Mount Pernon Gazette

SEE PAGE 17

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper



Commencement speaker, Col. Gregory D. Gadson, a bilateral above-the-knee amputee resulting from injuries sustained in a roadside bombing in the Iraq War, receives a standing ovation from the students and guests at the Mount Vernon High School 2012 Commencement Exercises on Friday afternoon, June 15. Gadson said nothing made him prouder on this day than the perseverance of his graduating son, Jaelan. Gadson has served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years as a field artillery officer and on active service for: Desert Shield/Desert Storm (Kuwait), Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. While serving in the U.S. Army he has been awarded three Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

Back-to-Back Graduations

Mount Vernon High School and West Potomac High School held their graduation ceremonies at George Mason University's Patriot Center on Friday, June 15. More photos on pages 5 and 7.



Mount Vernon High School senior class president Yisel Carcamo addresses her classmates.



West Potomac High School principal Clifford Hardison presents the faculty award to senior class vice president Frezzette Ackah.

West Potomac
High School
senior class
president
Hind Tatby
welcomes all
to the commencement
exercises.



Who Will Provide Police Oversight?

Police Chief supports designating internal auditor to investigate citizen allegations of police misconduct.

By Gerald A. Fill The Gazette

ince March 29, 2011 when the Board of Supervisors received the former County Executives' recommendation, there's been no final decision on whether or not to establish an independent review process for the police department. The board's Public Safety Committee chair, Supervisor Gerald Hyland, recently stated that the board unanimously rejected the creation of a Citizen Review Board as recommended by the Mount Vernon-based Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. But does that mean no independent review of citizen allegations of police misconduct of any kind?

Mary Ann Jennings, director of public information for the police department, said, "There has been no final decision by the board on whether to establish police oversight, or what form that would take if approved. In the meantime the investigation by the Internal Auditor of the police department's Internal Affairs function has not been completed." Jennings added that Chief David Rohrer has not discussed the March 2011 Action Item with new County Executive Ed Long to determine where he stands on the issue.

Over a year ago, the former County Executive, Tony Griffin, submitted an Action Item to the Board of Supervisors: "Approval to Establish an Independent Review Process for the Police Department" in which four models were outlined — Citizen Review Board, Police Investigation with Citizen Oversight, Police Investigation with a Citizen Appeal Board and SEE OVERSIGHT, PAGE 3

Last Saudi Year

Islamic Saudi Academy heads toward end of its lease on Richmond Highway.

By Michael Lee Pope The Gazette

uly will mark the beginning of the end of the Saudi Islamic Academy's lease on Richmond Highway, ending a long and contentious relationship with a school that opponents consider a training ground for terrorists. Fairfax County officials say the lease runs out July 2013, and they will not be entertaining any more extensions.

"We are not agreeing to any fur-

ther extensions of the lease," said Merni Fitzgerald. "Future use of the site has not yet been decided."

In October 2010, members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to consider extending the lease of the controversial school. Opponents howled with derision when supporters defended the school. In the end, supervisors voted to extend the lease of county-owned land at 8333 Richmond Highway to Saudi Arabia, generating about \$2.6 mil See Saudi. Page 8

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A Year Later: No Decision on Police Oversight

From Page

Independent Auditor. The former County Executive, the Police Chief, and the Police Department supported the Independent Auditor option.

The reasons for recommending the Auditor option as described in the County

Board's Action Item paper, were described as follows:

- ❖ The Internal Auditor currently investigates alleged inappropriate behavior and business practices, and has familiarity with police procedure and investigatory practices.
- ❖ The Internal Auditor is outside of the Police Department and reports to the County Executive who supervises the Deputy County Executive for Public Safety. The view here is this satisfies the independent third party review requirement.
- ❖ The Internal Auditor approach will not add to the burden of time and expense. Also, it doesn't interfere with the rights of police officers (the Procedural Guarantee Act).
- ❖ The police union has been briefed and supports this option.
- There is no strong evidence that a Citizen Review Board provides additional value to the review process. The paper stated that this option remains a long-term option if there is a lack of satisfaction with the experience under the Auditor model.

The paper cautioned that what was being

recommended is not an Independent Auditor function that would perform investigations separate from the police department. However, the paper stated that the fact that the public can initiate independent reviews of Police Department actions will enhance the public's trust of the police. Also, the anticipated installation of digital cameras on all police vehicles was viewed as an additional enhancement for police accountability.

The Internal Auditor recommendation is at odds with the recommendation by the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. Since its formation in April 2010 following the shooting death of David Masters, the group has urged some form of police citizen oversight board independent of the police department, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors, and made up of private citizens appointed by and representative of each supervisor district and at large. One form or another of this independent citizens oversight model is now being used in various forms by cities and counties throughout the U.S.

Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions in the U.S. Without Independent Police Oversight Review by Citizens, according to the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

IN NOVEMBER 2009, a Fairfax County police officer shot and killed an unarmed

man, David Masters, at the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Route One. Masters, a Vietnam veteran, was pursued by police because he allegedly took flowers from a Route 1 business. He was shot while he was sitting in his car, at the intersection of Fort Hunt road and U.S. Route 1, surrounded by police on three sides.

One of the police officers present shot Masters in the back as he sat in his car. According to police, the officer thought that Masters rolled his car over a fellow police officer, was going for a gun, and the car was stolen. Later it was determined he did not strike a police officer with his car, did not go for a gun - did not own one - and the car was not stolen. Despite efforts by his family and the media to find out what happened, no police incident report was made public and the identity of the police officer who shot Masters was not identified for a year. The police officer was eventually cleared of criminal wrongdoing. The FBI's civil rights division conducted an investigation into the shooting in 2010. No report of their findings was made public to date.

Since then a Manassas lawyer, Jon E. Shields, filed a civil suit in Prince William County Circuit Court, in November 2011, against Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Police Department, and the police officer who shot and killed Masters. The suit is complicated by the fact that the named

plaintiffs, the deceased's former wife and stepdaughter, have stated they are not interested in pursuing a civil suit filed by Shields, and they did not authorize filing the suit. Shields is married to the late David Masters' sister, Joyce Shields. A recent check of Prince William County Court records lists the suit as "active." This shooting incident, the circumstances of the Masters shooting, and the aftermath of how the incident was handled by the Fairfax County police and prompted Nicholas Beltrante of Mount Vernon, a retired D.C. police detective, to form a Virginia nonprofit corporation, the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc.

According to Beltrante, the purpose of the organization is to mobilize support for the creation of a police citizen oversight board with the authority to investigate citizen complaints of alleged police misconduct and report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive, and the Police Chief. In addition to this organizational goal, the CCPA supports more accessible police incident reporting. Currently, Virginia law provides a blanket police exemption of police incident reports from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Since its formation in April 2010 the CCPA has gained the backing of organizational

SEE OVERSIGHT, PAGE 9

How Does Fairfax County Compare on Police Oversight?

A survey of what other cities and counties and their police departments are doing to promote transparency and accountability of police operations.

By Gerald A. Fill
The Gazette

he National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement supports member cities and counties with citizen police oversight functions. Its U.S. membership is approximately 100 organizational and individual members and growing. The association exists to provide a means for technical support to requesting cities and counties, share information among its membership, and to annually meet to conduct seminars and workshops to advance the professionalism of policecommunity relations and police citizen oversight.

A review of the NACOLE membership demonstrates a varying array of citizen review organizational models, authorities and functions, ranging from some with subpoena power and authority to access police incident reports, to other purely advisory and no authority to compel reports, convene hearings, or conduct independent investigations. A typical model includes citizen oversight participation independent of the police department.

Here are some profiles:

City/County: Washington, D.C. Size of Police Force: 3,800 sworn officers Names: Police Complaints Board (PCB) and Office of Police Complaints (OPC); Executive Director, Phillip Eure

Authority: OPC Investigates, mediates, adjudicates police misconduct complaints filed by the public against sworn police officers. OPC decisions are binding, although the police department determines the level of discipline. OPC has subpoena power. The OPC is overseen by the Police Complaints Board (PCB) which consists of four private citizens and one sworn police member.

Comments: In a NACOLE letter to the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc., the OPC executive director, wrote: "Citizen review of the police takes on many forms around the U.S. In addition to handling police misconduct allega-

tions, an oversight office could mediate some types of citizen complaints as well as develop recommendations for police reform based on patterns or trends detected in the complaints. ... The overall goal would be to promote increased police accountability in Fairfax County and to improve interactions between law enforcement officers and the public. ... Experience shows that the more confidence that people have in the police, the greater the likelihood they will report crimes and otherwise cooperate with law enforcement. ... This leads to better policing and safer communities. We urge government officials in Fairfax county to become educated about the benefits of citizen oversight, a field that has become highly professionalized in

"Police organizations are most effective if they are transparent and accountable. ... By doing so they will enjoy the trust and respect of the citizens they serve. Police civilian oversight boards and other oversight models help to make that possible, and the growing number of these organizations nationally is testimonial to their importance in promoting a culture of openness and transparency between the police departments and the communities they serve."

— Kathryn Olson, executive director, Seattle Office of Professional Accountability, and president, National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

recent years."

City/County: City of Tucson, Ariz.
Size of Police Department: 1,000 sworn officers

Name: Citizen Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB)

Authority: Seven voting members and four advisory members. Mayor and City Council appoint voting members, and the board selects the citizen advisory members. Reviews completed police internal audit investigations, and other completed investigations.

