

# MOUNT VERNON VOICE

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Serving Mount Vernon, Lee, and Alexandria

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Photo courtesy Megan Howard

## *Surovell Hosts Town Hall on Hispanic Issues*

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44th) hosted his first Hispanic Community Town Hall meeting with Del. Alfonso Lopez Saturday at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. See pages 4 and 8.



Courtesy photo

## *Beyer Kicks Off 'Around the 8th in 80 Days'*

Taking a page from Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days," Democratic congressional candidate Don Beyer kicked off the last 80 days of his campaign for the 8th District seat with "Around the 8th in 80 Days" campaign Saturday at Qunicy Park in Arlington. "This campaign is about ideas and optimism," Beyer said. "To paraphrase Jules Verne, 'Anything one person can imagine, others can make real.'" Beyer defeated several candidates in a primary in June and is seeking to succeed U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D) who announced in January he would not be seeking another term. After Beyer supporters of all ages enjoyed the day in the park with ice cream sundaes and music, Beyer left to begin his tour of the 8th — not in a hot air balloon, but in a 2012 Volvo station wagon.

## MPO Kottemann Retiring Mt. Vernon Native Devoted Career to Hometown

By STEVE HUNT

Staff Writer

At Fairfax County Police Department stations, commanders routinely come and go — they put in their two years, get promoted and are assigned elsewhere.

And then there are officers such as Master Police Officer Greg Kottemann.

Kottemann grew up in Waynewood, attending Waynewood Elementary, Stephen Foster Intermediate (now Whitman Middle), three years at the former Fort Hunt High and was a member of the first graduating class of West Potomac High in 1986.

A person can't get much more Mount Vernon than that, and that's the reason he decided to serve practically his entire 25-year career at the Mount Vernon District Station.

Kottemann was working at Safeway when he was hired by the FCPD in 1989 at age 21.

"I always knew I wanted to become an officer ... since I was young and liked the cool cars with the lights on top," Kottemann told the Voice. "As I grew older, the more I discovered/learned, the more I was sure this is what I wanted to do."

Kottemann recently announced that he will be retiring effective Sept. 19 and at the July 29 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, during a presentation for the upcoming National Night Out event on Aug. 5, Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland and Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay could not let the opportunity pass to personally thank Kottemann for his years of service to the Mount Vernon District Station service area, which includes portions of Lee District along the Richmond Highway corridor.

Hyland recalled being invited by Kot-



File photo

**MPO Greg Kottemann, right, with his successor, Ofc. Robert Urps, at this year's Mount Vernon Town Meeting.**

temann's father to attend Greg's graduation ceremony from the police academy and then watching him continue to serve the Mount Vernon community for decades out of the station located at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center on Parkers Lane where Hyland's office is also located.

"Greg has been the person on the spot to represent the police department in all matters of interest and concern in the community," Hyland told his colleagues.

Then, speaking directly to Kottemann, who was there for the National Night Out recognition, Hyland told him: "You have established a reputation, Greg, as a person who cares and who has made an incredible difference."

Hyland also noted that Kottemann was instrumental in helping numerous communities establish Neighborhood Watch programs and was involved in the Citizens Advisory Council at the Mount Vernon station.

*See Kottemann Page 10*

## Long-time Delegate Keating Dies

Former state Del. Gladys Keating (D-43rd) passed away Tuesday, according to Del. Mark Sickles (D), who currently holds the seat Keating held for 11 terms.

She was born Aug. 1, 1923, in New York City.

Keating was a member of the Virginia General Assembly from 1978 to 1999 before being defeated by Republican Tom Bolvin.

She had been chair of the House Militia and

Police Committee and served on the Counties, Cities and Towns, Corporations, Insurance and Banking, and Agriculture committees. She was also active in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures, Science, Energy and Environmental Research Committee, the Olivet Episcopal Church and the Brookland-Bush Hill Citizens Association.

