

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 26, 2012

## Debutante Ball

**O**n Saturday, April 21, the first Power of Pink Debutante Ball was held in the Gunston Gym at West Potomac High School. The Power of Pink is a young women's mentoring program.

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
THE GAZETTE



**From right: West Potomac High School seniors Rebecca Adams, Morgan Ramsay, Angelica Lewis and Brianna Boyd.**



**Rebecca Adams gets some help with her dress from her mom, Aisha, and classmates.**



**From right: Elhan Abdurahman, Endurance Duah, Gifty Adjei, Antaianette Acevero, Kisanat Asfaha, Kaya Hampton, Genesis Taylor and Shakira Richards look at cell phone pictures before being presented at the first Power of Pink Debutante Ball.**

## Historic Huntley To Open at Last

**Hybla Valley villa to become Fairfax County's newest public park.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

### Ribbon Cutting

On Saturday, May 19, officials from the Fairfax County Park Authority will conduct a ribbon cutting for Historic Huntley at 2:30 p.m. The site will be open for tours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**A**fter decades of waiting, Historic Huntley will finally open its doors to the public next month. Officials with the Fairfax County Park Authority are planning a May 19 launch, a long-awaited opening for a historic property built in the 1820s by Alexandria Mayor Thomson Mason. The old house has been boarded up since being purchased by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1989, when county leaders set out to restore the villa overlooking Hybla Valley. Since then, county voters have approved two bond referendum ballot items worth \$3 million.

"We are very excited," said Judy Pedersen, public information for the park authority. "It's been a really long time coming."

The house will be open for public tours every Saturday through November, and the grounds of the property will be open dawn to

dusk every day. County officials will also make the property available for rent, as long as the use is determined appropriate. Educational programs will be offered throughout the year to schools, scouts and other groups.

"Buildings do talk," said Huntley Meadows Park site manager Carolyn Gamble in a 2005 interview. "When the Fairfax County Park Authority started investigating it, this house had a lot to say."

**RESTORATION** of the property included demolition of additions that were not part of the original structure, presenting the house as it appeared in the 1820s. The interior was renovated to provide

SEE HYBLA VALLEY, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Historic Huntley was constructed in the 1820s.**

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The Stratford Landing Elementary School's 5th grade Odyssey of the Mind team members are Nicholas Greve, Rhys Shallbetter, Lukas Brokamp, Lindsay Johnson, Jenna Mulvihill, Mary Bell, and Lily Penn.

## On Their Way to Iowa

Stratford Landing Elementary School's 5th grade Odyssey of the Mind team, coached by Terri Bell, has qualified to go to the World Finals in Ames, Iowa. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students ages Kindergarten through college. The team worked on their problem in the category of Weird Science. They came in first in their division at the regional competition, which was held at West Potomac High School, and also came in first at the state finals in Newport News on April 14. The team was also the only team, out of 108 competing at the state level, that was given the Ranatra Fusca award, which is presented to a team that demonstrates exceptional creativity at the competition.

The World Finals will be held at Iowa State University from May 23-26. The team will be one of hundreds of teams from across the United States and from over 25 countries throughout the world. It will cost over \$9,000 to finance the team's registration costs, travel expenses and room and board over the 4-day competition.

The team members are Nicholas Greve, Rhys Shallbetter, Lukas Brokamp, Lindsay Johnson, Jenna Mulvihill, Mary Bell, and Lily Penn. They are in the process of raising funds to help get them to Iowa. If interested in donating, send checks, made out to Stratford Landing PTA (with OM noted on the check), to Stratford Landing PTA, attn: Terri Bell (OM), 8484 Riverside Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. All donations are tax deductible.



PHOTO BY SYLVAIN RICHARD

Ian Roberts, back left, chairman of this year's Mount Vernon/VIC CROP Hunger Walk on May 6, checks out this year's CROP T-shirts with young people from St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria, site of this year's walk. Wynne Kelch, back right, a St. Aidan's Walk captain and pictured with her husband Greg, helps rally all of the Mount Vernon walkers for major fundraising support.

## Join Mount Vernon CROP Walk

Because they walk, we walk" is the theme of the 32nd annual Church World Services CROP Hunger Walk on May 6. Sponsored by area churches through Ventures in Community (VIC) and starting at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria, the CROP Walk winds through the local community for 1.5 miles. Registration begins at 12:30 at St. Aidan's, and the Walk begins at 1:30.

"Everyone is invited to participate in the CROP Walk which raises funds to end hunger at home and around the world," according to St. Aidan's Walk captains Eric Stewart and Wynne Kelch. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised stay in this community, assisting UCM and New Hope Housing and other

local hunger-fighting initiatives. "The rest goes to countries where people have to walk miles a day to get their food, water, fuel or medical care," said Stewart.

Walkers on May 6 will return to St. Aidan's for a celebration with music, snacks and juices available for a donation, and T-shirts, hats, and plants for sale. Last year's Mount Vernon CROP Walk gleaned \$18,000 for the cause.

Sponsor forms for walkers are available at local churches. Funds can be raised by walking with sponsors, by sponsoring someone else, by sponsoring work on-site on May 6, or by on-line gift giving at [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org), ref: Mt. Vernon Walk.

The CROP Walk is a program of Church World Services, an interfaith response to disasters around the world since 1947.



## Hybla Valley Villa To Become County's Newest Public Park

FROM PAGE 1

public access for cultural programming. Three learning lab spaces and public restrooms are now located in the basement. The main level includes an exhibit room, two interpretive rooms and a period-of-significance room.

"It's a beautiful example of the federal style because of its symmetry," said J.G. Harrington, a member of Friends of Historic Huntley during a recent open house at the site. "The design could have come from a pattern book or Mason could have designed it himself."

BY THE 1990S, the house was falling apart. Vagrants were stopping at the historic house and leaving graffiti. The building had fallen into disuse and disrepair, its faded glory offering a promise for those

interested in taking up the cause of restoring it. In 1998, they joined forces and created Friends of Historic Huntley.

"The place was being held together with fairy dust and chewing gum," said Barbara Ballentine, president of the friends group. "That's why we are so excited to see it now looking so spectacular."

In 1998, voters approved a park bond that funded the preservation and redevelopment of the property, which had been abandoned and was falling apart. A master plan was approved by the park authority board in 2002, when \$1.2 million was appropriated for architectural and landscape reports, studies and design. A 2008 park bond funded \$1.8 million to complete the initial work started in 2002, and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) helped secure an additional \$100,000

through the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program.

THE HOME MAY have been used as a summer vacation home by Mason, who was a grandson of "forgotten founder" George Mason. Thomson Mason served on the town council in Alexandria and his involvement in local politics included five terms as mayor and three terms as justice of the peace. An 1807 graduate of Princeton, Mason was a lawyer by profession. He was also a strong advocate in the fight to separate Alexandria from the District of Columbia. Six months before his death in 1838, he was named as the first judge of the new Criminal Court in the District of Columbia. Although Mason's primary residence was on Orinoco Street — a house known as Colross — Huntley was a second residence



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

The ice well at Historic Huntley is much larger than most houses of the era, an indication the house may have been used for large-scale entertaining.

where he could escape the hot summer days in Old Town.

Huntley's hilltop location takes advantage of cooling breezes and its subterranean icehouse — a brick dome under the ground — is naturally chilly. The terraced gardens must have offered a picturesque environment to spend a warm summer day.

No one is certain how Huntley was used. Mason acquired the property circa 1825. But the architectural evidence suggests that part of the house may have been built before he acquired the property.

The surrounding farmland used to grow corn, rye, wheat and oats on the land which is now Huntley Meadows Park. Personal property tax records indicate that Mason owned 20 slaves who worked at Huntley.

