and low-income people (mainly children and elderly). Fifteen percent of my constituents receive Medicaid services — the highest percent-

age in Fairfax County and the second highest in all of Northern Virginia. There is one general practitioner who accepts Medicaid on Route 1. There are no specialists in all of Northern Virginia who accept Medicaid. Eligibility changes proposed by the House of Delegates could kick 4,700 elderly — enough to fill 112 city buses — out of nursing homes. Medicaid cuts disproportionately hit our community.

The Senate has refused to pass a budget due to the 20-20 deadlock. Last week, I argued in the House that Governor McDonnell needs to be a more active broker to reach a solution. So far he has mainly lobbed criticism at the Senate. The impasse will only be broken when people start talking to each other. As Governor, now- U.S. Sen. Mark Warner showed us all how to do this. Governor McDonnell should follow his lead.

To inform my constituents about my work, I have written many articles on my blog, The Dixie Pig, about my work. Don't be hesitant about blogs. A blog is just a website for posting articles with pictures, graphs, and no editors' word limits! You can read over 300 of my articles at scotturovell.blogspot.com.

Thank you for the honor to serve you in Richmond.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

childcare subsidies to five years per family, regardless of the number of children in the family; voting bills which disproportionately impact the poor and elderly, by imposing the burden of proof of eligibility on the voter who arrives at the polls without identification; legislation requiring drug tests for people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; massive cuts to Medicaid; a bill prohibiting Medicaid from paying for an abortion (even) when a physician certifies that the fetus will be born with a gross and incapacitating physical or mental deformity; and the now infamous, medically irrelevant unfunded mandate that a woman must pay for an ultrasound if she desires an abortion. None of these promote good financial stewardship. And they all disproportionately affect the poor. McConville's letter, citing no examples of legislation promoting financial stewardship, commends the General Assembly for successfully passing "important legislation dealing with issues that matter most to Virginians" and suggests your paper report on these, undocumented, "real accomplishments." I concur. What are they?

Surovell's "Richmond Report" in last week's paper, enumerated proposals in the (Republican) House Budget which reduce funding for secondary education, cut Medicaid, do nothing to deal with

Virginia's 12,000-child subsidized childcare waiting list, and take \$50 million per year from the General Fund — taxes paid by Virginians — to fund transportation, instead of raising taxes from those who use the highways, including non-Virginians. These proposals do not strike me as examples of laudable good governance or sound fiscal policy.

Paul M. Siegel
Alexandria

Reasonable, Not Radical

To the Editor:

In the March 1 edition of the Mount Vernon Gazette, Jay Spiegel criticized Del. Scott Surovell's support for a Republican Delegate's legislation to automatically restore the voting rights of nonviolent ex-felons. Mr. Spiegel should get his facts straight.

While we all may not agree on certain political issues and politicians are known to support and vote on most issues along party lines, in all fairness to Delegate Surovell, who supported HB16 to restore voting rights to certain individuals convicted of a felony, Delegate Surovell did not do so to be "radical."

Delegate Surovell recognized that denying certain felons the right to vote after paying his/her

debt to society, that it's the same tactic used under the Jim Crow era that granted voting rights only to white males who owned land. Although non-whites owned land, they were not afforded that right until the U.S. Constitution was amended.

Since the Jim Crow era, many states and the District of Columbia modified their permanent disbarment of voting rights for certain felons. Delegate Surovell is supporting such a bill. HB16 was a bill to amend and reenact § 53.1-231.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to restoration of civil rights. It was not a bill to amend the U.S. Constitution. The bill does not extend the privilege to all felons. The bill is for a select group of non-violent felons who paid their debt to society, hold jobs, pay taxes and are productive members of the community.

Yes, there may be a few bad apples in the basket; but, you don't discredit those who learned from their mistake, became model citizens and are active in their community.

Conditions may be placed on the bill restoring voting rights to felons. For example, one condition imposed by Maryland states that "if convicted of two or more such crimes, a person is not eligible to vote unless and until a pardon is obtained." The same could be a condition for Virginia felons.

Bottom line, the felon was

judged by his/her peers who also applied the appropriate "punishment" for the felon. The Virginia governor did not have input into that process; however, the governor is the sole individual who determines whether or not the felon should have his/her voting rights restored. Should the governor deny the felon's petition, there is no appeal process. Only the governor determines whether or not the felon was rehabilitated or should continue to pay for their mistake "unofficially" since the felon paid his/her debt to society according to the justice system. The governor may also impose additional requirements not previously a part of the petition process. For example, in addition to the current petition process, Governor McDonnell instituted new rules to include a "Details of Offense Letter."

Times have changed to include allowing women to vote and Congress lowering the voting age from 21-years to 18-years. So, the time may have come for Virginia to get rid of its Jim Crow law that permanently disbars the voting rights for certain felons.

Currently, Virginia and Kentucky are the only states that have permanent disbarment. Maine and Vermont are the only states that does not take away voting rights if convicted of any crime. The remaining states have some type of restoration of voting rights that

does not rest solely with its governor. Once a certain felon's debt to society has been paid, his/her voting rights should be restored automatically.

Delegate Surovell's support of HB16 should be viewed as eradicating remnants of a Jim Crow law and not as a radical or leftist action.