*See Keating Page 10*



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## From Shelter Resident to Police 'Officer'

Zara was a beautiful, and highly energetic, Belgian Malinois, when she was surrendered to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria last September because her owner could no longer take care of her.

And it didn't take long for staff at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is operated by the AWLA, to realize that Zara had extremely high drive and wanted to "work" for living.

Zara would be a challenge for most families to handle, they concluded.

Enter the City of Alexandria Police Department.

Staff contacted the department to determine whether they would consider testing her for its police dog program.

She passed with flying colors and was enrolled into the department's K-9 school.

On Wednesday, Aug. 13, Zara graduated and is now an official APD K-9.

APD Chief Earl Cook knows a good thing when he sees it.



Courtesy photo

**Zara is now an official APD K-9.**

"We could not be more grateful to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria for bringing Zara to us," he said. "She is an excellent addition to our K-9 Unit and family here at the police department."

Zara will be working alongside her handler Officer Steven Escobar, as she serves the citizens of the City of Alexandria.

As a "graduate" of the AWLA shelter, she is also representing Alexandria in the shelter's own Pet Photo Calendar Contest. (To vote for Zara in the calendar contest and support the AWLA, go to [www.alexandrianimals.org/calendar](http://www.alexandrianimals.org/calendar).)

AWLA executive director Megan Webb stated, "This is a win/win situation because Zara gets to work and do what she loves and the city gets to help a dog who will then help the entire community of Alexandria."

— Staff report

[mountvernonvoice.com](http://mountvernonvoice.com)

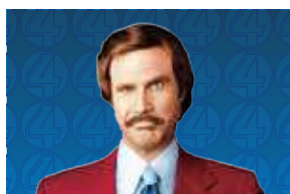
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Cameron Spencer, Getty Images

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## Enhanced Enforcement Happening on Corridor

Fairfax County police announced in July that officers, both from the Mount Vernon District Station and the department's Operations Support Bureau, would be conducting stepped up enforcement efforts along the Richmond Highway corridor during the month of August. Officers, such as this motorcycle officer from the OSB, were doing just that Tuesday morning near the intersection with Napper Road as motorists were heading north on the highway. But it wasn't just motorists operating illegally they are watching out for, but pedestrians who aren't crossing the highway at crosswalks as well.



Staff photos/Steve Hunt



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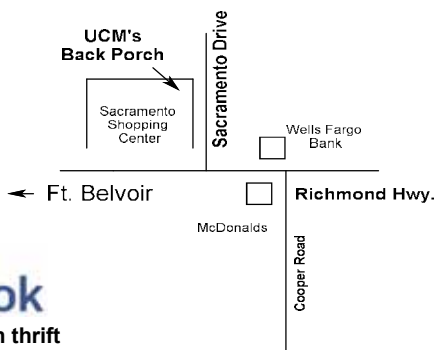
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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Free Summer Concerts Continue

The area's free summer concerts continue this week.

On Wednesday, July 20, The United States Navy "Commodores" will perform jazz at the **Lee District Nights** series at Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, starting at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, Aug. 22, Hang-Over Royale will perform swing music at **Mount Vernon Nights at Grist Mill Park**, 4710 Old Mount Vernon Road, starting at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 23, The United

States Air Force "Singing Sergeants" will perform at **Mount Vernon Nights at the Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton**, 9601 Ox Road, at 7 p.m.

And on Sunday, Aug. 24, Altekamraden will perform festmusic with traditional wind instruments at the **Fort Hunt Park** on the George Washington Memorial Parkway starting at 7 p.m.

## Free Back-to-School Haircuts Tuesday

Fairfax County firefighters will

be sponsoring free children's haircuts at locations in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria.

In Mount Vernon, the haircuts will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road.

Off-duty firefighters/barbers, and local barbers throughout the community will provide free haircuts for local kids on free or reduced lunch plans.

Children will also be provided with backpacks with school supplies.

