



Paul Siegel and Ed Raduazo stand in front of shopping carts recovered from Little Hunting Creek.

49 Shopping Carts Later ...

Cleanup was well underway on Saturday morning, April 14 at the tributaries of Little Hunting Creek off Buckman Road. Forty-nine shopping carts, 245-plus bags of trash, and 27 tires were collected at 10 sites from the mouth of Little Hunting Creek upstream nearly to Huntley Meadows. Fairfax County together with the Alice Ferguson Foundation collaborated in the clean-up effort. Little Hunting Creek covers over nine acres in Fairfax County and is in the watershed of the Potomac River. The Alice Ferguson Foundation established in 1989 organized watershed cleanup activities at 600 sites in five states on Saturday.



Volunteer Peter Appell works on freeing and removing trash from the creek.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



State Del. Scott Surovell, Michael Herman of the Alice Ferguson Foundation and a half dozen volunteers work on unearthing two shopping carts that are buried in the dirt at creek side.

Alarm Over Fire Code at Shelters

Fairfax County officials respond to concerns about fire code violations at local shelters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Spring fever hit the region early this year. Last week's record-high temperatures had residents flocking outdoors to play, bike, jog and picnic.

With the promise of more summery weather this weekend, it may seem like an odd time to be concerned about freezing temperatures and hypothermia.

But on Friday, April 13, Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) sent an email to leaders in the faith community inviting them to a hypothermia prevention information session on Sunday, April 22.

According to county officials, the session is an attempt to quell con-

cerns and rumors raised by some church leaders that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter because of fire code violations.

On Tuesday, county officials stressed their longstanding support of Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, and promised to work with each house of worship to address concerns about code violations.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in the email announcing Sunday's session. "I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide ad-

SEE SHELTERS, PAGE 6

New Leadership At Gunston Hall

Museum director ousted by Board of Regents after year of controversy.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

After surviving more than a year of calls for his resignation, Gunston Hall museum director has been removed as head of the historic house site. In a meeting last week, the Board of Regents voted to replace David

Reese, effective immediately. Mark Whatford, a senior staff member, will serve as acting director until a permanent replacement is hired. The decision comes after harsh criticism of financial mismanagement and unprofessional behavior. "It seemed to me that there was

SEE GUNSTON HALL, PAGE 5

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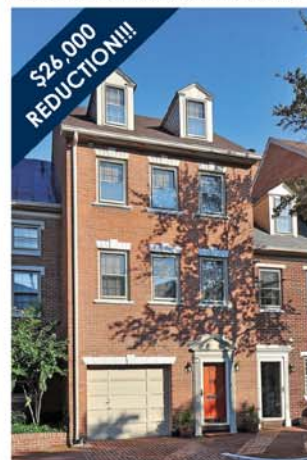
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2011 Paul A. Massey Volunteer of the Year Awardee Dean Mitchell says a few words about 10 years with the FHLL program. With Mitchell are his wife Maggie and sons Campbell, Henry and Porter; FHLL president Paul Murphy and the nine Massey Award Hall of Famers Mike Viilo and Don Essex (2003), Jim Sullivan (2004), Steve and Libby Lord (2005), Michael Lewan (2006), John Donaldson (2007), Tony Albano (2008), Barry Meuse (2009) and Rene Belanger (2010).



West Potomac Varsity Baseball Manager Jim Sullivan introduced the players on the 2012 Wolverine squad: Sean Trenchard, Josh Belanger, Casey Hagan, Cormac McPherson, Todd Ferri, Jayme Murray, Alex White, Matt Hrin, Jack King, Will Andrews, Ryan Aiken, Jacob Glaser and Dan Jarrell.

Fort Hunt Little League Baseball Hosts Opening Day

On Saturday morning 492 players from 47 teams paraded onto the Red Steven Field at Carl Sandburg School for the Fort Hunt Little League Baseball Opening Day ceremony. The president of Fort Hunt Little League, Paul Murphy, introduced the teams as they lined up at the baseline.

Dick Anderson and Joe Gililand of the Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Association presented a \$1,000 check to the league.

Dean Mitchell was awarded the 2011 Paul A. Massey Volunteer of the Year Award. The award, named after Paul Massey who in 2005 lost his five-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, is presented to a volunteer whose contributions over time exemplify the best ideals of the Little League. Previous Massey Award winners were also present and included: Mike Viilo and Don Essex (2003), Jim Sullivan (2004), Steve and Libby Lord (2005), Michael Lewan



The teams parade onto the field past the players of the West Potomac Varsity Baseball squad.

(2006), John Donaldson (2007), Tony Albano (2008), Barry Meuse (2009) and Rene Belanger (2010). Mitchell was joined by his wife Maggie in leading the parents and volunteers in the Little League

Pledge. The Mitchell boys: Campbell, Henry and Porter led the players in the Little League Pledge.

West Potomac Varsity Baseball Manager Jim Sullivan introduced

the players on the 2012 Wolverine squad. Upcoming events include two future Wolverine Baseball Nights at West Potomac: Friday, April 20 Varsity game vs. T.C. Williams and May 4 Junior Varsity

game vs. South County. Baseball nights include free admission for all FHLL's wearing their uniform shirts and \$1 off coupon for the concession stand.

— LOUISE KRAFFT



Dean Mitchell was joined by his wife Maggie in leading the parents and volunteers in the Little League Pledge.



West Potomac Varsity Baseball Manager Jim Sullivan greets Gibson Willis and Little League District 9 Administrator John Donaldson.



The Mitchell boys: Campbell, Henry and Porter led the players in the Little League Pledge.

Educator: Have Students Help Shape Curriculum

Progressive educator Alfie Kohn speaks at Burgundy Severeid forum.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE GAZETTE

Progressive educator Alfie Kohn challenged parents and teachers to go beyond comfort zones at the Burgundy Farm Country Day School Eric Severeid Forum held April 4. "Progressive education is scary because it is unfamiliar," said Kohn. "Progressive education has a better claim to traditional education in fact, standardized testing does not go back that far."

Kohn, who is the author of 12 books including "Feel Bad Education," and "The Homework Myth," was quick to note that even the most traditional of schools have elements of progressive education.

"Not all schools have ruler wielding nuns, but just because a teacher has an interest in a child's interest does not make her a progressive educator," said Kohn. "It's a lot harder to be a progressive education teacher; any idiot can read a chapter ahead."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN FUTROWSKY

Alfie Kohn gave a lecture at Burgundy Farm Country Day School on the merits of progressive education. Kohn has published 12 books on education, as well as numerous articles in the Journal of Education.

According to Kohn, the curriculum in a progressive setting is grounded in problem solving rather than fact-based learning. A curriculum should be created with the students rather than for them, and learning must be active. In progressive education, says Kohn, students need to construct the world around them; the more power in a teacher the less learning there is in the classroom.

On the other hand, Kohn emphasized what a progressive education school is not. Textbooks, for instance, are a resource

More

For more information about Alfie Kohn and progressive education visit alfiekohn.org.

rather than the curriculum in and of itself. Progressive schools do not emphasize competitive learning, as this goes against the core value of community within the school. "Everyone loses win kids are set against each other, the mentality is that these other people are in between me and winning," said Kohn.

Progressive education is often at risk of being caricatured as too laissez-faire, however, and that students can choose not to read a book because they don't feel like it. According to Kohn, skillful adult educators play a vital role in how children ask questions. Learning takes place when ball that is bounced back and forth.

Perhaps the most contentious of Kohn's ideas is a near total abolition of homework. Homework, he claims, eats into important family time and has little or no positive outcome.

"Homework does not help, no research shows any benefits, not even academic. Making kids work a second shift when they get home eats into family time," said Kohn. "It's the same with standardized testing. No college will look at scores before high school. The current mentality is that when

you are older people will give you tests, the harm is later so it might as well be now. Tests test what matters least."

Many of the parents in attendance were unprepared for such radical ideas, yet the consensus was that they were certainly thought provoking.

"I'm a skeptic, especially his points about no homework and no point to it," said Amy Dale, who has a son in the sixth grade at Burgundy. "We already have a lot of the progressive ideas at Burgundy."

"Even compared to our school the ideas are radical," said D'Layne Adkins, also a parent with children who attend Burgundy. "All parents are intrigued by the idea of no homework."

Such thought provoking ideas are at the core of the Burgundy Severeid Forum. The form, named after Eric Severeid who attended the first graduating class at Burgundy in 1953, has taken risks with speakers in the past. Previous speakers include Ray Suarez, senior correspondent for The Newshour who addressed race in America, as well as Ashley Merryman, co-author of NutureSchock.

