# Mount Pernon Gazette



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Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

August 2 2012



Approximately 150 Mount Vernon residents filled the cafeteria at Belle View Elementary School on Monday evening, July 30, for the Westgrove Park Master Plan public information meeting. Linwood Gorham, Mount Vernon representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority addresses the gathering. Standing to the right of Gorham is Sandy Stallman, Fairfax County park planning manager.

# Planning Park's Future

# Two-year interim use approved as master plan moves forward.

By Gerald A. Fill The Gazette

fter a protracted community debate over the past two years on whether or not to establish an Off Leash Dog Park (OLDA) within Westgrove Park, the Fairfax County Park Authority, with the concurrence of the Planning Commission, recently approved an Interim Use OLDA at Westgrove Park for two years.

The genesis of the debate about the long-term vision for Westgrove Park was fostered by the community organization, Pumphouse Association for Canine Kindness (PACK). It was formed by dog owners to convince the county government to establish an Off Leash Dog Park at Westgrove Park. Until then some dog owners frequented the park to allow their pet dogs to run free. The problem was this violated the county's leash law and several dog owners were issued fines for violating the leash law.

This situation and the growing need for an area for local dog owners to exercise their dogs led to the formation of PACK, and a petition drive which collected approximately 500 signatures in support of creating an OLDA in Westgrove Park. It has been a natural resources park for many years, but without a master plan to establish its long term uses.

On Monday night, July 30, the Park Authority held a public hearing and kicked off the master planning process to determine the long-term uses of the park.

The interim use designation for an Off Leash Dog Park for two years that was granted by the Park Authority is unusual but not precedent setting. Park Authority spokeswoman Judith Peterson

said that one other dog park has been established on an interim basis: the Mountain Run Off Leash Dog Area. Another interim use Park Authority designation has been a radio- controlled aircraft flying area (for model airplanes) in Poplar Ford Park. Both are located in the Sully Magisterial District and, after serving on an interim basis for one and two years respectively, both have now been converted to long-term use designations.

Approximately 150 people filled Belle View Elementary School to listen to the Park Authority staff brief them on the master planning process and take advantage of the community's opportunity to participate in influencing Park Authority staff on what will likely take about a year to complete. After taking into account the community's views, Park Authority staff will make public a draft report, allow time for analysis, and hold a more formal hearing in which individuals and organizations may testify at a public hearing or file their written comments on a draft plan. A final plan will then be developed and will be forwarded to the Park Authority Board for its review and vote.

Environmental protection advocates who support keeping the park in its natural state and oppose the off leash dog park continued to voice their views on keeping the park in its natural state. A number of residents also were present who voiced their support for establishing a permanent off leash dog park. In addition, some attendees recommended approving the park site to play rugby.

Other speakers wanted to maintain the park in its natural state and link it to Dyke Marsh immediately east of the park. A few expressed concern about the potential safety issues that might occur in the park at night. A discussion took place as to whether or not to lock the park at night, and the dangers of exiting onto Fort Hunt road. On the security issues a Fairfax County on-duty police officer said that he did not believe it would be useful to lock the gate at night. He also proposed prohibiting cars from making a left turn out of

SEE MASTER PLAN, PAGE 3

# No More Details

# Fairfax and Arlington reject FOIA requests by Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

By Gerald A. Fill The Gazette

he Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Account ability, Inc. received a qualified "No" from the Fairfax County Police to four FOIA requests the community organization sent last month. A fifth FOIA request to the Arlington County police did provide some FOIA-related information.

The four FOIA letters to the Fairfax County police covered the shooting deaths of four individuals going back six years; all investigations have been completed and all the cases have been closed. Fairfax County police used deadly force in each of these cases in what CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante characterized as "questionable circumstances" that

caused the death of all four. Two were unarmed, a third, according the Arlington police, had a air-soft gun disguised as a real gun, and another deceased individual allegedly was going for the gun while sitting in a car. This latter individual, Randall Leroy Collins, was shot multiple times while sitting in the car.

The CCPA obtained an autopsy report, autopsy photos, and an account from the family that, according to Beltrante, provides compelling evidence that the shooting death in this case should be investigated by an independent authority.

"Unless and until the police case files and related background investigation reports are released we can only speculate about the facts; whether or not police misconduct SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

# Beacon for the Future

# Urban development may be a sign of things to come on Route 1.

By Michael Lee Pope The Gazette

hen the high-end residential units at the Heights at Groveton open next month, Richmond Highway will begin a new chapter in its long history. A corridor long known for big-box stores and vast parking lots will now feature a new landmark building, one that's already dominating the skyline where Memorial Street crosses the highway. The building has 290 units that rent for \$2.75 to \$3 a square foot, with studio apartments starting at \$1,600 a month.

"These are rental rates you would expect to see in downtown D.C.," said David Ben, marketing

director for the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. "We've got developers pounding down our doors saying they're willing to go once they see this project does."

A lot is riding on the Beacon of Groveton. As the first-of-its-kind urban development, developer Redbrick Partners is hoping that the market for high-end rental properties will emerge in suburban Groveton. The transformation from urban sprawl to urban scale is one that many people hope will be a sign of things to come along the corridor. Considering the decades of economic studies and planning exercises that have been conducted over the last two decades, some say progress has been

SEE BEACON, PAGE 4

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### News

# Hyland Praises John Byers' Depth of Community Service

By Gerry Hyland Mount Vernon District Supervisor

t is with extreme sadness that I must share with you that my good friend and former Planning Commissioner John Byers passed away Sunday [July 29] at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. John's love for Mount Vernon was only surpassed by his love for

#### IN REMEMBRANCE his wife Peggy and his

Leslie and Dan. Never before has one person given so much of his time, energy and intellect to improve his community, county, commonwealth and country. The depth of his devotion to public service is inestimable. The Byers family's loss of their patriarch, John, is a loss for the entire Mount Vernon Community.

three children Susan,

At the time of his passing, John was serving on no less than six boards, authorities or committees for Fairfax County to include the Water Authority, Human Services Coun-

cil, Economic Advisory Commission, Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group, the Barbara Baron Volunteer Award Selection Committee, and the A. Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee.

John previously served as Mount Vernon's Planning Commissioner for 21 years, 10 of them as vice-chair of the Planning Commission. John also served on the PLUS Committee, the precursor to the Comprehensive Plan, and was chair of the Fairfax County Group Residential Facilities Commission. He served on every Area Plan Review Task Force for the Mount Vernon District and was chair of the Mount Vernon Visioning Task Force's Land Use Committee. John was a member of the Mount Vernon Council's Planning and Zoning Committee for over 35 years and was elected four times to serve as president of the Williamsburg Manor North Community Association. He was a charter member of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation and was the

Mount Vernon Council's Citizen of the Year in 1994.

His vision and actions laid the framework for the revitalization and transformation of Richmond Highway from an automobile-oriented strip commercial area to a corridor comprised of community business centers filled with residential development between commercial nodes. Perhaps his greatest achievement is the development of Lorton and the Laurel Hill Parklands. His collaborative work with the Park Authority, Department of Planning and Zoning and Laurel Hill Task Force triggered the metamorphosis of a penitentiary into a thriving community of homes, schools, parks and a center for the arts.

John received his B.S. in military engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a M.B.A. from Central Michigan University. John retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army after 31 years of service during

World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit (four awards), the Soldiers Medal, the Bronze Star (two awards), the Air Medal (three awards), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (three awards) and the Purple Heart. He also retired from his second career as manager of the Arlington Offices of Data-Design Laboratories and was owner and director of the Prince Royal Galleries in Old Town Alexandria.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Belvoir Chapel (5950 12th Street — across from Dewitt Hospital). He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

John dedicated his life to the service of others. Every person who lives in the Mount Vernon District has benefitted from his tireless work on our behalf.

My friend and colleague, John will be deeply missed.



A young child hears the story of Jesus at the Last Supper washing the feet of the 12 disciples.



The thrill of a new pair of tennis shoes.