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**Landmark Mews/Alex.** **\$535,500**  
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**Alexandria** **\$365,000**  
4 BR, 2 BA. Darling and private. This house is much bigger than it looks. Delightful detached house with tons of personality. Gleaming Hardwoods on the main level. New stainless appliances. New subway tile in the kitchen. Freshly painted inside and out. Private deck with treed view.  
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**Alexandria** **\$299,500**  
Very desirable Lincoln model with private patio overlooking deeply wooded hillside. Updates in '11 include new stove, refrigerator, stack washer/dryer, dishwasher, parquet wood floors, toilet & pedestal sink, blinds, ceiling fan, storm door. Thermal pane windows are less than 10 years old. Great community w/numerous amenities within minutes of D.C.  
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**Alexandria** **\$460,000**  
Close-in Seminary Valley detached home with 4 BR & 3 full BA. Beautiful hwd floors on both main & upper levels. Kitchen features a separate cooktop & wall oven. LR with wood-burning fireplace. Large fully fenced rear yard, off-street parking and just minutes to Pentagon, Mark Center & downtown D.C.  
**504 N. Pickett Street**  
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**Alex./Rosemont** **\$795,000**  
4 BR/2.5 BA. Gorgeous detached Colonial in Rosemont features hwd floors, fabulous updated kitchen, bright spacious sunroom. Lower level boasts potential guest suite with private BR, full BA and separate entrance. Back yard features pergola, covered built-in grill and bar. Private driveway. Steps to shops, restaurants and both King Street and Braddock Rd. Metros. **16 West Myrtle Street**  
**Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213**



**Alex./Del Ray** **\$449,900**  
2 BR/1BA. Fabulous brick town house in Alexandria's vibrant Del Ray neighborhood features an open floor plan living and dining room, hardwood floors, spacious family room addition, a finished basement all just a short stroll to Braddock Road Metro. This charming home is waiting for you to make it yours!  
**518 Nelson Avenue E**  
**Bobi Bomar & Gretchen Wilkinson 703-927-2213**



**Rosemont**  
Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial with 2 fireplaces, 3 finished levels and an attached garage. Large screened side porch & fenced yard. Ideally located, blocks to Metro, Old Town & Del Ray.  
**303 Glendale Ave**  
**Christine Garner 703-587-4855**



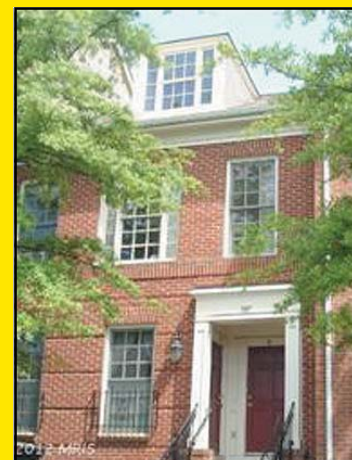
**Cameron Station** **\$399,000**  
Great open floor plan with a split bedroom configuration. 2 bedroom 2 bath condo with a balcony and large bay window. Large kitchen with granite breakfast bar & SS appl. 2 full-size garage parking spaces & 24/7 fitness center in the building!  
**400 Cameron Station Blvd. #132**  
**Christine Garner 703-587-4855**



**Alexandria** **\$650,000**  
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**1900 Old Stage Road**  
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**Alexandria** **\$759,900**  
Spacious Center Hall 2-car garage Colonial. Walk-out basement. Main lvl firpl. Hwd on main and stairs, new deck off kitchen area. Large yard that backs to woods. Easy commute to D.C., Ft. Belvoir. Near Bike path and 15 mins. to Reagan Nat'l Airport.  
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**Alexandria** **\$469,000**  
Beautiful A-Model Condo with 2 BR, 2 full BA, 2 levels, Beautiful Wood Floors and Staircases, completely updated Kitchen with Stainless Steel Appliances, Sturdy Plantation Shutters in Living Room, and Garage. Enjoy the Pool, Tennis Courts, Tot Lot, and Block Parties. Walk to Rustico, Buzz, & more!  
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Madeline Miller, Jennavieve Miller and Annabelle Miller return the ceremonial first pitches to start the FHYAA Girls Softball Spring Season to Dave Evans, Ilene Dranoff and Lee Harrington.**

## Fort Hunt Softball Volunteers Honored

**More than 450 attend opening ceremonies.**

**T**he Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association (FHYAA) Girls Softball Program held its opening day ceremonies on Sunday, April 16 at Walt Whitman softball fields. More than 450 players, coaches and family members attended the event. FHYAA has 154 girls signed up to play softball this season in three different leagues: U9, U12 and U18.

This year's opening day ceremony included team and individual player introductions, a feast of hot dogs and hamburgers, games and activities throughout the day, a special visit from the West Potomac Varsity and Junior Varsity softball teams and a recognition program for three lifetime FHYAA softball volunteers.

West Potomac Varsity Head Coach Craig Maniglia also spoke to all the players and reminded them that many of today's West Potomac players originally played in the FHYAA softball program. Maniglia also stressed the importance of practicing often and having fun and hoped to see many of the girls tryout for

West Potomac softball when they get to high school.

"The event put on by FHYAA for the girls softball program really made the players feel special and acknowledged the coaches for the many hours of volunteer work they put in to our program," said Miriam Miller, assistant coach of a U12 and U18 team. "It was great to see all the girls interact with each other throughout the day regardless of what league they play in or what team they are on. Everyone looked like they had a great time, and the weather really cooperated, too."

The event was sponsored by the FHYAA softball program and was free to all participants.

In addition to all the softball activities, three volunteers in the Fort Hunt community were honored for their years of service to a local girl's softball league with the Lifetime Volunteer Award. Ilene Dranoff, commissioner; Lee Harrington, and Dave Evans have been a part of Fort Hunt Softball for over 15 years.

"So many young women in the community have benefited from their contributions. We feel it important to recognize them in this manner," said Cindy Jackson, 18U league manager.

Fort Hunt Softball is a fast pitch softball program for girls ages 6 through 18.



**Theresa Evans, Dave Evans, Ilene Dranoff and Lee Harrington were honored at Fort Hunt Softball Opening Day Ceremony.**



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**Alex./Mount Vernon \$479,900**  
**5114 Old Mill Road**

Owner says "Bring me a contract" on this expanded 4 BR/3 BA Cape Cod in the heart of Mount Vernon on a beautiful .67 acre lot, directly across from premiere golf club (Mount Vernon Country Club). Master Bedroom suite is on the main lvl. Kitchen w/granite & SS overlooks breakfast rm addition. Almost 3,000 sq ft of living space. Fenced bkyd w/deck, hot tub & 2 sheds. Large Carport. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir!



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$434,900**  
**3017 Battersea Lane**

Lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA Split in popular Riverside Estates. Freshly painted interior, stunning refinished hwd floors throughout main lvl. New wall-to-wall carpeting in lower lvl. Energy-efficient replacement windows throughout. Lg 2-tiered & freshly stained deck w/gas line for BBQ. Lg one-car garage. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 30/35 to Pentagon and D.C. Great Value!



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$669,000**  
**3120 McGeorge Terrace**

Beautiful 5BR, 4BA home w/nearly 3500 sq ft in historic Mt. Vernon. Spectacular 2 level addition off the kitchen creates an open floor plan & includes a stunning Great Room w/vaulted ceilings arched custom windows w/plantation shutters. Remodeled gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry, SS appliances & silestone counters. Huge master bedroom suite. Refinished hardwood floors. Lower level addition includes luxurious full bath adjoining 2 bedrooms-great for an in-law or au pair suite. Spacious 2 car garage, large deck, fenced backyard. Backs to woods, providing an oasis of serenity. This home is absolutely breathtaking!



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$534,900**  
**8319 Cherry Valley Lane**

Lovely 4BR, 3.5BA Colonial w/3 finished levels in historic Mt. Vernon Community of Riverside Estates. Most popular Col w/large bedrooms, beautiful hwd floors on main & upper levels. Family room w/1 of 2 wood burning fireplaces off the kitchen. Finished Rec room on lower lvl, 3rd full bath & 2nd fpl. Kit appliances all replaced in 2012. Since 2002: furnace, A/C, roof, & replacement windows. Spectacular lot w/beautiful landscaping, lg deck w/outstanding gazebo Perfect for entertaining. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, Alex. 25 to Ntl Airport, 30/35 mins to Pentagon/DC. This is a keeper.



**Alex./Hollin Hall Village \$409,000**  
**2007 Clark Place**

Lovingly and meticulously maintained home on cul-de-sac in sought-after Hollin Hall/Wayneswood 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 G.W. Pkwy, Potomac River and Bike Trail. 5-10 mins to Old Town.



**Alex./Belle View \$244,900**  
**6628 Wakefield Dr E #A1**

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**Alex./Riverside Estates \$490,900**  
**3202 Norwich Terrace**

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# OPINION

## Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage

VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service last Saturday, April 21, “for exhaustive coverage of homelessness in the newspaper’s circulation area.” The award was announced in Roanoke at the press association’s annual convention.

The public service entries were judged by Robert Giles, former editor and publisher of The Detroit News and the immediate past curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Giles wrote of the Connection coverage:

“Its stories gave voice to the homeless. Its stories effectively portrayed the plight of the poor living in tents and other makeshift shelters. It reported on how poverty and homelessness affects children. It examined the causes of homelessness and explained why people don’t have a place to live even when some have a job. It reported on the role of government and groups that advocate for the poor. It provided extensive lists of community organizations with missions to help the poor and homeless, and told how individuals could volunteer.”

“It invited knowledgeable citizens to contribute guest editorials that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness.”

The online component of the homeless project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O’Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy.