# CRIME LOG

*The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department for the period Aug. 13 – 19.*

## ROBBERY

\*Richmond Highway 8000 block — Aug. 12, 3:10 p.m. The victim was walking when he was approached by a man. The suspect demanded money and punched the victim in the face. The suspect fled on foot. The victim did not require rescue. The suspect was described as Hispanic, 20s and about 5 feet tall.

## INDECENT EXPOSURE

\*Huntington Avenue 2500 block — Aug. 16 at 4:33 p.m. A woman was sitting near the bus stop when a man approached her and exposed himself. Officers arrested Adrian Donnell Vaughan, 28, and charged him with indecent exposure.

## LARCENIES

\*6300 block of Richmond Highway, purse from business  
\*4400 block of Groombridge Way, backpack from vehicle  
\*8200 block of Russell Road, snacks from business  
\*4500 block of Arendale Square, license plate from vehicle  
\*2300 block of Huntington Avenue, snack from business  
\*6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

\*7700 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business  
\*6300 block of Richmond Highway, beverages from business  
\*6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business  
\*6700 block of Richmond Highway, wood from business  
\*7300 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business  
\*9100 block of Richmond Highway, license plate from vehicle  
\*8400 block of Eureka Court, cell phone from residence  
\*8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, cell phone from school  
\*8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
\*3500 block of Robert E. Lee, shoes from residence

## STOLEN VEHICLES

\*2600 block of Arlington Drive, Suzuki motorcycle  
\*6200 block of Houston Court, 1989 Toyota  
\*6000 block of Richmond Highway, Hyundai Accent

*The following incidents were reported by the Franconia District Station of the FCPD.*

## LARCENIES

\*6500 block of Braddock Road, copper wire from business  
\*5900 block of Kingstowne Towne Center, wallet from business  
\*4400 block of Carrico Drive, bicycle from residence

\*6700 block of Royal Thomas Way, license plate from vehicle  
\*8900 block of Wynnefield Court, cell phone from residence  
\*7600 block of Fairfield Woods Court, money order from residence  
\*6400 block of Springfield Mall, merchandise from business  
\*8500 block of Terminal Road, catalytic converter from vehicle  
\*6300 block of Walker Lane, bank cards and credit cards from \*business  
\*3800 block of Elmwood Drive, wallet from business  
\*7100 block of Little River Turnpike, merchandise from business  
\*8900 block of Lorton Station Boulevard, cell phone from vehicle  
\*5600 block of Overly Drive, license plate from vehicle  
\*7100 block of Silver Lake Boulevard, medication from business  
\*7500 block of Accotink Park, cell phone from business  
\*6000 block of Archstone Court, package from residence  
\*5800 block of Kingstowne Boulevard, merchandise from business

## STOLEN VEHICLES

\*6100 block of Franconia Road, 2008 Saturn  
\*9200 block of Gilmore Drive, 2012 Toyota Tundra  
\*6600 block of Loisdale Road, 1983 Honda Civic  
\*6700 block of Loisdale Road, 2014 Frontier Nissan and 2014 Sentra Nissan

# DELEGATE REPORT

## Youth Issues Dominate 1st Hispanic Town Hall

By Del. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-44th)

On Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, I held my third town hall meeting of the year and my first ever Hispanic Community Town Hall. I was also joined by the first Democratic elected Latino State Delegate — Alfonso Lopez — who represents South Arlington and Bailey's Crossroads. The Hispanic population has grown from less than one percent in Virginia in the 1970s to 8.6% today. Here in our area, there was virtually no Hispanic population when I was a kid. Today, the Hispanic population is the largest minority demographic in the 44th District. One in four people who lives in the 44th District is Hispanic.

This community represents a new and growing part of Mt. Vernon and Lee and are a growing part of the community. It's important that we reach out to and engage every group in our area in order to have a robust conversation about the challenges we face.