Independent Police Auditor Office: Program Manager, Robert Barton. A retired former police officer

Comments: The CPARB serves as the liaison with the City Council; reviews police investigations completed to determine if they are thorough and fair. Its existence has had the effect of promoting confidence between the police, elected officials, and the community. Created by Ordinance. Does not have subpoena power.

City/County: City of San Diego, Calif.

Name: Citizens' Review Board on Police Prac-

Size of Police Department: Approx. 2,000 sworn officers

Comments: Reviews citizen complaints and independent auditor investigations, all police officer shootings and deaths in custody, and reports to the Police Chief and City Manager.

City/County: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Name: Citizen Police Review Board (CPRB)
Executive Director: Elizabeth Pittinger
Size of Police Department: Approx 1,140

Authority: Created by Referendum to Home SEE COMPARING, PAGE 9

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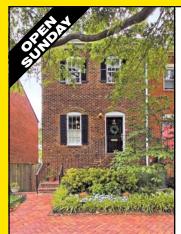


Rosemont/Del Ray

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Fabulous 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with a desireable open floor plan located just a few blocks from METRO, shops & restaurants in Old Town and Del Ray. Wonderful Great Room addition with gourmet kitchen, family room, dining area and sunroom. Upper level with 3 bedrooms including a large Master bedroom with sitting area. Finished lower level, 2 gas fireplaces & off street parking.
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Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Old Town \$849,000 Spacious 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath end townhouse located just blocks from shops, restaurants, Trader Joes and METRO! Updated with an open floor plan, large kitchen with lots of counter and cabinet space, dining room and living room with fireplace & French doors to a deck. Upper level with 3 bedrooms including a Master suite with private bath. Lower level family room with fireplace and full bath walks out to a

fenced yard and patio.
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Alexandria/Del Ray

2BD/2.5BA Beautiful detached Del Ray farmhouse features open floor plan, fabulous updated kitchen with granite countertops and top of the line stainless steel appliances. A private driveway provides offstreet parking. One block from shops and restaurants on "The Ave". Less than one mile to Braddock Rd Metro Station. 2005 Dewitt Avenue

Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



Sensational historic brick town home; best of old and new. Exposed beam wood floors, high ceilings & fireplace. Owners have added new metal roof, copper downspouts, new windows, tankless water heater. Delightful private patio garden. Just 3 blocks to the Potomac River.

406 S. Royal Street Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria

Very large, stately, customized all-brick home in sought-after waterfront community in historic Mt Vernon on the Potomac. Home has fully modernized, gourmet kitchen with wine cooler; in-law or au-pair suite in the basement with 2nd kitchen; and huge rooms. Wonderful community has tennis courts, and private marine access. And, it's so handy to Old Town Alexandria and Wash DC.

9404 Mount Vernon Circle Mike Downie 703-360-7400



4BD/2BA Gorgeous detached home features hardwood floors, beautiful fireplace, spacious family room addition and spacious back yard. An extended private driveway provides off-street parking. Short stroll to shops and restaurants in Del Ray. Convenient to Braddock and King Street Metro.

9 W. Windsor Avenue Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



Alexandria/Del Ray

Light-filled expanded townhome in Del Ray! Features include a renovated kitchen with loads of cabinets/counter space, refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint, new carpet, replacement windows, 2 yr old roof, 2 parking spots, large 2 tiered deck, gas fplc ,soaking tub, main-level powder room & more! Walk to Metro & "the Avenue".

220 Nelson Ave. E. Peremy Stewart 703-879-4131



Alexandria

Fabulous and pristine colonial on nearly 1/2 acre lot convenient to everything! Gorgeous wood firs thruout & beautiful renovated kit. w/cherry cab's, corian counters and breakfast bar opens into fam rm w/fireplace. Remodeled bathrooms w/light filled sunroom.

4600 Old Mill Road Lisa McCaskill 703-615-6036



Alexandria/Del Ray

3BD/1BA Darling Detached Del Ray Cottage features wood floors open concept living, updated kitchen with granite countertops & maple cabinets, new windows and fabulous fully fenced front and back yard with shed and gorgeous stone patio for entertaining. Short stroll to restaurants, shops & farmers market in Del Ray.

2404 Randolph Ave E. Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



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GRADUATION '12



Django Szilagi addresses his classmates.

West Potomac Seniors Say Farewell



Danielle McHugh finishes up the speeches to the Class of 2012.



West Potomac teacher Jeff

faculty award by the class

Feinstein is awarded the

of 2012.

Members of the graduating class who have chosen military service and/or will be attending military academy's in the fall are recognized.



Ernest Johnson directs Bella Voce in the singing of a musical selection "Thank You."



West Potomac High School principal Clifford Hardison acknowledges the special guests.



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rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com Alex./Mt. Vernon Woods



\$319,000 7901 Martha Washington Street

Lovely 3BR/2BA Rambler with Family Room addition and a large screened (20x19) porch. Beautiful corner lot with fish pond off the porch. Large shed/workshop out back.

Hardwood Floors add to the charm. Minutes to Fort Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to National Airport and 30/35 mins to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Yacht Haven Estates \$699,000 4520 Dolphin Lane

Stunning 4BR/3.5BA Rambler w/2-car garage in Premier Riverfront Community of Yacht Haven near Mt. Vernon Yacht Club (Marina, Pool & Club House). Beautiful family rm addition off the kitchen. Sun rm w/cathedral ceiling opens to a fabulous bkyd w/extensive decking & beautifully landscaped garden perfect for entertaining. Enormous master

ath will pamper w/soaking tub, separate shower, & double sinks. Lower lvl has game room, rec eation room, bar, & full bath. Great Location – Meticulously landscaped corner lot. Must See!!!



Alex./Wessynton Mid \$600's 8802 Four Seasons

Large, stunning, contemporary Colonial in popular Mt. Vernon Community of Wessynton. This lovely home is highly updated: kit remodeled in '07, HVAC & hot water heater replaced '07, energyefficient replacement windows, freshly painted interior – family room w/vaulted ceiling off kitchen – large beautiful pic-

ure windows throughout, overlook a large, private, landscaped lot on a quiet cul-de-In-law bedroom & bath on main level – 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir – This is a Keeper!!



\$452,900 Alex/Mt. Vernon 8620 Curtis Avenue

Lovely, spacious 4BR/3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon-Hardwood floors throughout main level, eat-in kitchen with ceramic tiled floor. Walkout lower level offers a family room w/wood FPL, new carpet and new sliding glass door to a large,

fenced back yard. Also, a 4th BR, 3rd bath and den. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 to NTL Airport and 30 to D.C./Pentagon. Priced for a quick sale.



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$2800/mo 8318 Orange Court

Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA Colonial w/3 finished levels in Historic Mt. Vernon. Newer kitchen & baths, gleaming hardwood floors, screened porch, deck, carport & large corner lot. Separate laundry & storage rooms. Scenic commute along the G.W. Parkway. Minutes to Fort Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport and 30/30 mins to



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$539,900 8401 Morey Lane

Lovely 4BR/3BA Split in prestigious Collingwood on the Potomac. Beautifully staged home sits on a large professionally landscaped corner lot. Just a stone's throw from the G.W. Parkway and Potomac River. 7 minutes to Old Town, 17 mins to National Airport, 30 mins to Pentagon/D.C. and last but not least...Waynewood Elementary

least...Waynewood Elementary



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 Colonial w/large bedrooms, beautiful hdwd 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. Kitchen applinces 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 Fort Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, Alex, 25 to Ntl Airport, 30/35 mins to Pentagon/D.C. This is a keeper



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News



'Building Today for Tomorrow's Healthcare'

Barbara Doyle, INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital CEO, leads the applause during the the dedication of the Mark and Brenda Miller Medical Tower on Friday, June 15 at the main entrance on Collingwood Road. District Supervisor Jeff McKay, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, chairs Mark and Brenda Moore, District Supervisor Gerry Hyland and state Sen. Toddy Puller joined an audience of dozens of citizens in attendance.



Mark and Brenda Miller, campaign chairs, donated \$2 million to begin the funding needed to build the medical tower.



Volunteer Ann Black gives away marigold planters to commemorate the groundbreaking for "Building Today for Tomorrow's Healthcare" at the dedication of the Mark and Brenda Miller Medical Tower at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital.

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from 8 a.m. to Noon at Mount Vernon High School

(8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria)

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from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex

(9850 Furnace Road, Lorton)

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



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GRADUATION '12



Mount Vernon Grads Move On

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Senior Michael James Abney stands and sings along with the U.S. Air Force anthem, "Into the Wild Blue Yonder."



Zainab Samir
Abdulaziz waits for
the call to cross the
stage for the presentation of diplomas.



Clare Cahill sings a solo verse with the Mount Vernon High School Madrigals performing "Stand Up and Make a Change."

Class members stand as the Mount Vernon High School Madrigals sing the National Anthem.



