

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 5, 2012



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Storm damage on Fort Hunt Road.

Storms Leave 2 Dead, Power Out

At least two dead in Fairfax; 285,000 residents still without power Monday after Friday night's hurricane force winds.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Winds of more than 70 miles per hour swept through Fairfax County Friday night. Power went out as the storm blew into the area around 10:30 p.m. with hurricane force winds sounding like a freight train.

The sound made some residents think a tornado was upon them, and many took refuge in basements.

THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO DEATHS in Fairfax County, both in the West Springfield area.

A 27-year-old Burke man, Khiet Hguyen, died when a tree fell directly on top of his car on Old Keene Mill Road near Bauer Drive, according to Fairfax Police. He was declared dead at the scene of the accident.

A 90-year-old West Springfield woman who was lying in bed died when a tree fell on her home on Carr Street at 11 p.m. Friday night. Another person in the home called 911 but was unable to reach the woman. Police and fire and rescue units responded to the home, but they needed a construction crane and specialized tree removal equipment to continue the recovery operation.

On Saturday early morning, 429,868 of Dominion Power's Northern Virginia 831,900 customers were without power. Among those affected was the Fairfax County emergency 911 service.

The Fairfax County emergency 911 phone system was down around noon Saturday, according to the Fairfax County Emergency Alert system. "Many other forms of communications to include cellular, land line and texting are intermittent. If you have an emergency, we ask that you go to your local police or fire station for assistance,"

according to Fairfax County officials.

911 service was partly restored several hours later, using the backup non-emergency numbers of 703-691-7561 and 703-691-3680 if a 911 call did not go through.

Emergency 911 service was working by Sunday, and police ask that residents call 911 only in a true emergency, and to call the Fairfax County non-emergency numbers, 703-691-7561 and 703-691-3680 to report less urgent public safety problems. These are not the numbers to call to report a power outage; call Dominion at 866-366-4357. Many traffic signals are out throughout the region. In Fairfax County, 130 traffic signals were without power on Saturday, according to county officials, who remind drivers to treat any intersection with a dark signal as a four-way stop sign.

Residents who get their water from the Falls Church Water system in portions of Tysons, McLean, Vienna, Dunn Loring and Merrifield were advised to boil their water before drinking it. Multiple water pumping plants throughout the region were without power, leading to calls for water conservation.

It will take at least several days, possibly as long as a week, to restore power to most customers, Dominion Power warned.

By Saturday night, there were about 340,000 Dominion customers in Northern Virginia still without power. By Sunday morning, that number was down to 285,000 households.

With temperatures predicted to be 100 degrees or greater, there were hyperthermia concerns about residents who are older or with disabilities. Supervisor Patrick Herrity was one of many who urged residents to check on their neighbors.

The county offered several heat relief options, including the RECenters in Lee District, Mount

SEE HURRICANE, PAGE 8

More Concerns on New Park Plans

Park officials attempt to prevent public comment.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

At a public meeting June 27 presenting new alternative plans for Fort Hunt Park, residents sought to raise questions and comment but were initially denied permission by National Park Service representatives.

Instead, NPS spokesmen Ben Hellwig and Thomas Sheffer repeatedly directed the group of about 100 residents to break up and individually question staff members, then submit comments in writing. The public would not be able to read these comments until a final report is issued in the fall.

"I think they may have been reacting to what happened at the meeting in September, which I understand got somewhat heated," said resident Mary Ann

Sutherland in an e-mail to the Gazette. "But the people who care about what happens to the park are all from different neighborhoods; we have no practical way of communicating. It is very important that we be able to hear each other's comments and concerns."

"It's always a mistake in a public forum not to have Q&A," said Joe Gililland, president of the Potomac Valley-River Bend Civic Association, also in an e-mail. "If the public doesn't have a chance to be heard it causes frustration and suspicion."

After a five-minute uproar of pleas and protests punctuated by park service rebuffs, acting NPS superintendent John James stepped in to allow a public question and answer period.

Although the park service's new
SEE CONCERNS, PAGE 4

Formal Requests For Police Reports

Mount Vernon-area group seeks police incident reports on shooting deaths of four closed cases.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

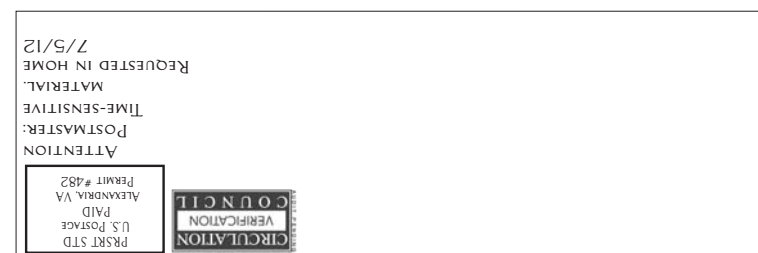
In the past several years four people have been shot and killed by Fairfax County police under what the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability characterizes as "questionable circumstances." Up until now no one, including the families of the deceased victims, has been able to

obtain a police incident report despite the fact that the four cases are closed.

The CCPA was formed in response to the shooting death in 2009 of David Masters, an unarmed driver who was being pursued by Fairfax County police because he allegedly took flowers

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 8

Related story, page 5.





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PEOPLE



'Concert on the Grass'

Nativity Lutheran Church at 1300 Collingwood Road in Alexandria took advantage of its woodland location on Saturday, June 16 by hosting a free "concert on the grass" by "roots rock" singer-songwriter Janine Wilson and guitarist Max Evans. Nativity posts recent event notices and activities on its Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nativity-Lutheran-Church-Alexandria-Virginia/129766480406145>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Local Delegates at DAR Convention

Members of the Mount Vernon Chapter based in Alexandria were in attendance at the 121st Continental Congress, the annual convention of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Guest speakers for the opening night ceremonies were Abraham Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, who received the DAR History Award Medal, and Dr. Nido Qubein, president of High Point University, who received the DAR Americanism Award given to distinguished naturalized citizens.

On National Defense Night, an evening that honored the nation's military personnel and veterans, the keynote address was delivered by General David Petraeus, U.S. Army (Ret.), director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Holly Petraeus was also honored during the ceremony with the first President General's Medallion for her lifelong commitment to supporting military families.

While at Congress, Alexandria residents attended the Virginia Luncheon along with various business sessions and workshops. In attendance were Chapter Regent Gail Eger, Joan Poland, Laura Buckner and Morgan Buckner. Morgan Buckner served as a Continental Congress Page.

To learn more about the work of the DAR, visit www.DAR.org or www.youtube.com/TodaysDAR.

New Pastor at Messiah

Messiah Lutheran Church welcomes its new pastor, the Rev. Robert Lewis. The public is invited to meet him this Sunday July 8, at the 10 a.m. service. Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 6510 Ft. Hunt Road.

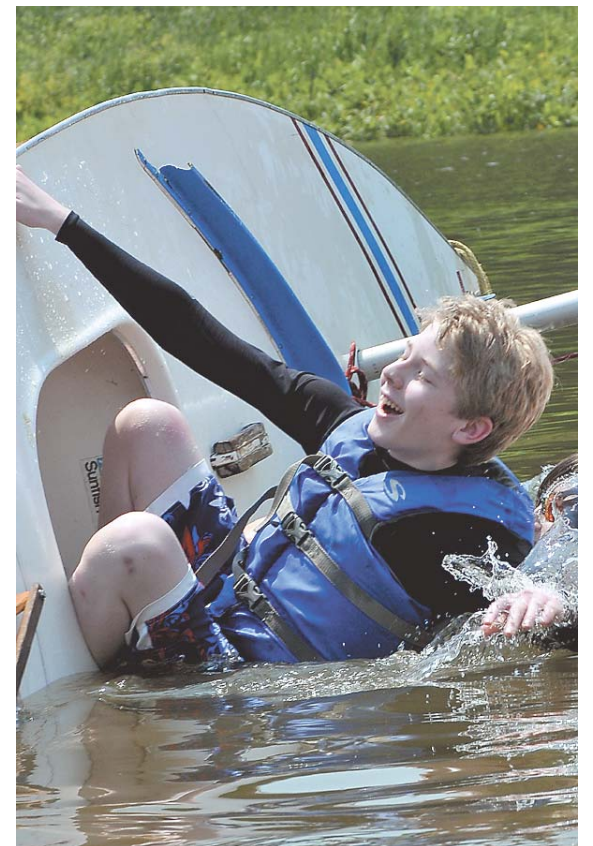
Bailey To Speak at Lions Dinner

The Mount Evening Lions Club dinner meeting will be Tuesday, July 17, at Pema's restaurant. The speaker will be Lion John Bailey who will be giving information on Lions membership. The public is invited to attend and learn about the activities Lions do in the local community as well as the Lions sight and hearing projects. Dinner is at 7 p.m.