At the meeting, we discussed the following:

- Route 1 Transit Study.
- Healthcare Expansion for Low Income Families
- Secondary Education Funding
- Low Cost Internet and Computers for Students
- Virginia DREAM Act — In-state tuition for migrant students
- Affordable Housing

During the question and answer session, the main focus of the audience was improving local schools and providing more resources for children in the community.

Attendees specifically raised concerns about the 17 trailers at Hybla Valley Elementary School — even after a new addition to the school. They pointed out that children cannot access bathrooms or water without going outside and back into the main building which also raises safety concerns.

Several mothers pointed out that Hybla Valley Elementary School does not have the same

services for students as other schools in the area. The school also does not have a Parent Teacher Association which also limits parental involvement.

Attendees also had concerns about the lack of any meaningful after school activities for children in their neighborhood. Several mothers from Audubon Estates Mobile Home Park pointed out that they do not have convenient pedestrian or bike access to any parks or other activities. The only activities accessible to children are playing in the street. Several agreed that a bike and walking trails connecting Lockheed Boulevard, Audubon Estates, Mount Vernon Woods, Muddy Hole Park, and the Gum Springs Community Center would help to alleviate this problem.

The attendees also raised concerns about the condition of Audubon Estates, rent increases, and towing practices in their community.

Questions were also asked about how voting could be made more accessible to accommodate people's working schedules. It was also suggested that legislation should be introduced to allow the Virginia DMV to issue driver's licenses to all people residing in Virginia similar to Maryland.

Del. Lopez explained how his father came to the United States, acquired a college education, and helped to educate dozens of members of his extended family. He also explained the Virginia DREAM Act and Attorney General Herring's recent decision which directed Virginia universities to extend in-state tuition to the 8,000 children granted status under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy.

I encouraged the attendees to stay engaged in the community and we discussed setting up further meetings with other local elected officials.

It is an honor to serve as your state delegate. Please email me at [scottsurovell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsurovell@gmail.com) if you have any feedback.

See photos pages 1, 8.

## 'SIOC' Smoke Alarm Alerts Woodlawn Residents

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel had installed a "Safety In Our Community" (SIOC) smoke alarm in a mobile home in Woodlawn.

It may have saved lives early Friday morning.

Fire and rescue department units

responded to a mobile home fire at 6:40 a.m. at 4114 Galen Street. Upon arrival firefighters encountered smoke coming from the kitchen of the home. Crews quickly conducted an aggressive fire attack and extinguished the fire.

The four occupants were alerted

by the sounding smoke alarm and all escaped unharmed.

Damage was minimal and confined to the kitchen.

According to the incident commander, the fire was accident. Combustibles in the over caused the fire.

— FCFRD report

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Critiquing New Bike Lanes

Dear Editor:

Not all bike lanes are created equal as evidenced by the recently installed bike lanes along Sherwood Hall Lane (SHL) from Ft. Hunt Road to almost Richmond Highway. Saying almost to Richmond Highway is because the bike lane ends in a nameless area in the middle of the block just past Bethlehem Baptist Church but before the Thrift Center on SHL. Why would Fairfax County and VDOT end a bike lane in such an odd area instead of at least extending to SHL & Richmond Highway?

The bike lane section in Gum Springs from SHL & Holland Road to SHL and some nameless area after SHL & Fordson Road but before SHL & Richmond Hwy. is less than three-tenths of a mile.

The bike lane from SHL & Ft. Hunt Road to SHL & Parkers Lane is more than 1-mile long — notice that the bike lane starts and ends at known street points. Although the markings were not yet finalized (according to VDOT) prior to submission of this letter to the editor, it is doubtful that communities along that section of the bike lane will have similar safety impacts as the Gum Springs community. Gum Springs did not even warrant safety (dash) lines for its bus stops or entrance to Bethlehem Baptist Church similar to those placed along SHL for other communities and Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

Although Gum Springs was empathetic to bike advocates, the county and VDOT wanting to install a bike lane, the community was more concerned about the safety and road challenges for not only bicyclists traveling on a poorly designed roadway for a bike lane but also for the travel safety of pedestrians and vehicles. Therefore, Gum Springs did not support the bike lane. However, it got the bike lane anyway — three-tenths of a mile of safety headaches.