Queenie Cox

Correction

The theater group performing "Romeo and Juliet" highlighted on The Gazette's front page last week was misidentified. It is the Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

A Director Returns To the Scene

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
THE GAZETTE

It isn't often that an out-of-town director has the opportunity to return to a show in a regional theatre and see how it has grown, evolved, and progressed since opening night. But Maurice Hines, director and choreographer of MetroStage's world premiere production of "Josephine Tonight" did just that recently. He returned to Alexandria with his associate director Mel Johnson Jr. to surprise the cast and see what his work looked like four weeks later. One of the exciting things about live theatre is that it is going to be slightly different every night. Actors can grow in their roles, further understand and develop their characters, and simply

inhabit the stage with their fellow actors more comfortably over time.

Hines' immediate response to seeing the show again was that it was better than ever and that he was so proud to be a part of it. When asked what his favorite moment was, he immediately responded "Pretty Is," the hauntingly poignant ballad that Aisha de Haas sings as Bertha Smith, a vaudeville star lamenting the fact that "pretty" "slowly slips away." It is a breathtakingly beautiful song sung by an exceptional artist whose voice was described by one critic as "a rich blend of powerhouse gospel, blues and red-hot sizzle."

Another inspired moment in the show is when two producers in their bold plaid vaudeville suits watch a young Josephine Baker

audition and declare in a song that she is "Too Young, Too Black and Too Thin." Hines says that he was totally inspired by the combination of the music and the performers, in this case the versatile James T. Lane and James Alexander, both of whom play multiple roles throughout the play. He loves to stage with humor and when he combines his famous choreography with a great song, scene and actors, it is a truly memorable moment on the stage.

And finally, our great friend and colleague Maurice Hines says he was inspired by the environment and that MetroStage was the best environment for him as he shared his vision for this new musical with the book and lyrics writer Sherman Yellen and with our actors and ultimately with our lucky



Mel Johnson Jr., Carolyn Griffin, and Maurice Hines in MetroStage lobby following a performance of "Josephine Tonight."

audiences who are cheering every performance for the gift he has given them.

(Josephine Tonight must close March 18. There are still tickets available. Call 703-548-9044).

Chef Cathal Armstrong Is Grand Marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade

Famed Alexandria chef Cathal Armstrong has been chosen Grand Marshal of the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year's parade, the 41st, will step-off at noon, Sunday, March 11, 2012 on Constitution Avenue, N.W. from 7th to 17th Streets in the District.

Cathal Armstrong, a native of Dublin, emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 and has since distinguished himself as a chef and an entrepreneur. With his wife, Meshelle, he has established a highly regarded family of restaurants including Restaurant Eve, The Majestic, PX, Eamonn's A Dublin Chipper, Virtue Feed & Grain and most re-

cently Society Fair.

He embodies this year's parade theme of Feed the Soul and Nourish the Palate through his excellence in and out of the kitchen, and through his contributions to his adopted country. Last April, the White House named him a "Champion of Change" through President Obama's "Winning the Future" initiative, which honors individuals who continue to empower, educate and inspire their community. He has also garnered recognition from the National Restaurant Association with their "Neighborhood Community Award," Edible Chesapeake magazine's "Local Hero Award,"

and Washingtonian magazine's "Green Giant Award." Cathal shares his passion for freshness as a board member of Fresh Farm Markets, which operates eight farmers' markets in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. is a volunteer organization that organizes and produces this grand event, which invites people of all ages to "Put on the Green and be Irish for the Day."

To purchase grandstand tickets, visit dcstpatparade.com. Tickets can also be obtained from John Bowen at 301-384-6533 or johndbowen@earthlink.net.



Alexandria chef Cathal Armstrong

THEATER

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

MARCH 8 TO MARCH 25

"Light in the Darkness." By Tantehorse Physical Theater Company from Prague, Czech Republic. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$55. At Syntetic Theater at Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Box Office: 800-494-8487 or www.syntetictheater.org.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10

"The Dixie Swim Club." Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy



about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a "girls only" weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 15

"Brother Russia." Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 6

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Port City Playhouse presents a play focused on the trials and tribulations of an Irishman, Englishman and an American who are kidnapped and held hostage by unseen Arabs in Lebanon. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

"Really Really." Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signaturetheatre.org. Signature is offering a special "20 Seats for \$20" ticket deal for every performance. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

JUNE 1 TO 17

"A Little Night Music." Presented by TAP. Auditions will take place in March. The director will cast 14 singing actors (five male, nine female), age ranging 14-70. Singing actors of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to audition. At the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center for American Theater. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.



FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Christopher Zimmerman | Music Director

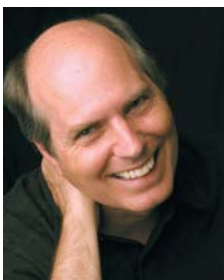
Next Concerts!

Saturday, March 17, 2012 • 8:00 P.M.

GMU's Center for the Arts, Fairfax

Sunday, March 18, 2012 • 3:00 P.M.

Hylton Center, Manassas



STRAVINSKY: Firebird Suite

LISZT: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 2 in A major

Rick Rowley, piano

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 7

SIBELIUS: Finlandia

Tickets: \$25-\$55 • Students ages 6-18 always \$5
888-945-2468

www.fairfaxsymphony.org

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF MARCH

Radiance Yoga Classes.

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

MARCH 2 TO APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue.

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

MARCH 3 TO 18

March Madness. Features 200 panels of artwork each \$150, a free kids art activity on March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Art Party on March 16, from 7-10 p.m., featuring prizes, music, food drinks and more. The Art Party will be located in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, outside of the Target Gallery. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Ten Thousand Villages Celebrates Women in March.