The Connection Newspapers group, includ-

ing the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and environmental writing; in-depth or investigative reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

### EDITORIAL

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won individual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of “wounded warriors at bat,” and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature portfolio. Alex McVeigh won first place for in depth or investigative reporting for his coverage of a land use issue in Great Falls. Montie Martin won two first place awards, one for business writing, the other for personal service writing.

The Children’s Connection won an award and judges said it was a “simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.”

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,  
WWW.TWITTER.COM/MARYKIMM

## Winning Entries, Mount Vernon Gazette

See a complete list of winners on page 14.

❖ Jeanne Theismann, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Feature Story Writing, 10th Anniversary of 9-11, Judges comments: Good job of writing about the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 — many stories were written, this was one of the better ones. Nice work.

❖ Louise Krafft, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Picture Story or Essay, Graduation Day in the Mount Vernon District, Judges comments: Good variety of a regular event in the community.

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Business and Financial Writing

❖ Michael Pope, 3rd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting



Jeanne Theismann



Louise Krafft



Michael Lee Pope

## Read the Winners

Many of the winning entries are posted at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/)

## New State Budget Misses the Mark

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

I voted against the final state budget last week because it fails to address our needs and reflects badly-skewed priorities. It was an eventful two days in Richmond.

The Senate budget deadlock centered on new funding to “buy down” tolls on the Dulles Toll Road and in Hampton Roads. Hampton Roads is in revolt right now due to a public-private partnership the Governor negotiated for a new tunnel that could cost Portsmouth drivers \$1,000 per year.

Several years ago, the Dulles Toll Road was transferred to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), which assumed responsibility for the construction of the Silver Line. Tolls will double next year to over \$4



per trip. For someone driving five days per week, 50 weeks per year, that totals over \$1,000. The High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes on the Beltway will bring more tolls, plus the Governor has plans to bring HOT lanes from Fredericksburg to I-395.

For reference, a \$0.25 gas tax would cost a person who drives 15,000 miles per year at 25 miles per gallon \$150 per year (\$0.25 x 15,000 ÷ 25). A driver who gets 40 miles per gallon (MPG) would pay \$93.75 per year. The overall U.S. average was 22.6 MPG last year.

The Governor objected to additional Silver Line funds on multiple grounds, but what this dispute really highlights is that there is simply no money. Virginia’s Transportation Trust Fund is flat broke and the McDonnell Administration and the legislature’s majority leadership

are exercising feeble leadership to solve the problem.

I supported Senator Toddy Puller and her colleagues who objected to a budget lacking Silver Line funding. The Silver Line will turbocharge the Northern Virginia economy. Commercial growth in the Dulles Corridor will generate real estate tax revenues which would take pressure off homeowners in our area. More importantly, the extension of the Yellow Line in our area will require state participation. We need to establish the precedent for state involvement in transit funding for the future of our area. The deadlock resolved when Senator Chuck Colgan from Manassas unexpectedly changed his vote.

I voted “no” on the budget for several reasons.

SEE STATE BUDGET, PAGE 8

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## LETTERS

### A Meeting Without Answers

To the Editor:

Sunday April 22, at St. Stephens UMC in Burke, Fairfax County officials and elected supervisors (including Board Chair Sharon Bulova) met with over 200 volunteers from 36 church-based hypothermia shelters to ease our anxieties. We have heard rumor that the fire marshal has determined that 18 of these churches will not be able to open and operate their "hypothermia" ministry next year as they had in the past. This puts the hundreds of homeless individuals who use these facilities at risk of frostbite, hypothermia and death.

It was a very unsatisfying meeting and the county's unwillingness to share specifics left me angry. I had seen a chart supposedly prepared by the fire marshal that listed nine church shelters that would be prohibited from opening and nine shelters that that would require extensive code repairs costing perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars. All the churches present at this meeting were there because they had heard rumor of the closings as well. But when publicly asked which church programs will be affected and what code violations must be repaired, Robert Stalzer, deputy county executive, gave no specific answers.

The churches affected, and all of us who wanted answers, were further insulted when no one with code enforcement authority was on the agenda. The fire marshal, we were informed, was traveling out of the country. Yet, we had been informed that our life-saving programs are in jeopardy, encouraged to attend a Fairfax County sponsored meeting, we presumed would be with the fire marshal, and then no



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS JR./THE GAZETTE

**Speaking at Sunday's meeting at St. Stephens UMC, the Rev. Keary Kincannon questioned the fire marshal's absence.**

one with authority, including the fire marshal, was there to answer our most basic questions.

When asked, the County made no commitment to opening county buildings or fire houses to make up for the church programs in danger of being closed. When pressed, all Robert Stalzer would say was that there was no list of church programs that would be closed (at this point). All code repair negotiations would take place in meetings between the fire marshal's office and the individual church. We were encouraged to trust our County officials to work for the best interest of the homeless and our programs

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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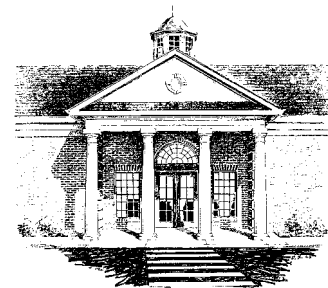
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# Will Virginia's Health Care Improve Without Better Data?

BY LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)  
AND JOHN M. O'BANNON, III  
STATE DELEGATE (R-73)

**T**he answer is "no." The Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council (created by Governor McDonnell) stated the case for change in its 2010 report. "Virginia's overall quality of care is average, with strengths in cardiac care, hospital care generally, and home health. Weaknesses in Virginia's quality rankings include nursing home care, diabetes care, and maternal and child health. Specifically, Virginia ranks 41st in the nation in breast cancer death rates, and 35th in infant mortality. None of these statistics measure up to Virginia ranking sixth, nationwide, in median family income."

As health care costs continue to take a larger portion of our paychecks, Virginia's

health care system needs to become more transparent to allow for better decision-making. Having more and better cost information is key to improving routine health care decisions for consumers, employers, insurers, hospitals, public health officials, and policy-makers. To this end, we introduced bills creating an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) that allows Virginia Health Information to collect medical claims from insurers, third-party payers, Medicaid, Tricare and Medicare (Senate Bill 135 and House Bill 343).

Twelve states currently have an APCD. Virginia's Joint Commission on Health Care, on which we both serve, unanimously recommended establishing the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database. The APCD will allow for analysis and understanding of medical care that is not currently possible, particularly related to how and where Virginia's health care dollars are

spent. Understanding health care expenditure patterns and measuring quality and access are vital to improving access to health care, reducing costs, and enhancing quality of care.

An APCD can lead to better information about where to go for quality care; for instance knowing the frequency that a provider performs a medical procedure is often an important predictor of the provider's ability to perform that procedure well. An APCD can facilitate better-informed public health decisions; identifying which regions of the state or age groups have the highest rates of diseases. This can allow scarce public health resources to be used for the most pressing problems. Employers may use APCD information to design benefit plans that encourage employees to use health care providers who deliver high quality at lower costs or to target their wellness programs to encourage the preventive care their em-

ployees are not receiving. Patient confidentiality will be protected.

Virginia was ranked by CNBC as the 2011 "Top state for Business." Improving health care quality and value is essential to staying competitive in the long-term. To this end, the legislation passed overwhelmingly in a bipartisan fashion and had public support from hospitals, physicians, as well as the large and small business communities.

As we continue our move to an information-based economy, it is only fitting that data-driven health care information be available to allow for better informed decision-making.

*Puller serves as vice chair of the Joint Commission on Health Care. O'Bannon also serves on the Commission, as well as vice chair of the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions, and chair of Subcommittee #1.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

to serve them. I feel no confidence in our County officials when there is no transparency in their actions and they attempt to divide us by setting up individual meetings with churches to diminish our collective authority.

I am deeply angered at the County's unwillingness to answer our questions. Lives are in jeopardy. I am insulted that the authority to give specific answers to our questions was not present. And quite frankly, I am confused as to why the County would be so stupid to call a meeting when they had no answers.

**Keary C. Kincannon**  
Pastor

## Adverse Actions Have Consequences

To the Editor:

Martin Tillett understandably wants to avoid having the downfall of the proposed Kings Crossing Town Center as his legacy in the civic arena. In prior letters to the Gazette, I've explained the role the Spring Bank Community Association (SBCA) played, under the leadership of Mr. Tillett and SBCA President David Dale in the demise of Kings Crossing (see my letter in the August 13, 2009 Gazette) and the resulting development of a Wal-Mart store on the property.