Twelve 9th grade volunteers came from Calvary Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Like Christ, 12 Samaritan's

# 250 Receive Shoes at Rising Hope

By Ed Simmons, Jr.
The Gazette

welve 9th grade Samaritan's Feet volunteers from Charlotte, N.C., washed the feet of 250 children Tuesday morning, July 31, at Rising Hope Mission Church.

While they worked bent over pans of teers. He is pastor of Calvary Church in

soapy warm water they told of Christ's example washing the feet of the 12 disciples at the Last Supper. Then each delighted child was fitted with a new pair of tennis

"This is a great way to get kids ready for school and tell them about Christ," said the Rev. Jim Cashwell who led the 12 volunteers. He is paster of Calvary Church in

Charlotta

"This is a way to train them to express the love of Christ in a practical way."

The whole congregation participates, raising money for 1,000 pairs of shoes.

The group toured Washington on Monday, praying for the nation at the Capitol then touring the Smithsonian. "This is a chance to serve and see at the same time,"

Feet volunteers wash feet.

said Cashwell. After visiting more churches, the group returns to Charlotte on Friday.

Samaritan's Feet is a global charity first organized by Manny Ohonme who received his first pair of shoes from a caring stranger when he was an impoverished little boy in Lagos, Nigeria.

Samaritan's Feet has provided shoes for 4.5 million children and adults in 60 nations.

# Two-year Interim Use Approved as Master Plan Moves Forward

From Page

the Fort Hunt road exit to reduce the potential for a car accident. Still others spoke about the need to balance the use of Westgrove Park as both an off leash dog park (will take up about 10 percent of the total property) as well as a natural resource park area to be used as an educational experience for the public. Some speakers spoke out in support of promoting a relationship between the park and the adjacent Belle View Elementary School.

Local elected and appointed county officials in attendance included Supervisor Gerald Hyland, Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan, Park Authority Board member

Linwood Gorham and numerous Mount Vernon area community activists.

The large gathering at this early stage of the master planning process for Westgrove Park was an indicator of the strong feelings for the positions taken over the past two years by natural resources advocates and off leash dog park advocates.

Steven Nixon, president of PACK, whose organization will be the volunteer community group responsible for maintaining the OLDA, invited collaboration with natural resource advocates and essentially held out an olive branch to those who previously opposed the off leash dog park. He called on the Friends of Dyke Marsh, Friends of

Westgrove Park and all others to work together with PACK to develop a park that meets the long-term needs and desires of everyone in the community.

Glenda Booth, a member of Friends of Dyke Marsh, spoke in behalf of her group and the National Audubon Society in recommending that there be an updated biological inventory; she pointed out that "the existing inventory was out of date — nine years old." Booth added that the Park Authority has a "historic bias favoring athletic fields and other active uses in the parks in the county." She called on the Park Authority to "correct the bias and do more to emphasize natural resources parks." Finally,

calling attention to the Audubon Society's emphasis on protecting birds, she noted the existence of studies that demonstrate that the presence of dogs reduces the presence of nesting birds and results in a drop in bird counts where dogs frequent an area.

Booth also circulated a copy of a letter signed by Jon James, superintendent of the U.S. National Park Services' George Washington Memorial Parkway. In his letter to the Friends of Westgrove Park he supported actions to develop a "protected natural area open to the public" and urged the community and county government to promote connectivity between the Dyke Marsh wild-life management area and Westgrove Park.

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The Heights at Groveton will open next month.

# Beacon for the Future

FROM PAGE 1 sluggish.

"Development and revitalization that has taken place on this corridor has lagged behind," said businessman Kahan Dhillon. "Look at Tysons and Merrifield and Springfield. They've all been revitalizing while we've been writing studies."

**ONE VISON** of the future includes an expanded Yellow Line, moving south beyond Huntington along Richmond Highway through Mount Vernon. That may seem like a distant dream right now, considering the money and politics caught up in building the Silver Line to Dulles International Airport. But Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has been pushing the issue for years. Although he acknowledges the discussion would take about 15 or 20 years, Surovell says Richmond Highway offers a realistic opportunity to expand the Metro line south.

"It's not a pipe dream," said Surovell.

"This is prime real estate, and if it had proper infrastructure serving it we would have the same kind of development as Arlington and Alexandria and Tysons Corner."

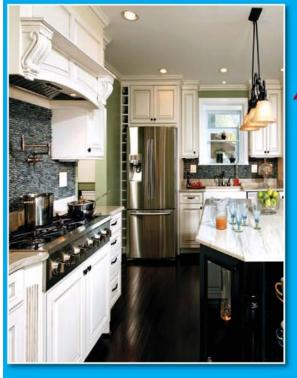
Surovell says that the Richmond Highway corridor offers a perfect storm for Metro expansion. Commercial real estate in Cameron Run leases for \$5 more per square foot than in Tysons Corner, an indication that demand can support increased development. Whereas the Silver Line is 20 miles long, extending the Yellow Line to Fort Belvoir would only require about eight miles of track. And because of the recent expansion at the fort, more people work there than the Pentagon. There's even a collapsible wall at the Huntington station.

"It make much more sense to extend a Metro line under that many people than it does to extend it way out into the suburbs like the Silver Line did," said Surovell. "But we don't have the infrastructure, and that's why we need to extend it."

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## News

# Police Reject FOIA Requests

FROM PAGE I occurred, and if there is a consistent practice of unnecessary use of deadly force," said Beltrante. "Did the police use deadly force when a Taser or Beanbag gun would have been adequate? Why was deadly force used at all in those incidents when the suspect was unarmed or was running away and not a threat to the police?"

Letters were sent in June by the CCPA to the Fairfax County police chief, and the

Arlington County police chief. The Fairfax County responses were signed by Karen Gibbons, senior assistant county attorney. In the one case in which the suspect was chased into Arlington County and shot by three Fairfax County police officers, the Arlington County police commander responded to the FOIA request with background information. Responses varied depending on the case. The details beyond what the police reported earlier was not made available. In each case the Fairfax County attorney denied the detailed information requested and invoked the "exemption from the mandatory disclosure requirements of FOIA pursuant to Va. Code Ann. 2.2-3706(F)(1)." The Arlington County police commander, David Bailey, who responded to one of the original FOIA requests, revealed that Hailu Brook, the bank robber suspect, was found to be in posses-

#### The Cases

Te Fairfax and Arlington County police refused to provide Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc. or the families of the deceased factual information in the form of Police Incident Reports and other investigation information on the following four cases. The basis of the refusal is the blanket exemption provision accorded Virginia police under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Name of Deceased	Date	Armed or Unarmed?	<b>Case Status</b>
David Masters	2010	Unarmed	Closed
Hailu Brook+	2008	"Armed"*	Closed
Randall Leroy Collins+	2007	Armed	Closed
Dr. Salvatore Culosi	2006	Unarmed	Closed

- \* Allegedly carried a replica of a gun resembling a real gun.
- + Shot multiple times

sion of "an air-soft replica handgun on which the orange safety tip and orange manufacturers logo had been painted black, giving it the appearance of a real handgun." The family of the deceased suspect told the CCPA that Brook was shot multiple times, including in the back. The CCPA proceeded to follow up the Arlington County police commander's first response with an amended FOIA request, sent July 7 with a request for details of the identity of the deceased, a copy of the note handed to a bank employee, etc. The Arlington County police responded to the amended FOIA request by invoking the blanket exemption as provided by the Virginia FOIA.

"The response to our FOIA letters is not surprising. It is further evidence to the public the degree of secrecy which the local police operate under in Fairfax County," said Beltrante.



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netry. Remodeled baths. Lots of light. Carport. It's a Gem! Minutes to Fort Belvoir, 15 to Metro and Old Town.