"We try and attract people that are on the cutting edge and provocative; Alfie does that in spades," said Jeff Sindler, head of school at Burgundy. "Alfie reminds us that children are people, that we need to involve them and meet them where they are."



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New Leadership at Gunston Hall

FROM PAGE 1

a real management problem,” said Rob Hartwell, one of the leading voices calling for Reese’s ouster. “I think the regents made the right decision.”

The problems began in January 2011, when Reese fired education director Denise McHugh, a 20-year employee of the museum. Reese, who has been director since 2003, said the decision was based on financial considerations. In the summer of 2010, the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget reduced the budget for Gunston Hall by \$5,000. Critics of the decision say the money involved did not warrant such drastic action, especially considering the educational mission of the institution. Hartwell and others called for the governor to take action; a campaign went on for 15 months.

“We have since learned that the director’s personnel relations are an even more compelling reason that his continued service is not in the best interest of Gunston Hall,” wrote nine museum supporters in an April 5 letter to the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

The Board of Regents voted to replace Gunston Hall museum director David Reese.

Regents of Gunston Hall.

THE LETTER was accompanied by a series of testimonials from people who have worked with Reese over the years. One called him a “petty autocrat” who is despised by many and respected by few. Yet another accuses Reese of presenting the home as a “lifeless display” lacking vitality and “familial warmth.”

“... he has driven away numerous volunteers, visitors and staff,” wrote former librarian Kevin Shupe. “I suspect that almost every employee or former employee can tell you numerous horror stories about how poorly he has managed the staff and treated the public.”

The testimonial letters pre-

SEE GUNSTON HALL, PAGE 17

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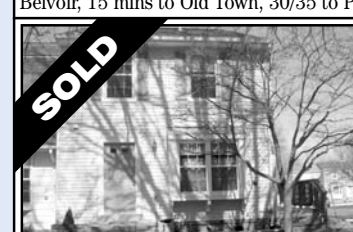
6628 Wakefield Dr E #A1
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SCAN Names 2012 Ally in Prevention Awardees

SCAN named Erick T. King, co-founder of the Capital Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP); Valerie Cuffee, who recently retired as division chief of Arlington County's Child & Family Services Division; and the late Cynthia Hull, former executive director of United Community Ministries, as the 2012 Allies in Prevention for Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax, respectively. The award was given at SCAN's 10th Annual Allies in Prevention Awards Luncheon.

"These are the people making the news we want to report," said ABC7's Leon Harris, who emceed the event along with fellow news anchor Alison Starling.

In 2008, with his brother Isaac, King founded the Capital Youth Empowerment Program, or CYEP. A probation officer in Arlington County, he is also a local business owner. He and his brother saw a void in the community when it came to treatment options for fathers involved in domestic violence, CPS and child abuse and neglect cases. Investing their own money and time, the brothers made a commitment to make a difference through CYEP's Fathers In Touch Program, which provides a 12-week fatherhood class along with three coordinated group activities — at no cost to families — to help dads find support from their peers and strengthen their parenting skills.

Less than four years since its launch, King's program has helped more than 200 children and families in Alexandria and Fairfax. His private company, King Brothers & Associates, has also provided affordable housing for families previously in low-income housing projects or homeless shelters. In 2010, CYEP won the NAACP Community Service Award in Alexandria and Fairfax. Earlier this month, the Northern Virginia Urban League honored King with the Next Generation of Leadership Award.

CUFFEE is a woman on a mission for prevention. Over the course of her nearly 30-year career in child and family welfare, she



Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith; Sonia Quinonez, executive director of SCAN of Northern Virginia; Elizabeth McNally, deputy executive director of United Community Ministries; and Mary Agee, president & CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service. Quinonez poses for a picture with the three women who accepted the award on behalf of the late Cynthia Hull.

has handled the variety of overwhelming, complex and changing needs of abused and neglected children. She began her career as a social worker in Arlington, and by her recent retirement, she had served over a decade as the division chief for the county's Child and Family Services Division. She played a critical role in the establishment of Arlington's Child Advocacy Center as well as Project PEACE, a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

Cuffee is especially proud of her work to collaborate with what she calls "critical partners," including everyone from citizen groups to the Police Department to the courts to the public school system. "I show children and parents that they are valuable by respecting every family member, listening carefully to what each member consid-

ers the issue or problem, meeting each person where they are, and asking each what he or she would like to accomplish or change," she said. "Then I determine how to best educate and intervene to ensure safety, reduce risk factors, restore relationships when indicated, and promote healing. Feeling valued and supported empowers and equips families to seek essential knowledge and gain specific skills to improve their situation more readily and prevent new occurrences of abuse and neglect."

HULL empowered those around her to make real change, even in the face of the greatest obstacles. Hull was executive director of United Community Ministries for the last five years, a time of unprecedented financial strain on public and private re-

sources. But her belief in UCM's impact — as the organization served over 13,000 children and adults every year — helped her to educate others about the necessity of UCM programs like Healthy Families. UCM is the primary safety net for families in crisis in southeastern Fairfax County, tackling issues from precarious housing situations to hunger to emergency medical assistance.

Hull's understanding of the complexities of families in crisis guided her work to strengthen programs so they could more effectively handle family relationships, mental illness, substance abuse and poverty — all issues with deep ties to child abuse and neglect. She also played a key role in bringing together local nonprofit leaders to pool resources and prioritize critical programs. Throughout her three decade-long career, which included leadership roles at Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) in Arlington and Fairfax, Hull promoted issues of justice and the value of every program participant's life.

"Cynthia is a woman who believes in a shared humanity that binds us all together," wrote UCM Board President Douglas J. Kennett, in a recent letter to the editor. "For Cynthia, this humanity underscores the responsibility that all of us have to work together towards a better community, in particular for those who need help to move from poverty, hunger and homelessness to a life of hope and greater prosperity."

With support from Verizon, SCAN held the event to kick off its 2012 Northern Virginia Child Abuse Prevention Campaign, The Little Picture, and to recognize the heroes who are committed to protecting children and strengthening families across the region.

Last year, SCAN's campaign reached thousands of families across Northern Virginia and beyond through public education materials, TV appearances, radio shows and online tools. Learn more about the 2012 campaign, The Little Picture, at www.scanva.org/tlp.

Alarm Over Fire Code at Hypothermia Shelters

FROM PAGE 1

equate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program. "Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances.

An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Bulova said that currently four houses of worship may be affected by their inability

to comply with fire codes, not 18.

"We'll find out at the meeting on the 22nd exactly what is being suggested and what kind of costs it would/could entail. The county's fire marshal is concerned that — even with the best of intentions — space where the homeless are sleeping shouldn't be a place where they are trapped and unable to exit in case of a fire," Bulova said.

MORE THAN 1,000 residents seek shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program each year. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

"The Hypothermia Program is unique," Bulova said. "It is a true partnership between the faith communities in Fairfax County and county government."

She said that many of the county's churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months.

"County agencies such as the Community Services Board, the Police Department, and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness partner to make the program successful," Bulova said.

"Our shared goal is to prevent deaths, and people who are homeless deserve both shelter from the elements and a safe place to stay. Fire and building codes don't discriminate, and they are intended to protect everyone," said county spokesperson Merni Fitzgerald.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said other localities, such as Richmond and Vir-

ginia Beach, have encountered the similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions.

"The hypothermia program is one of the really good things we have in the county, both because it helps those in need and it's a great example of businesses, non-profits and the faith community working together," Cook said.

"We are deeply grateful to the faith community and nonprofits that partner with us in the fight against homelessness. They have given their own time, facilities and resources during the past seven years, preventing deaths from hypothermia, providing case management to hundreds of clients, and moving individuals into permanent housing," Fitzgerald said.

Culinary Classes for Children

Little gourmands cook up fun in the kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

If you lick your hands you have to wash them," said instructor Beth Bigler as she teaches a class of kindergartens students how to make vegetable pizzas.

"Are these pickles?" asks a 6-year-old student as she clutches a dark-green, cylindrical vegetable in her tiny fingers.

"No, these are baby cucumbers," said Bigler. "We need to cut the ends off and then chop them up very, very finely. Always put it on a cutting board so you don't cut your hands. We're going to do the same thing with the celery and carrots. We have lots of vegetables to cut."

Soon the click-clop of plastic knives hitting cutting boards fills the air, along with the giggles and squeals of curious young foodies.