Interested persons should call Andrea Corsillo at 703-960-4973 for more information.



Kate Vaughan pulls up the daggerboard.



Ryan Kann pulls the Sunfish over.

A Lesson in Capsizing

Afternoon students at the Belle Haven Marina summer sailing school practiced the fine art of capsizing and recovering Sunfish last Thursday afternoon, June 28, in the shallows at the marina.

The students aged 8 to 15 spent the week learning how to rig a Sunfish, tie the knots used in the rig-

ging, read navigational markers, the points of sail, right of way rules, man-overboard drills and mooring and docking drills. The classes are offered weekly through August in the morning and afternoon. The marina is located at 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway. For more information visit www.saildc.com



Kate Vaughan and Lily Vita climb on board at opposite sides to stabilize the Sunfish.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE



A.J. tries shifting his weight on the daggerboard to right the boat.



The students wait on shore for their turns to practice capsizing.

NEWS

Concerns over New Park Plans

FROM PAGE 1
alternatives no longer call for demolishing pavilions — a proposal which raised a storm of protest last September that caused the park service to start over in its planning — many residents now raised objections to the current NPS Alternative Concepts 2, 3 and 4 which call for reopening the outer loop road. This closely borders homes on Charles Augustine Drive.

“The Potomac Valley-River Bend Civic Association has concerns about the reopening of the southern loop road that was closed 30-plus years ago,” said Gililand. “It was closed due to documented problems with noise and crime. Our properties back right up to the park and that leaves us vulnerable. The closed loop is now a favorite spot for bikers, walkers and those with baby strollers because there is no traffic—let’s keep it that way.”

Said Sutherland, “This would bring all park traffic within a few yards of neighborhood houses and eliminate the only paved, quiet area available for walking, strollers, wheelchairs, etc.”

Sutherland and others also raised the concern that the park will be turned into a magnet for tourists, bringing crowds, tour buses and possibly an entry fee.

Tourists may or may not have plenty to see, depending on NPS plans not yet developed. The primary reason for re-aligning the park, said park representatives, is to highlight its WWII role as a se-

cret interrogation center for high-level Nazi prisoners. The camp was known only as “P.O. Box 1142.”

Two large “Historic Land Use Restoration Areas” in the southern half of the park would be set aside for study and possible display, as yet unspecified though possibly a re-creation of the internment camp might be built.

These areas where interrogation Compounds A and B are believed to have stood are currently partly paved by the roadway. These sections of roadway would be removed and replaced by a paved trail bordering their northern edge.

The park service has done oral histories of about 70 American servicemen who were interrogators there, according to NPS historian Brandon Bies. The POW compounds were bulldozed after the war, leaving no trace.

Said Sutherland, “What troubles

me is that the plans would sacrifice the recreational uses of the park to preserve historical areas where there is essentially nothing to see. I don’t believe the Park Service has considered all the alternatives — for example, they could simply build an informational kiosk with photos and put up signs at various points of interest. They could do this without changing the fundamental nature of the park.”

At present there is no funding available to start revamping the park, and Alternative Concept 1 calls for no action and leaving the park as it is.

However, Alternative Concepts 2, 3 and 4, in addition to reopening the back loop road, call for a “Visitor Contact Station” at either Picnic Areas A, B or C, an interpretive trail and removing a minimal amount of vegetation to achieve a view of the Potomac River at either Battery Robinson or Sater, located in the extreme eastern corner of the park.

The deadline for public comment is July 28; the park service is expected to present its findings to the public in the fall.

Comments can be made online and the alternatives studied in their entirety at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forhunt>.

Written comments can also be mailed to Superintendent, Attn: Fort Hunt Park EA/AoE, 700 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park Headquarters, McLean, VA, 22101.

“The park service says they are trying to maintain both the recreational and historical uses of the park. But I am concerned that their plans would turn this people-oriented park into a tourist destination,” said Sutherland.



Mike Habib was the first to call for public questions and comment.

PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE



National Park Service historian Brandon Bies describes research into Fort Hunt Park’s WWII history when it was an interrogation center known as “P.O. Box 1142.”

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ALEXANDRIAGAZETTE 5.12

Flunking the Future

Despite failing grade on transparency, law enforcement officials resist opening access.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Back in March, Virginia received a failing grade from the State Integrity Investigation as the result of a systematic lack of transparency. Last week, members of a subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council gathered to see if there was any way to reconcile the concerns of law enforcement officials and advocates of public access.

The debate fell into a familiar pattern, with members of the press supporting more access to criminal investigative documents while prosecutors and police chiefs resisted any attempt to increase transparency. The meeting adjourned with no action, which means that members of the General Assembly will likely be unwilling to support legislation that the advisory council won't endorse.

"The General Assembly has been very reluctant to ever see the access community's side of it," said Ginger Stanley, of the Virginia Press Association. "We deal with this every year, and that's why we hoped that the FOIA Council could help us through this process."

Two years ago, state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) introduced a bill that would have opened documents in closed cases, an effort advocates of public access praised. But police and prosecutors resisted that bill, which was referred to the council. Members of a subcommittee formed to consider opening investigative records, but the panel has yet to make any progress. Last week, that panel met again and heard more resistance from the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

Members of a subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council met in Richmond last week.

law-enforcement community.

"Investigations never close," said Mike Doucette, president-elect of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys. "We always have an obligation to go forward, and if we learn of information that we may have prosecuted the wrong person, at that point in time we have to reopen and continue that investigation."

Closed cases are often the subject of intense interest, and advocates say the public deserves to have access to investigative documents. The Edwards bill was sparked by an effort to gain access to investigative documents involved in the Virginia Tech massacre of 2007. Police resisted releasing those documents until a lawsuit forced them into the sunlight. Advocates for open government say that's unacceptable, especially if a lawsuit is never filed and the actions of the police remain shielded from public view.

"That raises a red flag, and it really denies citizens the right to see what went on in an investigation, if there was any sort of misconduct that occurred in an investigation, there's no way for people to know that even after a case is closed," said Caitlin Ginley of the State Integrity Investigation. "When you have an environment like that, it raises the potential for there to be illegal behavior, corrupt behavior, unethical behavior."

Police say the documents should remain unavailable to protect witnesses and victims. "We don't want to have a chilling effect on the public cooperating with law enforcement investigations for fear that they will have information from their cooperation with the law-enforcement agency released, which would be contrary to their interest or wishes," said Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

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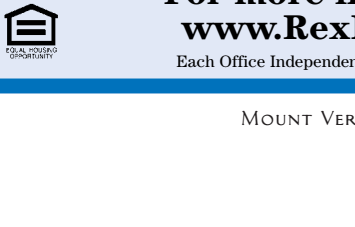
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New Laws, Assault on Freedom?

Voting restrictions, abortion restrictions, DUI restrictions, fewer gun restrictions, more go into effect July 1.

A plethora of new laws will go into effect in the Commonwealth on July 1, including restrictive new procedures for voting, and the loosening of multiple gun regulations.

Drivers convicted of driving while very intoxicated and anyone convicted of DUI for the second time will now be required to have ignition locks installed on their vehicles which will check their blood alcohol levels and keep them from driving if they have been drinking. Hopefully this technology will keep drunk drivers from getting behind the wheel.

EDITORIAL

Women seeking abortions will be required to have a sonogram 48 hours before the abortion. The debate over this bill was one of the most publicized pieces of state legislation in the nation, and the focus of many jokes, protests and outrage. But still the bill passed and the Governor signed it into law.

