

Concerned residents demand DNA tests for two suspected pit bulls at Montebello

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Pit bulls: the mere words immediately conjure up images of snarling, vicious dogs with steel-trap jaws mauling other animals and children. But for many others, they are obedient, intelligent, affectionate family pets that are eager to serve and please their masters. Either way, people have strong feelings about pit bulls and are firmly divided into two opposing camps.

Recently, a widely circulated email (see page 4) has informed the residents that two suspected pit bulls live at Montebello, in violation of Montebello by-laws that prohibit pit bulls from getting onto the property. “The term pit bull is defined as any dog which is entirely or part American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier or any combination thereof, including any related breeds,” the by-laws state.

Furthermore, as all Montebello dog-owners know, they are “required to provide for the Association a fully executed Certificate of Vaccination and Identification of Breed in the form approved for use by the Board of Directors. Such Certificate of Vaccination and Identification of Breed duly executed by a veterinarian shall be used to determine whether a dog is or is not of the pit bull variety,” the by-laws state.

According to Assistant General Manager Marco Mendoza, owners of both dogs in

Continued on page 5



Don Barnes cuts English ivy from trees

On March 26, members from Montebello’s Environmental Club – Karen Barnes, Don Barnes, and Don Hinman – collaborated with homeowners from the Pavilions at Huntington Metro in a volunteer effort to remove invasive plant species, honeysuckle vines and English ivy, from Mount Eagle Park. Removing invasive plants creates space for native plants to grow and thrive, which contributes to a healthy ecosystem with beneficial insects and birds. Eight large trash bags filled with cuttings were later collected by the Fairfax County Parks Authority. – *Don Hinman*

The U.S. heads, without a plan, into its most vital election

By *Gregory R. Copley*

American voters and political parties were, by the close of March 2016, well down the path toward selecting the final candidates for the November 2016 presidential election. This determines how the United States would face the most decisive challenges for more than a century to its wealth, strength, and security. And yet not one coherent strategic policy had been outlined by any of the aspirants for power. Nor has the media

U.S. politicians have an inherent fear of disclosing any concrete plans, for fear that they could be criticized.

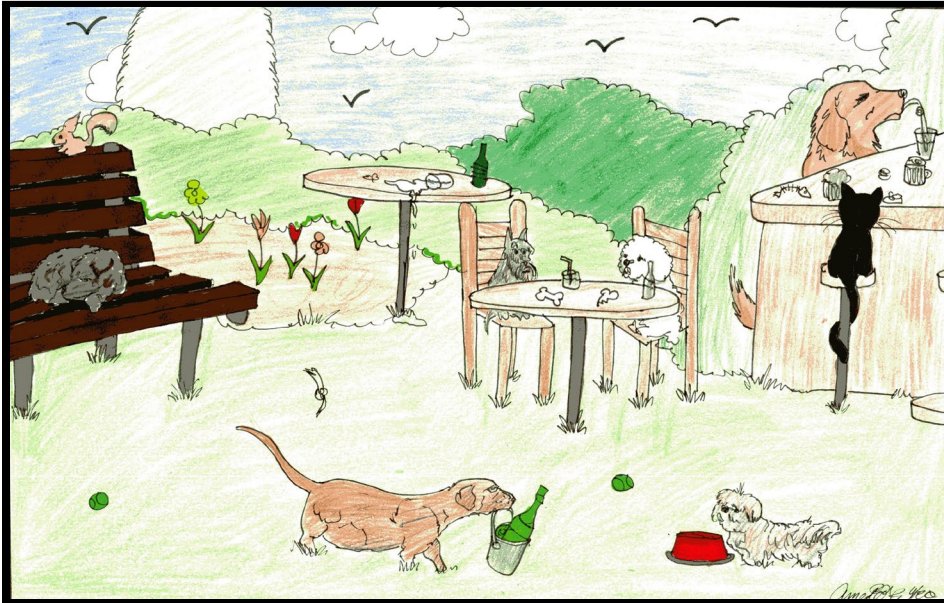
probed this vacuum.

World Wars I and II did not, with the balance of hindsight, present the challenges to Western survival and U.S. leadership which the demographic, economic, social, and security threats of the coming decades will pose.