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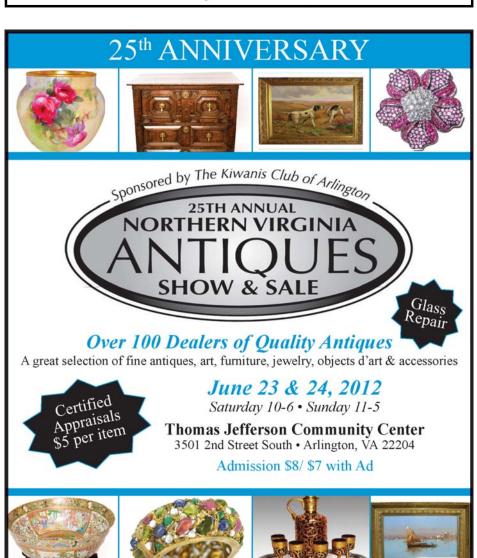


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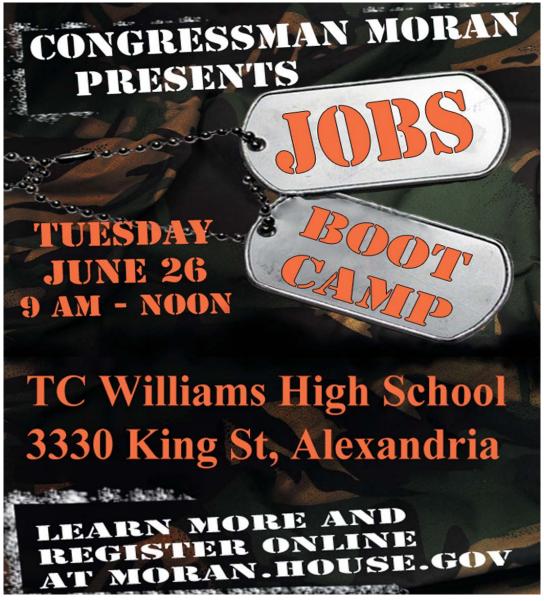
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News

Last Saudi Year

"We are not

agreeing to

any further

extensions

of the lease."

— Merni

Fitzgerald,

Fairfax County

spokeswoman

lion a year. Back in January, Fairfax County officials agreed to a final one-year lease extension. Now the school is looking to the future, although it's unclear exactly what will become of the Saudi Islamic Academy.

"The decision is made by the Saudi Embassy of where we are located, and it's totally in their hands," said Ronald Schultz, acting director general/chief of staff. "They determine the lease and the location of the school because they are the primary funding source."

Calls to the Islamic Embassy were not returned.

THE BUILDING on Richmond Highway was originally constructed as Mount Vernon High School, a brick building where generations of teenagers attended classes. But by the late 1980s it was in disrepair and the school system decided it no longer needed the facility. In 1989, the county executed the first lease with the royal embassy of Saudi Arabia doing business as the Islamic Saudi Academy. The terrorist attacks in 2001 changed the perception of many Fairfax County residents, though. Now detractors

sav the school is indoctrinating a generation of radical Islamic terrorists who will try to implement Sharia law in America.

"Their graduates are a rogues gallery of people who spend their photographing weekends bridges," said James Lafferty,

chairman of the Virginia Anit-Shariah Task Force, during the 2010 public hearing. "Get as tough with those people as you do the people who aren't cleaning up their front yards."

Officials with the Islamic Academy have anticipated moving from the Richmond Highway location for some time. The academy has another site on Pope's Head Road

in Fairfax Station, and school officials say they are looking at other potential locations throughout the county. Because the Richmond Highway facility already has a long history with the public school system, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) says the facility could be used by Fairfax County Public Schools.

"We don't have a magnet school for the arts in this county," said McKay, whose district is across the street from the facility. "This would be an ideal

SEE SAUDI, PAGE 9

Fort Hunt Park Meeting Set

eorge Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service, is conducting public scoping on three new alternative concepts for the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect.

An Open House public meeting will be held Wednesday, June 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Fort Hunt Elementary School, 8832 Linton Lane.

The meeting is being held so interested public can speak to staff, learn more about the proposed alternative concepts and submit written comments.

New alternative concepts seek to enhance visitor awareness and understanding of Fort Hunt Park's resources while also sustaining many of the park's existing recreational amenities.

This public scoping period

will conclude on Saturday, July 28. During this period, the public is invited to identify concerns they may have with the proposed alternative concepts as well as offer suggestions.

Written comments can be submitted electronically at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at: parkplanning.nps.gov/ forthunt. Written comments may also be mailed to: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101. Attn: Fort Hunt Park EA/AoE. Mailed comments must be postmarked by Saturday, July 28, to receive consideration.

More details about the project are available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at: http:// parkplanning.nps.gov/ forthunt.

No Decision on Police Oversight

From Page 3

and individual supporters from within the county, around the state, and nationally: Virginia Coalition for Open Government, National Association for Citizen Oversight of Law Enforcement, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Northern Virginia Chapter of the NAACP, Virginia ACLU and the Virginia Press Association

Since it's formation the CCPA has motivated a number of citizens to send letters complaining about alleged police misconduct. One of those letters came from the family of Dr. Salvatore Culosi, who was fatally shot in 2006 while being served a warrant for his arrest for sports gambling. He was unarmed. The police officer who shot him was part of a SWAT

team and accidentally discharged his weapon while leaving his car, according to police. The Culosi's sued the police officer and five years later the county settled the suit for \$2 million. This is an example of excessive use of lethal force, according to the Culosi family and the CCPA. Since the CCPA was formed, a number of letters of complaint about alleged police misconduct were sent to them. CCPA in turn forwarded the letters for response to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova. She has in turn forwarded the letters to Hyland. According to Beltrante, thus far no substantive response has been received by the CCPA beyond Bulova's acknowledging the receipt of the letters.

No Extensions of Saudi Academy's Lease

From Page 8 location."

FAIRFAX COUNTY officials extended the lease without members of not going to be the Board of Supervisors taking action in accordance with the terms of there forever. We the contract. That saved the elected officials from yet another contentious know that." public hearing, one that might expose more tension between the elected leaders. The last time the

"The academy is

— Supervisor Gerry **Hyland (D-Mount Vernon)**

the lease extension in favor of finding an ultimate

disposition of the property. Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) agreed with Cook, pointing out that the way the agreement is worded the matter would be docketed for another public hearing until four years had elapsed.

"This school has been a darn good neighbor to the citizens that live closes to it," said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) said at

lease was considered Supervisor John Cook (R- the end of the contentious 2010 hearing. "The acad-Braddock) offered a motion that would have denied emy is not going to be there forever. We know that."

Comparing

From Page 3

Rule Charter. Authority to hold public hearings, subpoena witnesses and documents. Authority is advisory only. Also has responsibility to mediate citizen complaints.

Comments: Has responded to 10,000 citizen allegations since 1997. Citizens may safely offer information and file complaints about alleged police misconduct; also, police have referred citizens to complaint board. CPRB has helped to create a positive cultural change enabling citizens and police to work compatibly with each other.

City/County: Indianapolis, Ind. Name: Citizen Police Complaint Board

Executive Director: Chris Reeder

Size of Police Department: 1,196 sworn police officers

Authority: Created by local ordinance; subpoena power for records and compel individuals to appear at hearing. Nine citizen members appointed by the Mayor and City-County Council, and three appointed by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Comments: Creating the Police Complaint Board has resulted in a drop in serious police misconduct complaints, including for example deaths in custody; also, the PCB has improved community-police re-

City: Seattle, Wash., and the King County Sheriffs Office

Name: Office of Professional Accountability (OPA); OPA Review Board

Executive Director: Kathryn Olson, Executive Director

Size of Police Department: 1,280 Sworn officers (Seattle City); King County, 1,027 employees and sheriffs deputies.

Authority: The OPA Review Board consists of three citizens appointed by the City Council; works closely with the OPA Auditor, and OPA Office Director (Olson) in providing civilian review of the citizen complaint process and promote public awareness of the existence and work of the OPA.

Separately, the King County Sheriff's office has a Office of Citizen Complaints - Ombudsman (OCC). Authorized to investigate complaints. Typically, complaints are first filed with the Sheriff's office re: complaints about excessive force, unprofessional conduct, or other violations. The OCC has access to all the Sheriff's records and can conduct independent factual research.

Olson currently serves both as the executive director of the Seattle Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) as well as the current president of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Visit www.nacole.org.



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OPINION

Summer Projects Reader input needed for community guides, Pet Gazette.

he summer is in full swing at the Gazette, with many interns and staff members focused on some light and some more serious summer projects.

At the end of July, we'll print our summer "Pet Gazette," and we invite readers to send in stories and photos of your pets, and any story ideas you might have. We love to have photos of you or other family EDITORIAL members with your pets. Please include your name, pet's name, town name and contact phone number, and identify the people in any photos.

Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Through July we will be working on our annual Insider's Edition: Newcomers and Community Guide, which will publish Aug. 22. We need input from our readers on many aspects of this guide.

Through narrative, tips from readers, listings, viewpoints and photographs, we endeavor to capture what it means to live here. We'll compile highlights of places to visit and things to do, a snapshot of local history, help finding community resources and tips on lesser known

wonders in our communities.

As a local, weekly newspaper, the Gazette's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your com-

munity, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

We invite newcomers to the area and longtime residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line. If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, let 11s know.

For our Insider's Guide, we are looking for your tips. What is one place you think is a "must see" for newcomers? What's your suggestion for ways to get involved in the community?

What are you most concerned about in your community? What do you think the top news stories will be in the coming months?

We also need input from community organizations to update listings and upcoming events. Send information by Aug.