#### Alex./Wessynton \$649,900 8802 Four Seasons

Large, stunning, contemporary Colonial in popular Mount Vernon Community of Wessynton. This lovely home is highly updated: kitchen remodeled in '07, HVAC & hot water heater replaced '07, energy-efficient replacement windows, freshly painted interior – family room w/vaulted ceiling off kitchen – large beautiful picture windows throughout overlook a culdessac – In-law bedroom & bath

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



#### Alex./Riverwood \$792,500 9301 Ludgate Drive

Beautiful, brick 3-level colonial in prestigious waterfront community of Riverwood, with Potomac water views in the back. One of Riverwood's largest models, this stately home has over 3500 finished sq. ft. 5BR, 3.5 Ba, 2 fireplaces, fully finished basement, 2 car garage. Beautiful hdwd floors main and upper level. 2-tier deck

overlooks spectacular backyard. 5 min to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Reagan Nat'l Airport, and scenic commute along G.W. Pkwy and Potomac into D.C. This house is a gem!



#### Alex./Wessynton \$669,900 3210 Wessynton Way

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the market! Quality workmanship, beautiful wooded setting – just 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir – Priced in upper \$600's. Call Rex.



#### Alex./Mt. Vernon \$452,900 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

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 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.

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Pristine stone cottage

luxury master retreat with stone bath. Wood and stone floors throughout. Enjoy the lush landscaped exterior, breezeway to new cedar 2 car carport, and flagstone terrace. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. \$925,000

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#### New Price in Waynewood Open Sunday



large bedrooms, reno-

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the art kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on 2 fully finished levels with 2 car attached garage. Welcoming foyer, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, 3 season room just off kitchen opens to large patio.~ \$899,000

Four season

water views

backing to bike

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1/3 acre! State of

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luxurious modern touches. Grand entertainment areas inside and outside w/ pool and cabana. Impressive bedroom suites, sun filled morning room and spa inspired lower

level . 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. \$2,950,000. Adjacent parcel of .34 acres also available for \$1,050,000.

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6012 Florence Lane Alexandria, VA 22310

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rooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, with two car garage. Elevator and dock are optional. Upper level features study, loft space and wet bar leading out to deck which overlooks the water. Customize your dream home and live life on the waterfront. ~ \$1,590,000

8728 Thomas Stockton Pkwy Alexandria, VA 22308



The Market is Moving... Are You?



# **OPINION**

# On the Way To Improving U.S. 1 North of Fort Belvoir

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

he other day, I came across and article about the widening of Route 1 in Woodbridge. Be tween that and the coming federally-funded widening through Fort Belvoir, I often get queries from constituents who want to know why Route 1 is being improved there, but not between Woodlawn and the Beltway. There are two reasons — planning and money.

Before a road can be widened there are a series of required studies that lay the groundwork for construction. In our community, that process was started back in 1991 by state Sen. Toddy Puller who passed multiple resolutions through the General Assembly to initiate the planning process. That process was called the Route 1 Centerline Study — an effort to set the general configuration of Route 1 from Fredericksburg to Alexandria. That process chugged along until it bogged down on our stretch about 12 years ago over two problems

First, once possible road widening scenarios started to surface, businesses and communities began to voice concerns about the changes it would bring. Given the established nature of our community, widening would involve the relocation of dozens

of businesses. They were not happy. There were other complaints as well.

Second, Route 1 is part of the National Highway System. Any new centerline requires the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan calls for some mode of transit on Route 1 from Alexandria to Lorton — Metro, light rail or bus rapid transit. The FHWA will not approve a new centerline study incorporating transit without a study that demonstrates that the mode of transit contemplated is appropriate.

No one would pay for the transit study. Senator Puller passed a resolution in 2005 to pay for it, but it got bogged down in the politics of newly announced BRAC changes. A year ago Senator Puller and I pushed through a new resolution authorizing a transit study. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit has earmarked \$1 million and Fairfax County has applied for a federal grant to pay for the remainder. Federal grants will be announced this month and if it is rejected, the county has committed to pay for the balance and then we're off to the races.

The other big problem is a lack of money—the state has none. The gas tax was last raised to \$0.175 cents/gallon when I was a sophomore at West Potomac High School and gas cost \$0.95 per gallon. By statute, the state is required to fund maintenance

and administration before construction, but now even that is in trouble. VDOT has fired a third of their employees off their peak employment. The hay in our medians is now only harvested twice a year — or when I send an email complaining about a particular stretch. Roads in our area are increasingly potholed and patched instead of repaired. Over 25 percent of Fairfax County's secondary roads need to be paved.

Every new revenue proposal or gas tax increase has been dead on arrival at the House of Delegates. Last session, bills were even introduced by three Republicans — including the chairmen of the Transportation and Appropriations Committees — but their caucus is still dominated by anti-tax legislators who have signed the "No New Taxes" Pledge and Governor McDonnell has repeatedly said he will not support any tax increases.

In the last three years, the largest transportation state-funded project has been \$150 million. The widening of U.S. 1 is estimated to cost about \$900 million. It will take at least 10-15 years of planning and discussion to lay the groundwork for widening and by then it will certainly cost more than \$1 billion.

So here's the bottom line. Bringing change to Route 1 is going to require everyone in the community to sit down and work through our differences and agree on an alignment over the coming years. Second it is going to require the Commonwealth of Virginia to put some new revenue on the table

I hope everyone in the community will continue to work towards both of these objectives so we can build a Route 1 that will allow us to continue to enjoy our quality of life in our part of Fairfax County.

#### **OBITUARY**

### Harry Clay Hoffman III, Lt. Col. U.S. Army (ret.)

Harry Clay Hoffman III, 81, died peacefully of natural causes in Richmond on July 26, 2012.

He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. to Harry and Mary Jane Hoffman of Pottsville, Pa. He served proudly in the U.S. Army for 25 years. He was a dedicated civil engineer in the Army Corps of Engineers and had an MSA from George Washington University. He was a highly decorated veteran, a Green Beret and a true patriot.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou (nee Nuss) Hoffman; five childern, Jane Ann Hoffman, Debra Hoffman-Pahl (husband Richard Pahl) Patty Hoffman, Harry Clay (Mike) Hoffman IV, Barbara Hoffman Nolte (husband Robert Nolte); 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held Aug 2 at 2 p.m., at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. Internment at Arlington National Cemetary at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Expansion of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) Headquarters Facilities

#### **U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

The Army has prepared an EA that considers the proposed expansion of INSCOM's headquarters facilities at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. INSCOM proposes to renovate their existing 234,000-square-foot building, construct a new 382,000-square-foot addition and a 1,420-space parking garage, reconfigure the developed part of the site, and consolidate 890 personnel now working in the vicinity on the headquarters site. The EA considered the effects of the project on land use, plans, coastal zone management, natural resources, socioeconomic factors, traffic and transportation, air quality, and utility systems and concluded that the project is not expected to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. The EA and FNSI may be viewed online at: www.belvoir.army.mil/environdocssection2.asp. Paper copies of the EA and draft FNSI are available for review and comment at the Fort Belvoir Van Noy Library and the following Fairfax County, Virginia libraries: John Marshall Branch, Kingstowne Branch, Lorton Branch, and Sherwood Regional Branch. Comments on the EA and draft FNSI should be submitted to: Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, ATTN: Public Works, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116; or by e-mail to: imcom.fortbelvoir.dpw.environmental@us.army.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability. Subject to review and consideration of comments submitted by individuals, organizations, or agencies during the comment period, the Army intends to issue the final FNSI at the conclusion of the comment period and to proceed with the proposed action.



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# OPINION

# Readers Respond on TJ Admissions

"Stop making smart 8th graders feel inferior because they are not admitted."

eaders responded to last week's editorial, which cited a civil rights complaint about the apparent lack of access to gifted and talented programs and admission to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

The larger impact of the disparities is evident in the demographics of the students who qualify for gifted and talented services at a certain level in elementary school, which affects more than 12,000 students. By comparison, the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson is 480 students.