The store at 915 King Street in Old Town Alexandria will donate 15 percent of its sales to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. In honor of International Women's Day. The store is opened 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2nd Thursday Art Night: Child's Play. 6 to 9 p.m. The Torpedo Factory hosts the launch of Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts with an evening of gallery receptions, fun activities, live music by local teen Keira Moran, and more. At the torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Bob Sima. 7 p.m. Poet, observer, scribe, and sometimes reluctant healer all bundled up into one singing/songwriting bundle of energy. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

MARCH 8, 9, 10, 11

Antiques in Alexandria. Featuring 50 nationally recognized exhibitions. Benefits three charities. Thursday, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Pre-Show Party; Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Artisan Beer Tasting and Silent Auction. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$50. At the Campagna Center. If you wish to pay by check, mail to: The Campagna Center, Attn: Lee Stenberg/NN Event, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. All proceeds benefit New Neighbor's ESL and Family Literacy Programs.

Rock Against Hunger. 7 p.m. Concert will feature local band Black Moon Tonic and the St. Luke's Outreach Committee will designate 100 percent of the funds to be divided among local nonprofits — United Community Ministries, New Hope Housing, and Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/students.

Wine and History. 6:30 p.m. The Mount Vernon Inn's inaugural wine dinner, A Well-Stocked Cellar: Dinner and Wine Tasting at Mount Vernon, begins with a private reception and remarks from Mount Vernon staff. Following the reception, guest will move up to the Mansion for a private tour that includes Washington's cellar. Concludes with a special four-course dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn with historic commentary between courses from Mount Vernon staff. Tickets are \$110 and include tax and gratuity. Available beginning Feb. 1 through www.MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

MARCH 9-10

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Tickets are \$5. Show times are March 2, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.;



FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Celtic Concert. 7 to 9 p.m. Featuring Scottish Gaelic singers, the Celtic folk band Na Maragan and other musicians, including Cèilidh in the Kitchen and Scott Morrison of the Maryland-based group Dileab Phriseil. Sponsored by the Gaelic Society of America. Tickets are \$12/person; \$25/family. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Bill Cassidy 703-717-0074 or WillBCassidy@gmail.com.

Matinee on March 3 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

"Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai" Film

Screening. 4:30 p.m. Part of Movies with a Mission. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

House Storybooks. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is offering a fun activity to help kids tell stories about a favorite house or building. Local artist and writer Sushmita Mazumdar will hold a workshop for children ages 6 through 12; adult

family members are welcome to join in. Sushmita will show how she makes books that are houses for all kinds of creatures and all kinds of stories. Then kids will learn how to make their own "House Storybook." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org. Call 703-746-4356.

Art Auction. 8 p.m. Free. The Art Auction features original works of art by Rob Vander Zee and twenty-five local Washington, D.C. artists known as the Vander Zee Gallery Painters. At Vander Zee Gallery, 105 S. Lee St., 3rd Floor, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.vanderzeeart.com/artauction.

Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor. 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Learn how when experts from the National Archives and Records Administration present "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor" at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 to make reservations. Visit www.fortward.org.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

Boating Safety Class. A class which meets the boating education requirements of Virginia, Maryland and D.C. is offered the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Alexandria. Students receive a manual, a certificate and card showing class completion and a free membership to BoatUS. The cost is \$40/student (\$60 if a couple share the manual). Contact Rich Miller at 703-780-3765 or (eaglesailor75@cox.net).

Kids' Clothing, Toy and Equipment Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great bargains on strollers, bikes, furniture, books, games, shoes, maternity, sports, safety equipment and other baby gear. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Parents of Multiples (www.nvpom.org). Contact sale@nvpom.com.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Every half hour between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is \$6/person, ages 5 and up. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 703-746-4242. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

Veterinary Medical Career Fair. 2:30 to 5 p.m. For any high school or undergrad student with an interest in the veterinary medical profession. At the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Visit www.aavmc.org or diversitymatters@aavmc.org.

Teenage Suicide Awareness. 5 p.m. Aldersgate Church Community Theater and The Aldersgate United Methodist Church Youth Group will host a panel discussion on Teenage Suicide Awareness and Prevention following the performance of "Romeo and Juliet." At the Guback Center of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

MONDAY/MARCH 12

Relay For Life Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Organizational meeting to engage volunteers in recruiting and assembling teams, seeking community support, coordinating logistics, securing donated refreshments and prizes, planning entertainment and lending support. At Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Contact Nikkii Greenleaf at 301-982-2116, or visit RelayForLife.org/AlexandriaVA. The actual Relay For Life of Alexandria will be held at West Potomac High School on June 16.

TUESDAY/MARCH 13

"Heaven Can Wait" Benefit. 8 p.m. The Board of Lady Managers of INOVA Alexandria Hospital will host a special



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Admission: \$5 per Person

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

performance. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services. Contact Barbara Brenman at 703-548-9485.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. "When the Saints Go Marching In" featuring the NOVA Jazz Combo, the NOVA Faculty Jazz Ensemble and NOVA Community Chorus. Also the Northern Virginia premiere of Jazz Mass by Mark Whitmire. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With Mike Surratt and ECB. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 14

Achieving Your Vision

Rehabilitation Goals. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Join Dr. Alexis Malkin, a low vision rehabilitation specialist with POB's Low Vision Learning Center, for a discussion about what services and resources can help individuals make the most of the their sight. Hosted by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. At the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1760.