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Letters to the Editor

'Irreplaceable Wetland'

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recent article by Gerald Fill calling attention to the plight of Dyke Marsh. A remnant of a once-larger marsh, Dyke Marsh was lauded by George Washington, by Louis Halle in Spring in Washington in 1947; protected by the U.S. Congress in 1959 who enacted legislation to set aside Dyke Marsh "as an irreplaceable wetland, "and by many others before and since. Dyke Marsh is a beloved place of solace, renewal, protection and beauty for us and for our fellow creatures. It has been sadly degraded by human activity in the 20th century.

As noted by U.S. Geological Survey scien-

tists in their 2010 study, the marsh is eroding by six to eight feet a year and will disappear soon without further human intervention to reverse the erosion, including specifically the renewal of a wave break at the south edge of the marsh. Our attention to the marsh and its restoration should be of paramount concern to us who live nearby; we are all stewards of the natural world around us.

The National Park Service, who administer the marsh as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, deserve praise for their response and have asked for comment on options for restoration of the marsh. They deserve our support for full restoration of this national and local treasure.

> **Dorothy McManus** Alexandria



Scholarships for JROTC Cadets

At the May 16 Dinner Meeting of the Mount Vernon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America held at Fort Belvoir, five JROTC cadets of local high schools each received a \$2,000 scholarship. They were awarded to the following cadets (from left): Cadet Major Ronald Harrell of Quantico H.S., Cadet Lt. Colonel E.J. Coleman of Mount Vernon H.S., Cadet Lt. Colonel Zachary Crews of West Potomac H.S., Cadet Aleecia Stephens of T.C. Williams H.S. Not pictured is Cadet Wuddy Zhan of Thomas Edison H.S.

What Sets Dyke Marsh Apart

To the Editor:

This letter is an effort to clarify a few points about Dyke Marsh.

* The following was written in 2008 by L.K. Thomas, Ph. D., research ecologist emeritus and ecological and resource management consultant to the National Capital Region, U.S. National Park Service. Dr. Thomas worked for the National Park Service until his retirement.

"I have been involved with Dyke Marsh from the time in NPS got it in 1959 until now. Dyke Marsh is a rare one-of-kind situation. It is the only Pleistocene freshwater tidal climax narrow-leaved cattail (Typha augustifolia) marsh in the National Park System and probably in the world. ... Freshwater tidal marshes are rare. Most tidal marshes are salt marshes. Most cattail marshes are successional (temporary)."

❖ The following is from the U.S. Geological Survey study, Analysis of the Deconstruction of Dyke Marsh, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia: Progression, Geologic and Manmade Causes and Effective Restoration Scenarios, Open-File Report 2010-1269:

"Dyke Marsh is the eroding remnant of a formerly extensive freshwater tidal marsh, adjacent to George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, and situated approximately 7 miles south of Washington, D. C., along the Potomac River's western shore." (page 2)

"Initial results indicate that the marsh started forming about 530 years ago (prior to Columbus' arrival)." (page iii)

* The following is from the U.S. National Park Service's website:

"Located along the west bank of the Potomac River, approximately 95 miles from the Chesapeake Bay, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve consists of approximately 485 acres of tidal marsh, floodplain, and swamp forest. Dvke Marsh. which is believed to have formed 500 years ago, is one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal wetlands in the Washington Metropolitan area."

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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OPINION



The freshwater marshes of Broad Creek directly across the river from Dyke Marsh.

LETTERS

From Page 10

❖ The following is from Public Law 86-41, June 11, 1959, the law that added the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve to the U.S. national parks system:

"The Secretary shall administer all of the lands described in this bill. . . so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount...."

> **Glenda Booth,** President Friends of Dyke Marsh

Can't Return To the Past

To the Editor:

In last week's Gazette, Martin Tillett expressed the desire to restore the Potomac River to its condition in the late 18th century during the life of George Washington. Of course, this is both impractical and impossible. The Potomac River is now known as one of our nation's most productive bass fisheries. Bass are a non-indigenous species that wasn't present in the Potomac River in 1800. Recently, non-indigenous snakehead fish were introduced into the river. Hydrilla is non-indigenous. I could go on and on.

The material removed from Dyke Marsh after 1937 was used to fill in other areas of the Potomac River to create Reagan National Airport and the Pentagon. Much of the area of Washington, D.C. near the river is filled land. What should we do about that?

When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, the population of the colonies was about 2,500,000, less than 1 percent of the U.S. population today. I gather Mr. Tillett doesn't want to unwind 236 years of history or tell 300,000,000 people to leave, nor can he document with any precision the characteristics of the Potomac River at the birth of our country. I note that an 1879 survey plat identifies only a single resident of the land that would later become Mr. Tillett's Spring Bank neighborhood. I was tempted to say that resident was a direct ancestor of Sam Walton (founder of Wal-Mart) but actually the name was "J. Regan."

The suggestion that we turn back the clock over 200 years is noncredible. As I earlier stated, the desire to preserve and perhaps restore some of the historic Dyke Marsh should not be motivated by the false contention that it is the only game in town. The accompanying photo (above) is of the freshwater marshes of Broad Creek directly across the River from Dyke Marsh. To be candid, Dyke Marsh is a favored target for restoration because it is part of a national park, thereby inviting the prospect of using federal tax revenues to fund the restoration. Unfortunately, the National Park Service has provided no firm estimate of the anticipated costs for each proposed restoration option. Until this occurs, no further action should be taken.

> H. Jay Spiegel Mount Vernon

'Lucky 13' Find a New Leash on Life



Operation Paws for Homes calls them the "Lucky 13." The foster network calls them another soon-to-be success story. On Friday, May 25, the organization oversaw the transport and subsequent placement of 13 Labradors and Rottweilers, all found living in an SUV with their owners. Visit www.ophrescue.org.

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Congratulations to the Alexandria Country Day School Class of 2012



Back Row L-R: Miguel Manuel Palacio, James Donald Smeallie, Hannah Marissa Semmes, Elizabeth Larkin Massie, Josephine Elizabeth Brocato, Emma Katherine Bass, Samantha Engelke Ros, Katherine Ann Kromer, Robert Martin Ovitz Ayres, David Michael King.

Middle Row L-R: Robert Crockett Talley, Emma Reddoch Presing, Charlotte Harper Kelly, Seeley Carolyn Lutz, Catherine Lucille Lytle, Camille Alexandra Jones, Michael Edward Shammas.

Front Row L-R: Alejandro Conrado Aguilar, Kyra Chanel Bolling, Rachel Lundell Saltzgiver, Chabeli Sonia Marie Diaz Wells, Grace Keating Stephenson, Alexa Antoniou Cardamone, Kelly Leigh Nirenberg, Brooks DeWitt Turner, Justin Sean Milstead.

We are pleased to announce that members of the ACDS graduating class of 2012 will be attending the following high schools: Bishop Ireton, Bishop O'Connell, Elizabeth Seton, Episcopal, Field School, Georgetown Day, Georgetown Visitation, Gonzaga, J.E.B. Stuart, Madeira, Robinson Secondary, St. John's, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, T.C. Williams, West Potomac, Washington-Lee, and Westover.

About Alexandria Country Day School:

Alexandria Country Day School is an independent K-8 school serving the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Founded in 1983, the community school serves 240 students in one building, promoting interaction among the grade levels and fostering leadership principles. For more information, visit the school's website at www.acdsnet.org. Stop by over the summer to see our new gymnasium, dining hall, and performing arts center! We are proud of our growth and continued support of the ACDS community.



Instructor Linda Feldman leads a group of yoga campers in a downward dog tunnel at Budding Yogis. Specialty camps could be an option for parents still searching for summer activities for their children.

Making the Most of Summer

Advice for planning warm weather activities for children.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE GAZETTE

'm bored, there's nothing to do," is a phrase often uttered by children during the summer. The end of the school year leaves many parents scrambling for activities to keep their young ones active and stimulated.

Experts say it is important to plan activities to keep children safe and out of trouble.

"Adult supervision is important, especially for the younger age groups. Make sure there is a good balance between fun and learning in the activities chosen," said Chantilly resident Maria Londono, a mental health

therapist for Fairfax County Community Health Care Network and Molina Health Care in Falls Church, Alexandria and Reston. "Children should also have some down time, so don't kill yourself trying to fill every minute of the day with activities."

WHEN IT COMES TO CAMPS, think outside the box. While traditional day camps often fill as soon as registration opens, specialty camps such as cooking camps, yoga camps, sports camps and art camps frequently offer more availability.

"With specialty camps you can have a clear idea of what your child will be doing and your child will know what to expect," said Linda Feldman, director of Budding Yogis camp. "Like traditional camps, specialty camps usually include crafts and outdoor activities."

"Specialty camps provide an opportunity for campers to explore particular areas of interest and foster discovery, adventure and learning," said Jim Supple, director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

George Mason University's Summer Camps and Youth Programs 2012 offers a variety of activities ranging from sports to

"Each of [our] camps is run individually and all of the camps are listed on our website," said Angelique LeBlanc, an event

"Keep in mind that summer is a time for

activities parents plan for their children,

your child continues their love of learning," she said.

Don't forget literature. Experts say that children should read every day. "If you take time to read alongside or to your children, they will make it a life-long habit, and they'll enrich their lives at the same time," said Goldberg.

Take advantage of summer programs at local libraries. "Check your local libraries for story times and arts-and-crafts-related activities. Most libraries and community recreational centers have programs full of stimulating and age-appropriate activities for children and their families during the summer," said Londono.