To be clear, SBCA wasn't solely responsible, but they were involved in the ultimate result. See the front page article in the July 30, 2009 Gazette. In the April, 2012 edition of the MVCCA Record, the minutes of its Environment & Recreation (E&R) Committee report on Mr. Tillett's presentation regarding the Fairchild property located behind the Spring Bank Wal-Mart. In the minutes, Mr. Tillett reported on the estimated \$750,000 (in 2008) cost for stormwater control and stream restoration

projects for the Fairchild property. His only comment reported in the minutes regarding the demise of Kings Crossing was "JPI [the developer that attempted to develop the Kings Crossing Town Center] abandoned its plan during an economic downturn."

For those who have forgotten, although JPI's proposals all complied with the requirements of the Comprehensive Plan concerning the ratio between commercial and residential components, a coalition that included SBCA and the MVCCA demanded a lower percentage of the residential component than JPI thought was economically feasible. This among other issues caused delays that resulted in the ultimate demise of the project when an economic downturn rendered it non-feasible. Quoting from a document released by JPI at the time (the JPI document): "In order to appease the Spring Bank's opposition to the overall unit count, JPI was forced to include large townhouses in place of multi-family. The

site plan suffered greatly as the project became too heavily reliant upon the high end for-sale market."

JPI's proposal for Kings Crossing (as reported in the JPI document) included JPI paying for a complete stormwater management system and up to \$500,000 for restoration of Quander Brook at the Fairchild property. When JPI announced in March 2008 that it would have to abandon the project, the very next month, Mr. Tillett asked the MVCCA to pass a resolution urging the County to fund the park on the Fairchild property. See MVCCA Record, April, 2008. The resolution was immediately enacted (E&R Resolution 2008-4). Now Mr. Tillett advocates that County funds be used to fund the stormwater controls, at a cost of at least \$750,000, that JPI had agreed to provide at no taxpayer cost.

Civic activity is a serious business. Those who decide to involve themselves in civic activity must understand that irresponsible actions can lead to adverse consequences.

The unreasonable opposition of SBCA and the MVCCA to the efforts of JPI to create the Kings Crossing Town Center introduced unexpected delays that contributed to failure of the proposed project. Since Wal-Mart is now a partial owner of the property and the property component north of Shields Avenue has been sold, that train has left the station never to return. With numerous projects competing for scarce County funds, a project that could have been completed at no expense to taxpayers but now must be carried out at significant County expense, should be given a lower priority, particularly where the very community that would most benefit from the expenditure contributed to the necessity of using County funds for that purpose. If irresponsible actions do not result in adverse consequences, civic activists will never learn from their irresponsible actions and reform their behavior.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## State Budget

FROM PAGE 6

First, in addition to the missing Silver Line funding, the budget shorts Northern Virginia. Over a decade ago, the state added a special supplement called "cost to compete" for Northern Virginia jurisdictions to help fund teacher salaries. The Governor zeroed this money out. The final budget only partly restored this funding. The budget cut beds at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute. It raided Fairfax County's traffic fine revenue which supports law enforcement operations.

The budget also took \$59 million from the National Foreclosure Settlement and diverted it to rural Virginia sewage

plants. Most foreclosure victims and damage were in Northern Virginia. I will write more about this soon.

The budget funds K-12 education at a lower level than in 2007-2008. In 2008, the General Assembly appropriated \$6.8 billion for direct aid for secondary education. This year's budget provides \$5.8 billion, while costs are up and there are more children to educate.

The budget also funds a new \$25 million tax credit to individuals and businesses who contribute to scholarships for "low-income families" whose children attend private schools. The threshold for being "low-income" was set over \$70,000 per year.

Fifteen percent of the 44th District's residents receive health care from Medicaid. Eighty-five percent of those are children. The rest are mostly elderly. The budget cuts

Medicaid reimbursements to providers yet again. These costs will be passed along to people with private insurance.

The budget funded numerous tax credits for movie production, bee hives, the coal industry and wineries and maintained tax exemptions for yachts, online hotel booking and oil and gas drilling equipment. Our state government, like the rest of us, must live within its means, but it also must set the right priorities. We can do better and I hope to work toward a budget that spreads the benefits and burdens of government spending more fairly throughout our state.

I would appreciate your comments. Please send me an email at [scottsuovell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsuovell@gmail.com). It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

## POETRY

The following poems, submitted because April is National Poetry Month, are from Mount Vernon resident John J. Finerty.

### ABBA

From the land of smorgasbord  
Where they give the peace award  
ABBA by the world adored  
Lifted once a joyous chord

If you're of a certain age  
Let your memory engage  
Close your eyes and see a stage  
Super Trooper all the rage

Flaring trousers, platform shoes  
Scarves in blue and yellow hues,  
Sold-out concert, rave reviews  
Hits kept coming, never lose

Chiquitita, Waterloo,  
Knowing Me, Knowing You,  
I have a Dream, Voulez-Vous  
Dancing Queen, Fernando, too

What's the cost of such success  
Money can't buy happiness  
Did we hear the SOS?  
Harmony succumbs to stress

ABBA, we'd still love to see 'ya  
Head the cast of Mamma Mia  
Do a promo for Ikea  
(OK, that's a bad idea)

— John J. Finerty, Jr.

Anna-Frida Lyngsgad, Bjorn Ulhaeus, Benny Andersson, and Agneth Faltskog: ABBA, was by far the most successful popular music act to come from Scandinavia, having sold over 300 million records. The hit Broad-way play Mamma Mia is based on music composed by Andersson and Ulhaeus.

### Black Bart

Where trails are all wooded, the high-  
wayman hooded  
Hotfoots it away with the cargo  
Undaunted by lawmen so vaunted  
who've sought him  
And jauntily taunting Well Fargo

Black Bart, it is he, with such artistry  
Discretion and daring combining  
So none do suspect that gent circum-  
spect  
Who hints he has interests in mining

But out on the road from the old  
mother lode  
Where curvature slows the ap-  
proaches  
A sack for a mask (de rigueur for the  
task)  
He patiently waits for the coaches

Our vigilant picket now slips from the  
thicket  
His ticket a gift for the stealthy  
To upend at the bend the endeavors  
of men  
And the treasures that render them  
wealthy

His mode operandi, a shotgun held  
handy  
But always the gentleman bandit  
His word to the driver, "Just be a sur-  
vivor  
You're holding the gold, now unhand  
it"

That old oaken box with the unbro-  
ken locks  
He'll claim with his aim uncontested  
And then without fail, he'll hightail  
from the trail  
While leaving the mail unmolested

He never engages in violent rages  
Or actions ungracious or curses

SEE POETRY, PAGE 10

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## POETRY

FROM PAGE 9

The battle he wages with lumbering stages  
But never with passengers' purses

It's twenty eight times this gentleman's crimes  
Enliven the highjacking season  
In rhymes that he signs and they find left behind  
He opines that revenge is the reason

Two hardy detectives, relentless effectives  
Meticulous, not to say artless  
Ensnare through a hankie that Illinois Yankee  
And render the highways Blackbartless

Upon his release did he flee to the East  
The chronicles cease soon thereafter  
Yet echoes the phrase that conveyed his malaise  
"It's only Wells Fargo I'm after"

— John J. Finerty, Jr

"Black Bart" was the nom de guerre of one Charles Boles or Bolton, an infamous stage coach robber who preyed exclusively on Wells Fargo shipments in the gold fields of northern California from 1875 to 1883. Known for his gentlemanly bearing, he would occasionally leave poetic messages at the scene of the crime. When two Wells Fargo detectives traced a handkerchief he had dropped during one of his robberies back to his San Francisco laundry, the elusive "road agent" was finally apprehended, and served five years in prison.

## Horsefly, B.C

I once found a town in an atlas at Crown  
Marked down, which I did then, of course, buy  
The village was blessed with the name of a pest  
Perhaps you have guessed, it was Horsefly.

It's up in B.C., where mooses run free  
Far from the sea where the Norse lie  
Still every good Viking would find to his liking  
The hiking and biking in Horsefly

So here's your maneuver, go first to Vancouver  
And if you've resources, of course, fly  
Then grab your valise, and rent a Car-price  
Go north by northeast, up to Horsefly

There've lots of resorts, and there's all sort of sports  
And some nice tennis courts, you'll of course try  
The fishing will lure you, but let me assure you  
Of night life they'll cure you, in Horsefly

Some spouses I know, say life is too slow  
And they would of boredom, of course, die  
If they had to spend, more than a weekend  
And beavers befriend, up in Horsefly

Knowing my wife, who likes the night life  
And rather than be a divorced guy  
Though I'm now retired, I have not aspired  
An address to acquire in Horsefly

— John Finerty Jr.