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Landscape Design for Pollinator Diversity. 7:30 p.m. Join Susan Abrams for a slide lecture that will showcase the use of native plants in area landscapes to enhance wildlife diversity, with particular emphasis on enhancing pollinator diversity. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

MARCH 16 TO 25

Repertory Opera Theater. Presents Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." Fully staged with costumes. In Italian with projected English translations. Friday, March 16 and 23 at 7; Saturday, March 17 and 24 at 8; Sunday, March 18 and 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30; Seniors, \$20; Students, \$15; under 10, free. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. and Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

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

Celtic Concert. 7 to 9 p.m. Featuring Scottish Gaelic singers, the Celtic folk band Na Maragán and other musicians, including Cèilidh in the Kitchen and Scott Morrison of the Maryland-based group Dileab Phriseil. Sponsored by the Gaelic Society of America. Tickets are \$12/ person; \$25/family. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Bill Cassidy 703-717-0074 or WillBCassidy@gmail.com.

THROUGH MARCH 16

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Saturday Evening
5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday
7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 11)

Weekdays
(Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 21

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ MARCH 8-14, 2012 ♦ 19

Cleaning Up One's Plate

Local nutrition experts encourage healthy eating during National Nutrition Month and always.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When it comes to healthy eating, Alexandria wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella encourages her clients to load up during meals, but she offers a caveat. "Crowd out your plate with good stuff," said Mirabella who has offices in Alexandria and Warrenton. "If you're eating nutrient and fiber-rich foods, you're naturally going to be more full and more satisfied and therefore you might not be reaching for the junk food as often."

In observance of National Nutrition Month, Mirabella is offering suggestions for making wise food choices. She and other health experts say that that while trading in salt-laden potato chips for potassium-packed baked spuds might be challenging, making positive dietary changes is easier than one might think, and is worth the effort.

"I believe that food is medicine and we can use it as a way to prevent diseases and heal our body," said Mirabella "If we eat foods that are full of nutrients we're going to give our body everything it needs to do what it does naturally. Food can be a

very powerful medicine in terms of disease prevention and reversal."

Begin by simplifying food choices. "The first step is focusing on what isn't food and then finding cleaner options," said Nina Elliot, an Arlington-based personal trainer. "All the additives ... that are in many of our favorite foods can contribute to obesity and health challenges. Replacing processed foods with whole foods may take a bit more work in the kitchen and a little more grocery money, but the health benefits are tremendous."

Add fresh fruits and vegetables to each meal. "Vegetables are high in antioxidants," said Mirabella. "Frozen fruits and vegetables are an excellent choice too. They are affordable and they're nutrient rich because they've been picked at the peak of their freshness. They went from the field to the freezer, so the nutrients are locked-in."

Watch for hidden sodium. "Deli meat for example, is highly processed and high in sodium," said Paulette Helman, a registered dietitian in Potomac, Md. "You're better off baking a chicken breast with a little lemon juice."



Alexandria-based wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella grows vibrantly colored, vitamin-packed vegetables in her garden. She believes that nutrient-rich food is medicine for the body.



Alexandria-based wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella creates a nutrient-dense salad with avocados and spinach. Dietitians recommend eating fiber and antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables with every meal.

Choose whole grains. "Whole grains are healthier than plain, white processed grains," said Jean Glossa, M.D., medical director, Fairfax Community Health Care Network and Molina Healthcare. "The closer the food is to the way that it came out of the ground and the less processed it is the healthier it is. But that doesn't mean that by switching to whole grains you can eat an unlimited amount of it. Portion size is still important."

When it comes to protein, keep it lean. "Ideally with every meal and snack, you want to have protein," said Mirabella. "For example, you might have eggs for breakfast and toss in spinach or broccoli and a little feta cheese. If you have an apple for a snack you

might dip it in a little bit of peanut butter so that you get protein and healthy fat along with carbohydrates from the apple. Lean cuts of meat are good, but you want to stay away from saturated fat."

Nutritionists say gradual adjustments work best. "Making small changes is more manageable than overhauling one's diet all at once," said Elliot. "[They are] more likely to lead to the next positive change ... which means people are [more] likely to want to continue improving ... their diet."

Plan ahead. "Try to eat three meals and two healthy snacks each day," said Mirabella. "That is a great way to keep your blood sugar in balance so you can make healthier food choices all day long."

Health Services Coalition Receives \$10,000 Grant

Funding will help provide specialty health care to low income residents.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition's (NOVAHSC) Specialty Access program received a \$10,000 grant to help provide low-income, uninsured patients with access to specialty medical care through a regional network of providers.

"Increased access to specialty care continues to be a challenge for safety-net health care providers in Northern Virginia as the need in our community steadily grows," said Meagan Ulrich, program manager of NOVAHSC's Specialty Access program. "This [grant will] help NOVA Specialty Access to expand our abilities to place more patients from free clinics with the specialty care they need when they need it."

NOVAHSC is a group of clinics that provides medical services for financially vulnerable people in Northern Virginia. The coalition represents clinics and health care providers in Alexandria City, Fairfax County, Arlington County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Manassas City and Manassas Park. The

clinics provide specialty care services such as audiology, podiatry and physical therapy. NOVA Specialty Access takes referrals from participating safety-net clinics and links them with volunteer specialists in the community. Each clinic works with individual specialty care doctors who are willing to see patients in their offices.

The grant was awarded by Molina Healthcare, Inc., which helps state agencies in their administration of the Medicaid program. The company currently manages Fairfax County's Community Health Care Network.