LEAVE TIME FOR FAMILY **ACTIVITIES.** "Keep in mind fun and a break from the routine. Whatever that summer is a time for fun and a break from the routine," said Susan DeLaurentis, director of counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. "Whatever activities parents

plan for their children, they

should be enjoyable and

stress-free. When it's too hot outside, or on a rainy day, pitch a tent in the living room and go 'camping' indoors. Have a bag ready, filled with new board games and books.'

Summer fun doesn't have to be expensive. "There are always low cost or free activities for children during the summer," said Londono. "[Many] area museums are free of cost. [Planning] a picnic at a park and having children involved in the preparation of the picnic basket can be fun. A family bike ride, fishing, camping can be all fun family-oriented activities that don't necessarily involve a lot of spending. Including children in the preparation of meals can be a fun and helpful activity year-round because it gets them interested in food and keeps them involved in helping around the house."

they should be enjoyable and stress-free." - Susan DeLaurentis

> coordinator at the school's office of University Information. "One of the most popular of our camps is the George Mason University Forensics Camp. Also popular are all of the camps that are held at the aquatics center, and our performing arts and music camps."

> KEEP LEARNING IN THE MIX. The National Summer Learning Association reports that most students fall more than two months behind in math skills during the summer.

> Susan Goldberg, principal of Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, says that educational tools are all around. "Make math a part of everyday experiences. There are interesting and fun websites, games and problem solving activities that can insure that

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@ connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper.

Mount Vernon resident Elizabeth Barrett of George Washington University has been selected for the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program to study Chinese in China during the summer of 2012.

Katie Rippy, social studies teacher at Mount Vernon High School, has been named the 2012 Virginia History Day Senior Division Teacher of the Year. Rippy was selected for this award for her creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past. As a state award winner for Virginia, Rippy will receive a cash award of \$500. In addition to receiving the Virginia History Day Senior Division Teacher of the Year Award, Katie will be nominated by the Virginia State Coordinator for the National History Day Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award for Virginia that recognizes outstanding National History Day teachers

David McDonald and Carmen Mendoza of West Potomac High School have been selected to attend the Virginia American Legion Junior Law Program at the Virginia State Police training academy in Richmond, scheduled for July 22-27.

Celeste Walker, a graduate of West Potomac High School, has been selected by the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI), America Section, as an SCI Scholar for 2012. In addition to a \$1,000 prize, scholars are awarded prestigious 10-week summer internships at major US chemical companies. Celeste currently attends University of Virginia and will complete an internship at Ashland Chemical Company.

Mt. Vernon High School has received a \$2,000 mini-grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to support a local chapter of Y Street, VFHY's national awardwinning youth volunteer advocacy group. The grant will aid in promoting a healthy lifestyle to youth by training teen volunteers who promote a healthy lifestyle.

Elizabeth Romano of Alexandria, who is studying at Widener University in Chester, Pa., was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester at Widener.

Adam Godfrey of Alexandria graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and French from Merrimack College on May 20.

Peter Routh of Alexandria, graduated from Bowdoin College, majoring in Government and Legal Studies on May 26.

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2011-12 academic year. Several residents from Alexandria has been recognized, including:

- * John C. Luce Jr., son of John and Margaret Luce and a 2008 graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School.
- Jason D. Neithamer, son of Calvin and Susan Neithamer and a 2008 graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School
- * Simeon B. Smith-Wimbush, son of Iris Wimbush, Chau K. Tieu, daughter of Binh Tieu and Phuong Trinh, and a 2011 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.
- Alexandra B. Van den Berg, daughter of Alan and Anne Van den Berg and a 2011 graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School.

Local residents graduated from Clemson University at three Commencement ceremonies May 11: Brian Edward Beaty of Alexandria, who graduated with a ba of science in political science (International Politics); Kathryn Kelly Finnigan of Alexandria, who graduated with a master of science in historic preservation and Brittany Lee Ryan of Alexandria, who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in political science



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News



Army Strong Week

Just retired Army Col. Mark Moffatt is recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during its June 5 meeting for his contributions to Fairfax County during six years of work as the Deputy Garrison Commander for Transition and BRAC, during which the U.S. Army moved 19,300 positions to Fort Belvoir. To his left is Col. John Strycula, Garrison Commander for Fort Belvior, who was also recognized for his contributions to Fairfax County during the meeting. Strycula will hand over command of Fort Belvoir on June 25 to Col. Greg Gadson and then will move to his next assignment in Afghanistan.

Following the Money

Supervisor McKay launches effort to explain county budget process.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE The Gazette

ee District Supervisor is frustrated. Every year, he hears from parents who want him to do something about funding full-day Kindergarten. But the Board of Supervisors has no authority over specific funding items in the school system's budget, which is approved by the elected School Board. More recently, he's hearing from voters about the \$9 million shortfall facing the Community Services Board. But federal and state cuts to human services came after supervisors already adopted their budget, leaving supervisors holding the bag and trying to explain why pressing needs are not being met.

"Our budget looks mainly at internal influences and doesn't really look at political realities," said McKay. "And I think we need to start explaining to people the political realities of how our hands are tied."

As a potential solution, McKay is suggesting a communications effort to explain how the process works to county residents. For example, the budget office could put together a primary for the county website that could serve as a roadmap for understanding the process. The primer would explain that the county has limited ability to raise revenues and is restricted by the Dillon Rule, which forces localities to get permission from the General Assembly for many actions. The document would also explain how the supervisors transfer money to the school system and have no influence over how it's spent.

"We need an interactive online tool that shows people in much better detail where some of these challenges are," said McKay. "Increasingly, we're hearing conversations from people about meals taxes and gas taxes

and cigarette taxes and hotel occupancy taxes. It just shows that people don't understand that the state hasn't given counties like Fairfax the latitude to just come out and adjust those things."

McKAY SAID the effort to help citizens understand the budget process was prompted by dozens of calls from parents asking him to support specific spending items for the school system. Each time, McKay explained that the supervisors approve a sum of money to the Fairfax County Public Schools, which is then the domain of the independently elected School Board. Then, a few days later, he'll get a similar call asking the same question.

"We're not saying that the money is being spent improperly," said Suzette Kern, chairwoman of an advisory committee McKay appointed to look at the situation. "But when we look at the school, there's very little transparency." Recently, the county's Community Services Board has experienced a \$9 million shortfall as a result of state and federal cutbacks. With the sluggish economy continuing to cause problems for many people, demand for services has increased in recent years. But sources of funding have dwindled, creating a problem for Fairfax County. That difficulty was compounded by the timing because Fairfax County officials learned of the reduced levels of federal and state funding after the county's budget had already been adopted.

"The budget process is not easy to understand," said Ed Batton, member of a task force McKay put together to investigate the problem. "A lot of people in Fairfax County don't have a full appreciation for who is responsible for what, and we think something needs to be done about that."

ENTERTAINMENT

Del Ray Celebrates Local Music

One of Del Ray's own to perform in music festival.

BY ROSS SYLVESTRI The Gazette

el Ray Music Week will be held June 18-22. Along with Music Week, the Del Ray Music Festival will be held on Saturday, June 23. Alexandria's Kate Moran, lead singer in the Kate Moran Band and also the festival's chair, will perform. Moran also helped create the festival.

The festival was created in 2006 to have

"an event that was just a music festival for Del Ray," said Moran, unlike other festivals which had music as one part. She also says that it's a chance to highlight the musicians in the

Del Ray Music Week, which was started in 2011, features several bands at different locations in Del Ray. Moran said that Music Week started with the idea of trying to get people to explore the community since the festival is only one day. It also allows new acts to perform each year at the festival, while still bringing back popular

possible with the support of the local business community. "It's fully sponsored by Del Ray businesses," said Moran. In addition to the support from businesses, Moran said that the festival wouldn't be possible without volunteers, like the food vendors and the event coordinator.

Moran always had an interest in performing from a young age, starting with putting on plays for her family. She also had in an interest in being in her own band. "It was kind of a dream that I had in my head, 'It would be awesome to have my own rock band," she said.

> IN 2006, MORAN **CREATED** the Kate Moran Band and became its lead singer. She continues to sing in the band today, in addition to her fulltime job at the Department of Education and pursuing her doctorate at George Mason University.

Moran never expected that she would be the leader singer in a band. She said that she was always someone who would just sing in the background

plays. "I had always dreamt about being a singer in a band, but I never really thought of myself as a front person for a band."





Gabrielle and Adiah Leverette look over the stickers and tattoos available as prizes in the children's corner at 2011's Del Ray Music Festival.

Schedule

MONDAY/JUNE 18

Chad Christian at Kiskadee, 5-6 p.m. Rick Irby (of Lightfoot) at Show of Hands, 6-7 p.m.

Addieville at Vital, 6:30-7:30 p.m. CallingMary at Eclectic Nature, 7-8:30

p.m. **The Weathervanes** at Farmers Market, 7-9 p.m.

Oklahoma Car Crash and Mary Mary Quite Contrary at Labels

Exchange, 7-9 p.m. **Ella Sophia** at Artfully Chocolate, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Highballers at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 8-10 p.m.

Brittany Jean at Evening Star, 8-10

TUESDAY/JUNE 19

Del Ray Performing Arts Center at Bellies and Babies, 5-6 p.m.