This is a typical session for Tiny Chefs, one of a handful of local culinary schools that cater to children. In these classes, pint-sized gourmands are introduced to all things epicurean. They also learn about kitchen safety and the importance of eating healthy food. Instructors say the lessons extend beyond the edible.

"Cooking classes for kids build and instill confidence," said Anna Reeves, founder of Tiny Chefs. "Children get to do things that



PHOTO COURTESY OF CULINARIA COOKING SCHOOL

Young food enthusiasts get a lesson from Chef Brian Batsel of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna. Some local culinary schools now offer cooking birthday parties and summer camps for children.

they didn't think they were able to do. A 4 or 5-year-old may not be used to someone handing them a bowl or spoon and saying 'Stir this all by yourself.'"

In addition to after school classes like the one at Norwood, local culinary schools offer parent-child classes, seasonal classes,

and students make full meals in our summer camps. We have other classes during the year. We do a pasta class where kids make fresh pasta. They learn what goes into it instead of just seeing it come out of a box. They learn how to make sauce instead of just opening a jar."

"Cooking classes for kids builds confidence. Children get to do things that they didn't think they were able to do. A 4 or 5-year-old may not be used to someone handing them a bowl or spoon and saying 'Stir this all by yourself.'"

— Anna Reeves, founder of Tiny Chefs

holiday classes, cooking birthday parties and cooking summer camps. The level of complexity depends on the age and interest of the children.

"We teach simple techniques like sautéing and braising," said Stephen Sands CEO of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna. "Stu-

Students learn about fresh vegetables and where they come from."

Students are introduced to new ingredients or get hands-on experience with familiar food items. "Maybe they've heard of cinnamon, but have never smelled or touched a cinnamon stick," said Reeves. "They've probably heard

of eggs, but they've never actually cracked one."

Instructors say the lessons can also be academics disguised as recreation. "They have so much fun that they don't even realize that they are working on math and reading skills," said Arlington resident Whitney Gray, director of auxiliary programs at The Langley School.

"Students learn how to use cooking tools and they get to add and subtract fractions by using measuring cups," said Jennifer McInroy, a Tiny Chefs instructor who teaches classes and summer camps at The Langley School in McLean.

Social skills are also enhanced. "With five or seven kids in a group they learn to wait their turn and cooperate work together and have patience," said Reeves.

An increasing number of local schools are offering cooking classes as an afterschool activity for students.

"Cooking is an important life skill," said Liz Holland, afterschool activities coordinator at Alexandria Country Day School. "Children definitely need to be making healthy choices for themselves and having those skills is definitely enriching."

DURING A TYPICAL CLASS, pint-sized culinary enthusiasts come in, wash their hands, don aprons and begin the prep work for the day's dish.

Classes are often divided by theme and culinary discussions are intermixed with food preparation. "The theme this session is 'On the Farm,'" said Bigler, an instructor with

PHOTO GALLERY!
"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Mount Vernon Gazette,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

Scholarship applications for 2012 graduating high school seniors in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, pursuing further education in a business related field, are now available. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each.

Apply for this scholarship online at
<http://www.mtvernon-lee-chamber.org/Education-Partnership.html>

Or call 703-360-6925 for more information.

Application deadline
Friday, April 27

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OPINION

Every Day Is Earth Day

BY DANIEL WHITE
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

COMMENTARY

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, I asked fellow Nature Conservancy staff from Maryland, D.C. and Virginia to offer their favorite ways of going green. Here are some responses that can help you save money, energy and maybe even the planet. To share your tips for living green every day, join us at www.facebook.com/dc.md.va.nature.conservancy.

THE RUN DIARY

Arlington's Kate Hougen, our marketing director, invites anyone who cares about the environment and healthy living to join her on Team Nature: "the team shares tips like how to recycle your running shoes, and raises money for environmental causes, join us and run for a healthier you, and a healthier planet." For more info, visit us online at nature.org/rundc.

HANG 'EM DRY

New mother Kristin Bramell, a fundraiser in Bethesda, prefers to air-dry her laundry: "Why not save energy by using a clothesline at least for your large items? I put up a clothesline in my backyard and love to hang my towels, sheets and t-shirts outside. It takes just five minutes, and there's nothing better than that fresh, natural smell. Now that the weather's nice, I'll probably start hanging up my cloth diapers too!"

THE THRIFTERS

Philanthropy Coordinator Karen Schuyler, who lived in Alexandria prior to settling in Barbourville, shops for clothes at thrift stores: "It's very green since the clothing is being used again, thus saving the energy costs in growing and harvesting plant-based fibers, as well as saving energy in the production and transport of new factory-made garments. Most exciting of all, it's like a treasure hunt and you never know what you'll find."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True Community Business

To the Editor:

I am writing to thank the Harvey family for everything they've done in the 20 years or so that we've lived in the Fort Hunt area, fully aware that they had done the same things for years before we arrived. The service provided at Hollin Hall Automotive has been fantastic over the years, and the contributions the Harvey family has made to the local Little League and other organizations have helped make this a great community. When we moved to this area, the Hollin Hall shopping center looked a bit drab, but then we went through the doors and met the people at Village Hardware, Safeway, Via Veneto, the Variety Store, etc., and we learned to love the place. Village Hardware, in particular, has made major contributions to local organizations; I have personally

INSPECT YOUR GADGETS

Lyle Solla-Yates of Charlottesville manages our technology systems and suggests responsible recycling and purchasing of electronics: "Goodwill has partnered with Dell to recycle computer equipment, making them a good place to bring old equipment and to pick up used equipment that still works for a great price. When you do buy, choose greener electronics or consider a smaller device. You can do a lot more now with less machine, which can save money, hassle and the environment."

SOIL, IT'S GREEN

Brian van Eerden directs our Southern Rivers Program in Richmond and is an avid composter: "Composting helps the environment by reducing solid waste and the greenhouse gas emissions such as methane it produces in landfills. Compost is also a great low-cost source of organic fertilizer for your garden."

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHARES

Jennifer Donovan, donor relations manager in Charlottesville, grows her own vegetables and buys from local farmers: "My family pays a fixed price per month to obtain a CSA share of organic vegetables, beef, chicken and fish. By purchasing food directly from local farmers, you are putting all the proceeds from the sale directly in their pockets. The food I buy locally also tastes much better. We really are what we eat, so eat healthy, local and fresh!"

MR. BEAN

Allegheny Highlands director Marek Smith of Lexington chooses coffee from shade-grown beans: "Growing coffee under the shade of trees in the Central and South American rainforests not only produces a richer flavor, but also helps protect critical wintering habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds such

spread much of the free Turfus they have provided to the Ft. Hunt Little League.

It is sad that Hollin Hall Automotive must discontinue the free full service that it has provided over the years, but that's business. Few have opened their books publicly like Tom Harvey has to show people the basis for the cost of his service, and I have no doubt that he is making this change despite all efforts to avoid it. Hollin Hall Automotive has hired many high school kids over the years, giving them their first opportunity to hold a job, and special people like Frank Brown have enriched our lives with their friendly demeanor.

I will continue to buy as much of my gas as possible at Hollin Hall Automotive because their contributions are far greater than the gasoline they provide.

Steve Dressing
Alexandria

as scarlet tanagers and cerulean warblers. These same bird species nest here in the broadleaf forests of our Central Appalachians, including Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in western Virginia.

ENERGY AT THE GATES

By following recommendations from a comprehensive home energy audit, Charlottesville preserve steward Tim Sanjule reduced his energy use. "Energy usage of any kind has an impact on our environment. Heating and cooling a house that is not well-insulated or well-sealed will waste your money and precious resources."

MAN ON A HEDGE

Clinch Valley ecologist Braven Beaty of Abingdon says, "If you have a creek on your property, don't mow right up to the bank. Leaving a strip of taller plants and shrubs can help stabilize the bank and provide wildlife habitat. The root systems help keep banks from eroding during high water, and the shade and structure provide shelter and food for fish, birds, salamanders, and other wildlife that need cool, moist areas to live. Try it and see if you don't notice more critters."

LAWN & ORDER

For a lawn that's green in more than color, use less water and fertilizer, says Richmond's Michael Lipford, our Virginia executive director: "A significant amount of nitrogen is put back in the soil if you leave your clippings on the grass. Don't water every day, and don't fret if the grass goes dormant when the heat of summer comes. Using less fertilizer is good for the Chesapeake Bay. Nutrients are the main problem in the bay, and a significant portion comes from residential fertilizers. Use low-nitrogen and low-phosphate fertilizers, fertilize less, and wisely — not before a heavy rain. Many stores now supply low-nitrogen organic fertilizers that can also reduce your carbon footprint."