"Molina Healthcare was involved in this important initiative from the start through its management of the Community Health Care Network, which has three clinics par-

ticipating as part of the specialty network," said Jean Glossa, MD, MBA, MPH, medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia and the Community Health Care Network in Fairfax County. "As the medical director of these local clinics, I see firsthand the overwhelming need for access to specialty care. It only made sense for us to take it one step farther and demonstrate our strong commitment to help address the unmet needs of such a vulnerable population."

The NOVA Specialty Access program, which was launched last fall, has recruited 97 specialty medical care providers. Program officials say they plan to recruit 200 providers within the next year.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 19

piece to fund an Art League Gallery exhibit while having some fun. The inaugural exhibition sponsorship is for the environmentally conscious "Earth," which opens on April 12 with a reception featuring a recycled art challenge, with teams of League of 25 members competing in a sculpture making relay race. Donations are requested by March 16. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; www.theartleague.org, 703-519-1741.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

"Her Story: Women in Action." Cost is \$6/ person. A panel of former Girl Scouts will share their memories of Girl Scouting and how scouting empowered them. Participants will learn about Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of American Girl Scouting, by looking at a timeline of her life. Two sessions: 12:30 to 2:45 p.m.; and 3 to 4:10 p.m. Advance registration at www.alexandriahistory.org or by calling 703-746-4994. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Steven Gellman in Concert. 8 to 10 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com or call 703-739-9268.

Mighty and Future Shock Youth Showcase. High-energy Hip-Hop and street dancing from dancers across the U.S. Groups include Future Shock and Mighty Shock DC, Future Shock Ottawa, Future Shock Atlanta, Future Shock LA, Beat Ya Feet Kids, Dimensions Dance, and more. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Spring Kid's Rummage Sale. 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$1. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Proceeds from the door will go to Mondloch House, a community shelter that helps the homeless. There are a few tables still available. If you are interested in selling children's items and would like more information, contact Jen at jakelley19@gmail.com.

Choreographers Collaboration Project. 7

p.m. Presents The Science Project, a Modern Dance Concert. This concert is the culmination of a season creating dances based on science concepts, and exploring "science as inspiration" for other art forms. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/ ages 12-17. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King street, Alexandria.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticket holders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

In Nature's Realm. 2 p.m. The Marine Chamber Orchestra performs. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

Celtic Group Runa. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/ general; \$15/advance. At the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Barbershop Chorus Concert. 3 p.m. The Harmony Heritage Singers, a 40-member men's "barbershop" chorus, will present a concert at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, in support of United Community Ministries. The program will feature patriotic music such as "God Bless America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as well as popular songs from days gone by such as "Delta Dawn," "Country Roads," and the Beach Boys gem, "Barbara Ann." Bix Doughty, 98-years old, is scheduled to sing an audience favorite, "Old Bones." There is no admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken to benefit United Community Ministries, a local agency that serves families in crisis, the homeless, and those in poverty who live near U.S. Route 1. Information from Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, brandtron@verizon.net.

FINE ARTS

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Art Auction. 8 p.m. Free. The Art Auction features original works of art by Rob Vander Zee and twenty-five local Washington, D.C. artists known as the Vander Zee Gallery Painters. At Vander Zee Gallery, 105 S. Lee St., 3rd Floor, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.vanderzeeart.com/artauction.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 23

Artist Raphael G. Nadeem. Artwork of 30 oil paintings and six pencil drawings will be displayed at the 2nd Floor Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room, City Hall in Old Town. An exhibit opening will be held Friday, March 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. All paintings are for sale. Contact the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 703-746-5588 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 22

"A Palette of Paper - the Collages of Megan Coyle." The Center for the Arts, Caton Merchant Family Gallery in Manassas, will feature Alexandria resident Megan Coyle's collage art in a solo exhibition called "A Palette of Paper." Coyle's show will display portraits of people, animals, as well as landscape and cityscape collages.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

Cuba Revisited, 2011. Karen Keating, member of Multiple Exposures Gallery, will be exhibiting new images from her most recent trip to Cuba, April 2011. Reception is Sunday, March 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Artist's Talk is Thursday, March 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. At Multiple Exposure Gallery, Studio #312.

MARCH 2 TO APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue. The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to



NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

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

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

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PEOPLE



The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club members and Creekside Neighborhood Center Program Director Blanca Vasquez pose with some of the awardees.

Books and Awards At Neighborhood Center

Six members of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club joined the Creekside Neighborhood Center Program Director Blanca Vasquez and her staff on Dec. 19 to make their Christmas Party even merrier. The MVKC members helped to distribute two free books to 70 children by writing the child's name in the books they chose and bagging them for easy carrying home. They also distributed 40 Wal-Mart gift certificates to the best attendees in the after school program. The MVKC members participating were Betty Puscheck, Bob Valone, Vivien and Richard Peterson, Joanne and Bruce Malkin.



Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club members Betty Puscheck and Bob Valone help children write their names on free books they have chosen.



Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club member Vivien Peterson sits next to Bruce Malkin while Creekside Neighborhood Center Program Director Blanca Vasquez stands on other side as Malkin gives Wal-Mart gift certificates to after school program attendees.

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Wolverines Not Assuming They're Patriot District's Best

Talented West Potomac softball team in search of first district title since 2006.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac softball team entered the 2011 season loaded with talent and, as far as the Wolverines were concerned, possessed a clear path to the Patriot District championship.

It didn't take long for perennial power South County to issue West Potomac an early-season wake-up call.

Hoping to hand the Stallions their first district loss since March of 2007, the Wolverines instead fell flat on their faces in front of multiple media outlets, losing 10-0 in six innings on their home field. South County won big despite losing seven starters from the previous season. The defeat was part of a 4-6 start for West Potomac, including a 3-3 district mark.