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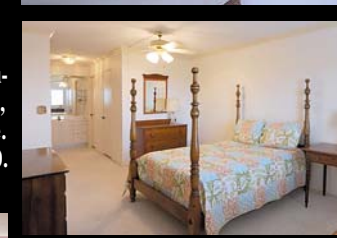
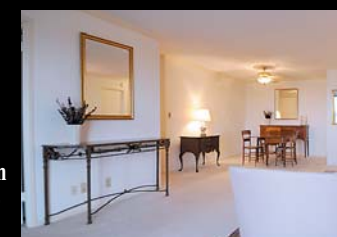
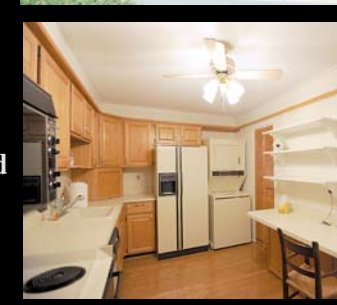
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**Fenwick Estates** \$1,260,000  
1203 Essex Manor Court, Alexandria, VA 22308  
Spacious 5BR + 4 1/2BA brick colonial boasts hardwood floors, 2 fps, huge great room, sunroom, music room + 2 car garage. The fully fin LL offers library, game room, au pair suite + tons of storage. **Donnan C. Wintermute 703.518.6156**



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**Sulgrave Village** \$1,050,000  
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**Owner Ready For An Offer!** 4BR, 4BA, 3 Level, 3 Car Garage, 9' ceilings, Gourmet Kitchen, 61" TV & Sound System, brick circular drive, warm wood floors, plantation shutters. \$150,000 price reduction. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



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**Hollin Hall Village** \$524,900  
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**Fabulous One Of A Kind Home & Location** Beautiful 3BR, 2BA cape cod w/front porch on corner lot across from woods & wildlife. Lusciously private backyard. Warm wood flrs, gourmet kitchen & sunny FR. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



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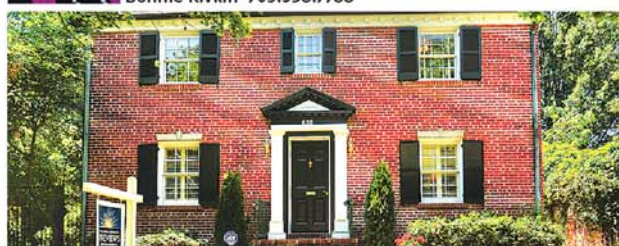
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**Canal Way** Traditionally inspired 3BR/2.5BA TH in Canal Way. \$33,000 in recent updates: 1st Flr Pwd Rm, hrdwds, EE heat pump & wndws; SS appl; MBR w/ vaulted ceilings, walk in closet & fpl. **Chris Upham 202.359.1308**



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## Old Town Alexandria

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703.887.2116



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\$ 679,000  
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"BUTTERFLY HOUSE"

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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

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\$549,500

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Character abounds in this uniquely attractive Cape located on gorgeous,



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\$ 885,000  
Alexandria  
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9020 Old Mt. Vernon Rd  
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8617 Nalley Dr  
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2413 Greenleaf Dr  
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3035 Wakefield Dr  
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**8428 Old Mt Vernon Rd**



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1617 SHERWOOD HALL LN

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❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Public Safety Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



**Montie Martin**



**Deb Cobb**

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Photo Illustration, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Education Writing, *Centre View North*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, *Centre View North*

❖ **Michael O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs,**



**Victoria Ross**

**Amber Healy**, FIRST PLACE, Multimedia Feature Report, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Alex McVeigh**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Great Falls Connection*

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, Robbie Hammer**, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, *Potomac Almanac*



**Bonnie Hobbs**



**Alex McVeigh**



**Mary Kimm**

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❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Headline Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



**Robbie Hammer**

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Lashawn Avery-Simon**, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy**, SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Fairfax Connection*

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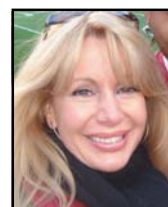
❖ **Jon Roetman**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*



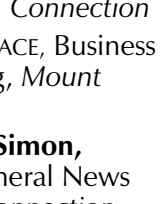
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## Mount Vernon Gazette



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❖ **Carole Dell**, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

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## THEATER

# 'God of Carnage'

Grown-ups behaving badly at Signature Theatre.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

It begins innocently enough: Two New York couples oozing affected politeness meet to discuss a playground scuffle between their sons. Painstakingly attentive to social niceties, they hope to talk things over in a calm, mature and rational way.

Fat chance.

It doesn't take long for the couples to drop the charade and trade their parsed euphemisms for boxing gloves in the Signature Theatre production of the Tony Award-winning "God of Carnage."

Written by French playwright Yasmina Reza and translated by Christopher Hampton, the Signature production stars Vanessa Lock and Paul Morella as Annette and Alan Raleigh, the parents of the offending youth, and Naomi Jacobson and Andy Brownstein as Veronica and Michael Novak, the

parents of the victim.

Over espresso and calfouti, polite chit chat is quickly abandoned as Veronica persists in pressuring Annette and Alan to accept responsibility for their son's behavior. Having none of it, small irritations between the couples give way to more direct confrontation as the social pressure-cooker begins to boil over.

Jacobson, a 12-time Helen Hayes Award nominee and two-time winner, leads the nimble cast in a collective display of comic dexterity that leaves the audience howling.

Together with Brownstein, Lock and Morella, the actors play off one another with the expertise and timing of a finely tuned quartet as director Joe Calarco orchestrates their performances like a maestro.

Morella nails the smug smoothness of Alan, the cocksure lawyer who is more concerned about his cell phone conversations than the

task at hand, with Lock as his increasingly ill and eruptive wife Annette.

As Michael, Brownstein is the boorish counterpoint to Jacobson's rapidly unraveling Veronica. The hostility and humiliation hurled between the couples is the stuff of hilarity as rum is consumed and allegiances shift with blazing speed.

James Kronzer's well-designed set provides a sophisticated playroom for the physical action that eventually replaces the verbal volleys in this one act, 90-minute play where two wealthy and self-righteous couples take no prisoners. Add in some good rum and Cuban cigars and you get an evening that is anything but boring.

"God of Carnage" is playing now through June 24 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, call 703-820-9771 or visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).



Vanessa Lock (left, as Annette) and Naomi Jacobson (as Veronica) share a laugh and a drink in the Washington premiere of "God of Carnage". Playing at Virginia's Signature Theatre through June 24.

# And Then there Was One

'Someone Who'll Watch Over Me' at Port City Playhouse.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

It's been more than a quarter of a century since Irishman Brian Keenan, Englishman John McCarthy and American Terry Anderson were taken hostage in Beirut and held in a series of desolate cells throughout the city. Keenan was released after more than four years in captivity and went on to pen "An Evil Cradling," a chilling account of his experience.

Inspired by conversations with Keenan, playwright Frank McGuinness adapted a fictionalized version of the ordeal in the 1992 award-winning "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," now expertly staged by Port City Playhouse in Alexandria.

As strains of Ella Fitzgerald's "Someone to Watch Over Me" wafts through the Lab at Convergence, we meet Adam, an American doctor (David James), Edward, an Irish journalist (Matthew Randall) and Michael, an English literature professor who by his own admission can be a "sanctimonious prig" (John Shackleford).

Unsure if they are awaiting

death or release, the three attempt to keep insanity at bay by imagining movies they might make, cocktails they might drink and letters they might write. In one of many standout sequences, Edward and Michael re-enact Virginia Wade's 1977 victory at Wimbledon, complete with Randall doing an uproarious impression of Queen Elizabeth.

"Someone" is a tour de force production for Randall, James and Shackleford, three remarkable actors who handle the "suffering and inhumanity" of their incarceration with such aplomb that audience members were moved to tears. Together they skillfully balance their grief and anger with moments of humor and camaraderie.

James gives a powerful and explosive performance, evoking the pent up rage of a caged animal as he wonders in despair "They're going to kill me for oil?"

Randall — with a perfectly intoned Irish brogue — has masterfully crafted the character of Edward, a volatile and powerful personality who veers between charisma and antagonism.

Last but not least is the truly

unforgettable and tenderly tragic performance turned in by Shackleford. As Michael, he is riveting to watch in a poignant display of verbal wit in the face of the monotony of his senseless captivity.

Directed by Rosemary Hartman, the squalid set designed by Frank Pasqualino draws the audience into the mental anguish these men endure.

Effectively lit by a single light bulb, the only props are water bottles placed next to grimy mattresses along with a copy of the Bible and Quran.

In the end, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" is a well-written, superbly staged story of the unbreakable strength of friendships forged in the most dire of circumstances. Be prepared to laugh, to cry and to leave in awe of three of the finest, most perfectly calibrated performances seen on any stage.

The Port City Playhouse production of "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" is playing now through May 5 at the Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets or more information, visit [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org).