From the complaint:

"Being 'identified' as eligible for Level 4 services is no easy task for Black or Latino students in Fairfax County. Data specifically broken down for elementary and middle school was not readily available. However, overall K-8 data is striking. Among the 12,044 elementary and middle school students identified last year as eligible for Level IV GT services by FCPS last year, substantial racial and ethnic disparities are evident."

Hispanic students make up 6.2 percent of those identified as gifted but 22 percent of students overall. Black students make up just 3.8 percent of those identified but nearly 10 percent of students overall.

The complaint was filed by Martina Hone, former school board member and founder of the Coalition of the Silence, and Charisse Espy Glassman, education chair of the Fairfax NAACP.

HERE ARE some excerpts from reader comments:

'The [editorial] was incomplete ... as it failed to address the relatively much larger issue of white students admission to Thomas EDITORIAL

Jefferson, which your article states as 26 percent of the class of 2016, which is versus a Fairfax County school system white student population of about 45 percent."

> - Brad Brewster, FAIRFAX STATION

"[Poor students are] not innately less talented, however they don't reach their full potential ... This should come as no surprise considering their home environment includes overworked parents that have 'no time' to micromanage a student, and no resources to hire a tutor. The stereotypical Asian 'Tiger Mom' is not just a stereotype, in my experience ... The persistent encouragement for success from such a parent is likely behind the large Asian representation at TJ. Having tutored a disadvantaged Hispanic student for the first time last year I noted he had access to cable TV and both the latest Xbox and Playstation gaming systems (all the distractions of a wealthier student) but lacked the encouragement from his mother (a single parent household) to reach academic excellence. This was an unfortunate combination."

—Daniel Bronson, Arlington

"This is a culture contest pure and simple. One culture puts study and commitment to educational goals at the top of life's responsibilities and diversions. The others, not nearly so much. Change the cultures if you can."

– William Smith, Fairfax

"There are sufficient talented African Americans in the jurisdiction to make up at least 10 percent of TJ, their percentage of the overall population. And this is true for Latinos and underrepresented Asians (families from Vietnam and the Philippines). But long ago, TJ decided that racial and ethnic diversity could not be pursued ... Many want TJ, not because they are interested in science and math, but because TJ is a safest way to be admitted to

**Demographics** 

	White	Asian	Hispanic	Black
Fairfax County	62.7	17.6	15.6	9.2
FCPS	44	20	22	10
TJ	26.2	64.2	2.7	1.4
Gifted and Talente		32.4	6.2	3.8

UVA. Make every school in Fairfax County as incredible as TJ is. Clearly many, such as those in our area, McLean and Langley, are already there. Provide access to advanced courses at George Mason for those who need special acceleration. And stop making smart 8th graders feel inferior because they are not admit-

- Eddie Eitches, McLean

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS:**

Whites make up 62.7 percent of Fairfax County population, 44 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 51.3 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 26.2 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Asians make up about 18 percent of the overall Fairfax County population, 20 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 34 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for higher level gifted services in FCPS and 64 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Hispanics make up about 16 percent of the overall Fairfax County population, 22 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 6 percent of elementary and middle school students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 3.8 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

Blacks make up 9.2 percent of the Fairfax County population overall, 10 percent of the students in Fairfax County Public Schools, 3.8 percent of the students who qualify for specific gifted services in FCPS and 1.4 percent of the incoming class at Thomas Jefferson.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### State Taxpayers Pay Federal Too

To the Editor:

Anyone seeking clues on why the federal government is heading for a fifth straight year of trilliondollar deficits need look no further than District 44 Del. Scott Surovell's op-ed, "Partisan Games on Healthcare Hurt Mt. Vernon-Lee Community." [Mount Gazette Gazette, July 19-25, 2012]

Mr. Surovell urges lawmakers to move forward to create a statesponsored health-insurance exchange as provided in the so-called Affordable Care Act. I leave the merits of that idea for others to parse. What is troubling is one of his main arguments. "The cost to Virginia taxpayers is minor," he says, for "the federal government is picking up 92 percent of the cost over the next 10 years."

Perhaps Mr. Surovell has no federal tax liability. My household does, and it is far larger than that due to the Commonwealth of Vir-

The widespread presumption that "federal money" is free, pouring out of a golden faucet in the sky and requiring nothing from state and local recipients, is not only delusional, but dangerous. It encourages voters to allow more and more functions to shift to a level of government over which they have little influence, and saddles them with the costs of supporting a higher overall level of spending than they would tolerate if the money had to be raised through state and local taxes.

Meanwhile, the federal government is borrowing about 40 cents of every dollar it spends. At the moment, the interest costs for this credit binge are low. But if inflation fears pick up, foreign economies recover, and foreign bond buyers stop perceiving U.S. Treasury debt as a useful assets, then debt-service costs will soar and we shall see just how "minimal" the costs of federal largesse really are.

> Clark T. Irwin Alexandria

### True War On Women

To the Editor:

Last week, the Gazette published a letter from a reader who was a member of the Alexandria Chapter of NOW. Apparently, the reader felt that the present Virginia State government, controlled by the GOP, "has made it perfectly clear that we (meaning women) are as disposable as Kleenex." She said this in reference to her belief that the State of Virginia would not fund health care legislation for poor women and children.

Really? Unfortunately, the Democratic party does a really good job of dividing constituents on the basis of race, income and gender in an attempt to close the gap of their shrinking majority that they now face and get them to the polls in November. Their calculated attempts to stir up targeted constituencies, such as women, undermines their belief that women cannot make an informed decision based on the facts, but rather will react emotionally and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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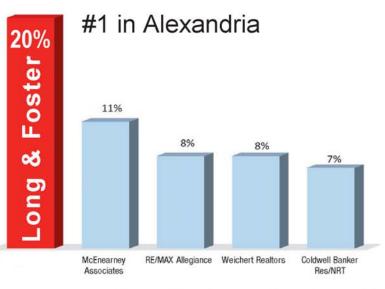
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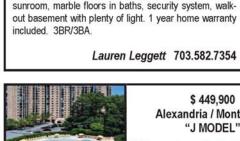


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# WELLBEING

# Taking Care of One's Teeth

American Dental Association says many don't know basic oral care.

> By Marilyn Campbell The Gazette

ere's a pop quiz: How often should a person replace their toothbrush? "Once a year," said Terrie Andrews of McLean.
When should a parent schedule a child's first dental appointment? "Just after their 6th birthday," said Julie Mahon, an Alexandria mother of 2-year-old twins.

Both answers are incorrect, but consistent with the findings of a new survey by the American Dental Association, which tested the average person's knowledge of oral health care. On average, Americans did not know the answers to questions ranging from how often to brush to what causes cavities.

**THE SURVEY** is part of an initiative, launched this summer, aimed at educating the public about maintaining healthy teeth. Dental care experts say prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping teeth healthy. "Good dental health is important, as we are living longer and we need to make the one set of teeth we get last a lifetime," said Dr. Matthew Messina, ADA consumer advisor.

In fact, toothbrushes should be replaced every three months or as soon as the bristles become frayed or worn. The ADA also recommends brushing one's teeth twice per day and says a child's first dental visit should take place no later than six months after the first tooth appears.

More than 80 percent of those surveyed believe sugar causes cavities. They're actually caused by acid that forms when germs in the mouth feed on sugar. The acid attacks and weakens the tooth enamel, allowing a cavity to form.

The survey showed that many believe gums that

bleed after brushing is normal, but experts say such bleeding could be a sign of early gum disease. "Periodontal disease is a slowly progressing disease where the early warning signs are subtle. There is seldom any pain until the disease is very advanced. Redness and puffiness in the gums around the



Dr. Matthew Messina of the American Medical Association says prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping teeth healthy.

teeth are something to watch for. Bleeding of the gums when someone brushes or flosses is not normal and should be evaluated. Eventually, pain and swelling from gum infections will occur, but the damage is advanced by that point," said Messina.