Significantly, all the candidates but one, Hillary Clinton, have based their

premise for election on opposing virtually all of the actions and policies of incumbent President Barack Obama, and yet all, without exception, have accepted the overt as well as covert agendas of Mr. Obama in the global environment. These include the continued U.S. engagement in provoking and sustaining war in Syria (with its consequences for the destabilization of Europe and support of a rogue Turkey); the unremitting anti-Russian “new Cold War” which has divided post-Soviet Russia

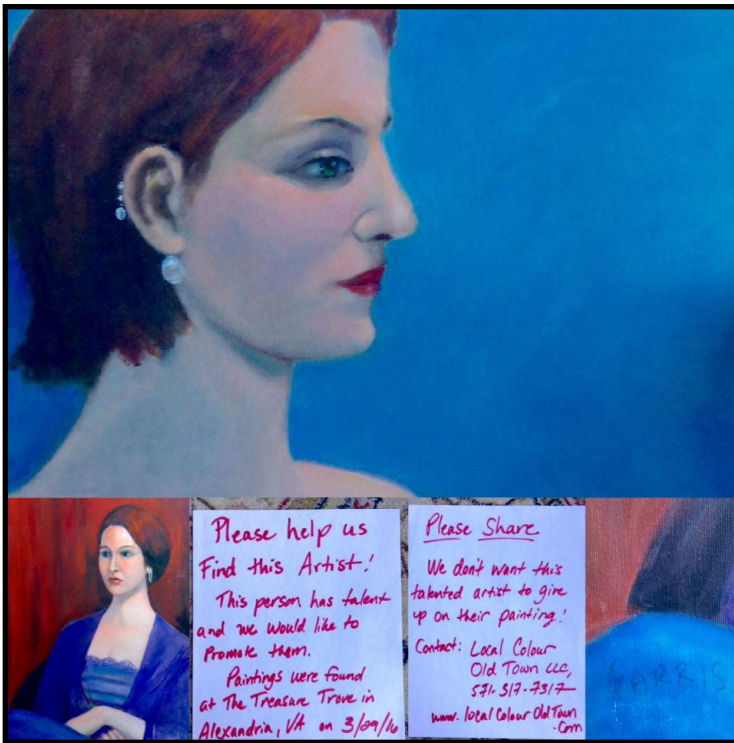
Continued on page 3



Happy hour on the Village Green

Sky light

On March 28th at 12:08 a.m., Trey and I were heading back from a day trip to Charlottesville. It was overcast and drizzly, but not thunder storming. As I pulled into our turn lane to head into Montebello, there was a sudden flash of blinding white light. It was as if the entire sky inverted from black to white



for a second. It was brighter than any lightning strike and filled the sky with more light than a lightning bolt could have. There was no thunder, and no power outage, as often happens when a transformer blows. Trey was asleep and missed it, unfortunately. When we got in, I checked Spark on my Weatherbug app, the closest lightning strike was said to have been more then 200 miles away.

After researching this phenomenon, the closest thing I could find was a meteor must have exploded behind the clouds, creating this soundless yet awesome flash. I reported the incident to the National Meteorological Society and it's under investigation. I know more people saw this, and am curious if any Montebello residents saw it as well, especially those facing Old Town and in the higher units. – Rachael Bright

Equipment donation

Manassas-based Area Access just picked up my old scooter and will rehab it for a person in need. Please consider donating things you don't need: scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and crutches. Please call them at 703-396-4949. – Janette Sherman

Desperately seeking Farris

I have a local art mystery. Two stunning portraits (left) were found in Springfield at the Treasure Trove Inova Thrift Store. The works are so good, they have the skill of the Old Masters. I nabbed both at a grand total of \$40, which was a steal, but my concern is because these had been donated, the talented artist may have given up on their painting. My business partner and I would like to find this artist, convince them to continue working, and even help promote them at Local Colour. If any Montebello resident knows of the artist, if they could reach out to me, or have them call the gallery at 571-317-7317, that would be fabulous. Only one portrait is signed with the name, Farris. – Rachael Bright

The MONTEBELLO Voice
 Alexandria, Virginia
 an independent publication

This publication accepts no funding or oversight from advertisers, residents, or the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association. All opinions are encouraged and reflect the diversity of views in the community. All articles and photographs come from Montebello residents. To receive or contribute to this email-only newsletter, please contact montebellovoice@cox.net.