Expertise Needed on Boards, Commissions

To the Editor:

Prior to the April 10 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), the meeting agenda listed an agenda item beginning on page 303 concerning a BOS vote to approve or turn down a new charter for the County's Tree Commission. I reviewed the item and discovered that the new charter proposed a dramatically increased role for the Tree Commission and that they had approved their newly proposed charter on March 7, 2012.

I reviewed the charter and found that it required no technical expertise of any kind for Tree Commission members. This concerned me, given the influence of Tree Commission members on reasonable development proposals. I accordingly wrote Supervisor Hyland to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
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Chapel Hill \$1,995,000
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Mount Vernon \$1,029,000
4201 A Dandridge Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22309
Just listed. Cedar sided 6 bed/4.5 bath 5600 sq ft. 5 year young home. Custom built. Superior craftsmanship throughout, top of the line everything, large lot, 2 car side load garage. Lyssa Seward 703.298.0562



Woodstone \$505,000
6714 Woodstone Place, Alexandria, VA 22306
Year Round Living at it's Best! Four BR, 3 1/2 baths plus loft! Updated Kit & Baths. FR w/FP. Screened porch, fin bsmt w/BR and full bath. Plenty of storage. 2-car garage. So much for the money! Linda Trinkle Wolf 703.856.2133



Forest Knoll \$698,000
1110 N. Howard Street, Alexandria, VA 22304
This fantastic updated colonial offers amazing space with 4,100+ SF and .29 acres, 4BRs, HW floors, high-end appliances, new roof, huge sunroom & walkout basement in a park like setting! Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



Parkfairfax \$278,000
3736 Holmes Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302
Lovely light-filled Madison model end unit offering, 2 spacious BRs, HW floors on 2 levels, new windows, renovated bath w/ custom tile, attic storage, W/D in unit, built-ins & more. Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



Canal Way \$624,900
1170 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Historically inspired 3BR/2.5BA TH in Canal Way. Recent updates include 1st Flr Pwdr Rm, hrdwds, EE heat pump & windows; gourmet kit; MBR w/ vaulted ceiling, walk in closet & fpl. Chris Upham 202.359.1308



Monticello Park \$779,000
3008 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305
\$20K reduction!! Beautiful Cape Cod in Great location! Remodeled kitchen, bathrooms, extended dining room, garage & more! More views at 3008Russell.com! Schedule a showing today! Rachel Carter 703.851.4207



Glenmore \$639,000
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Collingwood Estates \$549,900
1121 Amesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
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Poplins Heights \$469,000
2430 Ross St, Alexandria, VA 22306
First Offering! Recently updated including windows, painting, roof w/ridge vent & more. 5BR, 2BA 2 LVL, walkout rambler w/ deck on private lot in close-in neighborhood. Fantastic buy for under \$470K! Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



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9403 Ferry Landing Ct
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9017 Stratford Ln
\$899,000
Totally Expanded and Updated!

Understated elegance-modest front elevation belies stunning expanded interior featuring room sizes and amenities typically associated with new custom homes. Many fabulous features include gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, hardwood floors, upgraded HVAC system, imported tile and many additional luxurious amenities. No cost was spared in renovation resulting in top of the line brands throughout. **OPEN SUN 4/22, 1-4!** GW Parkway S; R-Stratford Lane on Right.



9514 Mount Vernon Ld
\$1,950,000
MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK

Unique opportunity to acquire direct water frontage with private dock in prestigious MVOP! Designed by architect to capitalize on water views. Dramatic open flr pln, soaring ceilings, expansive glass walls and all brick exterior. All major components in place-personalize interior. **OPEN SUN 4/22, 1-4!** GW Parkway S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Mount Vernon Cir to Mount Vernon Landing.



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$1,100,000
Alex / Mt Vernon 4207 KIMBLEE CT

Spacious brick colonial w/Potomac river views. 4BR / 4.5BA / 3 fin lvls. HW first 2 lvls. Kit w/brkfst area, granite, Italian tiles & FR. New covered veranda overlooking gardens.

www.maryfousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



\$ 679,000
Hollin Hills "BUTTERFLY HOUSE"

Charles Goodwin design sited beautifully on an elevated lot offering sweeping views of woods. Complete kit renovation opens to FR w/brick frpl, 3 full updated BA, huge UL LR w/ frpl, large windows, 2 patios perfect for outdoor entertaining. 3BR.

Virtual Tour: www.bobs Skinnerhomes.org
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 394,900
Alex South / Briary Farms 8231 DOCTOR CRAIK

Spacious 3 lvl all brick TH! 3 BR/2FBA UL plus 2 add. half BA (main & LL)! HW flrs in LR & sep DR, wonderful eat-in kit & lg FR w/walk-out to priv. rear yard backing to parkland. Close to shops, transportation, schools, parks & Mt. Vernon Hospital.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279



2327 Wittington Blvd
\$645,000
Better Than New- Gorgeous Lot!

Stunning 3 level, 4 bedroom Colonial just renovated from top to bottom! Many features include: large room sizes, open kitchen-family room, finished lower level and 2 car garage. Virtually every major component is brand new! Upgraded throughout! Gorgeous large fenced lot. Walk to nearby pool! Amazing Value!



8355 Justin Rd
\$819,900
PERFECTION!

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



8313 Mt. Vernon Hwy
\$775,000
New Home- Under Construction!

Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes. Custom building with many modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Buy during construction and personalize the interior to suit your taste. Fabulous new home amenities combined with convenience of a prime Mt. Vernon location.



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 485,000
Alexandria 2181 JAMIESON AVE #1101

Freshly painted, gorgeous Brazilian Cherry HW. Largest 2BR - move in condition. Located bet. 2 Metro sta., the condo is ideally suited for in-town living & EZ commutes to DC or south. 1 prkg space & storage space. Near shops, eateries & all Old Town offers + Carlyle amenities.

www.brianandjerry.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764



\$ 299,000
Oakton "GREAT"

Huge 3BR/2BA end unit in terrific building. Secure garage parking w/space close to elevators. Just installed all new energy efficient windows. MstrBR has full BA w/large walk-in closet. W/D in-unit laundry room. Storage space in basement. EZ access to Metro & I-66. Don't miss this one!

Ellen Young 703.518.8769



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 885,000
Alexandria 5109 FT ELLSWORTH CT

On a cul-de-sac, this immaculate Chevy Chase has gourmet kit, gorgeous house width deck/entertainment area incl. a very large side yard. Main lvl formal LR/DR plus ofc, pwdr rm, great rm & morning rm. 6BR/4BA + new carpet on upper 2 lvls. Absolute luxury & move-in ready. Enjoy!

www.brianandjerry.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764



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

is



9107 Mt. Vernon Dr
\$539,000
Main Level Master Suite!

Don't let the front elevation fool you-this 4 level home is huge! Unique property with large



8617 N. Valley Dr
\$549,500
Gorgeous Custom Pool & Grounds!!

Spacious two level ramblar with bright open floor plan. Expansive glass walls on both levels overlook gorgeous pool and



\$ 659,000
Hollin Hall Village "A STANDOUT"

It sparkles - pristine, picture perfect & irresistible. One-lvl living w/large open sun-filled LR, DR w/SGD to 600 sqft priv deck backing to parkland. Renovated gourmet kit, long island/brkfst bar, 6-burner gas Viking cooktop. Relaxing FR, storage room, plus outside storage. A landscapers dream garden. A must see!

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



\$ 479,500
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Move right into this charming ramblar. New furnace/ac, roof, appliances & family rm. New Rinnai hot water on demand system. Hardwood flrs, 2 fps, mudroom, outdoor shower, new MBA, dressing area in MBR, plantation shutters. Shed for storage. Close to restaurants, shopping & grocery.

Sheila Kolb 703.201.2334



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 575,000
Alexandria 3105 SPRING DR

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Betsy Gorman 703.861.4825



2413 G. M. Dr
\$547,500
Stratford Colonial!

Classic 4BR Colonial in prime location in Stratford Landing. Many features include: updated



8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd
\$547,500
Stratford Colonial!

Classic 4BR Colonial in prime location in Stratford Landing. Many features include: updated



9219 Ashwood Dr
\$547,500
Stratford Colonial!

Classic 4BR Colonial in prime location in Stratford Landing. Many features include: updated



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Wilton Woods "IMMACULATE"

Impeccable & unique 4BR/3BA home in close-in Wilton Woods offers idyllic .56 acre lot set back on secluded drive. Fabulous rooms for entertaining both in/out w/ updated kitchen & BAs. 3 FPS, 2-car side load garage, delightful rear covered porch. Come see!