"Last year, a lot of the seniors wanted [a championship] so bad and the other kids felt so much pressure about it," head coach Craig Maniglia said. "It became the big el-



West Potomac senior Jasmine Picini has earned all-district honors at catcher last year.

ephant in the room: 'Uh, we're supposed to be winning and we've lost [several] games. What are we doing?'"

West Potomac regrouped, winning 10 of its next 11 en route to a spot in the district championship game, where the Wolverines would again face South County. While the Stallions had won big against the Wolverines early in the year, they were hardly un-

beatable. South County had lost the regular season rematch to West Potomac and entered the tournament as the No. 4 seed with five district losses. Despite starting five freshmen, the Stallions edged the Wolverines 2-0 in 12 innings to win their fifth consecutive district title.

Nine months later, West Potomac is in a familiar situation. The team returns a tal-

ented core group of players and once again has what it takes to compete for the program's first district championships since 2006. This time, however, the Wolverines are taking nothing for granted, instead focusing on maintaining a one-game-at-a-time mentality.

"We know we have to earn it this year," said Maniglia, who enters his third season as head coach of the Wolverines. "Last year, we thought we had it before the season started and that's really a coaching problem. I let them fall into that trap. This year, we're going to try not to [think that way]."

While not looking ahead is one thing, West Potomac has plenty of reasons to be confident, starting with seniors Morgan Maniglia, Jasmine Picini, Danielle McHugh and Maggie Grady.

Maniglia is a four-year starter and the team's No. 1 pitcher. An honorable mention All-Met selection by the Washington Post last year, Maniglia shut out South County for 11 innings in the district final before surrendering a pair of unearned runs in the 12th on her way to a hard-luck loss.

"I definitely feel like this is it and I think we have a lot to prove now that we've gotten this far," said Maniglia, describing how it feels to enter her senior season. "I want to go out with a bang and I know a lot of these seniors do, too."

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 24

West Potomac Rifle Team Members Receive All-Metro Honors

This year's West Potomac rifle team members DJ Whetzel, Lindsay Paul and Russell Bradley each received All-Metro Honorable Mention recognition for the 2011-2012 rifle season. All-Metro recognition is determined by average league match score during the season. This is the highest number of All-Metro League Awards received by the team in a season.

The West Potomac rifle team completed its seventh season this year since returning to the school. The rifle team competes in the Potomac High School Air Rifle League consisting of 10 school teams from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. The rifle team is a recognized varsity level sport. The rifle team is also a co-ed sports team. The PHSARL is an extremely competitive league, with several recent national champion teams coming from the league. Many league shooters have also received collegiate scholarships for their shooting skills.

This year's rifle team was composed of returning seniors Bradley (captain), Matthew Jagg, Harmain Rafi and Whetzel (Captain), returning juniors Mischa

Michael and Jack Wilson, and returning sophomores Matthew Karau and Lindsay Paul. The team welcomed five new members for the season: seniors Jordan Grafton and Celeste Zabowski, and freshmen Jack Apperson, Andy Knight and Ian Nakayama.

Match competition consists of 30 shots, with 10 shots each being fired in the prone, standing and kneeling positions. A total individual score of 300 points and a team score of 1,200 is possible. This year's highlights included a new team-record score of 1,092. Whetzel and Bradley also shot perfect 100 scores in the prone position.

This year's rifle team finished with a 3-6 season. Many of the matches were held on days with other academic events, preventing the entire team from participating.

The rifle team had a strong showing at the regional championships. This is a 60-shot match, with 20 shots being fired in each position and a 600-point individual score and 2,400-point team score possible. The team achieved a fourth-place finish, the highest in school history with a score of 2,162. The team was lead by Paul



Members of the West Potomac rifle team: (kneeling) Harmain Rafi, Jack Apperson, Lindsay Paul, Andy Knight, Mischa Michael, Ian Nakayama, (standing) Matt Karau, Matt Jagg, Celeste Zabowski, Jordan Grafton, DJ Whetzel, Russell Bradley, Jack Wilson and Leonard Paul.

with a score of 564 and a 10th-place overall finish. Whetzel had a score of 548 and an 18th-place finish. Michael, with a score of 532 and a 33rd-place finish, and Bradley, with a score of 518 and a 44th place finish, completed the

team scores. Individual competitors in the regional match included Rafi (535/29th), Jagg (522/40th) and Zabowski (498/57th).

Rafi (195/10th) had the top prone position score and finish for West Potomac. Paul had the top

standing position (179/13th) and kneeling position (192/fifth) scores. Individual shooters receive invitations to compete based on their average season score. This is also the highest number of regional competitors in school history.

SPORTS

Softball

FROM PAGE 23

Picini is a four-year starter who moved from third base to catcher last season and earned first-team all-district honors. Picini, who was also an all-district performer at third base early in her West Potomac, will play college ball at Alfred University in New York.

"I think we're coming out with a better attitude this year," Picini said. "We're not expecting too much like we did last year."

McHugh, a three-year starter, was an all-state selection in the outfield last season and will play collegiately at Tennessee Tech. While last year's slow start affected West Potomac's outlook on this season, McHugh pointed out that the Wolverines' ability to bounce back made them a stronger team. West Potomac's main confidence-building victory down the stretch came against 2010 state champion McLean.

Grady is a three-year starter who earned second-team all-region honors at first base during her junior season.

Fellow seniors Jackie Rhodes (third base) and Sammy Clifford (DH) are also projected starters.