Editor & DesignerMikhailina Karina
 Contributing Writers.....Joe de Angelis, Nicholas Beltrante, Marie-Christine Bonzom, Rachael Bright, Tillie Cassidy, Gregory Copley, Denise Cumbee, Bonnie Daniel, Yo Frommer, Trish Gowland, Don Hinman, Doug Kleine, Gail Parker, Lauren Pierce, John Powers, Janette Sherman, Jerry Stedje, Peg Wesbecher

from Europe and driven it into the arms of the People's Republic of China; and an ill-considered approach on how to compete with the PRC.

In short, the Obama White House, which has been ideologically-driven, rather than U.S. interests-driven, has dictated the agenda for the competing candidates. The U.S., under the next president, will, then, either pursue strategic policy under the terms set by Obama, or will have to start reformulating and reconstructing a viable global strategic policy. To do that, the successful candidate will have to undo the year or more of jingoism and then re-educate the U.S. polity about the reality of the global strategic terrain. In other words, he or she must undo, and reverse, the mindset and demonizing the campaign has helped to reinforce in Washington, and among the U.S. electorate at large.

Moreover, for perhaps the first time, the ongoing U.S. presidential election process has exposed the reality that the Democratic Party nominating process is about the top-down imposition of its preferred candidate upon the party and its members. The primaries and caucuses, supposed to deliver delegates to the final convention as determined by the state-by-state events, in fact count for little. The party's *nomenklatura* selects "super delegates" who have predetermined the outcome. The preferred candidate on this occasion is Hillary Clinton, but the process may yet be undone by criminal charges against her for unambiguous violations of security procedures when she was secretary of state. Or by her own health issues. Her skeletons are out of the closet, but are never discussed.

There is little doubt that the Obama White House, conscious of the reality that a future president could undo the work of Barack Obama, is clearly ready to re-inject Vice President Joseph Biden into the race, or even Secretary of State John Kerry, or former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg,

should Hillary's candidature become untenable.

The Republican Party, thrown from its path by the initial success of non-politician Donald Trump, has – as is typical in the party's primary process – focused on the cat fight to determine the candidate, and has steered itself far from substantive discussion of economic policies, foreign policies, defense policies, or social policies. That is not as damaging as the fact that it has spent the time reinforcing an endorsement of what have been destructive U.S. policies on defense and foreign and strategic policy. This, truly, is an example of Rome burning while Nero fiddles.

The U.S. electorate knows that all is not well, which is why it has done the only thing open to it: to support the "anti-candidates," Trump and socialist Bernie Sanders. But ultimately the electorate has become victim of a process determined by power groups. Thus is "democracy" continually redefined and its essence replaced by a manipulable calculus; the same manipulation of democracy which the world criticized in the USSR.

Could any of the candidates begin now to think on, and expound, theories for the successful revival of U.S. strategic fortunes? Why not? U.S. politicians, however, have an inherent fear of disclosing any concrete plans, for fear that they could be criticized. Safer to claim that only they could make "America great again," or provide the requisite bread and circuses to appease the entitlement generation. But this neglect of substance holds the entire world in its thrall of ignorance. This is hardly the visionary and courageous stance of a Thomas Jefferson, or Teddy Roosevelt, or Ronald Reagan.

But what is that catchy circus tune which Nero now plays for us? 🎪

*Building 4 resident Gregory Copley is the author or co-author of 34 books on strategic issues. Many Montebello residents attended his talks on two of those books, **The Art of Victory** (2006) and **UnCivilization: Urban Geopolitics in a Time of Chaos** (2013). He is president of The International Strategic Studies Association, and for more than four decades served as an adviser to a number of governments, often at head-of-state or head-of-service level.*



April 21,
22, & 23

7 p.m.

Edison
High
School

\$10

Pit bulls pose danger to Montebello residents and other dogs

By Denise Cumbee

Note: This is a slightly abridged version of the email that was sent out to the residents at the end of March.

Thanks very much to those of you who signed individual letters asking the Montebello management and Board of Directors to take some action to confirm whether the two dogs who appear to be pit bulls living at Montebello are actually pit bulls or the breeds that the owners of the dogs are alleging.