Voters will be required to present identification, and if they arrive at the polling place without identification, they will cast a provisional ballot that will only be counted if the voter attends a meeting of the electoral board the next day to present his or her identification. Previously signing an affidavit swearing to your identity was sufficient.

Fortunately, your concealed weapons permit will count as your voter identification. But the law provides less sanction for carrying your concealed weapon without having your con-

cealed weapons permit in your possession (\$25 civil fine) than for not having your identification to vote in your possession (disenfranchised, your vote is not counted).

These two provisions, counting concealed weapons permit as voter identification and limiting the penalty for not having your permit with you while carrying your concealed weapon, were just a few of the laws passed that lessen restrictions on guns in commonwealth. Some examples, effective July 1: Eliminate the prohibition on purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period (there are no limits now); provide that nothing in the Emer-

Independence Day Coverage Online, Next Week

This week's Connection papers were printed on Monday and Tuesday July 1-2 because of the timing of the July 4/Independence Day holiday.

On Monday, at least half of our readers were still without power after Friday night's 80-mile-per-hour wind storm, and at our office, we are coping with intermittent power and related computer problems. Our website has been updated with storm information, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and our twitter accounts kept followers up to date during the aftermath.

While the hard copy of our papers won't get to readers until after the Wednesday holiday,

agency Services and Disaster Law shall limit or prohibit the otherwise lawful possession, carrying, transportation, sale, or transfer of firearms; provide that any locality that participates in any gun-buyback program offer the firearms acquired for sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer; allow local government employees to store a lawfully possessed firearm and ammunition in a locked private motor vehicle; remove the option for a locality to require that an applicant for a concealed handgun permit submit fingerprints as part of the application.

And something that will affect all of us, although it does not go into effect until September 2013, a new law that will require Virginians to pay sales tax on purchases from Amazon. This is only fair to local retailers.

The Virginia General Assembly enacted more than 700 new laws in 2012, many of them worthy of discussion.

those papers will not include coverage of independence day events, which will hopefully all be held despite the ongoing cleanup.

Digital replica (free) subscribers will receive their papers before July 4. Digital subscriptions are available without charge. Sign up at connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Our website is updated daily, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. We would love to get your storm photos, email your name, town name and what's happening in the photo to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Five Lessons from the Derecho of 2012

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)

The storm of June 29, 2012 will go down as one of the more memorable moments of Mother Nature in the Lee-Mount Vernon Area. I pulled into my drive way around 9:30 p.m. while listening to WTOV. There was no mention of a pending storm. Within an hour, the trees in my yard were wildly swinging around. After we lost power and my natural gas generator didn't automatically come on, I ventured outside to turn it on manually and the battery exploded. Lesson #1 – Stay inside the house during a Derecho.

While everyone in the 44th District will probably not be fully restored by the time this newspaper is delivered, substantial progress has been made on restoration of service. If you continue to have difficulty getting service restored, please contact my office at 571-249-44TH(4484) and we will do our best to get you assistance.

Through Monday night, my legislative aide, Megan Howard, had fielded at least 40 constituent service calls. No one was angry or rude. Everyone seemed to understand the magnitude of the storm and the difficulty with restoring



power. Lesson #2 – my constituents are patient and caring people. I want to thank everyone this week for the patience and understanding they showed with the situation, and with all the help you gave your neigh-

bors. These events bring out the best in people.

I also want to thank Dominion Power who provided updates about every 12 hours and had live outage maps so everyone could see that they were not alone in Northern Virginia. Lesson #3 – information dissemination is critical. Please make sure you sign up for my email list so I can get information out to you in the future.

Going forward, please remember that the Commonwealth of Virginia regulates insurance. If anyone has difficulty with insurance claims, do not hesitate to contact my office in case we need to ask the Bureau of Insurance to intervene in any coverage disputes.

Lesson #4 – Climate change is real. The evi-

dence of climate change is overwhelming. I've never seen a Derecho like this living here for 40 years. Hurricanes are more frequent, flowers come up in March, massive wildfires are spawning out West, 15,000 temperature records were broken in March 2012, and 1928 temperature records broken between June 24-30. This will not be the last Derecho I see in my lifetime.

As we struggled with power outages, this event also reminded me of Hurricane Isabel in 2003. In my community of Tauxemont, we went without power for seven days and because we are on a separate water system and had no generator, that also meant going without water. You never realize how important water is until you don't have it.

Isabel was also fresh in my mind for another reason. In 2011, the General Assembly enacted legislation deregulating various aspects of home telephone service including the requirement that Verizon string a hard wire line to every new home if there is "adequate" wireless phone service.

I was one of only 28 delegates and 11 senators who voted against this legislation. Most

SEE DERECHO, PAGE 9

“We wanted to break the link between gun running in a way that the second amendment would not be broken.”

— Don Beyer, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia under the Wilder administration

Guns from the South

July 1 marks lifting of 19-year restriction on handgun purchases.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE GAZETTE

On July 1, the 19-year restriction on handgun purchases in Virginia became null and void. The measure was signed by Gov. Bob McDonnell Feb 28, and effectively allows an unlimited number of handgun purchases to individuals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Small businesses that support the change maintain a rise in handgun sales will lead to increases in state revenue, and that the restriction is fundamentally against the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Opponents of the measure argue that lifting the restriction will facilitate arms trafficking and further the image of Virginia as a rogue supplier of firearms.

The one-handgun-per-month restriction was a signature effort of the Douglas Wilder administration, and was aimed squarely at crime organizations from New York. Such organizations filtered south to Virginia for bulk purchases of handguns from local retailers. By purchasing handguns in Virginia, firearms traffickers circumvented stringent controls in New York.

According to Don Beyer, lieutenant governor of Virginia under the Wilder administration when the restriction was established in 1993, the limit on handgun purchases was seen as a practical and bipartisan solution to gun trafficking.

“We wanted to break the link between gun running in a way that the second amendment would not be broken,” said Beyer in a telephone interview. “We had a lot of bipartisan support, limiting gun purchases to one per month is not the same as taking all guns away. People thought this was a common sense approach, criminals were not buying Virginia guns in bulk and to that extent it was a very good thing.”

The restriction had an immediate impact on Virginia guns found at crime scenes out of state. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association and ATF records of traced firearms used in crimes, 41 percent of crime scene guns found in New York City in 1991 originated in Virginia. Two years after the restriction was put in place Virginia guns only accounted for 15 percent of total guns used in crime there.

The net effect of the restriction did not



PHOTO BY MONTIE MARTIN/THE GAZETTE

Guns on display at the Nation's Gun Show. Private owners of guns in Virginia are not required to conduct background checks before selling firearms.

hold up over time, however, and by 2006 Virginia was once again a top supplier of guns used in out of state crime. Colin Goddard, a survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech mass shooting and spokesperson for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, notes that guns trafficked from Virginia are caused by ever increasing exceptions to the one-handgun-per-month restriction.

“Lobby groups like the NRA started taking away pieces of the law until they could claim it was redundant. The law did not apply to private sales, collectors, and not if you had a concealed handgun permit,” said Goddard in a telephone interview. “Basically everyone was exempted except gun traffickers.”

The consequences of firearms trafficking are deadly. In December of 2011, NYPD Officer Peter Figoski was shot and killed by a Virginia handgun. Following the high-profile murder, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Boston Mayor Tom Menino brought the issue of illegal guns to the national stage during a 30-second advertisement for Super bowl XLVI. Although Bloomberg did not call out Virginia by name during the Super Bowl slot, in an emailed statement to the Connection Newspapers the mayor made his sentiments clear.

“Virginia is the number one out-of-state source of crime guns in New York, and one of the top suppliers nationally,” said Bloomberg. “If they care about innocent people and police officers being shot, they should be strengthening laws — as we have

done in New York — to keep guns away from criminals, not weakening them.”

Proponents of lifting the one-handgun-per-month restriction are quick to point out second amendment concerns. “We had a man come in looking to buy a handgun for his daughter, wife and himself because he felt his family was threatened,” said Brian Reed, a gun dealer with the Damascus Gun Shop in Damascus, Va.. “He couldn’t, because of the restriction, and he had to wait months to buy them.”