The bike lane section in Gum Springs has more than one safety challenge to include: 1) terminating in a location that leaves the bicyclist vulnerable; 2) no protection from rear end collisions at the end of the bike lane; 3) being in the door zone of parked vehicles; 4) being routed to the right of right-turning traffic; and 5) encroaching on the parking lane with insufficient space for trash and recycle receptacles and vehicles in the parking lane. Using the a portion of the parking lane may also be problematic with the curb placement of authorized items such as special (oversize) pick-ups, leaves, Christmas trees and debris during the aftermath of a storm.

With intersections being a high risk for bicyclists, the section of the bike lane from SHL & Holland Road to SHL & Fordson Road is approximately one-tenth of a mile before it conflicts with the dedicated right-turn lane of right turning traffic at SHL & Fordson Road. This bike lane safety hazard also eliminated on-street parking for Mt. Woodley residents.

Although two churches in Gum Springs lost on-street parking in order to accommodate the bike lane, the placement of

the bike lane may cause poor sightlines for drivers of vehicles. For example, a cyclist may be struck by drivers making a left-turn at SHL & Fordson Road through an opening of standstill traffic while the cyclist is traveling in the opposite direction. Also, with the increased number of trucks using SHL to avoid Richmond Highway, extended side mirrors and loads that may be significantly wider than the vehicle itself may increase the bicyclist's chances for being side-swiped or force the bicyclist or a vehicle in the travel lane into the path of a vehicle because there is no bike lane protection for the cyclist.

The bike lane is between the parked and vehicle travel lanes. Certain sections of SHL in Gum Springs are narrow, leaving no room for extra pavement for the cyclist especially around the curves at Holland Road and between Andrus Road and Fordson Road.

With such safety challenges, it is difficult for any community or advocates for bike lanes to support any current or future bike lanes not to mention the disparate installation treatment of bike lanes routed through certain communities.

With these safety challenges, Gum Springs requested that the bike lane through its community be "blackened out." VDOT has refused to do so because implementing increased bike lanes are in Fairfax County's bicycle master plan. That's just it — it's a plan — a plan that can be changed. Our question to Fairfax County and VDOT is — just because a bike lane on a certain street/road is in the plan but if that street/road is not the "right" street/road or section thereof, why install a bike lane?

The markings are not going to change the safety hazards.

Therefore, we assume we will have to wait until a cyclist is hit by a moving or parked vehicle before any further safety action is taken. It may not happen today, tomorrow or a year from now — it will happen because it's an accident waiting to happen.

Overall, Gum Springs has a bike lane less than three-tenths of a mile that has more than one safety challenge for such a short distance coupled with "shared" left-turn lanes at SHL & Fordson Road. These left-turn lanes add to the bike lane safety hazards because the left-turn lanes actually share the same lane but in opposite directions with little room for mobility once each is committed to make a left-turn from SHL onto Fordson Road regardless of the direction of travel.

VDOT has indicated that it will take a look at the intersection and do some improvements. Those improvements should be implemented now. If not, we may have to wait for a head-on collision or a vehicle is side-swiped or a bicyclist is hit because of a gap turn at this intersection before safety action is taken.

SHL was much safer before these "safety" improvements! What happened to being proactive for the sake of safety?

— Queenie Cox, President,  
New Gum Springs Civic Association

## What We Think

By Mary Paden

### Have you been following the McDonnell trial? If so, what do you think of it?



**Laura Sonnenmark**  
Westgate

"They always blame the woman for everything. Eve might have plucked the apple, but it was Adam who took a bite."