The specific action that was requested was for the management to require DNA tests of the dogs – which initially sounds extreme – but is not invasive. This \$69.95 testing requires a swab in the dog's cheek. We requested that form of breed confirmation because the two owners were representing their dogs as other breeds – and if someone is willing to present fraudulent paperwork once – we felt paperwork would likely again be fraudulent if they were allowed to present additional paperwork to confirm the breed of these two dogs. If these owners believe their dogs are NOT pit bulls, then they should willingly submit their dogs to the DNA test.

None of the three people (including myself) who initiated and followed up on the requests for action to confirm the breed of these dogs hates pit bulls. We simply want the existing by-laws enforced and these dogs to be removed from the property if they are pit bulls – as everyone who sees them suspects they are.

Pit bulls should not be living in a high-rise community (where pit bulls are banned) where they encounter other dogs and people in enclosed areas like elevators. If a small dog growls at one of the pit bulls or engages it aggressively, the pit bull will likely kill the small dog and may injure the owner.

These dogs are clearly an insurance liability – as many insurance companies won't insure homeowners with this breed. An Internet search reveals that the average pit bull attack results in a \$25,000 insurance claim. You as resident owners will be the ones paying this when condo fees rise.

The first complaint (in writing) asking management to remove the pit bull in Building 2 was submitted to the management and was copied to multiple Board members in April of last year. Following that complaint, General Manager Liz Foltin stated in a Planning & Design meeting (crowded with residents to try to stop the installation of K9 grass) that the dog in Building 2 would be off the property in two weeks. I was there and she stated it to everyone when I brought up the pit bulls. I was the initial person who com-

We simply want the existing by-laws enforced and these dogs to be removed from the property if they are pit bulls – as everyone who sees them suspects they are.

plained in writing about the first dog I saw. Those two weeks have stretched to a year now and management has allowed the dog to stay.

Here we are, a year later, and after multiple additional complaints in writing, meetings with Marco [Mendoza] and Liz and concerns expressed to Board members, the management and Board have allowed the dog owners to re-register the dogs and accepted the breed on the vaccination form as confirmation of breed. Why did the dog owners have to register the dogs again and prove they were vaccinated?

The dog owner continues to claim that the dog in Building 2 is an American

Bulldog and the dog in Building 3 is a Rhodesian Ridgeback. The vaccination forms are simply forms that the dog owner completes and writes the breed in when they register the dog with the state/county. I wrote my dog's breed on my forms and no one questioned the breed.

Supposedly the attorney for Montebello determined that they had to do NOTHING but have the dogs registered. A quick Internet search on legal actions related to pit bull attacks clearly shows that if management had any inkling that these dogs are pit bulls and allows them to stay here and a pit bull attacks a dog or person (or both, as most dog owners would try to protect their dogs), then the association is liable.

The multiple written complaints make it clear that management is aware. Management is claiming they have no right to obtain further proof of the breeds of these dogs, but clearly they do. The by-laws do not state that the confirmation by vaccination certificate is the ONLY form of breed confirmation that can be requested. When I moved here 10 years ago, the by-laws were the same and I was required to bring in a statement from a local veterinarian clearly saying that my dog (miniature dachshund) had NO PART pit bull to be able to register the dog at Montebello.

Those of us who initiated the first complaints have requested that the management review the current decision and take additional action to confirm the breed of these two dogs – hopefully the response won't take a year! 🐾

The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you: musings, travels, announcements, photos, and ads



Internet images for (from left) pit bull, American bulldog, and Rhodesian Ridgeback. They are for visual comparison only and are not photos of the dogs at Montebello.

question have submitted the required paperwork, which lists the breeds as American Bulldog and Rhodesian Ridgeback – neither pit bulls nor part American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier.

However, a number of Montebello residents with extensive knowledge about dog breeds have no doubt whatsoever that based on their distinct physical characteristics, these two dogs are, in fact, pit bulls and must be removed from the property to prevent any potentially tragic incidents. These residents are also certain that the owners of these two dogs wrote false dog breed information in their registration documents.

Thirty-eight residents have sent letters to the management requesting giving these dogs a DNA test to prove their pedigree. Although no incidents of aggressive behavior toward people or other animals have been reported, these residents believe the presence of two likely pit bulls is like a time bomb.

So here is the problem: some residents are absolutely certain that these two dogs are pit bulls and violate Montebello's by-laws. Management says that all necessary paperwork states that these dogs are not pit bulls and has no legal claim to remove them from the property. When reached for comment,

one of the dog owners angrily declined to comment; the other dog owner could not be reached.