Junior Hannah O'Neil will start at shortstop after transitioning from second base. Juniors Sydney Maniglia and Maddie Bolger are projected starters in the outfield.

Three freshmen made the varsity roster, including starting second baseman Nikki Minnis. Kate



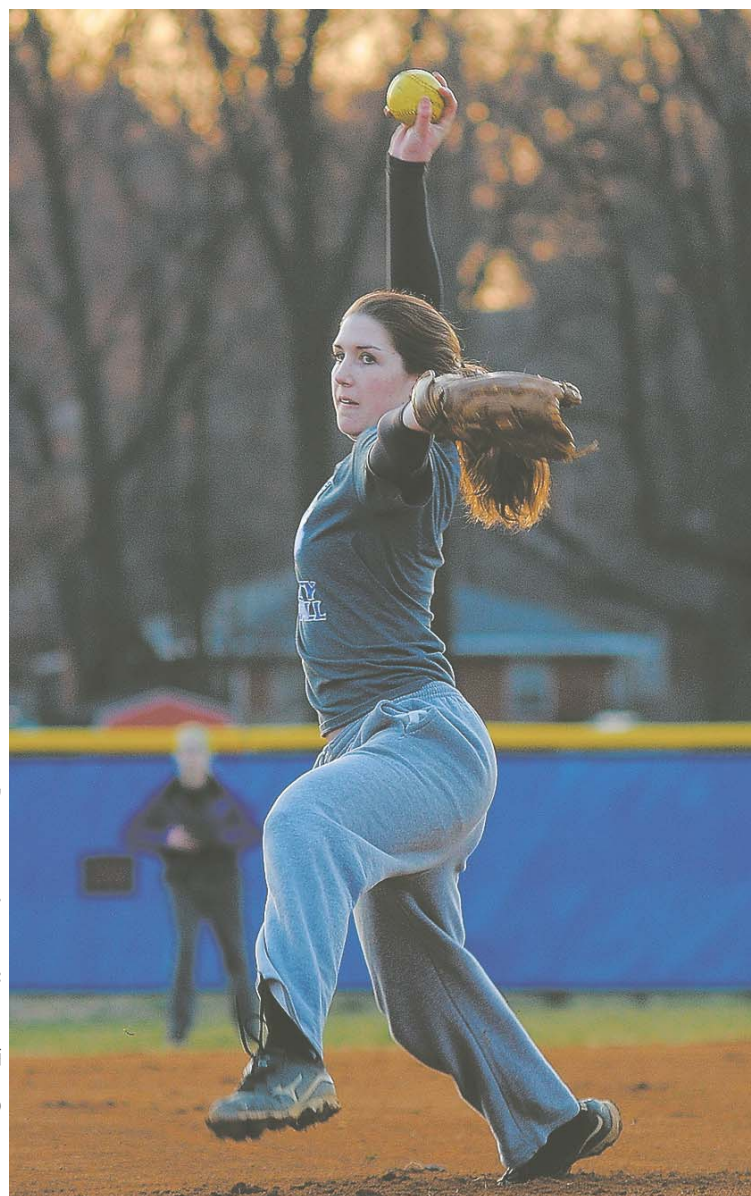
West Potomac senior Danielle McHugh was an all-state selection in the outfield last season.

Gregory and Maddie Miller are utility players.

West Potomac will open the season at home against Mount Vernon at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday,

March 15. The team's district opener is March 21 at T.C. Williams.

Picini said last year's heartbreaking loss in the district champion-



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Senior pitcher Morgan Maniglia enters her fourth season as a starter for the West Potomac softball team.

ship game will help the Wolverines in 2012.

"It's nothing more than a boost, though," she said. "I think we all

took it as something positive — maybe not that day, we were upset — but I think this year we're a force to be reckoned with."

SCHOOL NOTES

Dental Career students from West Potomac Academy will serve as volunteers in the Mission of Mercy (MOMS) Project at the Medical Campus of Northern Virginia Community College March 9 and 10. The students will be working alongside local dentists, dental hygienists, and other dental assistants to offer free dental care to the community.

Students will be actively involved, assisting dentists and dental hygienists

and taking X-rays. The students will be expected to demonstrate professionalism, knowledge, and practice a courteous chair side rapport with their patients during the project. Several students will speak in their native languages with the patients, easing communication during the delivery of services. The West Potomac Academy dental career students have volunteered for the MOMS Project since it started in 2001.

MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Pfc. Erik C. Avis, a 2011 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Damari Disen from Alexandria, serving with the 4th Finance Detachment, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the New York Army National Guard.

Army Pfc. Mohammad A. Bihamta has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of Reza Bihamta of Nob Hill Court, Alexandria, Va. and nephew of David Decatur of Shallow Creek Lane, Stafford. Bihamta is a 2002 graduate of Colonial Forge High School, Stafford.

Army Capt. David C. Beall has returned to Fort Richardson, Anchorage,

Alaska after being deployed to Afghanistan for one year. The soldier is one of 3,500 members of the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Richardson. He is the son of James E. Beall of W. Howell Ave., Alexandria, Va., and Andrea M. Miner of Meadow Road, Polson, Mont. The captain graduated in 1998 from Upper St. Clair High School, Pa., and received a bachelor's degree in 2002 from the University of Montana, Missoula.