Diet plays a role in healthy teeth, as well. "Don't underestimate the role of nutrition and the role that food choices play in preventing gum disease and maintaining healthy teeth. The presence of too much or too little of any nutrient can have harmful effects, particularly on the mouth and teeth, and may contribute to oral diseases and infection," said Dr. Raymond K. Martin, spokesman for the Academy of General Dentistry. "Your teeth and jaws are made mostly of calcium. Without enough calcium in your diet, you risk of developing gum disease and tooth decay. Iron deficiency can cause your tongue to become inflamed, and sores can form inside your mouth." Martin added that a lack of vitamin B3 can cause bad breath and canker sores.

#### SELECTING THE BEST DENTIST FOR A CHILD

Choosing the right dentist for one's child is one of the most important decisions that a parent will make. What should a parent consider when choosing a pediatric dentist? The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry offers a few suggestions:

- Does the dentist have special training or interest in treating children?
- ♦ Is the dental office set up for children? For example, does it offer toys, books,
- games or child-sized furniture?

  How does the dental office manage emergencies?
- ❖ Is the office conveniently located to your home or child's school?
- ♦ Does the practice accept your dental benefit plan?
- Is the dentist a member of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry?

### DENTISTRY ON THE EDGE: THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN COSMETIC DENTISTRY

While a toothbrush and floss are considered the keys to a beautiful smile, cosmetic dentists have new tools in the quest for perfect teeth. The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) says a few technological advancements are increasing safety, efficiency and patient comfort during dental procedures. Topping the list:

- Computer-Aided Dentistry-Computer-Aided Manufacturing: Dental restorations like porcelain crowns can now be made faster and without the mess of traditional, goop-filled rubber molds used to make impressions of one's teeth. The new procedure uses 3-D scans and computer software to create perfect restorations.
- iPad and Smartphone Applications: Tasks ranging from managing dental records to displaying x-rays are now made easier with a few new iPad and smart phone applications. One such application is the Smile Touch Guide, created by AACD dentist David Traub, DDS. Used for virtually any cosmetic procedure, dentists and patients can work together to decide on the correct shape and length of the teeth. The patient can see what the full set of teeth will look like and make changes.
- Digital X-Rays: With digital x-rays, cosmetic dentists can reduce the amount of radiation patients are exposed to with standard x-rays by as much as 90 percent. The dentist places a small camera into the patient's mouth and takes a picture. An image appears on a computer screen almost immediately. Cosmetic dentists say digital x-ray pictures are clearer than those taken with standard machines.
- Botox: Cosmetic dentists are now using Botox and dermal filler treatments to treat problems like temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.



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#### **Legal Notices**

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304

is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim

to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to

http://alexandriava.gov/police/ and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746 6709.

Request for Information (RFI) - Carshare Program (Deadline: August 24)

The City of Alexandria is requesting information regarding the availability and willingness of Car- sharing companies to provide two carshare vehicles to be placed at two differen locations on Ballenger Avenue in Carlyle. For this RFI, the City of Alexandria is interested in soliciting carshare companies to submit an expression of interest to lease two (2) on-street metered spaces located in the following locations for a cost of \$1,500 per space per year: one Carshare space at 1920 Ballenger Avenue, south side of the street; and one Carshare

lenger Avenue, south side of the street. The City is currently drafting a city-wide on-street Carshare Policy which migh affect the terms of the contract after the expiration date of the contract. For more information please click HERE or contact Faye Dastgheib at 79 Faye.Dastgheib@alexandriava.gov 703.746.4139

#### 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

#### **OBITUARY**

Richard Snowden Stanley, 56, of Broad Run, VA, passed away the morning of July 27, 2012 at Inova Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia from complications of pneumonia.

Richard was was born December 28, 1955 in Prince Georges County, Maryland. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Ann Stanley, his mother Camilla H. Strange, his brother, John W. Stanley (wife Susan Stanley), his brother, Courtland H. Stanley and his nephews, Cpt. Courtland W. Stanley, Donald F. Stanley, and former wife Margie M. Stanley, and his beloved dog,

"Rick" was retired as the owner of S&S Auto Sales in New Baltimore, VA. He was beloved by all that knew him as a kind and generous person. He had a magnanimous sense of humor often introducing himself to people as "Frank Perkins". He had a

A graveside service will be held at Annadale Farm in Gordonsville, VA on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 11:00 am. Prior to the graveside service; attendees should meet at Preddy's Funeral Home in Gordonsville, VA by 10:45 am.

in Gordonsville, VA under the direction of Gary Preddy

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the local SPCA

great love for people, animals, automobiles, and boating.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Preddy's Funeral Home



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Her ashes will be spread along a favorite hiking trail in She nandoah National Park in a private ceremony. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Margot's memory, to the Alzheimer's Association P.O. Box 96011, Washington DC 20090-6011, www.alz.org.

#### 21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Margot Brockman Schweppe, age 78, died on Sunday July 15th from complications of Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her children Mark, Michael and aura Schweppe, daughters in law, Ellen Gray and Marsha LeBoeuf, son in law Steve Harris, her grandchildren Drew and Maggie Schweppe and her brothers Richard and Andrew Brockman. Margot moved to Alexandria in 1991 from Lombard, IL, a suburb of Chicago, to be closer to her

A graduate of Elmhurst College, Margot will be remembered as a devoted mother. Girl Scout Volunteer Leader and a true friend to many people both in Lombard and Alexandria. Margot travelled the world including all 50 States in America largot was an avid birder and enioved hiking, camp canoeing and backpacking well into her 60s. Her dventurous and friendly spirit will be remembered by he amily and friends

### LETTERS

From Page 8

run to the polls. The fact is that the federally funded CHIP program does indeed provide health care for poor children, while poor adults are covered under Medicare. Therefore there is no "assault" on women and children at the State or even the Federal level as the reader stated.

The real "War Against Women" is the insulting way that the Democratic party panders to women and treats them as if the only issues we understand have to do with issues such as abortion, contraception and other such traditional "female issues." Would they call the fact that millions of unborn "women" have been lost to legalized infanticide in our country a "War on Woman? Or how about the fact that millions of women who have recently graduated from college cannot find a job or will have to pay off the federal deficit that has quadrupled since 2008? How about the fact that Catholic women will be forced to violate their conscience and pay for medical procedures under "Obamacare" that go against their core beliefs? Is this also a "War on Women", or are only women who belong to the "right" political party and religion the ones she was concerned about? Lastly, for someone who is so concerned about the health care coverage of women and children, did it ever occur to this reader that "Obamacare" will impose mandatory tax insurance premiums and penalties which will make it even harder for so many

I agree with the reader that there is a "War on Women" ... just not the one she believes in. Unlike the reader, however, I won't be voting for tyrannical leaders who thwart the Constitution, trample on the rights and freedoms of our people and impose mandatory fees and penalties for massive government programs that most of us don't want. I will send the Alexandria chapter of NOW a box of Kleenex on Nov. 7. They will probably need it.

Kathleen Karau

### We Are All **Environmentalists**

On the front page of the website of Friends of Dyke Marsh (www.fodm.org), the following is stated:

"Friends of Dyke Marsh is a volunteer group dedicated to preserving and enhancing Dyke Marsh, the last enduring substantial freshwater tidal marsh in the Washington, D.C. capital area, located on the Potomac River just south of Alexandria, Virginia."

Over the past several weeks, the Gazette

has published my photos of substantial freshwater tidal marshes in our area, in Little Hunting Creek, Broad Creek, Piscataway Creek, in the Potomac River adjacent the mouth of Little Hunting Creek, and at Mason Neck. This week, I've provided a photo [below] of the most impressive substantial freshwater tidal marsh in our area, that of Mattawoman Creek. Mattawoman Creek is easily accessible from Sweden Point Marina. In fact, every one of the marshes depicted in my photos is easily accessible by canoe or kayak from a nearby marina or launch area. Mattawoman Creek boasts an incredibly beautiful waterway that undulates back and forth through freshwater tidal marshes for well over a mile, leading to a deep lagoon boasting a sandy beach.