PHOTO BY MIKE DEBLOIS

David James plays Adam (the American), Matthew Randall plays Edward (the Irishman) and John Shackleford plays Michael (the Englishman) in "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

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# THEATER



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMSTED

Mark Lee Adams (Sir Wilfred Robarts, QC), Dan Beck (Clerk of the Court), Bruce Schmid (Barrister), Jeffrey Clarke (Justice Wainright), Raedun Knutsen (Court Stenographer), John Barclay Burns (Mr. Mayhew), James McDaniel (Mr. Meyers, QC), and John Johnson (Barrister) star in "Witness for the Prosecution."

# Did He or Didn't He?

'Witness for the Prosecution' opens at LTA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's 1954 and Leonard Vole stands accused of the murder of a rich elderly woman whom he befriended. His wife's testimony could save him until she suddenly becomes a "Witness for the Prosecution" in the Agatha Christie thriller now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Leonard's only hope is to seek the aid of famed barrister Sir Wilfred Robarts, who is puzzled by the circumstances surrounding the death of Emily French, a wealthy widow who made Leonard the principle beneficiary of her estate mere weeks after meeting him.

Using the audience as the jury, Director Eddie Page moves "Witness" along at a quick pace as facts are discovered, alibis debunked and motives debated as Leonard's trial unfolds.

Mark Lee Adams is Sir Roberts, who slowly elicits crucial details from an array of witnesses in his pursuit of proving Leonard's innocence. Assisted by John Barclay Burns' Mr. Mayhew, they attempt to piece together the clues to solve the crime.

Adams leads the cast with a commanding performance and is especially engaging to observe during his courtroom scenes with James McDaniel as the oppos-

ing barrister.

Robin Zerbe is compelling as Romaine, Leonard Vole's mysterious wife and key witness in the trial.

The accused man is portrayed by Russell Silber, who paints Leonard as a naïve and gentle soul seeking to garner the sympathy of the jury.

Together, Zerbe and Silber masterfully keep the audience engrossed in the twists and turns of the trial and guessing until the very end "Did he or didn't he?"

The supporting cast includes standouts such as Jeffrey Clarke as the judge, Larry Grey as Dr. Wyatt, Peter Alden Hyde as Inspector Hearne and Elisabeth Richters as Roberts' secretary Greta.

Veteran actress Cheryl Sinsabaugh, making her LTA debut, is especially delightful as the victim's loyal housekeeper Janet McKenzie, whose testimony punctuates the trial proceedings with chuckles.

With a creative revolving set by John Downing, costumes by Susan Boyd and wigs by Bette Wil-

liams, "Witness" perfectly augments Christie's surprise ending script.

"Witness for the Prosecution" is playing now through May 12 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMSTED

Mark Lee Adams (Sir Wilfred Robarts, QC), John Barclay Burns (Mr. Mayhew), and Elisabeth Richters (Greta) star in "Witness for the Prosecution."

# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

## MONTH OF APRIL

**Harvest Assembly Baptist Church 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

**Childhood Memories.** Works by artists inspired by their childhoods. Memories are endless: an experience, a trip, a gathering, an animal, a poem, a person or a place that brings one back to a childhood memory. Show exhibits April 6-29; Open Thursday-Sunday. Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. 703-838-4827. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

## THURSDAY/APRIL 26

**African American Heroines of the Civil War.** 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. Join C.R. Gibbs, Historian of the African Diaspora, in a look at the inspiring achievements of little-known black women. Sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum. Admission: \$10/person. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria.

**ArtNight SpringHill Suites.** 5 to 8 p.m. A one-night showcase featuring artwork from the Torpedo Factory's Art League and Alexandria's Del Ray Artisans. At SpringHill Suites by Marriott Alexandria Tech Center, 2950 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.facebook.com/springhillsuites](http://www.facebook.com/springhillsuites).

**Does Mom Need to Move?** 7 to 8:30 p.m. 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](http://go.to/www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) and link to caregiver series), email [caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

**Republican Forum for 8<sup>th</sup> District Candidates.** 6:30 to 9 p.m. Colonial Republican women and the Lee District Republican committee will host a forum for 8<sup>th</sup> District Republican Convention candidates. At the Virginia Hills Administration Center, Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Contact Debbie at 703-768-1934 or [colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com](mailto:colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com)

## APRIL 27 TO 29

**Edison Pyramid Show.** 6 to 7 p.m. Featuring students' work from the following schools: Edison, Twain, Bush Hill, Cameron, Clermont, Franconia, Mt. Eagle, Rose Hill. In collaboration with the Edison High Theater Department's production of "Oklahoma." At Edison High School, Entrance 17 by the Theater, Alexandria.



## SATURDAY/APRIL 28

**Make a House Storybook.** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Local artist and writer Sushmita Mazumdar 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" of a special place. For children ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$15/family and includes materials. Register at 703-746-4356. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria.



## SATURDAY/APRIL 28

**Native Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 14 vendors from five states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic Parkfairfax. At 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or [www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org](http://www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 27

**Spelling Bee.** 6 to 8 p.m. Trophies awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. At William Ramsay Elementary School.

**Music of "Harry Potter" Films.** 7:30 p.m. The Symphony Orchestra of Arlington will perform the music of Harry Potter from eight films. Pre-concert activities at 6 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.symphonymusicofarlington.com](http://www.symphonymusicofarlington.com)

**Brahms for Violin and Piano.** 8 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit our homepage: [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Magician Captain Token.** 7:30 p.m. \$25/advance; \$40/door. Fundraiser for the Optimist Club of Alexandria. At Patrick Henry Elementary School, 4643 Taney Avenue, Alexandria.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 28

**Annual Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. to noon. Tons of furniture, household items, clothing, etc. All funds raised will support the Youth Service Project. At Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Contact 703-678-9324.

**The Urban Attic Launch Party.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Christmas Attic store unveils the 'other side' of The Attic. The 40-year-old holiday store is redesigning its store to create 'two stores in one.' At 125 S. Union St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-548-2829 or visit [www.christmasattic.com](http://www.christmasattic.com).

**Civil War Balloon Corps.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn about Alexandria's history and the Civil War Balloon Corps in a living history program held at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. In 1861, a civilian Balloon Corps attached to the U.S. Army was organized to gather information on Confederate positions and movements from the sky. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site is located at 4301 West Braddock Road. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org), or call 703-746-4848.

**5K Croc Trot Run.** 7:30 to 9 a.m. At Island Creek Elementary School, 7855 Morning View Lane, Alexandria.

**Duke Street Speedy Lube & Auto Maintenance Car Care Clinic.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Car Care Month is a nationwide effort to focus motorists' attention on the importance of vehicle care and maintenance. During the Spring Car Care Clinic, we will be performing free vehicle check-ups. The inspections include checking fluid levels, tires, lights and other system components. After the inspection is completed, volunteers review any discrepancies with the motorist and provide information about proper vehicle maintenance and repair.

**YMCA Open House.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join YMCA Alexandria at 420 East Monroe Avenue, Alexandria. Activities include pony rides, train rides, mini-manicures, make a kite station, family zumba, Face Painting, Balloon Sculptures, SeaPerch underwater robotics demo, Healthy Snack Attack Shack,

Pirates of Alexandria Scavenger Hunt, and more! . It's free and open to the public.

**Rebuilding Together Rebuilding Day.** 8 a.m. Help repair 50 vulnerable Alexandria residents' homes during National Rebuilding Day. Some 1,000 volunteers are needed. Event kicks off at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

**"Oklahoma."** 2 p.m. Benefit for Koinonia. Tickets are \$20/person. At Edison High School, Franconia Road, Alexandria. To purchase tickets, visit <http://edisondrama.com/Koinonia.html>.

## APRIL 28 AND 29

**"Swan Lake."** Sponsored by the Virginia Ballet Company. Performances are Saturday, April 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. The production includes all four acts, fully staged and costumed, and the score by Tchaikovsky. Dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas will alternate in the role of Odette/Odile. Performances will take place in the Ernst Cultural Center Theater at NVCC Annandale Campus. Tickets are available on-line at [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org) or at the box office.

**Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off and Run.** 8 a.m. on Saturday is the Run for Shelter 10K and One-Mile Fun Run. Registration for Run for Shelter 10K is \$40; Fun Run is \$20. To register, visit [www.runforshelter10k.com](http://www.runforshelter10k.com). All proceeds benefit Carpenter's Shelter and its work on behalf of homeless individuals, children, and families. The 10th Anniversary Cook-Off Celebration is Sunday, April 29, from noon to 3 p.m., at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Featuring 30 of the area's best restaurants offering samples of their food, plus a live auction offering attendees the chance to bid on trips, tickets, meals and more. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Visit [www.carpenterscookoff.com](http://www.carpenterscookoff.com).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 29

**Rocknoceros.** 4 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Join the three guys — Coach Cotton, Williebob and Boogie Woogie Bennie — who make award-winning music for the whole family. Purchase tickets through the synagogue office, check or exact change only. At Agudas Achim Preschool, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria; call 703-998-6072.