Virginia guns have been selling at record highs even with the restriction in place. According to the Virginia State Police, between 2010 and 2011 there were 321,166 firearm background checks from licensed dealers in Virginia, the largest number of checks ever. Conservative estimates put these sales into the millions of dollars.

“Between 2010 and 2011 gun stores sold \$312.5 million in firearms, and another \$312.5 million on accessories. That’s \$625 million in total sales,” said Reed. “With a five percent sales tax that’s \$31.25 million collected for Virginia.”

Annette Eliot, president of Showmasters, a family-owned gun show company, notes that many of the Virginia gun dealerships are small businesses. Although the one-handgun-per-month restriction has limited potential sales, lengthy wait times for background checks are a principal concern for firearm dealers.

“The average customer is delayed by four hours because of background checks, it’s expensive because people walk away from sales,” said Eliot. “These are small businessmen, last year dealers lost 12 percent in sales, that’s a hit.”

Delays most often occur when there is a high volume of background checks that must be processed. Customers who purchase firearms in Virginia are subject to two levels of background checks. The National Instant Criminal Background Check System, managed by the FBI, checks a national databank of convicted felons who are ineligible to purchase firearms. An additional background check conducted by the Virginia

State Police looks closely at individuals who were committed to mental hospitals, and stems from the fallout of the Virginia Tech massacre.

Background checks do not apply to private sales, however, and law enforcement officials do not know how many firearms are sold under such circumstances. “That is not something the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program is capable of tracking or capturing, nor is the FTP mandated to do so by state law,” said Corinne Geller, a spokesperson for the Virginia State Police.

Proponents of stricter firearms controls point to the “gun show loophole” as a source of illegal firearms transactions. Gun shows make space available for private citizens to sell weapons from personal collections, without conducting background checks. The one handgun per month restriction does not apply to such individuals. Applicability of the restriction to private sales, however, was never the intent of the original legislation.

“The perception was that people don’t go to gun shows to buy 50 at a time,” said Beyer. “The way the market worked at the time had to do with the radical operation of gun stores who could deal in volume.”

“Criminals don’t buy guns from private individuals at gun shows, the truth is that 98 percent of guns used in crime come from us,” said Reed. “Criminals will get guns, the solution is tougher laws for criminals.”

Although Virginia has laws in place that guard against falsifying documents when purchasing handguns, it is not required to report a lost or stolen firearm. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, such leniency creates an atmosphere ripe for gun trafficking via straw purchases.

In exchange for as little as \$10, or an equivalent in drugs, individuals with clean records will purchase a handgun and give the weapon to a ringleader for transportation.

“A straw purchaser is someone saying this gun is for me, then meets a person a few blocks away and gives them the gun,” said Mike Campbell, a spokesperson with the ATF, in a telephone interview. “Most people buy a gun and choose to keep it for a while, newly purchased guns used in crime scenes are more likely to have been trafficked.”

Law enforcement agencies track crime scene guns by following the supply chain, from gun manufacture to wholesaler, dealer and the individual who purchased the gun. If the owner has sold the firearm without keeping a record of the transaction, lost the gun or had it stolen, the trail goes cold.

Law enforcement officers are not involved in the political debate regarding the one handgun per month restriction. “Virginia is an island of loose gun regulations surrounded by states with more stringent controls on firearms,” said Campbell. “It’s not our job to advise states what they can and can not do with their laws. The people of Virginia are the ones who elected their officials.”

July 1, Fewer Gun Restrictions

Legislation going into effect this week in Virginia includes multiple bills that ease any restrictions on guns.

The new laws:

- ❖ Eliminate the prohibition on purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period.
- ❖ Add concealed handgun permits to the list of acceptable forms of identification to vote or when challenged.
- ❖ Provide that nothing in the Emergency Services and Disaster Law shall be interpreted

to limit or prohibit the otherwise lawful possession, carrying, transportation, sale, or transfer of firearms.

- ❖ Provides that no locality may participate in any gun-buyback program unless the governing body of the locality has enacted an ordinance authorizing the participation of the locality. The ordinance shall require that such firearms shall be offered for sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer.

Mount Vernon-Area Group Seeks Incident Reports

FROM PAGE 1

from a Route 1 store. Since that incident and the formation of the CCPA, numerous letters of complaint have been sent by citizens to the CCPA alleging police misconduct in other cases.

The CCPA letters sent to the police last week requesting police reports include shooting deaths in three other cases in addition to Masters.

CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante said that the purpose of the letters is "quite straightforward: to find out what happened in the shooting deaths, why deadly force was used instead of a taser gun or beanbag gun, and to find out if police misconduct took place."

He also said, "Assuming the police departments probably will not release the reports because of the blanket FOIA exemption, our letters will highlight to the public the importance of amending the Virginia FOIA to require the release of police incident reports, and the value of improving police accountability by creating an independent police citizen oversight panel made up of Fairfax county citizens Unnecessary use of deadly force by the police, if it is occurring, will undermine the integrity and confidence of the public in our police and our elected officials."

It was his view based on the evidence presented from the families of the victims, press reports, autopsy reports, and witnesses that a possibility exists that excessive deadly force may not likely have been necessary in the four cases cited in the FOIA letters.

"We have to know all the facts of the cases and this is the only way the public can judge whether police misconduct took place, no matter how compelling the evidence we now have from the families and the press reports," said Beltrante.

According to the National Association of Citizen Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) there are approximately 100 citizen oversight organizations in existence nationally in cities and counties. NACOLE representatives stated that Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions in the U.S. without an independent police citizen oversight panel.

Several state-wide organizations are strongly supportive of amending the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to allow for access to police incident reports by right: Virginia Press Association, Virginia Coalition for Open Government, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Despite their support and the efforts of their members thus far progress in opening up the access

Police Guidelines on Use of Deadly Force

General Order, Fairfax County Police Department (excerpts)

Number 540.1: In any situation where an officer is otherwise acting lawfully, the use of deadly force is justified in the defense of the officer's life or other person's life. Also, the use of deadly force is justified in protecting the officer or public from serious injury.

Deadly force shall not be employed to apprehend a fleeing misdemeanor. Deadly force may be used to apprehend a fleeing felon if: all other means to effect an arrest have been exhausted, the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect committed a heinous crime, and the felon's escape poses a threat of serious injury or death to the officer or to others.

THE FOUR VICTIMS

The four CCPA letters requested police incident reports on the following victims. Each of the letters asked for the following information:

"We hereby request a copy of your department's Internal Affairs Bureau criminal activity report, the date and location of the shooting death of the victim, the identity of the officer or officers responsible for the shooting death of the victim, the identity of all the officers on the scene who witnessed this event, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, all photographs including vehicle camcorder/

camera photos, correspondence, reports, witness statements and all other evidence relating to your departments investigation of the incident If you determine that only portions of this file are exempt from release, we request that we be provided with all nonexempt portions."

The shooting victims described in the FOIA letters are as follows:

◆ David A. Masters

Date of shooting: Nov. 13, 2009

What is known: Shot once in the back while sitting in his car on a service road at the corner of Fort Hunt road and Route 1; unarmed; did not own a weapon; former Green Beret Vietnam veteran. Police officer who did the shooting said he thought that Masters rolled over an officer in front of the car, the car was stolen, and he was reaching for a gun. All allegations invalidated according to press reports.

Alleged offense: Petty larceny theft of flowers

Pending lawsuit.

◆ Dr. Salvatore J. Culosi

Date of shooting: Jan. 24, 2006

What is known: Shot once in the chest standing in front of his home; unarmed; SWAT team officer allegedly accidentally discharged his weapon when he came to the Culosi home to present a warrant for his arrest. Culosi was an optometrist. Fairfax police have revised their policies as to when a SWAT team assigned to a case.

Alleged offense: Sports gambling (taking bets on football games).

Fairfax County settled family lawsuit against the police officer for \$2 million.

◆ Randall Leroy Rollins

Date of shooting: May 23, 2007

What is known: Shot multiple times while sitting in the back seat of a car at a Route 1 Motel. Driver and female accompanying Rollins was not harmed. Autopsy report describes 11 gunshot wounds, including three to the head. The victim's family stated that after he was killed he was dragged out of the car. Police allege that the victim was going for a gun and refused to comply with their commands. The police were at the motel on a drug-related criminal investigation.