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OPEN SAT & SUN 1 - 4!
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ONLY 3 LEFT of these exquisitely built homes by Long Homes of VA located in the heart of Mt. Vernon. EZ access to GW Pkwy, shopping, bike trails, swimming & more. These luxurious homes have all the upgrades & options.

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Randy Bender 703.906.1749



NEW PRICE!
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Alexandria "HAS IT ALL"

Hollindale - Spectacular updated Williamsburg Col. w/over 4,000 sq ft, 5BR/3BA - lg, spacious BRs, sep DR opens to deck - great Sunroom w/skylights, fp - lg w-out Rec rm w/wet bar, fr - updated kit w/brkfst nook - gleaming hdwds on main/upper lvls - oversized 2-car gar - beautiful landscape & more.

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



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Alexandria on Tour During Historic Garden Week

Sponsored by Hunting Creek Garden Club and The Garden Club of Alexandria; Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information Centers and Restroom Facilities: Alexandria Visitors Center — The Ramsey House, 221 King street in Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Tickets: \$40, full ticket on tour day includes six private houses and gardens, refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and all-day admission to nearby historic properties. Group tours for 10 or more people and tickets purchased in advance are \$35. Single site ticket, \$20. Full tickets for children under 12 are \$20. Children younger than 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance Tickets: \$35, are available at the Alexandria Visitor's Center, 221 King St. For internet tickets, visit www.Vgardenweek.org.

Refreshments: Complimentary light refreshments available at the Old Presbyterian meeting House, 323 South Fairfax St., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the tour.

117 SOUTH LEE STREET

This Italianate style Victorian residence was probably an early public building along the 18th century waterfront. The south façade indicates early window and door configurations, which are “ghosted” in the old brick patterns. Mid-19th century architectural and interior trim details are from Victorian pattern books (1850 to 1875). These details, including the prominent bracket cornice, pierced metal door and window hoods, interior transom window and hand carved interior window trim in the entry, living room and dining room, indicate a major renovation during that time period. Also at that time, wood burning fireplaces were replaced with coal fireplace heaters. From 1902 to 2009, the home was occupied by the Bernheimer family who made some major improvements during the 1930s, most notably, adding second floor plumbing. The current owners completely renovated the home and garden in 2010, opening the kitchen to a new family room and walled garden. The garden features a large split boxwood salvaged from the original garden and a privacy hedge of Russian olive trees. Ken and Esther Carpi, owners.

212 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET (THE WRIGHT GARDEN)

The lots on which the dwelling and garden sit were purchased by Lawrence Washington in the original Alexandria land auction of 1749. He subsequently lost title when he failed to build within the required time. The property was later acquired by Dr. William Brown, Physician General in the American Revolution, friend of George Washington, fellow officer at Valley Forge and author of the first American “Pharmacopoeia.” The emphasis in this elegant shade garden is on color, texture and spring blooms. Many of the boxwood and azalea plantings were present in 1969 when the current owner purchased the property. They were later moved when the gate was relocated from the side of the house to its present location. The small brick building at the back of the garden, once a smoke and spring house, is original. The patio was constructed using brick pavers excavated from the rear of the property near an old stable that is shown on an early map. Cobblestones, which were also unearthed, were given to the city to use for repairing Alexandria's two cobblestone streets. The orangery was constructed by the current owner in 1991. Also of note are the espaliered ginkgo trees along the driveway. Mrs. Frank H. Wright, owner.

320 SOUTH LEE STREET

The central portion of this Federalized Victorian was likely built during the first quarter of the 19th century. Alexandria required that residents build on their lots within two years of possession. Originally, the dwelling unit would have been entered by the side

door that today provides access to a closed alley. In 1850, the home was significantly enlarged and an adjoining mirror image home was built for the two married sisters. The two properties were connected via a doorway at the top of the back stairs. In 1949, the dwelling was renovated by the Armfield family and an English garden replaced old dog kennels, which were used by the previous owner for their hunting dogs. In 1999, the kitchen was completely renovated by the current owners. Legend says that the house was visited each Christmas by the spirit of a mid-19th century gentleman. His visits ended when a new doorway was built between the living room and dining room. In the garden, the boxwoods planted in 1950 still thrive. A large triple trunk 4river birch shades the dining patio. The garden features specimen plantings of dwarf loropetalum, snowball viburnum and hydrangea. Mr. and Mrs. George Boteler, owners.

206 WOLFE STREET

This 19th century Greek Revival townhouse is built on the foundations of an earlier house which was destroyed by fire. On Jan. 4, 1871 at 11 p.m., a fire broke out in Frederick Schwoop's bakery at 210 Wolfe Street destroying the bakery and several adjacent structures, including 206 Wolf. The owner, a seaport captain, did not rebuild and subsequently sold the property two years later. The current home was later rebuilt and has undergone multiple renovations, most recently last year. The result is a lovely, warm, bright and open interior. In 2010, the owners added a sunroom and outdoor porch off the master bedroom. The floor in the sunroom was purchased in Marrakesh during one of their travels. The garden features a Haddonstone fountain and understory trees such as Sweet Bay magnolia, Acer griseum, Stewardia pseudocamellia, camellias, poenies, boxwood, spring bulbs and Japanese perennials. This garden has evolved over the past 12 years under the stewardship of the owner who is a retired horticulturalist from the U.S. Botanic Garden. It has also expanded into the cobblestone lane beyond the garden walls. Betty and Ed Spar, owners.

613 SOUTH ROYAL STREET

This fine traditional brick town home was built over 30 years ago. Sited back from the street, raised beds in the front of the home feature hosta, daylilies, hydrangea and colorful annuals shaded by a mature cherry tree. During the last 10 years the owner has completed major renovations including second floor bedrooms and baths at the back of the first floor, an open an inviting new floor plan. The kitchen now opens to a dramatic volume ceiling in the family room with a stone fireplace and views of the garden. The owner has transformed the previous Japanese garden to a more casual space, adding traditional Virginia plantings while retaining a specimen Japanese maple. Also featured around the flagstone and brick terrace are cornus florida, rhododendron, crepe myrtle, peonies and a styrax. In addition, the owner converted a potting shed at the back of the property into a bar area with architectural arbor and a fountain to create a lovely outdoor entertaining area. A brick walkway on the south side of the property leads to a glass conservatory which floods the kitchen with natural light. Shelby Scarborough, owner.

215 JEFFERSON STREET.

This fine 18th century home was last on the Historic Garden Week Tour in 1955. This property dates to 1782 when a free-standing dwelling was constructed on five lots. The original owner was the son of John Alexander, for whom the city is named. In the living room, the original windows and fireplace mantel can still be seen. It was not until 1966 that the large west addition was constructed. Recently, the home was completely renovated by the current owners offering a spacious family room opening to the expansive gardens. In 2010, the gardens were refreshed by noted landscape designer Jane MacLeish. Known as the Sally Ann Gardens, they consist of four areas: The parterre garden with Korean boxwood, tulips and hollies, the East garden featuring euonymus and sarcocci shrubs, the North garden lined with American holly and filled with hydrangeas and the West garden, composed of azaleas, euonymus and crepe myrtle. A side walkway is lined with magnolias, azaleas and acuba. There are more than 50 boxwoods throughout the gardens, some dating back 60 years. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Jankowski, owners.

Other places of interest are also included in the Historic Garden Week ticket. Please note, tour tickets are not sold at the following locations:



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

The gardens of Ken and Esther Carpi and Betty and Ed Spar, which will be on Alexandria Garden Tour.

The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco Street at North Washington Street. Built in 1785 by Philip Fendall on land purchased from Revolutionary War hero “Light Horse Harry” Lee, this gracious historic house museum presents an intimate study of 19th century family life. Home to several generations of the famed Lees of Virginia (1785-1903) and labor leader John L. Lewis (1937-69), the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Guided tours are offered 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the tour day. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street. When Scottish merchant John Carlyle completed his riverfront house in 1753, this was the grandest mansion in the new town of Alexandria. The stone architecture, furniture and decorative finishes reflect Carlyle's status and wealth. The Garden Club of Virginia restored the front landscape to the mid-18th century period. A lovely garden with a boxwood parterre graces the rear of the house. The site is owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Guided tours are offered 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the tour date. Visit www.nvrpa.org.