**Duncan Sheik with Suzanne Vega.** Performing songs from his latest album covers 80s, theater works and early catalogue. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com); for tickets, call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or order online at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

## MONDAY/APRIL 30

**Seniors, How "CarFit" Are You?** 10:30 a.m. With Fairfax County Police officer Allison Eggers. CarFit offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. Individual assessments will be conducted following this presentation at 15-minute intervals.



**Clockwise from the top Joe Quinn, Matt Stover, Amin Yachnes, Angela Longo, Jared Walters and Alex Wong.**

## APRIL 26, 27, 28, 29

**"Seussical the Musical."** Performed by West Potomac High School theater department. Tickets are \$12/door. Performances are 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.

Appointments are required for individual CarFit assessments. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

## TUESDAY/MAY 1

**Swing Dancing — Cancelled.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria.

**Nanci Griffith with Guest Eric Taylor.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Morrison House Presents.** 6 to 8 p.m. Free admission. Author F. Lennox Campello discusses his controversial book, 100 Artists of Washington, D.C., and provides insights into the selection process, the publication of the book and the subsequent eruption of controversy in the Greater DC area art scene. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or call 703-838-8000.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 2

**Musician Laura Warshauer.** At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com); for tickets, call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or order online at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

**U.S. Air Force Band Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Featuring the Singing Sergeants. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

## MAY 2 TO 5

**Spring Book and Media Sale.** Sponsored by the Friends of Duncan Library. Book prices \$1 to \$5; media \$0.50 to \$3. Dates are May 2 from 7-9 p.m. (Friends Preview Night, membership available at the door); May 3 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; May 4 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and May 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. At 2501 Commonwealth Avenue Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705 or [duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com).

## FRIDAY/MAY 4

**Volunteer for Community Service Day.** Event Combines Community Service, Fundraising-and Fun. Volunteers are needed to help in community service projects throughout Alexandria from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event information: <http://www.morrisonhouse.com>

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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springforalexandria2012.kintera.org

## MAY 4, 5, 11, 12

**“Crazy for You.”** Tickets are \$5/students, seniors; \$10/adults. Presented by T.C. Williams Drama Department. Show dates are May 4, 5, 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door. The whole family will enjoy this upbeat show, which features a humorous plot, impressive dance numbers, and unforgettable songs, including “I Got Rhythm” and “Someone to Watch Over Me.”

## SATURDAY/MAY 5

**Alexandria Art Market.** Third season begins May 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colasanto Park. Local artists, musical performances. Other dates: Saturdays 6/2/12, 7/7/12, 8/4/12, 9/1/12, 11/3/12. Application available for non-DRA members. Contact Kimberley Bush  
ArtMarket@TheDelRayArtisans.org or visit  
www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

## Simpson Demonstration Garden Open House.

9 to 11 a.m. At 420 E. Monroe Avenue, Alexandria. Tour five gardens, each of which demonstrates a separate theme — waterwise, flagstone, tufa, butterfly and scented gardening. The gardens are located between the YMCA and Eugene Simpson baseball stadium. Park in the YMCA lot. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org).

**St. Luke's Barbecue.** 11 a.m. Besides slow-cooked North Carolina-style chopped pork BBQ, the church will be offering grilled chicken, hot dogs, beans, cole slaw and soft drinks. Proceeds support church activities and community outreach. St. Luke's is at 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

**Bowties & Belles, a Kentucky Derby Party.** 4 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100/patrons; \$80/individuals. Features an afternoon of watching the

Derby, a raffle, silent auction, cocktail reception. Sponsored by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center. Proceeds help support programs of The Campagna Center. At Collingwood on the Potomac, 8301 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Visit [www.CampagnaCenter.org](http://www.CampagnaCenter.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 6

**Art at Home.** Noon to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m. (Two seatings). Tickets are \$15. New Interior Design Interactive Lecture Series introduced at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Interior designer Mary Mitchell will show how to layer design elements with furnishings and the visual arts to create an environment unique to every home owner. At Studio 325, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); or call 703-838-4565.

**Titan Expo.** 1 to 5 p.m. A community fair, will be held on the front lawn of T.C. Williams High School. Featuring games, moon bounce, bingo, food, book sale, and the ever popular car bash. All proceeds support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. T.C. Williams is located at 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-824-6868.

## MONDAY/MAY 7

**Children and Trauma.** 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Featuring guest speaker Margaret Dowell who will discuss the connection between trauma and behavior. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3579 or email [latanya.wooten@alexandriava.gov](mailto:latanya.wooten@alexandriava.gov).

## TUESDAY/MAY 8

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Bay Jazz Project. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

**Musician Mike Doughty.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Featuring “The Book of Drugs”: Concert, Reading, Q&A. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

**Ottmar Liebert in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

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

## FRIDAY/MAY 11

**Bid and Win Dinner/Auction.** 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The Cocktail Social and Silent Auction will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A Buffet featuring London Broil and Chicken will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. and the night will cap off with a Live Auction. Tickets are \$40 each. Sponsored by the Fort Belvoir Officers' Spouses' Club. At 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. To reserve your tickets or offer an item for donation contact [Boscfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:Boscfundraiser@gmail.com) or 540-847-1467.

**Music for Oboe.** 8 p.m. Free concert. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Benefit Concert for Haiti.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50. NSO Concert Master Nurit Bar-Josef and acclaimed pianist Rohan De Silva are guest artists for this National Chamber Players concert featuring Fritz Kreisler's Schön Rosmarin, Liebesleid, Sicilienne and Rigaudon, “It Ain't Necessarily So,” by George Gershwin and arranged by Jascha Heifetz, and Antonín Dvořák's

Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 12

**Jazzercise Fundraiser.** 10 to 11 a.m. Fundraiser where 100 percent of donations go to the American Cancer Society. At Waynewood Elementary Gymnasium, 1205 Waynewood Blvd., Alexandria. Contact Peg Frydenlund 703- 765-5659 or [peg2011@verizon.net](mailto:peg2011@verizon.net).

**“This Old House.”** 10 a.m. Watch episode 2 of “This Old House” that was filmed in Alexandria. General contractor Tom Silva heads to Alexandria to restore the windows in a home built by George Washington. Afterward, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey installs a water filter at a kitchen sink. Airing on WETA-TV 26.

**Garden of Light Reception.** 3 to 5 p.m. Help put an end to domestic violence by attending the Bethany House reception. Tickets are \$55/person. At the Holiday Inn and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.bhnv.org](http://www.bhnv.org) or 703-658-9500.

## American Balalaika Symphony Spring

**Concert.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. Peter Trofimenko and The American Balalaika Symphony welcome Spring with How a Peasant Went to a Fair — An ordinary tale told through extraordinary music. Travel back in time to a place where the pace was slow, the pleasures simple, and spring, a time of wonder and delight. With works by Andreyev, Tsygankov, Shalov, Gorodovskaya, Kachalin and more. Featuring ABS balalaika soloist Ekaterina Borodulina. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beauregard St (NVCC Campus), Alexandria. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter).

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#### Mass Schedule

##### 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)

**Sign Language Interpreter**  
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309

Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 [www.gs-cc.org](http://www.gs-cc.org)

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**5614 Old Mill Road, Mount Vernon, Virginia**  
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Office: 703-780-3081 • [www.StJamesMV.org](http://www.StJamesMV.org)

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**Blessings to All Who Serve**

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MEETING HOUSE

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# MV Boys' Soccer Remains Undefeated

Castellon's two second-half goals lift Majors past Stuart.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Mount Vernon boys' soccer team entered its April 24 contest at Stuart with an undefeated record. The Majors, however, did not appear to enter the match as a focused group.

Head coach Robert Garza vehemently voiced his displeasure from the visitor's sideline early in the first half as Mount Vernon littered the field with miscues. Whether it was threatening to bench a player or continuously pointing out the same mistake made by multiple Majors, Garza couldn't seem to reach his players. At one point, Garza told senior Amardo Oakley to "shut him up," hoping the team captain could make a play and put an end to the coach's ranting.

Oakley's hustle produced Mount Vernon's first goal of the evening and eventually the Majors did enough to remain undefeated.

Bryan Castellon scored a pair of second-half goals and the Majors beat the Raiders 3-1 at Stuart High School. Mount Vernon improved to 6-0-2, including 3-0-1 in the National District.

"We were trying too much," Garza said. "Instead of letting our game come to us like we usually do, it was like we were trying to force our way in there. With us putting Bryan Castellon up top, [that] really was the spark right there."

Garza moved Castellon, a three-year varsity starter who is listed as a defender, into an attacking position during the game and the senior delivered a pair of goals.