After numerous conversations with dog-owning residents and examination of their dog-registrations materials, it became apparent that Montebello's dog registration operates on an honor system with a low level of burden of proof.

The Pet Registration Form asks the owner to fill in the dog's breed, as well as sign a paragraph that this dog is not of the pit bull variety. In addition, the form asks for the pet's county registration and most recent vaccinations/inoculations. Only the Application for the Waiver of 2nd Pet requires the pet's photograph.

Furthermore, according to veterinarians, vaccination and county registration forms are not official breed documents because they are filled out by the owners; in many cases, dogs come from a rescue organization and an exact breed is not clear.

Hence the problem with these two dogs – their Montebello registration documents say American bulldog and Rhodesian Ridgeback, but knowledgeable residents claim the registration documents were knowingly falsified.

Mendoza said the association has consulted with its attorney and has in-

formed the concerned residents "that management has exhausted all power. We don't have any tools to demand anything from them [two dog owners]. The association has no more legal tools to require any more proof."

As far as requiring the dogs to undergo a DNA test, Mendoza said, "We cannot force them to provide a DNA test."

Furthermore, Mendoza explained, the bulldog's owner has a doctor's note stating that the dog is a "companion animal," which now brings "fair housing into the equation."

"We are satisfied that it's an American bulldog," Mendoza said, "but our hands are tied. We've forwarded all the information to the Covenants Committee and they agree with management that we have no legal stance."

But Denise Cumbee, the resident leading the fight, disagrees. "The board and management does not have their hands tied by the bylaws," she says, "they can require more documentation if they choose. The bylaw doesn't limit the breed confirmation to the vaccination certificate. We want management and the board to take some additional action here to confirm the breed and get these dogs off of the property if they are pit bulls." 🐾

Celebrate Earth Day by signing petition against chemical herbicides and pesticides!

By *Marie-Christine Bonzom*

Chemical pesticides, including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides, endanger the environment and the health of living beings.

In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer joined the many scientists long concerned about those chemicals as well as Canada and France by classifying as "probably carcinogenic" the most common ingredient in herbicides called glyphosate. Earlier this year, Montgomery County banned the ornamental use of chemical pesticides such as Monsanto's Roundup and hundreds of others on public and private land.

Yet, those products have been used at Montebello for decades. In our community on a hill, chemical herbicides and pesticides deplete soil nutrients and contribute to soil erosion, leading to the thinning of our forest and underwood.

"Spraying over and over, year after year, on the same spots is not sustainable", said to us Michael Stachowicz, Turf Management Specialist at the National Park Service who manages the National Mall.

Montebello residents first petitioned the Board of Directors and Management on this issue in 2000, to no avail. Residents again launched a petition and presented it to the Board and Management on Earth Day 2014 and again in 2015. Incredibly, the current petition has been met with no substantive re-

sponse from the Board members whom residents have elected to protect their interests.

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day 2016 on April 22, what better way to advocate for the protection of Montebello's natural environment and of its resident humans and pets than to sign the petition below?

If you wish to join over 90 of your neighbors who already have signed this petition, which will be presented once again to the Board of Directors and Management this Earth Day, please contact me via e-mail at chemical-freeMontebellogrounds@outlook.com with your name and unit number, and indicate whether you are an owner or renter, as well as the year you moved to Montebello. 📧

Text of petition opposing chemical use on Montebello land and supporting a chemical-free land management policy

- 1- The first component of quality of life at Montebello should be to ensure that we live in a safe and healthful environment.
 - 2- In 2000, a petition of Montebello residents called on the Montebello Board of Directors and Management for the use of chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides, to be stopped immediately.
 - 3- The chemicals that continue to be used at Montebello are known to cause cancer, neurological damage, birth defects, asthma and diabetes. They are a risk to the health of humans, pets, plants, soil stability and the broader environment (runoff).
 - 4- On March 20, 2015, the World Health Organization classified glyphosate, the active ingredient in the Roundup herbicide used at Montebello, as "probably carcinogenic."
 - 5- Herbicide use at Montebello over the last decades has been economically and environmentally costly to residents, with negative results that include reduction in tree, ground cover and grass density, as well as soil erosion.
- a- that any company retained to care for our environment have recognized expertise and a track record in ecological land management;
 - b- that tests be conducted by two separate independent laboratories on our children's playgrounds, pet areas, tap water and interior environment (carpets in common areas, apartments with pets) to check for any chemical contamination;
 - c- that, prior to any new contract being drawn with any company, undisputed experts attached to non-commercial institutions, such as experts from the National Park Service, National Arboretum and/or the American Horticulture Society, be consulted on alternatives to Montebello's current approach;
 - d- that the Board of Directors and Management form a consultative group composed of residents having proven expertise in public health and sustainable land management, as the Board has done on other projects such as lobby redesign; and
 - e- that in the interval between the moment the old chemical-based approach is stopped and the new non-chemical policy is implemented, Montebello staff and contract employees limit themselves to mowing lawns, trimming and watering plants, and suppressing any "invasive plant" with hand and power tools.