George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, 8 mi. south of Alexandria on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Situated on the Potomac River, Mount Vernon was the home of George and Martha Washington. From the end of the American Revolution in 1783 to his election to the presidency in 1789, Washington replaced outbuildings, reshaped gardens, created new lawns, planted trees and even realigned roads and lanes. The George Washington Pioneer Farmer Site features a distinctive replica of Washington's 16-sided barn and displays of his farming principles. With funding from Historic Garden Week, the Garden Club of Virginia has helped to restore Mount Vernon's bowling green, one of the major landscape features on this vast plantation. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association owns the property. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

American Horticultural Society at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. The headquarters of the American Horticultural Society overlooks the Potomac River and was one of George Washington's original properties. The property is comprised of 25 acres of gardens and grounds, which include perennial borders, annual beds, children's gardens, a meadow, a woodland, and picnic areas. The estate house was remodeled in the early 20th century and the property is described as a “gentleman's estate.” Large porches offer a panoramic view of the Potomac River and gardens. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.ahs.org.

Woodlawn. 9000 Richmond Highway, 3 mi. west of Mount Vernon at the intersection of Rte 235 and U.S. Rte. 1. This Federal mansion was built on 2,000 acres that George Washington carved from Mount Vernon when his wife's granddaughter Nelly Custis married his nephew Lawrence Lewis. Designed by Dr. William Thornton, the first architect of the United States Capitol, the house contains fine Federal period furnishings, many brought from Mount Vernon. The garden was restored by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1958-60 and is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org.

Gunston Hall Plantation. 15 mi. south of Alexandria off U.S. Rte. 1 on Rte. 242. This 550-acre National Historic Landmark was the home of George Mason (1725-92), author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. The estate consists of a Georgian mansion, ca. 1755, and reconstructed kitchen, dairy, laundry and schoolhouse. The brick mansion exhibits elaborately carved woodwork enhanced by furnishings of the colonial period. The Potomac River is viewed through the original Deer Park. While no longer a restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia, the Club assisted Gunston Hall with landscaping work in 1949-53. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollin Hills Hosts House & Garden Tour

Date: Saturday, April 28, from 12 to 6 p.m.

Hollin Hills, the mid-century modern neighborhood in Alexandria, hosts its next House & Garden Tour on Saturday, April 28, from noon to 6 p.m.

The self-guided walking tour showcases stunning examples of mid-century modern architecture, furnishings and landscape. The homes have been individually sited to be harmonious with the land and to maximize views and privacy. Large expanses of floor-to-ceiling windows give the homes a sleek appearance and allow for a synergy between exterior and interior spaces.

The community was created by mid-century master architect Charles Goodman, who shared his vision along with developer Robert Davenport of designing and building homes contemporary to the time and with respect for the environment. Homes were nestled into the hillside; wooded areas were preserved. Roads meandered and followed the lay of the land. Landscape plans were designed for each home. Dan Kiley, the preeminent 20th Century landscape architect, was one of the landscape architects who drew up these plans which were presented to each homeowner.

Over the years, homeowners have built additions which have followed the MCM style or extended it. Yet there are many that have kept the original footprint. The tour will have examples of both.

In collaboration with the Tour, the Interior Design department of The Corcoran Gallery of Art, College of Art + Design in Washington, D.C., will host a program entitled "A Community of Vision: Hollin Hills, Modern Then and Now." This program will take place at 6 p.m. Friday April 27, at the Corcoran, 500 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Architect, author, critic and native of Hollin Hills, Michael Sorkin (sorkinstudio.com); Landscape architect Dennis Carmichael, FASLA, Principal, Parker-Rodriguez; and Heidi Nasstrom Evans, Ph.D., Corcoran College of Art + Design with special interest in American 20th Century visual



culture, will discuss the history and influence of Hollin Hills, Mid-century Modern architecture, landscape and design and its impact today. Program qualifies for CEU credits.

The program will be moderated by Lisa Lipinski, Ph.D., Interim Chair of Arts and Humanities, Corcoran College of Art + Humanities.

On the day of the tour, Thomas Kerns, FAIA, resident and architect, will give a brief history of Hollin Hills and an orientation to the tour. This will be held at 11 a.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School at 2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria, where tickets may be

picked-up or purchased.

As an added bonus, the tour will include the Hollin Meadows Elementary School Student Garden. The Student Garden is an innovative project that integrates science and art with dynamic hands-on experience. Students' art and sculpture identifies different sections of the garden. The Garden was visited by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2009.

Tickets are \$25 and are no longer available online. They may be purchased on the day of the tour at these locations: Fort Hunt Road and Paul Spring Road (swimming pool area) or Hollin Meadows School at Nordok Place and Range Road.

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF APRIL

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church 25th Anniversary. At 8012 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Services are held at 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; and 5 p.m. Special dates:

❖ **April 29:** Dr. David Cunningham, Dr. Regretta B. Johnson Ruffin and Bishop William Walker, Latta SC. Featuring: HABC Dance Ministries and the HABC Unity Choir; Adults: \$40 13 & up; Children: \$20 12 & under; Featuring: The Singing Angels, HABC Pastor's Praise Team; Call: 703-799-7868.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Rhino Wars. 6:30 p.m. Alexandria resident and National Geographic staff writer Peter Gwin will speak at The Potomack Company about his book "Rhino Wars: The Violent Underworld of Black Market Medicine" in conjunction with Potomack's auction of a collection of wild game hunting trophies with proceeds going to the International Anti-Poaching Foundation. At The Potomack Company Auctions & Appraisals, 526 North Fayette St., Alexandria. Visit www.potomackcompany.com.

Beverly Hills Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. Presentation by Dr. Robert E.

Lyons on "Ornamental Plant Choices for the Cultivated Landscape." Lyons is a professor of Landscape Horticulture and Director of the Longwood Graduate Program at the University of Delaware/Longwood Gardens. He will discuss breeding breakthroughs, solid garden standards and plants with untapped potential. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Rd, Alexandria. Contact Amy Reed at ahreed703@yahoo.com or 703-837-8861.

Silver Restoration. 12 noon to 5 p.m. Melissa Kenis, a silver restoration expert, will be at Silverman Galleries, Antiques and Antique Jewelry, 101 North St. Asaph St., Old Town Alexandria. She will give recommendations and estimates on repairing and refinishing sterling heirlooms.

Author Katie Truitt. 4 to 6 p.m. Will sign copies of her book, The Hillbilly Debutante Cafe. At Hollin Hall Pastry Co. & Shop, 7920 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

Pollen as a Window Into the Past. 7:30 p.m. How Ecologists Use Pollen to Reconstruct Past Vegetation. Dr. Emily Southgate will illustrate how paleoecologists

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

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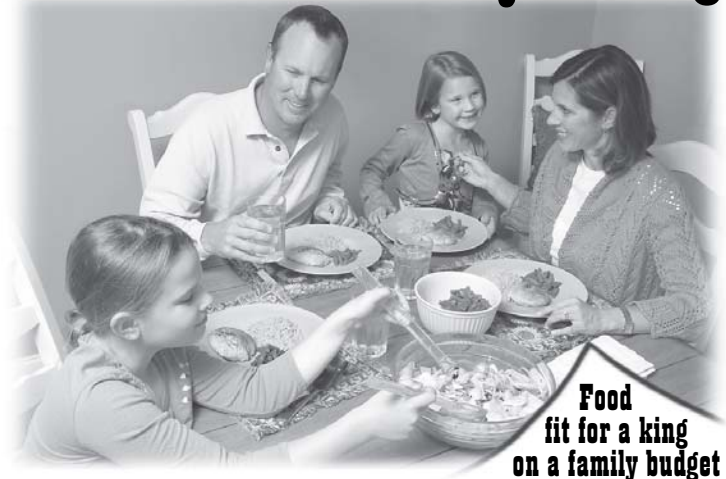
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

use the unique characteristics of pollen preserved in sediments as a window on the past. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Visit www.vnps.org.

APRIL 19, 20, 21, 22

Spring Book Sale. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria host "It's Raining Books, Hallelujah." Preview is Thursday, April 19 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Continues Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, April 22 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Prices: paperbacks \$1; hardbacks \$3. At the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

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

APRIL 20 AND 21

"Ghost Light:" A Comedy with Spirits. 7 p.m. At the George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All tickets are \$5 and available at the door. Contact Robert McDonough at robert.mcdonough@acps.k12.va.us

Colin Hay in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call the Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com; for tickets, please call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or order online at

www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

MVPC Preschool Spring Festival and Silent Auction. Noon to 4 p.m. bid on many items donated from local businesses and families. Rocknocos will be playing from 1 to 2 p.m. Buy tickets for \$10 in the preschool office or online at <http://mvpcrocknocos2012.eventbrite.com>. At 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-6118.