**Les Sonnenmark**  
Westgate

"I am amazed and disgusted at the McDonnells' bad judgment. How could they think taking these gifts would be ok?"



**Gil Davenport**  
Mt. Vernon Forest

"It is my comedic relief at the end of every day."

**Dawn Drennen**  
Bellevue

"Regardless of my party preference, I thought Governor McDonnell was a fair and honest person. What a disappointment to learn he is yet another corrupted politician deceiving the state he represented and Virginians who trusted him."



**Alex Beiro**  
Montebello

"I am following it. But we are only half way through. Ask me again in two weeks after the defense rests."

**Helen Haltzel**  
Stratford-on-the-Potomac

"I think it's a shame for the state. I will leave their guilt or innocence to the jury, but it seems kind of sleazy."



# MOUNT VERNON VOICE

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# Mount Vernon High Teams Begin Fall Practices



Head coach Barry Wells runs practice at Carl Sandburg while the MVHS turf field is completed.

## Football



Photos/Nicholas Lindsey



Head coach Jorge Negron shows how it's done.

## Volleyball



Coach Jessica Hebel, seated in center, plans strategy.

## Field Hockey





## Pets of the Week

**Calvin** is a neutered male, yellow Chihuahua — Smooth Coated mix believed to be about 9 years old. Calvin is a sweet, loving Chihuahua mix who is the perfect lap dog and is looking for the perfect forever home.

He loves to go for leisurely walks and meet new friends. His adoption fee is \$75. For more information on adopting Calvin, call the AWLA and ask for information on animal ID #A061065.



*Calvin*



*Begonia*

**Begonia** is a spayed female, black Domestic Mediumhair who is believed to be about 5 years old. For more information on adopting Begonia, call the AWLA and ask for information on animal ID #A032385.

**Mosie** is a neutered male, white and brown Parson (Jack) Russell Terrier believed to be about 8 years old. For more information about adopting Mosie, call the AWLA and ask for information on animal ID #A061277.



*Mosie*

**Beni** is neutered male, orange tabby Domestic Shorthair believed to be about 13 years old. Beni is not just good looking, but has the personality to match. (Thanks to a generous sponsor, Beni's adoption fee is waived.) For more information about adopting Beni, call the AWLA and ask for information on animal ID #A060198.



*Beni*

The Hollin Hall Animal Hospital is proud to sponsor the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Pets of the Week. For information on adopting this week's pets go to [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org). (703) 746-4774



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## COMMUNITY LIFE



Photos/Megan Howard

Del. Scott Surovell, left, invited fellow State Delegate Alfonso Lopez to address attendees at his Hispanic Town Hall last weekend.

## Surovell Holds Hispanic Town Hall

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44th) held his first ever Hispanic Community Town Hall last Saturday to hear the concerns of his Hispanic constituents. Pictured below at left are audience members. At right, is Carla Castro Claure, Surovell's Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, with one of the attendee's children. Details of the meeting are discussed in Surovell's column on page 4.



## Voice Your Views

[mountvernonvoice@aol.com](mailto:mountvernonvoice@aol.com)

## Don't Miss This Summer's 'The Giver'

By **MICHAEL CASTLEBERRY**  
Contributing Writer

It was only a year ago that Hollywood brought us *Elysium*, where the 'haves' lived in a ritzy space station governed by a very stern Jodie Foster as Secretary Delacourt, and the have nots, with Matt Damon among them, were stuck on the rather ruined Earth. Interesting story and a very fine film.

This year we have *The Giver*, already a highly regarded novel for adolescents by Lois Lowry, winner of the prestigious Newberry Prize, and read by many, many millions of young adults. It's a similarly grim tale for the young reader not to be confused with it's cousins *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*, e.g. the idea that adults should not be trusted with the future of the planet — nor of society.