So why does the Friends of Dyke Marsh continue to try to perpetuate the myth that Dyke Marsh is the "last enduring substantial freshwater tidal marsh" in our area? I surmise the reason is actually quite simple - Dyke Marsh is within a national park, so our tax money can be appropriated to "restore" it if the government can be convinced of its rarity.

Regardless of political persuasion, I don't know anyone I wouldn't consider to be an environmentalist. I also don't know anyone who would oppose, at minimum, preserving Dyke Marsh at its current size. At the same time, I don't know any responsible person who believes the citizenry should sign off on a plan of restoration of Dyke Marsh without first being apprised of the estimated costs. But that is exactly what the National Park Service is doing, by presenting three restoration options for our consideration without any cost analysis, and asking we taxpayers to cast our votes. That train left the station on June 20, 2012 with the end of the comment period and the NPS will eventually let us know which option will be pursued. When will we find out how much it will cost? Can we take another vote if the cost is prohibitive? Why has NPS placed the cart squarely before the horse?

Doesn't FODM understand, under the leadership of its president and chief lobbyist Glenda Booth, that when it continues to stubbornly try to perpetuate a falsehood, it ruins its credibility across the board? Like when its leaders continue to proclaim, as Ms. Booth and others did this week at the master planning hearing for Westgrove Park, that there is a wildlife corridor from Mount Vernon District Park to Dyke Marsh, despite the presence of (1) Fort Hunt Road, (2) a high chain link fence completely surrounding Westgrove Park, (3) the intervening land of River Towers, (4) The four-lane George Washington Parkway, and (5) its bike path. Wonders never cease.

> H. Jay Spiegel Mount Vernon



PHOTO BY H. JAY SPIEGEL

# Sports



West Potomac summer camp 2 award winners were: Dominick Fragala (outstanding camper of the week), Charles "Chucky" Roland (defensive player of the week), Coach David Houston III, Chance Hollingsworth (Wolverine Sportsmanship Award), Kyree Campbell (best rebounder).



The host Wolverines won the West Potomac varsity summer league championship for the second consecutive year and third in seven season. Pictured are: Coach Shakil White (2010), Javon Trice, Kwame Camon, Demornay Pierson-el, Jamie Odom, Austin Treakle, Joseph Richards, Brandon Pressley, Deonta Knighton, Dawit Dagnew, Caleb Williams, Tyrone White, Conrad Jenne and Coach Deandre Essex (2010).

# West Potomac Wins Varsity, JV Summer Basketball League Titles

he West Potomac boys' basketball program recently concluded an eventful summer filled with camps and summer league success.

West Potomac held its annual summer camp to help youths with fundamentals, instill love for the game and provide weeklong fun. The Wolverines basketball program, run by eighth-year head coach David Houston III, held a co-ed basketball camp on July 2-3 to help girls and boys in the community learn basketball skills as well as fellowship and have fun.

The boys' program, sponsored by the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club, hosted two week-long boys' camps on July 13–17 and

July 23-27. Both camps exceeded previous enrollments of any camp run at West Potomac throughout the school's history. The July 13 camp had 140 participants and the July 23 camp had 165 campers enrolled for the week.

The camp is run by Houston III, assistant varsity coach Tyrone Strother, JV coach Kevin McMahon and freshman coach Bryan Lawrence. The camp is also coached by current and former basketball players in the West Potomac program. The ages of the campers were 6-16 years of age and all of the current counselors were at one point participants in the same camp.

Throughout the summer, the Route 1 summer league was also held at West

Potomac High School in the evenings. The summer league hosts junior varsity and varsity leagues. The varsity league consisted of: West Potomac, Hayfield, Edison, South County, Mount Vernon, Oakton, West Springfield and Yorktown.

The JV League had: West Potomac (rising freshmen), West Potomac (rising sophomores), Hayfield, Edison, Mount Vernon and South County.

The Wolverines finished first and second, respectively, in the varsity and JV leagues. The Wolverines found both of their teams in the finals on July 25. The JV championship saw the Wolverines against the Mount Vernon Majors. In an overtime thriller, the West Potomac squad

pulled out their first JV summer league championship.

The varsity game pitted the Edison Eagles against the West Potomac Wolverines. The Wolverines pulled out a double-digit victory to capture their second straight championship and their third summer league title in the summer league's seven-year history.

West Potomac also went to the Paul Webb all-star basketball team camp at Randolph-Macon College. The overnight camp hosts teams from around the state of Virginia and is the oldest team camp in the state. The Wolverines finished the camp with an 8-2 record and senior Brandon Pressley captured the team camp 3-point championship for the second year in a row.

#### SCHOOL NOTES

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

Charles Jones was recently selected by the American Rental Association Foundation to receive an undergraduate scholarship of \$2,000 and two affiliate scholarships from ARA Insurance (\$2,500) and ARA Region Two/Ron Marshall (\$500). He is the



son of Bonnie Peabody and Doug Jones, coowner of Rent-All Inc. t/a Rent All Center in Alexandria. Jones is attending the Virginia Military Institute and pursuing a career in the equipment rental industry.

The following students from Alexandria graduated on May 13 at Hampden-Sydney College.

\* Dereck Onofre Parada graduated with a B.A. in foreign affairs. A graduate of West Potomac High School, he is the son of Thea Nelson and Ramon Parada, both of Alexandria.

\* Kevin Komson Sidney graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in mathematical economics. A graduate of West Potomac High School, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Sidney of Alexandria.

**Nine FCPS teachers** are participating in the Sally Ride Science Academy this summer,

sponsored by Exxon Mobil. The academy is designed to help teachers raise students' interest in science. Attending from FCPS are Stacy Vickers of Cherry Run Elementary, Lori Huberman-Hayes of Daniels Run Elementary, Holly Eelman and Kristen Scudder of Navy Elementary, William Buchholz of Carson Middle, Patricia Waters of Key Middle, Elizabeth Hayward of Liberty Middle and Cheryl Flughum and Mohammad Zishhan of Sandburg Middle. The academy uses a train-the-trainer model that pepares participants to train other teachers in their district. Participating teachers will receive sets of the Sally Ride Science Cool Career book series that introduce students to a variety of careers in science for use in their classrooms. The 260 educators selected for the program were picked based on their qualifications, dedication to inspiring students at an early age, and commitment to enhancing the teaching profession. Programs are held in San Di-

The Following Alexandria residents were among 1086 students from Ithaca College who received degrees during the college's commencement ceremony held in May 2012.

\* Marjorie Glassco received a degree from Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences with a major in Drama.

**Benjamin Malakoff** received a degree from Ithaca College's school of Communications with a

major in Integrated Marketing Communications.

**Samuel McCann** received a degree from Ithaca College School of Communications with a major in Journalism.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 6,098 students in May 2012. Receiving degrees were **Lindsay S. Adler**, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; **Thomas J. Platt**, Master of Science in Business Continuity and Emergency Management; **Zachary H. Warder**, Bachelor of Science in Communication.

The following students enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester:

**Shauna M. Erickson** is a freshman majoring in finance in the Pamplin College of Business.

**Andrew T. Rasdorf** is a sophomore majoring in accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business.

**Nola M. Savage** is a junior majoring in mathematics in the College of Science.

**Joshua D. Schecker** is a junior majoring in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

**Dale M. Shifflett** is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering. **Michael Adu** is a senior majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science.

**Farhan M. Hasan** is a junior majoring in ma-

terials science and engineering in the College of Engineering.