Alex Sussman at Kiskadee, 5-6 p.m. Brian Pagels at Show of Hands, 6-7

p.m. **The Walkaways** at Vital, 6:30-7:30

Mars Rodeo at Eclectic Nature, 7-8:30

Dr. Tim Parks at Farmers Market, 7-9

Emy Tseng at Cheesetique, 7-9 p.m. Anthony Pirog (of Janel and Anthony) and Insect Factory at

Labels Exchange, 7-9 p.m. **Kristina Furey** at Artfully Chocolate, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Dear Creek at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 8-

10 p.m. **The NRIs** at Evening Star, 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

Harris Face at Kiskadee, 5-6 p.m. **Rainbow Lady & Princess** Fiddlesticks at Bellies and Babies,

The Scrub Pines at Show of Hands, 6-

7 p.m. **The Mercy Alliance** at Vital, 6:30-

Black Muddy River Band at Eclectic Nature, 7-8:30 p.m. **Lethal Peanut** at Farmers Market, 7-9

Thirteen Towers and Four Mile

Run at Labels Exchange, 7-9 p.m. Herb & Hanson at Artfully Chocolate, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Andrea Pais at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub,

The Beanstalk Library at Evening Star, 8-10 p.m.

THURSDAY/JUNE 21

Evan Bliss and the Welchers at Farmers Market, 7-9 p.m. **Mike Bowers** at Kiskadee, 5-6 p.m. Groovy Nate at Bellies and Babies, 5-6

Janna Audey at Show of Hands, 6-7 p.m. **Rodger French Trio** at Vital, 6:30-

Vico Cycle at Eclectic Nature, 7-8:30

Talk It and Harness Flux (John Metropolitan), 7-9 p.m.

Bernie and Melissa Stoltz at Artfully Chocolate. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Not So Modern Jazz Band at St.

Elmo's Coffee Pub, 8-10 p.m. Tiffany Thompson at Fireflies, 8-10

Adrian Krygowski at Evening Star, 8-



Adam Muhlendorf and Allison de la Torre dance to the music of the Harley String Band at the 5^{th} annual Del Ray Music Festival in 2011.

Del Ray Music Week

The 6th Annual Del Ray Music Festival kicks off with Del Ray Music Week, Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22. Each evening between 5-10 p.m., local bands will perform at indoor and outdoor venues leading up to the festival on Saturday, June 23.

Fifty bands from the D.C. metro area are set to perform, including the WeatherVanes, The NRIs, Adrian Krygowski, Wytold, Dear Creek, Herb & Hanson, Velvet Undertronic, Lethal Peanut, Talk It, Tiffany Thompson, and Owen Danoff. Fans of folk, rock, indie, soul, country, jazz, world music, children's music, punk, pop, reggae, experimental, bossa nova, and classical should come out and see the shows.

Venues are located in the 1500 to 2700 blocks of Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All venues are Metro accessible via Yellow and Blue lines at Braddock Road (10 to 15 min walk). DASH and Metro Bus also serve the neighborhood.

Del Ray Music Festival

The Del Ray Music Festival will be on Saturday, June 23, at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields at 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Visit www.delraymusicfestival.com.

Schedule (con't.)

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

Amber Dutton at Bellie's and Babies, 5-6 p.m. Owen Danoff at Show of Hands, 6-7 p.m. Velvet Undertonic at Del Ray Artisans, 6-8 p.m. **50 Man Machine** at Vital, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Andrew Acosta and the New Old-Time String

Band at Eclectic Nature, 7-8:30 p.m. Wytold at Cheesetique, 7-9 p.m. I&I Riddim at Farmers Market, 7-9 p.m. **Orchard Wall** at Labels Exchange, 7-9 p.m. **Art Hildebrand** at Artfully Chocolate, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tiffany Thompson at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 8-10





ENTERTAINMENT

Carlyle Hosts Food, Wine Festival

Foodies and grape lovers can gather to enjoy fine cuisines and Virginia wines at the 1st Annual Alexandria's Food & Wine Festival on Saturday, June 23.

This inaugural signature event will transform Old Town's Carlyle District into a lively festival with live entertainment, a children's corner, food and wine tasting, a food demonstration showcase area and a VIP networking reception for sponsors. Local restaurants will compete for the best appetizer, the best main course and the best dessert.

Attendees will be able to sample food and wine from a variety of local restaurants and Virginia wineries

Alexandria's Food and Wine Festival 2012 participating restaurants include: The Chart House, Delia's Mediterranean Grill, San Antonio Bar & Grill, Walker's Grille, Clydes at Mark Center, Rita's Ice Custard, Indigo Landing, Alexandria Cupcake, La Tasca and Jamieson Grille.

Wineries include: Mattaponi Winery, Unicorn Winery, Prince Michel Vineyard and Winery, Lake Anna Winery, Glass House Winery, DelFosse Vineyard and Winery and Cedar Creek Winery.

The judging panel consist of Lisa Shapiro, dining reporter for the Washington Examiner and Founder of Dining in DC; Molly Ahearn from regional foodie website TheListAreYouOnIt.com; and Darik Kristofer, radio personality from 94.7 Fresh FM. More judges will be added and announced on the festival website.

The festival provides the opportunity to give back to the community through local non-profit organizations. Active duty military families will receive one



Details

Saturday, June 23, 2012 from noon-5 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria. 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Close to the King Street Metro station. Call 703-624-0245 or visit www.alexandriafoodandwine.com/

Event is free; tickets are needed to sample food and beverages. Each booklet of 25 taste tickets is \$20. Wine tastes are \$10.

1st Annual Alexandria's Food and Wine Festival is presented by S and B Event Management LLC in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Carlyle Community Council

free book (25 taste tickets) per family, while supplies last, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Carpenter's Shelter of Alexandria.

Festival sponsors include Post Properties, NOVA Advertising, George Washington University and Indigo Landing.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 21

Great Books Discussion Group. 7-8:30p.m. Located in the Story Time Room. Call Bill Scouton, 703-931-3559. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

Paws To Read. 15-minute session starting at 5:30 p.m. Grades 1-6. Sign-up required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

Music At Twilight Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park. Musical performance by the Alexandria Singers, featuring pop choral. 300 John Carlyle St. Call 703-746-5418.

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

Alexandria Citizens Band

Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. in front of City Hall. The Alexandria Citizens Band, the City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization, is celebrating 100 years. Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-5592.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 23

Field Day. The Alexandria Radio Club will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Armistead Boothe Park, 520 Cameron Station Boulevard, between 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the picnic pavilion area. The public is invited to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license. To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergencyradio.org.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit

www.hooray4books.com.

Hooray for Books! Turns 4! 10 a.m. 6 p.m.celebrate with a special story time, and activities throughout the day for kids. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Food & Wine Festival. Sample food and wine from a variety of local restaurants and Virginia wineries. John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. noon-5pm. Call 703-624-0245 or visit www.alexandriafoodandwine.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 24

Chamber Music. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association 2012 (22nd) Annual Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.wmpamusic.org. E-mail wmpa@earthlink.net or call 703-799-8229.

Annual Brunch. The Board of Lady Managers, Founder and Supporter Since 1872, of Inova Alexandria Hospital will host their 14th Annual Brunch at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union Street, Alexandria, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. A donation of \$25, \$35, or \$50 will benefit the Inova Alexandria Hospital for the purchase of Anesthesia Machines. Call 703-370-6798 or 703-765-0004.

Exhibition. Artist's reception from 4 - 6 p.m. Free. The Northern Virginia Fine Art Association announces the next exhibition in the Athenaeum Gallery: *Native Ground* by Rob McDonald. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria.

JUNE 24 - JULY 29

"Spice it Up!" At the Torpedo
Factory's Scope Gallery featuring
experimental ceramic art, vibrant
glazes and whimsical forms for all
things saucy and spicy. Monday
through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6
p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. The
gallery is located at 105 North Union
Street, ground floor Studio 19,
Alexandria,VA. 22314. Call Scope
Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit
www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/
scope.

Entertainment

In the Company of James Madison, June 1812 Discuss the Outbreak of War at Presidential Salon

The date is June 24, 1812 and the nation is now at riod and the man, John Douglas Hall has presented his cabinet and Mrs. Madison will discuss the nation's recent declaration of war against England and commencing hostilities. Talks

will allude to the war plans and other matters pertaining to this change in our nation's events.

Join this conversation with the fourth President of the United States, in the context of his own time, and be a witness to the events of this year of 1812 as the events unfold. Be a party to the public debate in the company of James Madison, as presented by John Douglas Hall, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum in this on-going series of presidential salons which continues through 2014.

Since 1985, John Douglas Hall has been following the life of James Madison on a day-by-day basis. He offers an opportunity for today's audiences to engage James Madison in conversation in the context of Madison's own time. In appearance, in content, syntax, and with a remarkable command of the pe-

war with England. President James Madison with James Madison in numerous, academic, governmental, public and private forums for more than 25

> In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Gadsby's Tavern was the center of social and political life in Alexandria and the new Federal City of Washington. The tavern served as the premier gathering place for residents — including George Washington — and visitors to eat, drink, learn, and influence history. The salon, held in the Main Dining Room of Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, Sunday, June 24, 3-4:30 p.m; check-in will be at Gadsby's Tavern Mu-

seum, 134 North Royal Street. Reservations are recommended and tickets to each event are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Madeira, Port and other libations will be available for purchase at the event. To purchase tickets, visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242. The next salon with President Madison is scheduled for July 22, 2012.