◆ Hailu Brook

Date of shooting: Dec. 10, 2008

What is known: Fairfax County police pursued the victim from Fairfax County to Arlington County. The Fairfax County police said he robbed a bank in McLean. News reports stated he was shot because he pointed a toy gun at the police. Police refused to release the incident report or the bank video tape to the family, or to explain why he was shot in the back. For information about these cases or the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc. (CCPA) Email: virginiaaccpa@aol.com.

to police incident reports has not been realized. One elected official, State Senator John S. Edwards

(Dem-Roanoke, District 21) has for several years introduced legislation to allow the release of crimi-

nal investigative files under FOIA when a case is no longer active or ongoing.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Storm damage on Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE GAZETTE

Tree crushes cars along Rt. 123 in Oakton. Storms uprooted mature trees, blew down limbs, brought down numerous power lines and also broke power poles.

Hurricane Force Winds Storm Through County

FROM PAGE 1

Vernon, South Run in Springfield, Cub Run in Chantilly, Oak Marr in Oakton, and the Burke Centre Library. Regional libraries with power were also open to the public. Many residents sought refuge from the heat in

area malls.

The opening of Saturday's round of AT&T National, organized by Tiger Woods and going on at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, was delayed. When play began, the tournament was closed to the public, with players only allowed on course — no

volunteers or spectators.

STORMS UPROOTED mature trees, blew down limbs, brought down numerous power lines and also broke power poles.

Neighbors were urged to check on seniors and those with disabilities.

Call 911 for reports of "hot" or sparking electrical wires, especially those on roadways.

Call Dominion Power to report outages at 1-866-366-4357.

OPINION

Derecho

FROM PAGE 6

“no” votes were from rural areas. I remember sitting on the floor wondering how people were supposed to call 911 if they cell phone battery was dead or a cell phone tower was out. Mobile phone service was practically non-existent in the aftermath of this storm and often it took me 10 minutes to get a call through. Ten minutes is the difference between life and death in an emergency. Lesson #5 – call me a curmudgeon, but there is no such thing as “adequate” wireless phone service.

Land lines still have their place today and people ought to have the choice to have one if they want without being charged a fortune. Verizon is still not happy with me because of my vote on that bill, but this storm is a classic example of why we should have never passed that legislation. I hope we revisit this issue, but big business tends to run the agenda in Richmond and I doubt it will come back up.

In the aftermath of the Derecho of 2012, please let me know if there are any issues I can help your family resolve. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!

(for 3, 5 or 10 months)



Pierre from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Pierre's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs.




Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, and loves to dance. Elisa can't wait to join her host family's activities.

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Thailand or China as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

LIFE

Changes

Put Yours First!
Life Change Series for 55+

Conference Call Seminars

Join me for a 30 minute conference call*
Wednesday, July 11th at 10:00 am

Topic: **“Private Mortgage Banking: Financing options for your next home purchase”**

Learn how to use your assets/savings without having to liquidate them.
 Why pay cash if you don't have to?

Special guest: Tom Gaffney, Prosperity Mortgage



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Future Sessions:
 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am
 August 8:
 Financial Planning:
 Right Strategy for Retiring in
 Uncertain Times

Alex/Old Town Historic Office, 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



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Thursday, July 12th
5:30 pm:
Acupuncture Happy Hour (space is limited!)

Saturday, July 21st
11 am-4 pm:
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Open House, July 25 10am

George had the right idea.
Mount Vernon is a great place to retire.


Mount Vernon 
At Home

Image courtesy of The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio

ENTERTAINMENT



“Unmasked” by Susan Makara, from Target Gallery’s “Masks” exhibition.

‘Alive with History’

2nd Thursday Art Night: “Alive with History” will take place Thursday, July 12, 6-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Admission is free.

Take a journey back in time to learn about the history of the Torpedo Factory. Bring a mask from home or make one at a Do-It-Yourself Station and wear it to the reception for Masks in the Target Gallery. Join The Art League Gallery for the reception for Genius Loci and the All-Media Membership Exhibit.

View artwork by trauma survivors at a reception in Site 2 and 3 Galleries. En-

joy refreshments, live music by Wytold Lebing, and fun activities throughout the evening.

A reception in the Target Gallery, 6-8 p.m. will be held for Susan Makara. Makara is this year’s winner of the Friends of the Torpedo Factory’s Artist of the Year competition, recognizing a Torpedo Factory artist for outstanding achievement in art. Guests are invited to wear masks to the reception.

Visit <http://www.torpedofactory.org/thursday.htm> for more information about 2nd Thursday Art Night and this month’s special activities.

New Watercolor Exhibit at River Farm

The paintings of Salon 8, a group of local watercolor artists, will be on display at the American Horticultural Society’s headquarters at River Farm through Sept. 25. The show includes a collection of paintings of magnolia blossoms and pods, each interpreted by one of the eight watercolorists. Also on display will be landscapes, and floral paintings inspired by the beauty of nature, and the play of light on plant forms. There also will be several paintings of views of River Farm itself.

All of the artists are members of Potomac Valley Watercolorist, a regional juried arts organization, and have exhibited locally, regionally, and nationally. Individual members have participated in

art exhibits sponsored by the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia; the Baltimore Watercolor Society; the Virginia Watercolor Society; the Washington Watercolor Association; the Rehoboth Art League, and the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C.

Connie Boland, Leigh Culver, Joan Kirk, Emilie McBride, Yoshimi Matsukata, Margitta Hanff-Potts, JoAnne Ramsey and Donna Sturm are the artists.

River Farm is located at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in Alexandria, approximately 4 miles south of Old Town Alexandria. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. All works are for sale.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 5

Chris Robinson Brotherhood. 7:30 p.m. Will perform from their new album, *Big Moon Ritual*. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

Polynesian dance troop Hui O Ka Pua ‘Ilima performs the traditional and contemporary songs and dances of Hawaii and the Polynesian islands of New Zealand and Tahiti. Mt. Vernon Nights at Grist Mill Park. 7:30 p.m. 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway Alexandria. Visit www.ilimahui.com/

Musical Performance. 7 p.m. Jonathan Edwards, who topped the charts with the classic hit “Sunshine” in the 1970s, will perform songs from his latest release “My Love Will Keep,” his first in 14 years. The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500.

Wee Ones Storytime will be held at Hooray for Books! Children’s Bookstore from 10:30-11 a.m. Join us as we explore the exciting world around us with some of our favorite stories and songs! Age 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! is located at 1555 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, call 703.548.4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com

SATURDAY/JULY 7

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration. 4-10 p.m. Program includes children’s activities and pre-show entertainment, exhibits by community groups and food sales; followed by awards presentation, birthday cake distribution, musical performances, and concludes with fireworks. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Call 703-746-5592.

Wee Ones Storytime will be held at Hooray for Books! Children’s Bookstore from 10:30-11 a.m. Join us as we explore the exciting world around us with some of our favorite stories and songs! Age 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! is located at 1555 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, call 703.548.4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com

Author visit by Candice Ransom, author of *Rebel McKenzie* at Hooray for books! Children’s Bookstore on Saturday, July 7, from 3-4 p.m. “When feisty 12-year-old Rebel McKenzie, an aspiring paleontologist, goes to spend the summer taking care of her older sister’s seven-year-old son at the mobile home park in Frog Level, Virginia, she never expects to enter a beauty pageant or meet a hand model.” Ages 10+. Free.

Church Market Day and Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 7, 2012, 8 a.m. -2 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church/Sharon Chapel. The Chapel is located at 3421 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310, up on the hill just west of Telegraph Rd. Come shop for recycled treasures, crafts, food, plants, produce, and much more. Have you things to sell? For a table, email allsaintsmarketday@gmail.com or go to www.sharonchapel.org

SUNDAY/JULY 8

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association 2012 (22nd) Annual Chamber Music Series. 3:00p.m. Special performance by Pianist Victoria Park. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. For more information visit www.wmpamusic.org. E-mail: wmpa@earthlink.net or call 703-799-8229

MONDAY/JULY 9 THROUGH FRIDAY/JULY 13

Come go Fishin’ with Ebenezer. Join Ebenezer Baptist Church, 909 Queen Street, Alexandria, “Fishing on a mission with Jesus” July 9-13, 6-9 p.m. each night. We will fish our way through crafts, Bible Stories, Games, Arts/Crafts, Skits, and have a light dinner. Transportation provided by calling the church office 703-683-1473 ext. 3. Visit www.ebenezer909.org.