**Elliott T. Jernigan** is a junior majoring in psychology in the College of Science.

**Michael L. Robertson** is a freshman majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science

**Kathleen E. Brady** is a junior majoring in environmental science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**Alexander W. Cheng** is a sophomore majoring in architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

**Kevin H. Corcoran** is a freshman majoring in general engineering in the College of Engi-

**Kathleen H. Driscoll** is a sophomore majoring in psychology in the College of Science.

**Alexandra K. Dunn** is a sophomore majoring in international studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

**Anna M. Gehring** is a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech.

**Amanda M. Griffin** is a senior majoring in psychology in the College of Science. **Brian T. Linnell** is a junior majoring in

**Brian T. Linnell** is a junior majoring in accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business.

**Alexander H. Simon** is a senior majoring in biological systems engineering in the College of Engineering.

# Entertainment

# 'Sweeney Todd'

### LTA serves up Sondheim's macabre musical.

By Jeanne Theismann
The Gazette

he story hasn't changed, the music is hauntingly familiar and of course the body count remains the same. But with The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "Sweeney Todd," you will be seeing the macabre musical of Stephen Sondheim as if it were for the first time.

How can one cheer for a mass murderer? When his sharp acting and cutting vocals are as effortless as Harv Lester's (as Sweeney Todd), it's an easy thing to fall prey to. A villainous and evil public official? Doesn't sound too far-fetched this day and age, but to the extent of Chris Gillespie's oily octane portrayal of Judge Turpin, it's palpable, disturbingly lascivious and thoroughly enjoyable. And the meat pies of Mrs. Lovett are all too delicious when served up with Jennifer Lyons Pagnards' luscious vocals and scorching act-

From Christopher David Harris' portrayal of the sadistic Beadle Bamford down to the last choral ensemble member, all the LTA

performances are truly transcendent. The bench of talent is deep as those who usually play leads — Elliott Bales, Sam Jones and Margie Remmers — populate what may be the most noteworthy ensemble to hit the LTA stage.

Lester, last seen in the title role of LTA's "Will Rogers' Follies," is an especially stirring Sweeney, the coolly amoral barber who seeks revenge with his razor. Eerily lit from below so his eyes glow with fierce passion, Lester's rage boils over with scalding intensity.

With equal command, Pagnard gives a standout performance as Mrs. Lovett, the meat pie shop proprietor whose moral sense is quickly overcome by her love of profit and lust for Sweeney and the fantasy of a marriage she'll never have.

**OTHER STANDOUT** cast members are Will Hawkins and Roxanne Scher as young lovers, Ben Ribler as the simple waif who helps Mrs. Lovett, and Zachary Frank as a rival barber.

But as brilliant as the acting is, as thoroughly entertaining and engaging as the singing is, some of the principal stars of this production are the backstage crew, set designers, costumes and make-up working behind the scenes by the all-volunteer cast and crew.

Vibrant and startling costumes by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley meld with the cutting, dissonant chords of the 12-member orchestra that effortlessly envelops the audience in the plot's absurd madness.

Sondheim specifically sets his grisly musical melodrama in 1849, which creates a Dickensian atmosphere of 19th-century London that is brilliantly duplicated in the set design of the award-winning Dan Remmers and lighting team of Ken and Patti

Crowley.

All of this talent is brought together under the brilliant vision of director Andrew JM Regiec, who expertly draws the audience into the always absurd,

sometimes comedic psychopathic world that is "Sweeney Todd."

With arterial blood spurting as if from water pipes, "Sweeney Todd" is not a show for the faint of heart. But the characters in LTA's production are vividly realized, complete with dialects smartly layered by coach Carol Strachan.

So let the bodies hit the floor, or rather fall through the floor, and prepare for a savory serving of demonic shearing in a superb production of Sondheim's signature musical thriller.



Jennifer Pagnard as Mrs. Lovett with Pie Shop cast.



Roxanne Scher (Joanna), Will Hawkins (Anthony), Mike McAdoo (Ensemble), and Harv Lester (Sweeney Todd) in the LTA production of "Sweeney Todd."

# Demon Barber Benefits Alexandria Charities

By Sandy Martinez
The Gazette

Details

"Sweeney Todd" is playing now through

Aug. 18 at The Little Theater of Alexandria,

600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit

www.thelittletheatre.com.

f you were unable to obtain a ticket to London for the 2012 Olympics you can still take part in a unique British cultural experience. Alexandria resident Brooke Curran is hosting a charity event on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria on behalf of at-risk children living in the city.

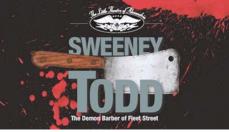
The evening's events begin with a preshow dinner reception consisting of meat pies, roasted vegetables on skewers and drinks. Why such a peculiar dish? Because the evening will be capped with a performance of "Sweeney Todd," the demon barber of Fleet Street, known to dispose of his victims by baking their flesh into meat pies and selling the pies to unsuspecting customers. Food and drink will be provided by two Alexandria businesses, Unwined and Thyme and Place.

All proceeds from the \$50 ticket price will be donated to the five Alexandria-based charities closest to Curran's heart: ACT for Alexandria, Child & Family Network Centers, Community Lodgings, Girls on the Run and The Reading Connection; \$30 of the ticket price is tax deductible.

"When someone buys a ticket and comes to a Runningbrooke event, not only are they having a good time at a really fun event but all of their dollars are literally going to the charities here in Alexandria," Curran said.

Curran is an Alexandria marathoner who raises money under her RunningBrooke Fund. When she is not hosting special events like the one at LTA, she raises funds by running marathons. Recently, she won a marathon in Antarctica and hopes to run a marathon in Africa in 2013.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria produces seven full shows each season and many one



act plays but also offers Tuesday sponsor nights to charities, businesses, and other private functions. "We are a community theater. The sponsor nights are a way of bringing people into the theater who have never been to this theater," said Rachel Alberts, Little Theatre's director of public relations.

Visit runningbrookeandsweeney todd.eventbrite.com.

## Entertainment

After the Storm

Port City Brewing's 'Derecho Common' beer to be tapped Aug. 3.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

hen a derecho swept through the area June 29, downed trees and power lines left more than a million people without power during a record-breaking heat wave. Alexandria residents and businesses alike were left scrambling to salvage what they could of any perishable products. For Port City Brewing, that meant trying to save the beer.

"We lost power for almost a week and nearly lost 13,000 gallons of beer," said Port City's tasting room manager Jennifer Chace. "We were able to get a generator and keep the brewery online but one batch of lager fermented at a higher temperature than intended. We didn't know it at the time but there is actually a style of beer intentionally brewed this way."

Developed in San Francisco, this type of brew is called steam beer, or California Common beer. It is made with lager yeast and fermented at higher temperatures, which is what happened to a 60-barrel tank of Port City's beer.

"What started out as a Bohemian Czech Pilsner is now a California Common," Chace said. "This is called making lemonade out of lemons, or what we have named our Derecho Common. We'll be tapping our limited edition brew Aug. 3 here at the tasting room and select restaurants in the area will carry it as well."

**THE DERECHO COMMON** is described as "medium amber in color with toasty, caramel malt flavors. It is medium-bodied with an assertive hop profile. It is dry hopped with Amarillo hops, which give



Alexandria's John Bordner, left, gets a sneak preview of Port City Brewing's new Derecho Common beer from tasting room manager Jennifer Chace. The limited edition beer will be officially tapped Aug. 3 at 3 p.m.

it a spicy, citrusy hop kick on the finish," according to information posted in Port City's tasting room.

"This is good," said Alexandria resident John Bordner, who got a sneak preview of the special brew during a July 28 visit to the brewery. "I'm normally a pale ale guy but find this very refreshing and would definitely order it again."

The limited edition brew — equivalent to about 120 kegs — will be available on draft only in the Port City Brewing tasting room and at bars and restaurants in the D.C. Metro area.

"Right now the beer is still in the fermentation tank," Chace said. "But at 3 p.m. Friday, we're going to officially tap our Derecho Common beer. We had a lot of support from the community during the storm and hope folks will come by, grab a growler and celebrate with us."

Port City Brewery is located at 3950 Wheeler Ave. For information on the Derecho Common or other beers call 703-797-2739.



The longest line of the day at Friendship Firehouse's 2011 festival was for waiting for a turn spraying the fire hose down the alley.

### Festival Celebrates 238th Birthday of Friendship

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association will hold its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the 100 block of South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets, which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Admission is free.

Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Children will receive free fire helmets and balloons.

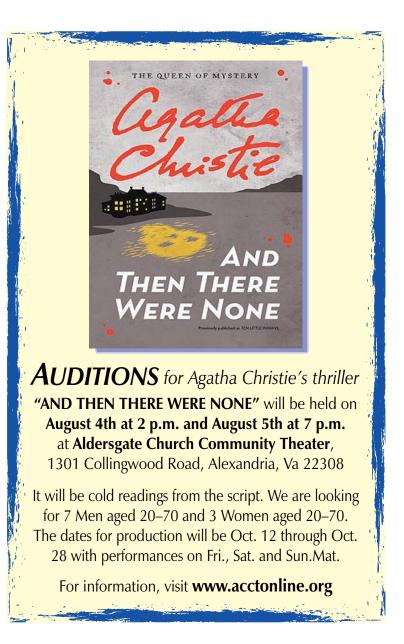
In addition to the day's outdoor events, festival participants will be able to experience the history of the Fire Company  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

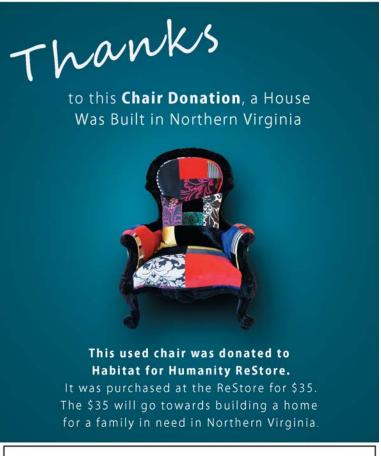
through a tour of the Friendship Firehouse Museum. The building was originally built as a firehouse in 1855, remodeled in 1871 and restored again in 1992 before undergoing roof and cupola repairs in 2009.

The Engine Room on the first floor showcases historic firefighting equipment, including hand-drawn fire engines, leather water buckets, axes, and sections of early rubber hose. The second floor houses exhibits on the Friendship Fire Company, also known as "George Washington's Fire Company," which was Alexandria's first fire company and a source of civic pride since its founding in 1774.

Now a philanthropic organization focusing on fire and life safety, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association remains active in community events, including this year's Festival, which marks the 238th anniversary of the Company.

Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.







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## ENTERTAINMENT



#### Alexandria Irish Festival

The 27th annual Alexandria Irish Festival will take place Saturday, Aug. 11 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria. This year's festival features a lineup of Irish musical and cultural groups. Visit www.ballyshaners.org for a complete list of entertainers. Browse Irish goods as well as arts and crafts from a wide variety of vendors, as well as food and cold refreshments. The Irish Festival is sponsored by the Ballyshaners – Gaelic for "Old Towners." Proceeds from the festival help cover the cost of staging the annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. Lawn chairs are welcome. Coolers are prohibited at the festival.

#### Calendar

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

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 2

Music At Twilight. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Musical performance by The Hot Society Orchestra of Washington, featuring 1920s-1940s Jazz. John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Call 703-746-5418.

#### AUG. 3 THROUGH SEPT. 2

Boarderlines. Thursday-Sunday. Free.
This exhibit is an individual and
group journey across "boarders" and
features a silent auction, 2-D and 3-D
gallery artwork, and take-away art.
At the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center,
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. Visit
www.theDelReyArtisans.org.

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Sea Chanters. Noon - 1:15 p.m. The U. S. Navy Band "Sea Chanters" chorus is the official chorus of the United States Navy. The ensemble performs a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey, to Broadway musicals. Market Square, 301 King St. Contact Maureen Sturgill at maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5420.

#### Alexandria Citizens Band Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. The

Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Alexandria Citizens Band, the City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization, is celebrating 100 years. Join them in front of City Hall and enjoy the wide variety of music including marches, jazz, classical, patriotic and others. Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-5592.

Open House. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Mount Vernon opens its doors for an inaugural evening event at George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill, learn more about Washington's role as "Distiller-in-Chief." The Gentleman Distiller: Dinner and Whiskey Tasting event begins with a reception at the Distillery & Gristmill, where visitors



watch as costumed distillers operate five copper stills, stirring mash tubs, and managing the boiler as they demonstrate 18th-century distilling. The event continues at the Estate with a brief lecture by Mount Vernon's resident whiskey expert, Dr. Dennis Pogue, followed by a whiskey tasting and seated dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn. Tickets are \$150 per person, including tax and gratuity, and go on sale June 1 at 10 a.m. at the Ford Orientation Center, or online at MountVernon.org.

Wee Ones Storytime. Explore the exciting world around us with favorite stories and songs. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St.10:30-11 am. Ages 2 and under. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 4

Wee Ones Storytime. Explore the exciting world around us with favorite stories and songs. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St.10:30-11 am. Ages 2 and under. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Pig Day. Celebrate of Mo Willems, Come in your best pig or elephant costumes. Face painting and piggie mask making station for those without. Reading from favorite Mo Willems books. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St. A sip-and-shop event, Little Elephant's premiere will feature fall/winter 2012 finds for children from infants to young teens/size 14. Thursday, Aug. 2, 4-8 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Living Room at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road.

4-5 p.m. All Ages. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9
a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy birthday cake, craft and food vendors, and a special display of antique and modern firefighting equipment at the 238th anniversary of the Friendship Fire Company. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net or call 703-746-3891.

Friendship Festival Public Open House. 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Free admission to visit and explore the museum dedicated to the Alexandria companies of the 17th Virginia Infantry that defended Virginia during the Civil War. Donations welcome. At R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, 806 Prince St. Contact relcamphall@hotmail.com or call 703-519-2123.

R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum Open House. Free, noon – 4 p.m. This family-friendly program will feature living history interpreters portraying the Carlyle family. Enjoy games on the Carlyle House front lawn and explore native plants with a naturalist. At 121 North Fairfax St. Visit www.carlyle.org or call 703-549-2907

**John Carlyle's Housewarming.** 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Come to Gadsby's Tavern Museum's free open house to

See Calendar, Page 19

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

experience an 18th century five-star hotel with costumed tour guides. At 134 N. Royal St. Visit gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-

#### Calendar

#### SUNDAY/AUG. 5 Health Fair. 10

a.m.-4 p.m. Will be filled with health screenings, cooking demonstrations, health food vendors, fitness demonstrations, seminars, holistic practitioners, and fun activities for everyone. At the Community Praise Center SDA Church, 1400 Russell

**Tavern Day Science.** 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861 edition of The New-York Tribune. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327, Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399

#### AUG. 7 THROUGH SEPT. 9

Art Show. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of the juried show "Paper of All Kinds." The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 105 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria on the waterfront.

#### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

Lunch Bunch Concert: Project Natale. noon-1 p.m. Musical performance by Project Natale,

featuring "real" jazz. Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Call 703-746-5418.

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 10

Friday Night Live featuring Gerald **Scott & CO**. 7p.m. Free. Special guest William McMillan with songs

from his new album "Incredible." Shiloh Baptist Church Worship Center. 1401 Jamieson Ave.

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 11

Summer Trees of Park Fairfax. 9-

10:30 a.m. Free. Join us for a summer morning walk at amongst the trees at Park Fairfax. Education chair Scott Knudsen will review the keys to summer tree identification techniques. He will discuss the native habitat of each tree and good uses for the tree in the landscape. RSVP required. Email to

sknudsen@earthlink.com to register. **Debi Smith**. 7 p.m. A folk/pop singer, Smith has recorded more than 20 albums and compilations. Performing at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

#### **THROUGH AUG. 12**

"The Wizard of Oz" presented by the Port Tobacco Players. Come see the family musical adapted for the stage from the classic movie version. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$17 and tickets for students, seniors, and military are \$14.

#### MONDAY/AUG. 13

Music. An Intimate Duo Evening with LUCINDA WILLIAMS featuring Doug Pettibone at the Birchmere. \$49.50. Visit www.Birchmere.com.

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