The story is set in some future period after 'The Ruin.' You don't have to guess what that means and it's amazing that young adults still trust their elders. Still, there are some controls that have been initiated and, in the emerging adulthood of young Jonas (Brenton Thwaites, Luke in television's *SLiDE* and more recently as the handsome Prince Phillip in *Maleficent*), well, suffice it to say that he has a lot of questions.

That's due, in part, to the rules of life in the 'communities' where everything is dictated, ordered, and controlled from on high. And for teens, that includes daily injections to keep those hormonal 'stirrings' from being problematic.

The name of the game is conformity, no one stands out, and all are obedient. Sounds like typical life with teenagers, no?!!

It's time for Jonas and his posse (Cameron Monaghan as Asher, the incredibly beautiful Odeya Rush as Fiona) to find out what jobs are in their future. For this they encounter the chief Elder (the gifted Meryl Streep in the ugliest gray wig this reviewer has ever seen).

Jonas gets a great gig by the fluke of still having the ability to see color, something most of his contemporaries have lost. He is named a Receiver of Memory, meaning he'll get to know everything that has happened before. Given that he has already

exhibited some 'questioning' behaviors drawing caustic responses from his Dad (Alexander Skarsgard) and Mom (Katie Holmes), neither of them very warm or personable, it may have been a bad decision to give that role to Jonas. You'll be pardoned if you still have some questions at this point in the film but just wait, it will all be clarified.

His new calling takes him out of the plastic bubble of his current existence and he journeys to meet The Giver, i.e. a gray-bearded Jeff Bridges who speaks as though he has a wooden block (or something) in his mouth. Here he learns of what has happened in the past, what led to the establishment of this highly controlled and medicated 'Utopia' and, being the teen hero he was written to be, well, there will be discord, change, and nothing will be the same. But you already predicted that, didn't you?

It's hard for any generation of young people to realize that even their own family a generation ago could have discriminated against different races, religions, or have held deep-seated biases

toward others. The rulers have tried to rewrite history but they also included a connection with the past. And, no small thanks to Jonas, things will never be the same.

There are intrigues and adventures galore with Jonas and his pals and, as you might expect, the ruling elite aren't going to like it one bit or take it lying down. Lowry's theme of 'conflict in paradise' is crafted so that one sees that a totalitarian approach to life isn't 'paradise' at all. At least, that's one interpretation.

Crisply directed by Aussie Phillip Noyce, a favorite of Mr. Movie's since his evocative *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002), with eerie gray tones in the totalitarian world and vivid color in other parts, it's not hard to figure out where this is going. But it's a wonderful story, it's a fine film, and the young talents and the Oscar-winning Streep and Bridges are quite a match for each other.

And how do you think it will turn out?!! Well, if you haven't read the book already, you owe it to yourself to see *The Giver*.

### Don't Miss the Final 2 Concerts of the Summer!

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The Nighthawks (Blues)

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The Mount Vernon Voice is proud to be a  
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# Kottemann Concentrated Career in Mount Vernon

*Kottemann from Page 1*

"We will sorely miss your presence in the Mount Vernon community because you have been the man that people have turned to on any issues that concern people needing police help."

Kottemann will be leaving Mount Vernon after he retires and, on behalf of all the residents of the Mount Vernon District Station coverage area, Hyland thanked him for his service.

"You have left a mark on Mount Vernon that will never be erased," he said.

McKay echoed Hyland's sentiments, saying "Greg is what community policing is all about in Fairfax County."

"He knows every person I think on Route 1," McKay said, adding, "He knows every square inch geographically on Route 1."

McKay has been out in the community with Kottemann on occasion, and on those occasions McKay has witnessed personally the interaction Kottemann has developed with those living in the neighborhoods along the corridor.

"The way the community responds to him exemplifies what successful community policing is," McKay said.

As an officer, Kottemann didn't just work in the community he grew up in, he remained a resident of the Mount Vernon District as well.

"While some may think it's a burden, I have found serving the community I grew up in very rewarding," Kottemann said. "I knew the area pretty well which helps, and obviously I felt very invested in the job."