Chris Robinson Brotherhood will perform from their new album, Big Moon Ritual. Thursday, July 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 10

Tom Cunningham Orchestra. 9-11 p.m. \$10. The 17-piece orchestra plays the standard Big Band hits of swing era. The Carlyle Club. 411 Carlyle Street, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 11

Billy Wilder’s “Double Indemnity.” 7 p.m. Free. Part of the monthly Film Noir Series at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., in Del Ray. After the movie, viewers are invited to discuss the film at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub at 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705

DJ Dance Party. 9-11 p.m. With DJ Dabe Murphy. \$6. Nick’s Nightclub. 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

Used Book Sale. 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For children and teens. Hardbacks: \$1; paperbacks, 50 cents with discounts for books bought by kids. Sale will be held at the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Contact 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Lunch Bunch Concert. Noon-1 p.m. Musical performance by Lea, featuring folk & contemporary acoustic music. Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Call 703-746-5592.

Ben Brenman Park Concert. 7-8 p.m. Performance by Jazz Foundry, featuring traditional jazz. Lawn seating, you are welcome to bring a blanket or folding chair to enjoy the music. Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr. Call 703-746-5418.

THURSDAY/JULY 12

Music At Twilight Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. John Carlyle Square Park. New Location. Musical performance by Lesson Zero, featuring roots rock covers & originals. John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Call 703-746-5418.

Swing and Blues Dance Party with Gina Desimone & the Moaners. 7pm. \$10.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

Mt. Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. Little Red & The Renegades performs a variety of American music, emphasizing Zydeco and Cajun. Mt. Vernon Nights at Grist Mill Park. 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway Alexandria. Visit www.littleredandtherenegades.com.

Alexandria Citizens Band 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

SATURDAY/JULY 14

The United States Marine Chamber Orchestra: Summer Concert Series II. 7:30 p.m. Free. The Schlesinger Center, 3001 N.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Banjo Festival. 7:30 p.m. Mike Seeger Commemorative 6th Annual Old Time Banjo Festival. Artists include Bill Evans, Adam Hurt, The Old 78's, Evie Laden, and Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer. Advance tickets are highly recommended. Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 202-397-SEAT.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Chamber Music. 3 p.m. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association 2012 (22nd) Annual Chamber Music Series. Performance by The Edwin Trio: violinist Rachele Sills, cellist Ryan Bridgland, and pianist Stefanie Watson; with Guest Artists: violinist Winnie Nham and Erin Terwilliger. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.wmpamusic.org, email wmpa@earthlink.net or call 703-799-8229

Jazz at Meade. 4 p.m. \$15 donation. Featuring Nasar Abadey. Light refreshments will be served. Parking available in the church's lot and on the street. Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N Alfred St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-1334

Banjo Workshops. noon-2 p.m. and 2:30-4:30p.m. Artists include Bill Evans, Adam Hurt, The Old 78's, Evie Laden, and Cathy Fink. House of Musical Traditions, 7010 Westmoreland Ave. Takoma Park, Md. Call 301-270-9090.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Sarah Jaffe to open for Blitzen Trapper. 7:30 p.m. The Music Hall. Tickets are on sale now at <http://sarahjaffe.com>

Jazz. Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra will play on Tuesday July 17 at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria from 9-11 p.m. Cost is \$10.

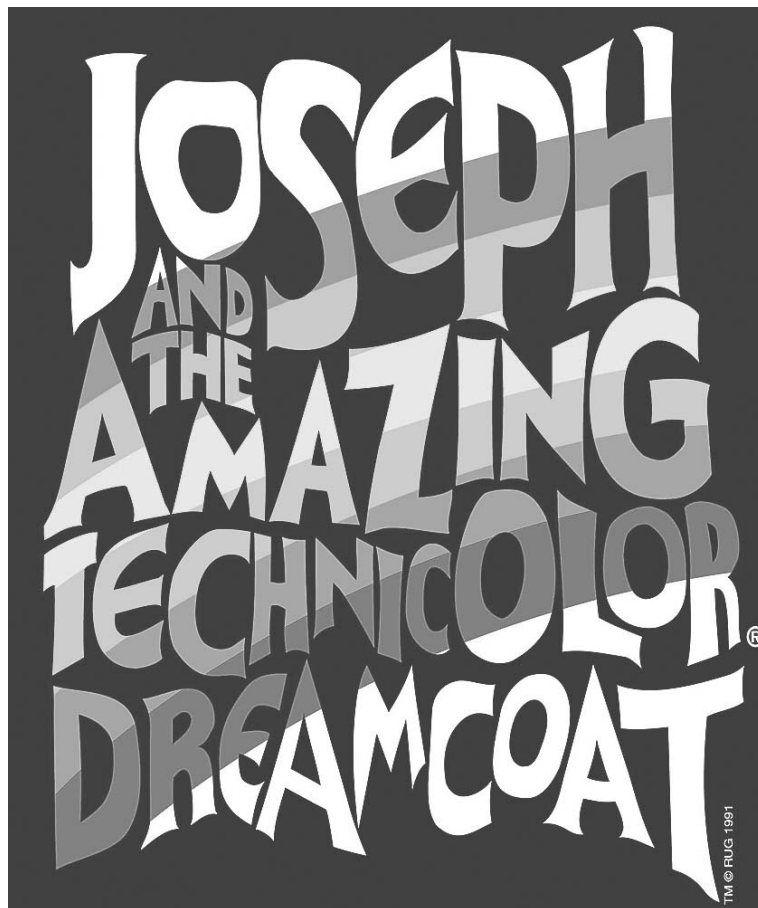
Join New Hope Housing's Young Professional Board for Happy Hour at The Green Turtle's Funds for Friends. 5p.m.- 9p.m. \$2 Domestic, \$2 Rails and \$Yuenglings. Food and drink proceeds benefit New Hope Housing homeless shelter programs. Donations of new pillows, diapers, toothbrushes, and toothpaste will be collected. The Green Turtle, 900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Ryan Montbleau Band (R&B/Pop) - Lee District Nights at Lee District Park at 7:30 p.m. For more information and directions, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ or www.ryanmontbleauband.com. Ryan Montbleau Band has been tending its own musical vineyard for a few years. Their distinctive, long-fermenting blend of neo-folk, classic soul, and kick-out-the-jams Americana comes to full fruition in their new album, Heavy on the Vine.

Live Music. Hangover Royale, DC area's newest rockabilly/swing/blues power trio will play at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria from 9-11 pm. Cost is \$10.

Arthur Downey Jr. will speak on the Role of Lawyers During the Civil War Era. 7p.m. and book signing at 6:30 p.m. "Lawyers dominated public and political life during the first third of America's history, specifically including the Civil War period. The role of the law and the lawyers during the period has been underappreciated. This lecture will discuss some of the great constitutional issues, along with tense courtroom dramas where individual lives were at stake—



Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Show times are Friday, July 6 and Saturday, July 7 at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 8 at 2 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd., Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org or call 703-660-2611.

including questions of habeas corpus and military commissions that have relevance today." The Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

www.jahworks.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association 2012 (22nd) Annual Chamber Music Series. 3:00p.m. Special performance by Cellist, Douglas Wolters. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. For more information visit www.wmpamusic.org. E-mail: wmpa@earthlink.net or call 703-799-8229

JULY 22 AND 23

Victoria Ghost to open for Glen Campbell. Instant People no longer opening, but Victoria Ghost is comprised of siblings Ashley & Shannon Campbell. 7:30 p.m. The Music Hall. Tickets are available at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Victoria-Ghost/>

MONDAY/JULY 23

Lecture on The Perfect Medical-Legal Storm, The Myth of Baby Syndrome. 3p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Presenter is Dennis K. McBride, PHD, MPA. He will review the evidence for and against the Shaken Baby Syndrome. Dr. McBride is Associate Vice President for Research at George Mason University and is affiliated with the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and with Georgetown University School of Medicine. Call 703-228-2144

TUESDAY/JULY 24

MARK WHISKEY AND THE SOURS at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The event is from 9-11 p.m. and costs \$10. Enjoy traditional, authentic Rockabilly!