Therefore, we strongly request that:

- a- the Board of Directors and Management adopt and implement a chemical-free and sustainable approach to land management;

La Pietà

By Joe de Angelis

Pietà, which means “pity” in Italian, is the name given to this world-famous sculpture created by Michelangelo Buonarroti and completed in 1499 AD. Unlike his statue of David, however, the Pietà is of normal, life-size proportions measuring five feet, nine inches high and six feet, five inches wide and was made from one piece of Carrara marble.

This exquisite work of art depicts the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of her son, Jesus Christ, just after his crucifixion, when he was taken down from the cross. Mary is depicted fully clothed while Christ, lying across her lap, is completely naked, except for a loincloth. The figure of Mary is vertical while the figure of Christ lies almost horizontally suggesting the form of the cross. However, the structure of the Pietà is quite pyramidal. Moving downward from Mary's head, the figure widens progressively towards the rock which is the base of the sculpture. The gentle softness of the folds of the cloth is both a framework and a support for the entire sculptor. Jesus' face does not show any signs of his suffering while the serene, quiet stillness of Mary's face, with eyes downcast, projects an air of acceptance, at the same time her upturned left hand seems to be questioning why. The entire piece evokes a sense of sadness, of compassion, or in a word, pity.

One of the salient features of the Pietà is the ribbon across the chest of Mary, which bears Michelangelo's name and identifies the Pietà as the only sculpture that he ever signed. Initially, it was not part of the sculpture but was added later after another sculptor was



given credit for the work. Legend has it, that just days after it was first unveiled in the chapel of Santa Petronilla in old St. Peter's, the Pietà was being admired and discussed by a group of visitors from Lombardy. Michelangelo who was standing nearby overheard one of them say that it was sculpted by “Our Gobbo of Milan” referring to Cristoforo Solari, a contemporary and rival of Michelangelo. Solari was also known as il Gobbo (the hunchbacked). Rather than correcting the individual, Michelangelo kept silent, however, he returned at night and carved his name along the ribbon across Mary's chest.

The sixteenth century art historian Giorgi Vasari tells this tale in his book, *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects*:

Such were Michelagnolo's love and zeal together in this work, that he left his name a thing that he never did again in any other work written across a girdle that encircles the bosom of Our Lady. And the reason was that one day Michelagnolo, entering the place where it

was set up, found there a great number of strangers from Lombardy, who were praising it highly, and one of them asked one of the others who had done it, and he answered, “Our Gobbo from Milan.” Michelagnolo stood silent, but thought it something strange that his labors should be attributed to another; and one night he shut himself in there, and, having brought a little light and his chisels, carved his name upon it.”

Michelangelo carved not only his name, but also the fact that he sculpted the Pietà. His inscription reads MICHAELANGELVS BONAROTVS FLOREN FACIEBA[T] (Michelangelo Buonarroti, Florentine, made this) which is plainly visible on the sash running across Mary's chest. It is the only work he ever signed. Vasari also wrote that Michelangelo later regretted his passionate outburst of pride and swore never again to sign another of his works.