Alexandria Voted in Top Arts Destinations

A new reader poll conducted by AmericanStyle magazine ranks Alexandria fourth among the nation's best arts destinations.

Rising from an 8th place ranking last year, Alexandria beat the 2011 mid-size cities winner, New Orleans, as well as perennial favorites Savannah, Miami and Charleston. The top three spots went to St. Petersburg, Dayton and Tampa. Alexandria has had a top 10 ranking since 2010.

Torpedo Factory Art Center, as well as an eclectic collection of art galleries, a public art collection of more than 40 works of art and the Art League, one of the nation's largest and oldest multi-service organizations for artists. The city's Fall Arts Jubilee features a spectrum of signature events throughout the city, from outdoor art festivals to indoor performances, exhibitions and films.

To see the complete list of the Top 25 Art Destina-Alexandria is home to the internationally renowned tion, Mid-Size Cities, visit www.americanstyle.com.

Calendar

MONDAY/JUNE 25

Little Wonders. 10:30-11:15 a.m. children's program, ages 12-23 months with an adult. Sign-up required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

Books The Bagic is Real. 7 p.m. Marvel at Joe Romano's magic show. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult at the program. Call the Burke Information Desk to register at 703-746-1704 x3. Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library. 4701 Seminary Road.

TUESDAY/JUNE 26

SUMMERQUEST JR. 10 a.m. Children's program, for ages 0-5 with an adult. James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library. 2501 Commonwealth Avenue. Call 703-746-1705.

SUMMERQUEST JR. 11 a.m. Children's program, for ages 0-5 with an adult. Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library. 717 Queen Street, 22314. Call 703-746-1703.

Paws to Read. 5:30-6:30p.m. Children's program, for grades 1-6. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library. 2501 Commonwealth Avenue. Call 703-

Time For 2's. 10:30 a.m. Children's program, ages 24-36 months with an adult. Sign-up required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central

Library. 5005 Duke Street. **Baby Rhyme Time**. 11:30 a.m.

Children's program, ages 0-11months with an adult. Sign-up required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

Hands on History Tent. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come build your own model sailboat and race it against others. Other activities include designing a flag, writing with a quill pen and trying on colonial clothes. The event is free, sailboat craft \$5, and designed for children ages 3-12. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail carlyle@nvrpa.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

Lunch Bunch Concert: The Russkie Musikanti. noon - 1 p.m. Musical performance by The Russkie Musikanti, an ensemble of the Washington Balalaika Society, featuring Russian folk music, series held in partnership with Tishman Spever, Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Call 703-746-5418.

Bridal Showcase. 7 - 9 p.m. Free. Event Photography is hosting select local wedding vendors for a wedding and bridal show. Make connections with high quality vendors representing photography, cakes, transportation, music, venues, catering, and more. Occasionally Cake, 207 King St, Alexandria.

SUMMERQUEST Shazam Magic.

4:30 p.m. Children's program, for ages 6-12. Children only. James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library. 2501 Commonwealth Avenue. Call 703-746-1705.

Family Storytime. 7 p.m. Children's program. Bring the whole family to enjoy stories and songs. No registration required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

SUMMERQUEST Jr. "Oh Susannah!" Concert. 10:30 a.m. Children's program. Ages 0-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-746 1702x5 or visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

SUMMERQUEST: Storyteller Diane Macklin . 4 p.m. Children's program. Ages 6-12. Registration required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or visit children's desk, Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library. 5005 Duke Street.

Hangover Royale (Swing) - Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. Lee District Park. For directions and information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/or myspace.com/hangoverroyale.

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

World Short Story Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Discussing stories from the book, Other Voices, Other Vistas edited by Barbara Solomon. Please call the adult services/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

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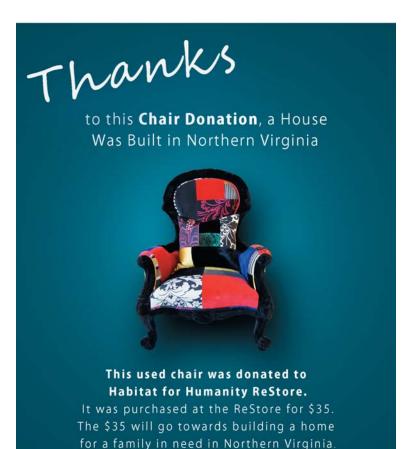
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ENTERTAINMENT

Flavors to Savor in Clay

As temperatures tip toward toasty, potters are trending to the wild side of summer seasonings in a "Spice it Up!" show at the Torpedo Factory's Scope Gallery.

Displays are peppered with experimental ceramic art, vibrant glazes and whimsical forms for all things saucy and spicy.

A dash of inspiration comes with sculpted salt cellars. Handled double dishes hold condiments, nuts and sweets. Dispensers serve savory olive oil, vinegar, soy sauce and other dressings. Embrace zesty seasonings with artisan garlic pots, sauce and syrup pitchers and dishes for every detail of the tablescape.

Organically-formed salt and pepper shaker sets add playful spunk. A porcelain butter dish shows geometric flare with its folded lid and saucer. Squared bowls hold red-hot salsas and chutneys while artistan

chip and dips elevate vegetables, breads and salty snacks.

sweet honey

pot or a

tangy relish

Find

Details

The Ceramic Guild show runs June 24 to July 29; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, Thursdays until 9 p.m. 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope

tray. A quirky textured cream and sugar set adds flavor to morning joe or afternoon tea. Handpainted lidded jars hold jam, mustard or olives.

The Ceramic Guild is an organization of more than 40 juried Washington, D.C. area artists. Organization members exhibit themed shows every other month at the artist-run cooperative Scope Gallery in **condiment dishes by Suan Ying of Vienna.** Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center.



Textured cream pitcher and sugar bowl set by Rebecca Zweibel of Alexandria.



Porcelain eggplant and pear salt cellars/

From Page 23

reference desk, 703-746-1704 for stories. Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

Story Time. 10:30a.m or 3 p.m. Children's program, ages 3-5 (children only). Sign-up required. Call 703-746-1702x5 or

ALENDAR visit children's desk. Charles E. Beatley, Jr.

Central Library. 5005 Duke Street. J. Hayden. Opening for En Vogue. 7:30 p.m. The Music Hall. Tickets are on sale now at www.jworldrecords.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Serenade! Festival. 7:30 p.m. "Opening Celebration" with a welcome address by Alexandria's Mayor W. D. Euille. Take a trip around the world with this opening festival concert that will feature exciting and unique performances presented by choirs from Canada (Countermeasure and Cantaré Children's Choir), Colombia (Verata e Liberi), Australia (Young Adelaide Voices) and the USA (Boston City Singers). At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Serenade Festival. 12 noon. Free. Lunch time treat at Alexandria's Market Square, 301 King Street.

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Concert By 2012 Serenade. Noon-1 p.m. Concert by 2012 Serenade! Washington, D.C. Choral Festival. Hear music presented by choirs from Colombia, Australia and the United States. Market Square, 301 King St., call 703-746-5592.

Anthony James Band (Southern Rock) - Mt. Vernon Nights at Grist Mill at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/or myspace.com/anthonyjamesband

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Chopteeth (Afrofunk) - Mt. Vernon Nights at Workhouse Arts Center (Lorton) at 7:00 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ or www.chopteeth.com. Chopteeth is a 12-piece Afrofunk orchestra exploring the common groove between the funkiest, most hipshakin' West African and American popular music on the planet.

Serenade Festival's "African **Evening."** 6 p.m. Free. In partnership with Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Classical Movements will present two exhilarating choirs from Africa (Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society and Voices of Namibia). At Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 South Alfred Street, Alexandria

How to Get To Wonderful. 5:15-6:45 p.m. Ronna Webb, Reiki Master, leads this 90-minute class on creating the life you want. Cost is \$47. At Alexandria Massage Therapy 1217 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548

The Clan MacLeod North American Gathering at the Alexandria Crowne-Plaza Hotel will have the Stanley R. Mcleod Memorial Lecture, open to the public, by Australian John MacLeod at 9 p.m.

Nature-Based Preschool Open House. 9-11:00 a.m. Free. Come see this mini-farm located on two acres adjoining Huntley Meadows Park. This year-round, non-profit preschool serves children 18 months to prekindergarten. Frog Pond Early Learning Center, 7204 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-7663 or visit www.FrogPondKids.org.





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Sports

FHYAA Softball All-Stars Win 10U Championship

his past Father's Day weekend the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association (FHYAA) fielded three teams to play in the end of season Fairfax County Girls Softball League (FCGSL) fast pitch softball tourna-

The 10U team ended the tournament by winning the championship game on Sunday and completed the tournament with a 4-0 record. This year's 10U team combined the best players from the Fort Hunt and Mount Vernon softball programs and resulted in a team that won all four games and ultimately crowned 1st place champions.

The team was coached by Daryl Davidson, Craig Stowers, John Daly and John Castillo.

THE 12U TEAM also had a strong showing, finishing the tournament with a record of 2-1-1 and fell just short of the 1st place trophy losing in the championship game 8-7.