FRIDAY/JULY 20

Spoken Word. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Society (NVFAA) has scheduled four SLAM ALEXANDRIA spoken word poetry events at the Athenaeum in Old Town, Alexandria. Admission is free for all, but attendees interested in competing in the poetry slam can pay an entry fee of \$10 for a chance to win a \$100 cash prize. Featuring live music, scheduled artists, and an open mic, SLAM ALEXANDRIA is hosted by Shelly Bell and co-sponsored by the NVFAA and Shelly B. Arts. The event starts at 7 p.m. and is located at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

Jah Works (Reggae) - Mt. Vernon Nights at Workhouse Arts Center (Lorton) at 7:00 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ or

Monday, July 9, 2012 • 9:00 a.m. Shotgun



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Or Contact Bryan Armstrong, PGA at barmstrong@mountvernoncc.org or Michael Gailliot at michael.gailliot@gmail.com

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival's Success Has Organizers Looking Ahead

Aiming for more events in the Carlyle District.

BY TRUDY-KAY GANPATT
THE GAZETTE

Not only were the restaurants and wineries participating in the first Carlyle Food and Wine Festival on June 23 able to share their cuisine and products with local residents, they were also able to network and give back to the community as well.

"We were quite pleased to be a part of the inaugural event," said Sam Misleh, owner of Walker's Grille. "It gave people the opportunity to experience our cuisine and as we gain more popularity at our current location we look forward in expanding our concept and philosophy in other areas in Alexandria."

Twenty-five taste tickets were given to each active military family as well as a free book. Other proceeds were donated to the Carpenter's Shelter of Alexandria.

The event included live entertainment, food and wine tasting, food demonstration showcase, a VIP networking reception for



Seven Virginia wineries showcased their products at the Carlyle Food and Wine Festival.

sponsors and a children's corner for the entire family. Residents were able to sample food and wine from several different local restaurants. Participating restaurants in-

cluded 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 included Mattaponi Winery, Unicorn Winery, Prince Michel Vineyard and Winery, Lake Anna Winery, Glass House Winery, DelFosse Vineyard and Winery and Cedar Creek Winery.

The local wineries and restaurants were able to compete for the best appetizer, the best main course and the best dessert. Winner for best appetizer went to Delia's with its halloumi crustini, main course winner went to Walker's Grille with its Asian-style short ribs and dessert went to Jamieson Grille with its green tea cheesecake.

Reacting to the large turnout, the festival committee are looking forward to continuing the tradition of having a Food and Wine Festival each year. They are also hoping that there will be more interactive events like this to bring the community together.

"We have certainly hit a nerve to have more community events like this in the Carlyle District," said Maurisa Potts, spokesperson for the Alexandria Food & Wine Festival. "For a first-year event, the festival had an incredible turnout to the point that the festival organizers and the city are already discussing expanding the footprint within the Carlyle District for next year. Many festival goers were not aware of this great area of North Old Town and we were happy to create an event to introduce them to this neighborhood."

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

The United States Army Band "Downrange" performs. 7:30 p.m. With a popular and ever-changing repertoire, the active-duty musicians of Downrange grab the spotlight with their dynamic performances. Lee District nights at Lee District Park. 6601 Telegraph Road Alexandria, VA 22310. Visit www.usarmyband.com/downrange-event-calendar.html

Lunch Bunch Concert: Matthew Mills. 12:00 p.m - 1:00 p.m. Musical performance by Matthew Mills, featuring contemporary acoustic & flamenco. Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Contact: Maureen Sturgill, 703.746.5420

Ben Brenman Park Concert. 7:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m. Performance by Hand Painted Swinger, featuring pop rock. Lawn seating, you are welcome to bring a blanket or folding chair to enjoy the music. Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr.

Contact: Special Events Office, 703.746.5418

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LEDISI. B.G.T.Y Tour. 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. Special guest Eric Benet. DAR Constitution Hall, Washington DC. Tickets on sale Now, through Ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. Visit www.ledisi.com and www.ericbenet.net.

DJ DANCE PARTY with DJ Dabe Murphy on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. The event is from 9-11 p.m. and costs \$6.

THURSDAY/JULY 26

Music At Twilight Concert-John Carlyle Square Park. 7:30-8:30 p.m. New Location. Musical performance by the Alexandria Harmonizers, featuring men's barbershop. John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Call 703-746-5418

FRIDAY/JULY 27

Swing Music. The ATOMIC Swing Club delivers a

high energy program of vintage swing, jump blues, big band and rockabilly swing. 7:30 p.m. This five-piece combo brings back the savvy swingin' vibe that made swing music so very popular in the first place. Mt. Vernon Nights at Grist Mill Park. 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/>.

Alexandria Citizens Band Concerts. 7:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m. The Alexandria Citizens Band, the City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization, is celebrating 100 years!! You are invited to 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.

Contact: Special Events Hotline, 703-746-5592

THROUGH 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.

Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade retailer on King Street in Old Town, will be transformed into an oriental rug showroom, when more than 300 rugs, all hand made in Pakistan by fairly paid adults, arrive for the annual 4-day sale. But on Sunday, July 29, people interested in fair trade rugs can get a sneak peek of the event. Guests can sample fair trade wines and artisanal cheeses as they view samples of the rugs coming in September, learn about the different types of oriental rugs, how they are made, how fair trade rugs differ from other rugs, and what to consider when choosing a rug for their home. The hour-long preview party starts at 6:30 pm Sunday, July 29 at the store. The event is free but seating is limited, so reservations are strongly advised. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call 703-684-1435 for more information

SUNDAY/JULY 29

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association
2012 (22nd) Annual Chamber Music Series. 3:00p.m. An instrumental master class. Details to be announced at www.wmpamusic.org. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. For more information visit www.wmpamusic.org. E-mail: wmpa@earthlink.net or call 703-799-8229

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

"The Postman Always Rings Twice" with Lana Turner and John Garfield. 7 p.m. Free. Part of the monthly Film Noir Series at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., in Del Ray. After the movie, viewers are invited to discuss the film at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub at 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/AUG. 2

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Concert By The U. S. Navy Band 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. The Sea Chanters perform throughout the United States and often perform at the White House, the Vice President's home and for other places. Market Square, 301 King St. Contact Maureen Sturgill at maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5420.

FOOD & DRINK

Teatism Unveils New Location

The first Teatism restaurant has opened in Alexandria. These locally-owned, Asian-inspired tea houses have been serving locals and tourists alike at three downtown locations since 1996. Originally conceived to showcase loose leaf teas from all across Asia, Teatism has refined its commitment to healthy dining in this new space.

A new menu by Chef Alison Swope (New Heights, Santa Fe East, The Mark, Andale) features Okonomiyaki along with buckwheat and hempseed pancakes. Teatism serves organic meals made from scratch. Selected beers, sakes and wines – 15 different bottles—match the menu's bold Asian flavors.

Teatism Old Town is located at 682 North St Asaph Street, Alexandria, and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The restaurant opens at 7:30 a.m. Monday to Friday and at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The restaurant closes at 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday evenings and at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



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Coach Garza Leaves Mount Vernon for Robinson

Led boys' soccer for nine years.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

In nine seasons, Robert Garza led the Mount Vernon boys' soccer program to three National District championship game appearances, two district titles and a top-20 ranking in the ESPN.com national poll. The Majors reached the regional quarterfinals each of the last three years and proved capable of competing with best in the area.

Garza left his fingerprints on the Mount Vernon program. Now the 39-year-old coach is moving on to a new challenge.

Garza on July 2 was named head coach of the Robinson boys' soccer team, replacing Jac Cicala, who retired at season's end. The Rams captured the 2012 Northern Region championship before losing to Thomas



LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

After nine seasons at Mount Vernon, Robert Garza was named head boys' soccer coach at Robinson Secondary School.