File photo

**MPO Greg Kottemann, center, was a familiar sight at National Night Out celebrations like this one in Groveton in 2013.**

Kottemann worked at the Mount Vernon station for practically his entire career first as a patrol officer, then as a Neighborhood Patrol Officer as a member of the station's bike team, a school resource officer at Mount Vernon High School, and two stints as the station's crime prevention officer. (His only break in service at Mount Vernon was a two-year assignment at the FCPD's Technology Bureau for the implementation of a new Computer Aided Dispatching software and the beginning of the new records management system rollout when the department went from handwritten paper reports to paperless.)

"Once I got the CPO position, I think it helped me connect with community members and perhaps gave me a bit of credibility that someone who did not grow up here would not have," he said.

For him, the best part of serving

ber of Commerce ... prevention is also exciting because your goal and hope is you are helping people to protect themselves and the greater community from becoming victims of crime in the first place," he said.

Kottemann says the thing he thinks he'll miss the most when he leaves Mount Vernon is its small town atmosphere that "we are still barely clinging onto in this ever-growing urban sprawl."

"I hope Mount Vernon can keep that intact, and I will certainly miss the outstanding individuals I work with day in and day out," he said. "We have such a fantastic complement of people at the Mount Vernon Police Station, I

will certainly miss their company, camaraderie and fellowship."

As for the future, Kottemann, although retired from FCPD, expects he will be working full time again, but what job that will be is yet to be determined.

"I have several options to look at," he says. "I am going to take some time and figure out what will work best and enjoy the most."

In departing the station and the place he has called home for so many years, Kottemann said he has really appreciated the opportunity he has had to serve the community he grew up in.

"I hope I have been able to give back a little bit to the community and county that have provided me a great place to call home and a wonderful place to work," he said.

***"Greg has been the person on the spot to represent the police department in all matters of interest and concern in the community."***

***— Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland***

for so many years as the station's crime prevention officer has been the opportunity to work with members of the community most officers do not get to see or work with for the most part.

"Community associations, business leaders/owners, the Cham-

## Engaged? Just Married? Wedding Anniversary?

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**Photos will appear in black and white in the newspaper.**

**Please include a contact telephone number.**

**A check for \$25 payable to the Mount Vernon Voice must be included.**

## Former Delegate Keating Dies

*Keating from Page 1*

She was named Woman of the Year by the Business and Professional Women, Annandale Chapter in 1977 and the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission Award in 1979.

The 43rd District encompasses much of Lee District and Sickles told the Voice that she was a special leader in the community and for the commonwealth.

"She was a trailblazer at home — she made sure girls had the same athletic opportunities as boys at a time when that was hardly a given — and a trailblazer in Richmond — Delegate Keating rose to become the first woman to chair the General Assembly's most powerful business

committee.

"She lived a long life of true public service and she will be sorely missed by her loving children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and countless Virginians whose lives she touched over 91 wonderful years."

For Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay it's the end of an era.

"Gladys Keating exemplified good government and with her deep community roots she always worked for the betterment of the community," McKay said. "I'll miss her but she has left an enduring legacy."

Funeral arrangements were not known before the Voice went to press Tuesday.

*— Steve Hunt*



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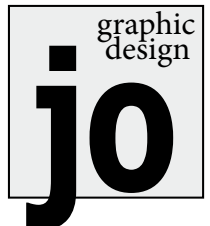
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## Crowd Loves Country Sounds

Twenty-two-year-old Sierra Hull brought a large crowd to its feet at the Lee District Nights concert last Wednesday with her lively country and bluegrass tunes. The concert was one of the last three of the season at Lee District Park. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Amphitheater. At left, Linda Waller of Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay's staff, introduces the band. Below, a happy crowd.

Photos/Jo Deckert

## Steve Hunt

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## *MVHS Practices Underway*



*See more shots of Volleyball, Field Hockey and Football on pages 6–7.*