In a statement, 12U Head Coach Mike O'Connor said, "The girls did an exceptional job and really came together as a team. We



Members of the Fort Hunt 10U All Star Team. Prone: Scarlett Anderson, kneeling, from left, Megan Huck, Nekia Aiken, Sophia Castillo, Farrin McMaster, standing, from left, Jennavieve Miller, Maggie Daly, Caroline Magro, Tiffany Stowers, Claire Davidson, and back row from left, John Daly, Craig Stowers, John Castillo and Daryl Davidson. Not pictured is 10U all-star Leia Surovell.

were very pleased to see them have a great time while playing softball to the best of their abilities. Hopefully they came out of the tournament with some great memories and a nice boost to hopefully motivate them to keep working to improve at softball. As we told them after the game every single player on the team was an important part of our success at the tournament."

The team was coached by Mike O'Connor, Bob Aramony and Dale Dorris

THE 18U TEAM fell short of the championship game but still finished the tournament with a 2-2 record. After losing two games on Saturday, the 18U all-stars came back on Father's Day to win both games and end the tournament on a high note.

The team was coached by Jim Miller, Ron Dillard and Tony Magro Fort Hunt Softball is a fast pitch softball program for girls ages 6 through 18. This program is organized under the umbrella of the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association which has been serving the Fort Hunt community since 1959. See www.fhyaa.org/softball.



Members of the Fort Hunt 12U All-Star Team. Kneeling, from left, Josie Sara, Avery O'Connor, Alekzandra Pierpoint, Alex Dorris, Ava Alonso, standing, from left, Head Coach Mike O'Connor, Naomi Masterson, Emilie Becker, Caroline Bowman, Skyler Roberts, Victoria Rulapaugh, Micaela Neulight, Sarah Atkinson, Assistant Coaches Dale Dorris and Bob Aramony. Not pictured but selected as all-stars by their coaches are Grace Moery, Emma Klein and Katie Aramony.



Members of the Fort Hunt 18U All-Star Team: Standing, from left, Harley Devine, Sarah Kanuch, Annabelle Miller, Elizabeth "Izzy" Crawn, Elizabeth Drotos, Caitlin Magro, Sarah Lowe, Christina Dillard, Clara Boggs, Tanna Pelto, Angela Kammen, Jordan Quinonez and Marina Endahl.

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Represented at Women in Sports Ceremony

West Potomac cross country/track and field coach Jenn Dietz, senior softball player Maggie Grady and senior runner Sarah Jane Underwood were recognized at Fairfax County Public Schools' annual Women in Sports Awards ceremony on June 3.

Dietz was named High School Coach of the year and received \$1,000 to use toward the cross country/track program.

Grady was awarded the Donna de Varona Spirit of Sport Award and will receive a \$1,200 scholarship to use at the University of Virginia. Underwood was named High School Sportswoman of the Year and will receive a \$1,200 scholarship to use at Penn State University.

WPHS DB Wilson Signs with Sacred Heart

TaMaric Wilson, a 2012 graduate of West Potomac High School and a former defensive back on the school's football team, has signed a letter of intent to play at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., in the fall. Wilson was a three-year starter at free safety for the Wolverines, leading the defensive backs in solo tackles; assisted tackles; total tackles and defended passes. He was a team captain and first-team All-Patriot District selection.

Wilson was also a standout in the classroom. He was nominated as one of 30 National High School Scholar Athletes representing the Eastern Region by the National Football Foundation.

Wilson also played basketball, made the honor roll and won the school's Most Valuable Team Athlete award for the 2011-12 school year.

Mount Vernon Athletes To Compete in College

Mount Vernon High School will have several athletes participate in college athletics next season. Damaro DaCosta will play soccer for Radford University. Amardo Oakley, Ishmael Castro and Hatzael Diaz Flores will play soccer for Louisburg. David Lehner will play base

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 26

SCHOOLS

Making a Prom Dream Come True for Chronically Ill

West Potomac student coordinates a No Worries Now Prom.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON THE GAZETTE

our days before her June 15 graduation from West Potomac High School, Sara Sanders was at the Washington D.C. No Worries Now Prom that she coordinated with the help of local donations and volunteers.

Sanders said she organized the prom, which was held at the Top of the Town in Alexandria, for the No Worries Now Organization, which is a non-profit based in Los

"The D.C. prom was for teens with lifethreatening and chronic illnesses," Sanders said, who has been involved in the organization for a few years.

"No Worries Now is a non-profit organization," Executive Director Marta Belcher said. "We put on proms for teens with lifethreatening illnesses who may not live long enough to attend their own proms."

She added that this year is No Worries Now's sixth annual prom season.

"We've done it in LA and in San Francisco in the past," Belcher said. "This year, we had something called Prom in a Box, where we gave volunteers around the country the tools and support they need to throw Now proms in their cities.'

Sanders was the volunteer for Washing-

"Sara is an incredible volunteer," Belcher said. "She heard about us on CNN and she is amazing. She is really, really mature and she volunteered to put on the prom in Washington D.C. She did all the groundwork for it which was a lot of work and the event was really fabulous."

Sanders said the organization asked her if she'd like to plan the D.C. prom and she accepted the challenge. "So that's how that came about," she said. "The process of or-



Sara Sanders, second from left, with her team of volunteers from West Potomac high School.

of what I needed to get done."

She said she also did research on her own and pulled together a group of volunteers to help at the actual event, who were all West Potomac High School students them-

She also said she "had a great response of people donating the venue and other services like the caterer, and so on."

Sanders also said there were weekly conference calls since the previous August to make sure the event would go off without

"I had been working on this since the August before, so I'd been working on it for just under a year." Sanders said.

Due to HIPAA laws, Sanders said she could not put together a list of actual invitees but she was able to work with Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. hospitals who spread the word.

"What we did was work with local hospitals and they extended the invitation on our behalf," Sanders said.

She said she was really pleased with the number of guests.

"It was a really great turnout," she said. "Fifty people showed up."

She herself was at the prom, too, because she "had to make sure everything went

ganizing it involved them giving me a list smoothly and we had a lot of high school volunteers as well."

> Not only was Sanders pleased with the number of attendees, but she said the evening's activities went flawlessly.

> "It was fantastic," she said. "At the entrance desk, everyone signed in and as they signed in, each girl got a white stemmed long rose with a ribbon around it. For the boys, we cut off the head of a rose right there and pinned the rose on their shirts. They had their date pin it on, or whoever they came with."

> Sanders also said that at the end of the night, "each person got to go home with a frame with sparkling matting that said 'Prom 2012' and a photo from their group taken at one site."

> It was high school photography students who did the roaming photography and a local photographer took the standing portraits, she said.

> "Everything was all either donated services or monetary donations," Sanders said. "And the volunteers were all friends of mine who were willing to jump in and help when

> Sanders said donors included: FT Fitness, Georgen Scarborough Associates, PC, Dr. Brandon Lemuel, Chiropractor, Four Sales LTD and Inventory Inspector LLC.

"Vendors who donated their services for the night's event were Superb Cuisines, Disc Jockeys On Call and Top of the Town," she

Sanders said she couldn't be happier about the No Worries Now Prom that she

"I was so excited about it," she said. "It was so great to see because, as the name implies, it was a night of no worries and we actually had the Fairfax County Channel 21 and Channel 9 did something on their 11 o'clock news that night."

No Worries Now also has upcoming proms this week in Detroit, San Francisco and Sacramento, according to Belcher. Both the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. proms went

Even though the proms have been the program's focus, Belcher said No Worries Now is moving onto other projects and

"We have several other projects besides the NOW proms," Belcher said. "We also have a pair program that we're launching at some point soon, probably this summer."

This program will allow children and teenagers with such diseases to do more activities outside of homes and hospitals, Belcher said.

Belcher added that No Worries Now also participates in umbilical cord blood banking advocacy.

"The main focus of our organization is to do things now, and since umbilical cord blood can cure over 70 diseases, this is something with very immediate."

As for the proms, Belcher said, prom season and planning never really ends.

"We went from one prom in a year seven years ago to five this year," she said. "It will grow, that's my hope. We're potentially going international next year so I'm really excited."

As for Sanders, now she said she is preparing to start her freshman year at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. She said she will continue her involvement with the program while living the college life in the midwest.

SPORTS BRIEFS

From Page 25

ball for Alderson-Broaddus College. Nicole Parker will run track at North Carolina A&T. Nicholas Campbell (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Ethan Lane Singletary (Mary Washington) and Caroline Spivack (Randolph Macon) will swim at the next level.

Aces' Buccilli Named CRCBL Player of the Week

Alexandria Aces outfielder Alex Buccilli was named Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Player of the Week for the extended first week of the season.

Buccilli, a junior at Coastal Carolina University, went 13 for 32 (.406) with two doubles, a triple and two home runs from

Buccilli and the Aces were 7-5 entering action on June 20. Alexandria was tied for fourth place in the 10-team league, two games behind the first-place Rockville Ex-

Kevin Francke (Trinity) is hitting .308 for the Aces. On the mound, the team has four pitchers who have thrown at least 10 innings with an ERA less than 4.00 — Colin Milon (0.69), Ronnie Glenn (1.80), A.J. Rosenthal (2.70) and Brian Leon (3.60).

Alexandria will host Silver Spring-Takoma at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 21.



Pictured from left: Sandra Hooks (mother), TaMaric Wilson, Stacey Wilson (father), coach Chad Louisville, coach Justin Gaudenzi, DSA Aaron Helmick, coach Eric Henderson.



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Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy. R on Tulane. L on Park Terrace. R on Huntly to 1208 on right.





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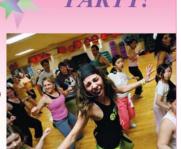


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