In 1972, on Pentecost Sunday, Laszlo Toth, an unemployed geologist from Hungary leaped over a railing at St. Peter's Basilica and attacked the Pietà with a hammer. With blow after blow, Toth knocked off the left arm of Mary, the tip of her nose, and damaged her cheek and left eye. However, the restoration of the statue, which took 10 months, left the repaired damage seamless and invisible to millions of observers ever since. During the painstaking restoration, workers discovered what appeared to be a secret signature mark on the piece. Hidden in the folds of Mary's left hand was inscribed the M, which is believed to stand for Michelangelo. Although Michelangelo did not sign his works, he apparently marked them as his. 🗿

Animal Magnetism



Diana McDonald photo

Yo and Abby on the Village Green in front of the tree dedicated to Larry Frommer

Mostly sweet, but occasionally salty, Abby

By Yo Frommer

It was early September in 2006. Larry and I had just lost our beloved Cho Cho and I was at the Alexandria Animal shelter doing volunteer work. They brought me this adorable stray and said I should take her. Larry came over with our friend Anthony Cascarano, who convinced us to take her. I have never regretted it. I had her DNA done after

many Montebello residents asked what kind of dog she is. I will tell you, she is mainly shih tzu and all love (except for other dogs). She misses her daddy every day.

She's the sweetest dog to people but not other dogs or cats. My dog walker Carol [Hora] has done wonders to train Abby to be civil to her canine neighbors. At 10 years old she still loves her toys and acts like a puppy. 🐾

Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability

Dedicated to a better and safer community

By Nicholas R. Beltrante

The Citizens' Coalition for Police Accountability (CCPA) was founded in April 2010 by a number of private citizens, professionals, and several well-respected local, state and national organizations. This advocacy group comprised of grassroots citizens was organized due to its concerns of police misconduct, negligence and the absence of transparency regarding recent actions by Fairfax County Police.

Among several incidents of concern were the victims of a flawed system. You can read more about these incidents on our Incidents Page of the website.

In all of these cases and others, there has been a lack of transparency

on the part of the Fairfax County Police Department. Victims' families have been unable to acquire information regarding these tragic incidents. Throughout the nation, police departments routinely release information which the Fairfax County Police Department fails to disclose.

If you or someone you know believe they have been the victim of misconduct by a member of the Fairfax County Police Department, you or they can obtain a Citizen Complaint form from the clerk at any Fairfax County District Police Station. When a complaint is filed with the Fairfax County Police, the CCPA will investigate all such allegations. Send a copy of your complaint form with a cover note requesting the CCPA to

“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

– Abraham Lincoln

further investigate the allegation.

In these bad economic times, many local governments, including Fairfax County, are suffering from budget deficits, requiring severe cuts to public education, healthcare and safety. Fairfax County can ill afford satisfying court-ordered judgments or Fairfax County Board of Supervisors settlements in the millions of dollars to settle claims for Fairfax County police officers misconduct or negligence. Our tax payer monies can be better spent.

The Virginia CCPA is a PRO-POLICE organization that respects the majority of police officers for their dedicated, honest and honorable service to the citizens of our community. There appear to be a few officers who practice abuse of power, arrogance of power, and lack of respect toward the citizens they serve.

We are in the process of expanding our capabilities into most of the NOVA community and it is our hope to do more once funding is obtained. Your financial support would be appreciated. Your support of our efforts to promote a better citizen-police relationship will enhance the quality of life and safety in our community. If you wish to join our coalition and volunteer your time and efforts – we welcome you.

Visit our member/volunteer section at <https://sites.google.com/a/virginiaccpa.org/www/home> for more information. 🐾

Nicholas R. Beltrante, founder and executive director, served with the Washington, D.C. Police Department and later founded Beltrante and Associates private investigation firm.

Board Candidates



Tillie Cassidy

Where did you grow up?

Capitol Hill in D.C., 3rd and B. St., which was changed to 3rd and Constitution Ave., when I was in high school. Summer and holidays at a country home near Upper Marlboro, Md.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

An airline stewardess (that is what they called it in those days, LOL). I wanted to travel.

Who was your biggest early influence?

Sister Catherine Anne, my voice teacher who put me in front of an audience in grammar school, believed in me, and gave me confidence at an early age.

What was your first job?

Summer job as a receptionist with an insurance company (my sister, Ethel, worked there, LOL, and got me the job)

What was your strangest job?

Kelly Girl (fun, interesting, but weird due to the fact that I never knew what the next job would be!)

What profession other than your own would you like to try?

A lawyer, but for fun, a flight attendant!

What is your favorite sound?

My grandchildren when they giggle!

What is your hidden talent?

Skeet and Trap competitor

If you could share a meal with anyone past or present, who would it be and what would you serve?