See Raptors Up Close. 10 a.m.-noon. For Earth Day, at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, at the Belle Haven Picnic area, off George Washington Memorial Parkway in the Mt. Vernon area of Fairfax County. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the National Park Service, and the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia. The Raptor Conservancy will bring live raptors for close-up encounters. Meet at the Belle Haven picnic area near the bike path. Visit www.fodm.org, or call the National Park Service Information Line at 202-619-7222.

Nourish & Flourish Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Tickets are \$20/person. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Proceeds benefit Rising Hops United Methodist Church and UMW Missions in Cambodia. For tickets, visit www.aldersgate.net.

Global Youth Service Day. Children and youth will address critical issues in their communities. More than a dozen nonprofits are offering projects throughout Fairfax County. Locally, more than 700 youth and families are expected to give back to the local community. To view a project near you, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Chalk Walk. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Mount

Vernon High School Football Stadium. Run or walk around the track and school for exercise and honor your favorite teacher at the same time. The \$5 registration fee includes a Chalk Walk T-Shirt. Contact Ms. Card (703-619-3120 or bmcard@fcps.edu).

Author Event. 2 to 4 p.m. Local author Tansil Johnson will sign and discuss her new books, Who Is Mooma? And Mooma and the Mouse. At Charles Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria.

Bike Collection. 9 a.m. to noon. Trinity United Methodist Church will be collecting gently used bicycles (and parts) for Bikes for the World (B4W). At 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. B4W ships bikes to many countries, thus helping poor people overseas become more productive through providing affordable bicycles for personal transport to work, school, and health services. Visit Trinity UMC: <http://trinityalexandria.org> or visit Bikes for the World: <http://b4w.org>

Spring Mulch Sale. \$5/bag - 3 cubic feet, double shredded hardwood bark mulch. Orders of 10 bags or more will be delivered to select ZIP codes. For more information or to order, send a note to mvhsmulchsale2012@gmail.com or call 571-214-4348. Proceeds will support the senior class All Night Grad Party.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of Carlyle House. An exciting mix of herbs and vegetable plants from Mount Vernon and Layng & Company will be available for purchase. Bring your family and participate in child-friendly activities, listen to performances by area musicians and living historians throughout the day, as well as shop for items made by local artisans and crafters. This event is free, however admission for the House

tour is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 5-12 years old; free for children 4 & under or free with your Alexandria Garden Day ticket. This event will take place rain or shine. Carlyle House Historic Park is at 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

Project Discovery-Alexandria's 16th Annual 3K Walkathon. 8 a.m. Registration. 3K Walk at 9:30 a.m. \$20/adults; \$5/students; \$500/corporate sponsors. The program serves T.C. Williams High School students with limited financial resources and/or who will be the first in their family to go to college. Proceeds help pay for program activities such as visits to colleges and workshops dealing with such topics as the college and financial aid application process, goal setting and personal development. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5970. Donations may be made to www.alexandriava.gov. Register online at alexandriava.gov/PDWalkathon or call 703-746-5970.

Lecture on Archaeology of the Lee-Fendall House Garden. 2 p.m. Admission is \$5. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology (FOAA). At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronco St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789.

Wellness Detoxification Bio-Cleanse Workshop. 1 to 3 p.m. 532Yoga — an introduction to a 7-day or 21-day program. \$35 if pre-registered. At 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com or suzanne@532Yoga.com or call 703-209-0049.

'Off the Mat' Workshop. 4 to 7 p.m. 532Yoga — live life more fully! \$45 if pre-registered. Book the series of 3 Off The Mat workshops and save! At

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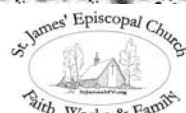


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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com or suzanne@532Yoga.com or 703-209-0049.

ASA Exhibits at Earth Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Alexandria Sanitation Authority's CEO Karen Pallansch will be on hand at Alexandria's Earth Day, Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria.

APRIL 21 TO 22

Out of Africa Auction. Featuring animals preserved by taxidermist James L. Clark in the Howard Sykes safari collection. At the Potomack Company Auctions & Appraisals, 526 North Fayette Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Gardens and Graveyards. 4 p.m. Poetry from the Meeting House featuring the poetry of Alexandria's first poet laureate, Jean Elliot. Also reading will be the two other City of Alexandria poets laureate: Amy Young (2010-present) and Mary McElveen (2007-2010) as well as other poets and friends of the Meeting House. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Contact Mary McElveen at maryjcmce@yahoo.com or 703-299-1719.

Film Screening. 6:15 p.m. "Love Free or Die: How the Bishop of New Hampshire is Changing the World." At Christ Church Auditorium, 118 North Washington St., Alexandria. Questions/RSVP: mcapers@rocketmail.com

Student Pottery Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At The Clay Queen Pottery, 2303 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7775.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinic. 2 to 4 p.m. Cost of rabies vaccine is \$12/pet. To receive a three-year vaccination, pet owners should bring proof of their pet's current rabies vaccination. At Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Road, Alexandria. Call 703-830-1100.

Touch-A-Truck Preschool Fundraiser. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5/person; \$20/family. At Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. On the grounds of Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com.

Earth Force Fundraiser. As part of its 2012 Earth Day celebration, Ten Thousand Villages in Old

Town Alexandria will donate 15 percent of the sales to Earth Force, a national nonprofit dedicated to engaging youth as active citizens in their communities and their environment. The fundraiser will benefit the local work the organization does in Alexandria and Arlington.

Partner Yoga & Adjustments Workshop. 2 to 4 p.m. - 532Yoga — prepare to have fun! No experience necessary! \$35 if pre-registered. At 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com or suzanne@532Yoga.com or call 703-209-0049.

A Guided Meditation. 6 to 7:30 p.m. - 532Yoga - no experience necessary! \$35 if pre-registered. At 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Alexandria. Visit www.532Yoga.com suzanne@532Yoga.com or call 703-209-0049.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

Author Judith Viorst. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Will speak on "Life Lessons from Under Eight Until Unexpectedly Eighty." At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Registration is required by April 21 by signing up at events@athomeinalexandria.org or calling the AHA! office at 703-231-0824. Visit www.athomeinalexandria.org.

Earth Day Plant Swap. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Assess your garden or your houseplants and dig up those "extra" plants, move them into pots or plastic bags, then transport then over to Hollin Hall Senior Center! New gardeners may arrive empty handed and willing to take some plants off your hands! Others may arrive with plants galore and willingly exchange some for others. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

"Is Alexandria Going to the Dogs?" The Importance of Animals in Local Living" with Paul Haire, Your Dog's Best Friend; Dr. Lisa Marisco, Del Ray Animal Hospital; Randy Plante, author of "My Wingman Oliver"; and Tykie Tobin, Animal Welfare League (the Shelter) at the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner (members with reservations by April 17: \$28; with reservations after deadline: \$33; without reservations: \$38/non-members with reservations by April 17: \$33; after deadline: \$38; without reservations: \$43) at 6:45; program (\$5 non-

members) 7:15. Dinner reservations required. For information or reservations, contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.com.

Bela Fleck & The Flecktones. The band is: Bela Fleck (banjo), Howard Levy (piano/harmonica), Victor Wooten (bass), and Roy Futureman Wooten (percussion/Drumitar). At the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10. With the band, The Knighthawks. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

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

Niche — Jane Franklin Dance. 7 p.m. Free. A "Mapped" performance. The event begins near the Union Street entrance. In this location, one dance is performed, "Compartment." Then everyone gets a map to locate the other dances; small solos for hidden spaces. This large pillar on the third floor is the concluding location for the final dance, "Header." At The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com.

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

Author Andrew Wingfield. 7 p.m. Come and hear local author Andrew Wingfield speak about his book Right of Way: Stories, winner of the Washington Writers Publishing House 2010 fiction prize. At the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

APRIL 25 TO APRIL 29

"Seussical the Musical." Performed by West Potomac High School theater department. Tickets are \$12/door. Performances are April 25 at 5 p.m.; April 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.; April 29 at 2:30 p.m. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria.



James Woods as Tom Sawyer.

Children's Theatre Stages 'Tom Sawyer'

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will present "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" for three more performances this week-end — April 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and April 22 at 3 p.m.