Dale, 1-0, in the state quarterfinals. Robinson finished state runner-up in 2008, 2000 and 1987.

"It feels good, to be honest," Garza said of taking over at Robinson. "I don't know if bittersweet is the right thing to say. Being at Mount Vernon for nine years, I hate to leave that program ... but this is an opportunity for me to take [the next step in] my coaching career."

Garza's Mount Vernon teams faced Robinson four times in the last three seasons. In 2010, Robinson defeated Mount Vernon in the regional quarterfinals. In 2011, the Majors beat the Rams in the opening round of the regional tournament. In 2012, Mount

Vernon won the teams' regular season meeting, but Robinson responded with a victory via penalty-kick shootout in the regional quarterfinals. "I'm looking forward to taking my style over there," Garza said, referring to Mount Vernon's use of speed, agility and forward-moving possession. "[Robinson is] in the toughest district (Concorde) in the state of Virginia. I'm looking forward to the challenge and the next step and bettering myself as a coach." Garza graduated from Hayfield in 1991 and played soccer collegiately at Liberty University and Marymount University. He's a history teacher at Alice Deal Middle School in Washington, D.C.

"Being at Mount Vernon for nine years, I hate to leave that program ... but this is an opportunity for me to take [the next step in] my coaching career."

— Robinson boys' soccer coach Robert Garza

Mansion House Piranhas Compete Against Langley

BY TRUDY-KAY GANPATT
THE GAZETTE

The Mansion House Piranhas started their season with a Neon Pep Rally and whipped cream eating contest on Saturday, June 23, in Alexandria against the Langley Wildthings under the leadership of returning coach Mark Faherty and assistant coach Katie Brado.

Mansion House had 17 individual winners and five relay wins, but Langley won the meet, 223-196.

Single winners included Winnie Mikulski, Will McCarthy, Jackie Meyers, Susannah Anderson, Morgan Frueh, Michael Hood, Rose Meyers, Ian Thompson, Maddie Zeigler and Connor Gray. Double winners included Annie Hood competing in 9-10 girls' 50-meter back (42.97) and 25 fly

(18.71), Andrew Revers competing in the 11-12 boys' 50 free (31.29) and 50 breast (45.67), and Hellen Moffitt, setting two team records in the 15-18 girls 50 back (30.43) and 50 fly (29.33).

Winners for the boys' 100 medley relay were Johnny Dollard, Thomas Lee, Mike Hooper and Harrison Mikulski. For the 13-14 boys' 100 medley relay, winners were Will Revers, Ian Thompson, Joseph Hood and Riley Holt. For the 13-14 girls' 100 medley relay, winners were Paige Russell, Rose Meyers, Madeleine Sanasack and

Meredith Lian. The 15-18 girls' 200 medley relay winners were Hellen Moffitt, Mary Hood, Addie Zeigler and Bridget Thompson. The 15-18 boys' medley relay

winners were John Shlesinger, Evan Draim, Luke Kraynak and Kyle Draim and the girls' 200 free mixed age relay winners are Susannah Anderson, Annie Hood, Paige Russell and Hellen Moffitt. Hellen Moffitt qualified to compete in the 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke at the 2012 Olympic trials taking place in Omaha, Neb., on June 26-30. West Potomac High School rising senior Moffitt has earned many accomplishments in recent years, including 2010-11 USA Swimming Scholastic All-American honors, five-time High School All-American

accolades and receiving the Potomac Valley Swimming Outstanding Athlete Award three times. She is also won the Potomac Valley Swimming Scholar Athlete Award. "The Mansion House swim team is proud and delighted to have her as apart of their team and wishes her all the best," said swim team representative Terri Hood.

The Mansion House Piranhas' hope to improve their 2-3 record from 2011 by motivating others with strong senior swimmers like Molly Graves, Maddie Zeigler, and Abby Kitchen for this upcoming season.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Mansion House Piranhas recently opened its 2012 season.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Champions

The Fort Hunt U13B2 boys' lacrosse team defeated Chantilly, 11-7, on June 10 to win the championship. From left: (top row) Coach Costello, Ben Teipe, Cameron Dezio, Ben Schoeffel, Mark Ellis, Austin Smith, Hayden McCloud, Finn Gilmartin, Tom Dupuis, Garrett McCown, Assistant Coach Markle, (from bottom left) Aiden Kiernan, Justin Elmore, Julien Rudolph, Zack Woods, Billy Rice, Same Markle. Missing from photo: Matt Fannon, Connor Todd, Finn Feighery, Garrett Chiaramonte, Alec DuBois, Zach James and assistant coaches McCown and Chiaramonte.



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THEGAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer starts his practice 20-foot rappel down the front of the Crystal City Hilton.

Over the Edge

Chief Rohrer, rappellers raise \$60,000 for Special Olympics.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Rose Pleskow is not one to shy away from a challenge. The 22-year-old athlete competed in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece, last summer, earned multiple medals in the 2012 Virginia Special Olympic Summer Games and recently competed in an 800-meter race in the waters around the Cayman Islands. But on June 22, she did something most people wouldn't dare: rappelling down the side of a 15-story building.

"It was exactly what I expected when I was doing it," said Pleskow, who participated in the first Northern Virginia "Over the Edge" fundraiser in Arlington. "I was nervous and excited at the same time.

But I felt safe and it was great to look down and see my parents and friends cheering me on."

Pleskow joined area celebrities like DC 101 DJ Elliot Segal of "Elliot in the Morning" fame, ABC 7's Steve Chenevey and Fairfax County Chief of Police David Rohrer in dangling 250-feet from the side of the Hilton Crystal City in an effort to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics of Virginia.

"This was a great event," said Rohrer, a long-time regional coordinator and state chair for the Virginia

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Special Olympics Torch Run. "I spent seven years in SWAT and love to rappel. But I haven't done it in about 15 years now so it was great to get out there again for such a good cause."

Participants had to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for the "privilege" to go "Over the Edge" in the first-time event in Northern Virginia.

"Nonprofits are facing a lot of challenges these days," said Paul Griffith, who started Over the Edge in 2004 as a one-time fundraising event for three local charities in his native Halifax, Nova Scotia. "There are only so many charity walks or runs you can do. Rappelling is something different and a more exciting way to bring awareness to an organization like Special Olympics."

Sixty-eight rappellers participated in the event, raising more than \$60,000 for Special Olympics of Virginia.

"This was a great success financially but just raising awareness means so much," Rohrer said. "The reality is that what we faced that day pales to what the athletes or anyone facing intellectual adversity or challenges faces every day."

Rohrer now serves on the Executive Board for Special Olympics of Virginia and is committed to helping raise funds and awareness for the organization and the athletes.

"I know a number of these athletes and am so proud of them," Rohrer said. "All they want is respect, opportunity and dignity. They are just incredible people and great role models for all of us."

For more information on Over the Edge or how to participate next year, visit www.OverTheEdgeVA.com or follow Special Olympics of Virginia on Twitter at @overtheedgeva.

"What we faced that day pales to what the athletes or anyone facing intellectual adversity or challenges faces every day."

— Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer

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**\$500 MILITARY REBATE INCENTIVE
FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL.⁷**

*INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$399 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR. EXAMPLE CAMRY L. ²BASED ON KELLEY BLUE BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. ³0% APR FOR A LIMITED TIME ON SELECT NEW TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. ⁴FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. ⁵WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. ⁶WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. ⁷TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH A PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD THE AMOUNTS DUE AT LEASE SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER LEASE OR FINANCE TRANSACTION. ⁸REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD DUE AT SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION, OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER FINANCE OR LEASE TRANSACTION. NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TOYOTA COLLEGE GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. ⁹BONUS CASH FROM TOYOTA MOTOR SALES USA, INC ON QUALIFIED TFS LEASE CONTRACTS ONLY. MUST BE APPLIED TO THE TRANSACTION. NO CASH PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO CONSUMER. [†]ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN THE U.S. MILITARY. VERIFIABLE PROOF OF MILITARY STATUS OR PROOF OF ACTIVE SERVICE IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER REBATES. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 7/9/12.

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