"With Bryan coming in, it kind of made



Mount Vernon senior Amardo Oakley scored the Majors' first goal in a 3-1 victory against Stuart on April 24.

us settle down a little bit," Garza said. "It kind of put us back into playing our possession game and putting the ball through the gaps while he made the runs that we needed. ... Bryan, to be honest, is the most skilled player on the team. He is one of the most overlooked players in the district. He can play any position."

Castellon scored his first goal in the 54th minute, coming down the left side of the field to break a 1-all tie. He added a second in the closing minutes.

"I just got the ball and I knew I was faster than him and I just took it all the way," Castellon said about what proved to be the game-winning goal. "I saw the goalkeeper coming up, looking for the cross and I just slid it in near post."

Oakley put the Majors on the board in the 24th minute. Rahim Costa-Dorsey crossed to Simond Kargbo, whose shot rico-



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon boys' soccer coach Robert Garza said he has been pleased with the play of sophomore goalkeeper Diego Castro.

cheted off the crossbar, but Oakley was there to finish the scoring opportunity. Stuart tied the game in the 44th minute, but Castellon's goals lifted Mount Vernon to victory.

"When coach yells at us, you get a little frustrated," Oakley said. "He told us to shut him up, so I guess we did what he told us to do."

After a tie against T.C. Williams in the season opener on March 13, Mount Vernon defeated Westfield, Wakefield and South Lakes before playing to a draw against Yorktown on April 10. From there, the Majors earned a pair of confidence-boosting victories against teams ranked in the Washington Post's top 10, beating Robinson 2-1 on April 13 and Falls Church 5-2 on April 16. While Mount Vernon was unranked at the time of the wins, as of Tuesday night the Majors were ranked No. 5. Robinson was No. 8.

"That win over Robinson," Garza said, "to us, was once again [a message] to the Northern Region: 'We can do this. We can play with you guys and [don't] overlook us.'"

Mount Vernon has been succeeding despite the loss of all-state junior goalkeeper Lucas Belanger, who Garza said left the

team after the season opener to focus on preparing to play college soccer. Diego Castro, a sophomore, has taken over as the Majors' goalkeeper and Garza said he's pleased with the results.

"Diego has been a huge asset for us," Garza said. "A lot of people counted us out after Lucas left. Diego has stepped in [and] he hasn't even once tried to do the whole,

'I've got to fill in for Lucas.' Diego's been like, 'I'm Diego, I'm the goalkeeper; I'm just going to play my game.'"

Mount Vernon will host defending National District champion Washington-Lee at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 26. The Generals defeated the Majors 6-0 in last year's district final.

After W-L, Mount Vernon will close the regular season against Chantilly, Hayfield, West Potomac and Edison.

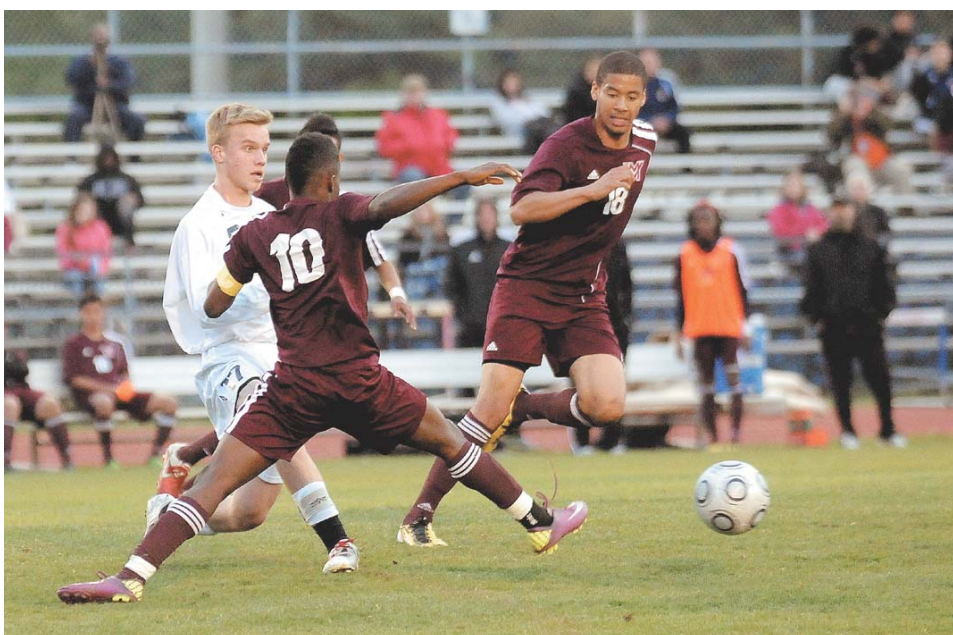
"We've got to stop overlooking teams," Oakley said, "and come out here and play our best game, every game, no matter what team we play."

If Mount Vernon improves on its slow starts, Garza likes the Majors' chances.

"We could be doing better," he said. "We're starting off a little too flat at times. ... When we're playing our game, I believe we can be the team that pulls away [from the Northern Region]. We play some good ball."

**"We could be doing better. We're starting off a little too flat at times. ... When we're playing our game, I believe we can be the team that pulls away [from the Northern Region]. We play some good ball."**

— Mount Vernon boys' soccer coach Robert Garza



Mount Vernon junior Simond Kargbo (10) goes for the ball as junior Rahim Costa-Dorsey (18) comes toward the play on April 24.

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## SPORTS



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**The Mount Vernon crew women's lightweight 8 from left: Helen Sudhoff (coxswain), Bailey Lustig, Meagan Cantwell, Michelle Werner, Raven Woody, Ginna Doss, Heiomy Beltran, Mary Robinson and Cassie Pelkey.**



**The Mount Vernon men's novice 8 from left: Joseph Morales, Connor Ross, Nathan Moore, Nicholas Clevenger, Kamaile Henderson, Carlos Giron-Garay, Nahki Oliver (coxswain) and Keanu Canda. William Benavides (not pictured)**

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Mount Vernon Crew Wins 3 Golds

The Mount Vernon crew team competed in the Baltimore Invitational Regatta on Saturday, April 14. The men's novice 8,

women's lightweight 8 and women's novice 4 all earned gold medals for their first-place finishes.

The Majors totaled seven hits. Senior shortstop Justin Boutin had a home run and a triple, and junior Jeremy Larkey had a home run, as well. Senior Austin Purkey added to the score with a single and a double for two RBIs. Senior Justin Johnson also added a couple of singles to the Majors' tally for the night. Junior Raheem Watson drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly to right field that ended the night.

## Mount Vernon Baseball Wins on Community Night

The Mount Vernon baseball team hosted a community night event on April 13, and young ballplayers from the Woodlawn Little League accompanied the Majors to their positions during the playing of the National Anthem prior to their matchup with Edison. Mount Vernon won the game, 5-4.

Senior right-handed pitcher David Lehner was dominant with his curve ball and cut fastball, and went the full eight innings, recording nine strikeouts.

## Route 1 Basketball Tournament

The Route 1 Memorial Day Classic basketball tournament will take place May 25 and 27 at West Potomac, Mount Vernon, Bryant and Gum Springs Community Center. The tournament entry fee is \$300. Awards will be given to first- and second-place teams, and for 3-point and free-throw contest winners. For tournament information, call 1(866) 360-7463 or call Gavin Palmore at 202-486-7344. One can also visit [www.gsshooterz.org](http://www.gsshooterz.org) or [www.dominatetheglass.org](http://www.dominatetheglass.org).

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## Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Stratton. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."

## Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to be become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

## Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on the blue Events tab.



## Getting To Know Us:

*Herndon High School Theatre Teacher*  
**Zoë Dillard**

Zoë Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's

here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," said Dillard. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic design skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting."

"I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are seniors, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."

### Did You Know?

More than 33,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-12 school year:

Visual art	12,400
Music	12,600
Theatre	2,600
Dance	200



## Cappies: Award-Winning Performances



For those who would rather critique than perform, the Cappies, or Critics and Awards Program, is designed for high school theatre and journalism students who are trained as theatre critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish the reviews in local newspapers and online. The international program was launched by FCPS in 1999.

Each spring, Cappies critics nominate actors and technicians for Cappies awards, which are presented, along with awards for critics, at the annual Cappies Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Cappies Gala showcases the amazing artistic talents of our high school students," said Judy Bowns, co-founder of Cappies and theatre arts and dance specialist at FCPS. "Student actors, backstage technicians, singers, dancers, and musicians are honored with a Cappie by their peers who acknowledge this excellence by their votes. It's the only student theatre awards program that is student-driven with no awards decided by adults."

The gala draws more than 2,000 theatre students and their families. For more information visit [www.cappies.com](http://www.cappies.com).

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