Featuring a cast of 54 actors ages 8-18, the musical is held at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10 in advance online at www.mvctt.org and \$12 at the door.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Does Mom Need to Move? 7 to 8:30 p.m. The seminar is part of its free Spring 2012 Seminars for Family Caregivers series. At Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Register online (go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and link to caregiver series), email caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE



West Potomac senior Emily Hauptle, left, will play lacrosse at Marquette University.

West Potomac senior Annmarie Wood scored a goal against Lee on April 13.

Zdebski's 5 Goals Lift West Potomac Girls' Lax to Win

Wolverines start season 6-0, including pair of Patriot District victories.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

After leading the West Potomac girls' lacrosse team to a victory against Lee on April 13, junior midfielder Karley Zdebski showed shyness, declining a postgame interview.

Unfortunately for the Lancers, Zdebski wasn't nearly as passive during the game.

Zdebski scored a team-high five goals and the Wolverines improved to 6-0 with a 13-4 win against previously unbeaten Lee at West Potomac High School. Zdebski scored the game's first goal less than two minutes in and the Wolverines remained in control throughout, improving to 2-0 in the Patriot District.

"I think she spent a lot of time on the bench last year [so] she's showing me what she's got," West Potomac head coach Lori Cochran said. "She's only a junior. She's really looking beautiful — lots of stamina [and] beautiful shots. ... Karley is very, very

quiet, but I'm telling you, when she gets angry she gets very aggressive. Every game, she has been really shining this season as a very, very strong player."

Zdebski was one of six Wolverines to score at least one goal. Senior midfielder Emily Hauptle, who will play at Marquette University next season, scored three goals. Junior midfielder Kate Schneider finished with two goals and senior attacker Annmarie Wood, junior midfielder Kelsie Whalon and sophomore midfielder Jordyn Elliot each had one.

"We have a lot of depth," Hauptle said. "We don't have one girl who takes it to net every time. It's really impressive. ... We have a lot of hustle and all of our girls can play the whole field. I don't think there's one girl who can't play defense or one girl who can't play offense."

West Potomac's depth was on display against Lee. The Wolverines had nine players on the bench due to injury, but that didn't stop the team from securing a lopsided victory. West Potomac held a 6-1 ad-

vantage at halftime and led by as many as 10 goals in the second half. Defensively, Cochran said sophomore goalkeeper Catherine Fannon "did a stellar job."

"Finesse-wise, this wasn't our best game," Cochran said. "But I think with nine on the bench and pulling up girls from JV, I think they played very well."

Hauptle, senior defender Jessie Dartooz and senior attacker Livvy Mickevicius are team captains. Mickevicius, who will play at Grand Valley State, missed the Lee game due to illness.

West Potomac has outscored its opponents 93-44, securing wins against George Mason, Edison, Mount Vernon, Hayfield, Annandale and Lee. The Wolverines will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, beginning a tough second-half to their schedule that includes games against West Springfield, Lake Braddock and South County.

"[Being undefeated] builds a lot of pressure," Mickevicius said, "because we haven't faced the hardest teams on our schedule yet."



West Potomac junior Karley Zdebski (33) scored five goals during the Wolverines' 13-4 victory against Lee on April 13.

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Softball Blanks Lee

The West Potomac softball team rebounded from losses to South County and Lake Braddock with a 7-0 victory against Lee on April 17, improving its record to 10-3.

West Potomac sits in third place in the Patriot District with a 5-2 record after playing the first cycle of opponents. Lake Braddock sits atop the district with a 7-0 mark and South County is second at 6-1.

The Wolverines will host T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20.

Mount Vernon Boys' Soccer Remains Undefeated

The Mount Vernon boys' soccer team defeated Falls Church 5-2 on April 16 and Robinson 2-1 on April 13 to improve to 5-0-2.

As of the morning of April 18, Robinson was ranked No. 3 in the Washington Post's

top 10 and Falls Church was ranked No. 9. Mount Vernon was not ranked.

Against Falls Church, Simond Kargbo scored a pair of goals for Mount Vernon. Hatzael Diaz, Erik Rodriguez and Amardo Oakley each added one. Rodriguez and Kargbo scored against Robinson.

The Majors sit atop the National District standings with a 2-0-1 record. Yorktown is also unbeaten at 1-0-2. Mount Vernon and Yorktown played to a 1-all tie on April 10.

Mount Vernon will travel to face Stuart at 7 p.m. on April 24.

Mount Vernon Boys' Lax Loses to Edison

The Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team fell to 2-7 overall and 1-1 in the National District with a 13-6 loss to Edison, last season's district runner-up, on April 17. The Majors will travel to face Hayfield at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 19.

NEWS

New Leadership at Gunston Hall

FROM PAGE 5

sented to the regents portray Reese as a man who would regularly reduce people to tears.

"These tirades are unpredictable," wrote docent Micheyl Bartholomew. "Mr. Reese can display a demeanor of charm and digress into a behavior unbefitting of a professional."

The vast majority of criticism against Reese accused him of undercutting the educational mission of the museum, which celebrates the life of a man known as the "Forgotten Founder." During his time at the museum, he reduced education staffing, cut back on special events, eliminated a weeklong summer camp, and discontinued hands-on tours in favor of point-and-look tours. Many of his unpopular decisions were aimed at preserving the structure, including telling groups they could not serve refreshments or conduct dances. One group of living history players known as the Gunstonians felt particularly slighted by the new rules.

"This past Christmas, they were told to dance in the cellar," wrote docent Charlotte Knipling.

Several of his management decisions were very

unpopular. One decision that was widely criticized at the time was discontinuing the popular animal program, getting rid of the farm manager and sending the animals away. Another decision that drew ire was cutting back a three-day teachers institute to a one-day workshop. Even the way he chose to interpret the historic house came under fire.

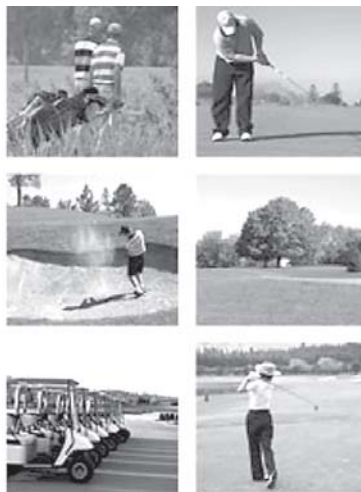
"When I began giving tours at the mansion, it felt like a place connected to the experiences of the man and his family, be it an elaborate dinner for a festive occasion, a frantic packing of precious household belongings before the possible onslaught of the British Navy cruising the Potomac or even the realities of 18th life with rats scurrying around the bedrooms," wrote former guide John Kuhlman. "Nowadays the mansion presents a lifeless display lacking vitality and the familial warmth

of the Masons."

A spokeswoman for Gunston Hall said that she was not able to arrange an interview with Reese or share his personal contact information. The executive committee for the regents is expected to form a search committee in the coming weeks to find a new executive director.

"I suspect that almost every employee or former employee can tell you numerous horror stories about how poorly he has managed the staff and treated the public."

— Kevin Shupe, former librarian



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

bring this issue to his attention and request that consideration of the charter be tabled so that it can be amended to require adequate technical expertise for its members. At the BOS meeting, the proposed charter was withdrawn from the agenda. I don't take credit for this development but trust that BOS members will require the charter to include a technical expertise requirement for Tree Commission members.

I am reminded of the "performance" of Mount Vernon's tree commissioner at the public hearing before the Planning Commission concerning the proposed up-zoning of the Leatherland property. She had opposed the up-zoning and gave details regarding her tree concerns. Questioned by Planning Commission members about her comments, she admitted she has no technical expertise concerning trees and asked that the questions be directed to the County arborist. This incident points out the need for technical expertise on the part of those who volunteer for boards, authorities and commissions and find themselves in a position to affect development proposals. Caring about trees isn't a qualification to serve on the Tree Commission. We all care about trees.

I note that in preparing to write this letter after the BOS meeting, I visited the County's website to review the proposed charter since, although I had printed it out, I couldn't immediately find it. I discovered that the proposed charter had been purged from the Board package after the fact. Search of the County website failed to uncover it — it was as if it had never existed. Fortunately I found the print out I had made. I find it disturbing that when an item in the Board agenda package prior to the meeting is subsequently withdrawn from consideration, that item is purged from the package after the meeting. This action deprives taxpayers of the ability to see what was on the agenda prior to the meeting. Citizens are now deprived of the ability to read the proposed charter and provide their comments to the BOS. I ask Supervisor Hyland to request that the proposed charter for the Tree Commission be restored to the County's website so that taxpayers will be knowledgeable about what was proposed and can follow the process and provide appropriate input.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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:

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