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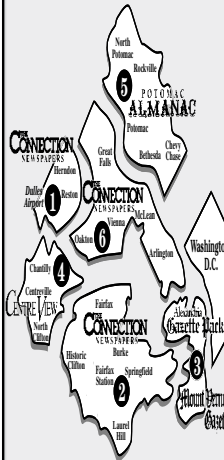
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SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Free Cab Rides. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is offering St. Patty's Day SoberRides beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 and continuing until 6 a.m. the following day. During this 12-hour period, residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 30 fare), safe way home. Visit www.soberride.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

Mount Vernon At Home, a non profit helping seniors age in their community, will offer an information session for seniors and volunteers on services and programs in the Mount Vernon community at Sherwood Regional Library at 2 p.m. Call 703-303-4060 for more information or to attend this free seminar. All are welcome. Volunteer opportunities are available.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Fairfax County Mega Job Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This year's event includes a training vouchers program for veterans to enhance their job skills, a section for youth employment services plus recruiters from a wide variety of employers and government agencies. Co-hosted by U.S. Gerry Connolly, the Fairfax County SkillSource Centers and Business Development Assistance Group. Participating employers, business resources partners, and program agenda at www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com.

ONGOING

The new exhibition Hoecakes & Hospitality: Cooking with Martha Washington is now open to the public. The exhibit at Mount Vernon Estate features more than 125 kitchen and food-related objects from Mount Vernon. Following food from the Estate's field to kitchen to table, visitors will see recipes and cookbooks that Martha treasured, pots that simmered in her kitchen, and fine tablewares that made Mount Vernon's dining room fit for a president. Learn about little know items from the Washington household, including a heart-shaped waffle iron, three-foot olive jar, and other unique items. On display in this exhibition is a letter in which the first president states that if no one "pops in for dinner tonight", it will be the first time that he and Martha Washington have dined alone in 20 years. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

Fort Ward Museum is now registering for its annual Civil War Kids' Camp, a week of learning and fun for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Participants explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities. Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration is limited to 24 participants. Spaces fill quickly, and applications are accepted on a first-come basis. Registration, including souvenirs and healthy snacks, costs \$200 per child, with limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. Contact Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

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

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-Werner
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MASONRY

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Carol Cleary 703.625.6829
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Beautiful! This rare, two-level Charleston-style, luxurious townhouse that feels like a detached home is spacious, bright, upgraded, and exquisitely maintained. This is elegant-living, with community pool, fitness center, spa and party room. This four-bedroom, award winning Old Town Village, 2,780-sq.ft. townhome features two courtyards and a two-car garage.



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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,040,000



Fabulous End Unit with River View

Rarely available Rivergate end unit with river views offers an easy and elegant floor plan. Fabulous details around every corner of this three-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home that is complemented by abundant light and a charming brick patio.



Pat Day 703.850.7934
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007
www.housesbydaybavin.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,475,000



Circa 1810

This historic, plaqued brick house is in one of the prettiest blocks of Old Town. Semi-detached with many windows, this townhouse offers four bedrooms and three and a half baths, five woodburning fireplaces with period mantels, front and rear staircases. Original pine floors and moldings are found throughout. The eat-in kitchen features Sub-Zero, a large farm sink, and six-burner stove. A mature tall tree in the outdoor patio and garden is a lovely setting for gardening and outdoor activities. Truly a great value at this price!

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.Babsbeckwith.com
 MLS ID# AX7731108



ALEXANDRIA CITY/Seminary Park \$519,900



Walk to Work

Spacious town home near it all. Walk to shopping, restaurants, BRAC. Bus in front goes to Metro. Stunning kitchen with lots of light and space. New appliances and Corian counter tops. Family room opens up to expansive and private backyard. Three bedrooms, master suite with newly renovated bath. Two half baths, another full bath. Lots of space to spread out, topped off with a garage.

Pam Cornelio 571.236.4398
www.pamcornelio.com
 MLS ID# AX7774443



ALEXANDRIA/Riverside Gardens \$679,000



Center Hall Colonial in Riverside Gardens

Spacious brick home with four bedrooms, two and a half baths, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, and gas fireplace. Inviting brick patio, fenced yard, mature trees and plantings. New roof, AC, and furnace! Great location, sidewalks, schools, parks, bike trail, river, GW Parkway. Convenient to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Pentagon or DC.

Susan Dickerson 703.380.0153
www.suedickersonrealtor.com
 MLS ID# FX7786331



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$524,000



Location. Location. Location!

Three blocks to Potomac River. Two-bedroom, one-bath townhouse. New stainless steel eat-in kitchen, gas stove and new bath. Hardwood floors, crown molding, spacious closets and lovely sunroom. Private enclosed landscaped garden. Easy street parking. Walk to shopping and restaurants.

Cecily Wincell 703.851.9292
www.cecilywincell.com
 MLS ID# AX7783443



ALEXANDRIA \$369,000



Home Sweet Home

This charming cottage will delight you with its warm wood floors, handsome fireplace and gorgeous built-ins. The updated eat-in kitchen is complemented by a separate laundry/mud room that leads to an expansive deck. It is sited on a lovely large lot, planted with perennials, spring bulbs, and flowering trees. All in a super convenient location!

Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com



ALEXANDRIA/Jefferson Park \$659,900



Best Price in Jefferson Park!

Walk to shops/restaurants in Del Ray, parks, and three schools. Hardwoods and crown molding throughout add charm to this nicely appointed home with open floor plan on corner lot. Finished walk-out lower level with gas fireplace and built ins. Enjoy the warm weather on the brick patio or stunning screened porch gazebo that fronts the cul-de-sac location.

Sue Goodhart 703.362.3221
www.suegoodhart.com
 MLS ID# AX7785369



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