Maya Angelou. I think I would serve Filet Mignon and Champagne.

Where do you dream to go one day?

Japan, both urban and countryside

What turns you on?

Intelligence

What turns you off?

Negativism

What is your spirit animal?

Cat (loyal but independent) and Bastet, Goddess of Joy, Music and Dancing

Apple or PC?

Apple

Who would portray you in your bio-pic? What would be the title of this film?

Reese Witherspoon in She Tried Her Best

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

My unit – peace and quiet with a view from Heaven!

Bonnie Daniel



Where did you grow up?

I was born in Greensboro and reared in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Taking a stroll with Mona

During high school, how would you have labeled yourself?

Basically “brainy,” because I was a straight-A student.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Missionary, cancer researcher, teacher.

What is your nickname?

My brothers call me Hon, Sis, Schwester, the Queen; cousins call me BJ; grandchildren call me Granny B or Mimi.

Who was your biggest early influence?

My mother, who gave me a love of reading, and my maternal grandmother, on whose farm I learned to love all of nature.

What songs played at your prom/school dance?

Venus, Dream Lover, Sea of Love, 16 Candles, Good Golly Miss Molly, Chantilly Lace, Whole Lotta Lovin’, Lollipop.

What was your strangest job?

Teaching report writing at the Maryland State Police Academy.

What books/magazines are currently on your nightstand or Kindle?

Undaunted Courage, an account of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The NYT, Time Weekly, The New Yorker, Scientific American, National Geographic, and Consumer Reports.

What is the first big arena concert you attended?

Blood, Sweat, and Tears at the Merriweather Post Pavilion.

Do you play any musical instruments?

A solid piano, a creaky violin, and a barely so-so guitar.

What movies have you seen more than 10 times?

Dr. Zhivago, Dirty Dancing, The Fugitive, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, The Sting, Sense and Sensibility, Four Weddings and a Funeral, A River Runs Through It, The Black Stallion.

Who would paint your portrait?

Maybe Rembrandt

What is your comfort food?

Liver and onions!! Thank you, MB Café, for my monthly fix!

If you could share a meal with anyone present or past, who would it be and what would you serve?

My two beloved brothers who have passed. We would gorge on pot roast, egg noodles, and green beans fixed Southern-style!

What was your favorite vacation?

The five-week cross-country trip with my parents in 1990.

Where do you dream to go one day?

The Galapagos

Favorite spot at Montebello?

The area “down in the valley,” across from the four original model units.

Board Candidates



**Trish
Gowland**

Where did you grow up?

I was raised in the Bay Area south of San Francisco on an ocean-side ranch. Later my family moved to the Bay-side of the peninsula. After which we moved to downstate Illinois and then Chicago.

How would you have labeled yourself in high school?

In high school I was a bit of a loner because of the many moves my family made, by high school graduation I had attended 3 high schools and was exhausted with meeting classmates and then leaving them. The many changes I transitioned through in schools and friends was due to my father's transfers; that caused me to be more of an introvert than most. I responded by reading classics (from Aristophanes and Tolstoy) to keep me busy.

What was your first job?

Chicago's premier department store, Marshall Field and Co.

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Over the years I have worked on many crafts and hobbies such as Kumihimo (Japanese braiding), needlepoint, embroidery, furniture refinishing, genealogy, gardening, & cooking

What do you binge watch?

Changing Lines, Occupied, House of Cards, Homeland, and Scandal

What was your favorite vacation?

A Baltic Cruise. We had a wonderful cruise with my maid-of-honor late in the season yet with perfect weather. I had studied Russian history and just loved the adventures in St. Petersburg, Tallinn and the gorgeous days in Copenhagen.

Apple or PC?

Both. There are good reasons for both to exist – it is important to be able to choose the one best suited for the job.

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

I favor the café. I love to have lunch there with friends and neighbors – from inside and outside of Montebello.



Doug Kleine

Visiting the Frank Gehry-designed Louis Vuitton Museum in Paris

Where did you grow up?

Mariemont, Ohio, a planned community from the 1920s near Cincinnati, and patterned after the English Garden City movement

How would you have labeled yourself in high school?

AP science (used the chem lab at night)

What did you want to be when you grew up?

City planner

What is your nickname?

Grandkids call me Dibble Dopp

Who was your biggest early influence?

Teachers

What was your first job?

Guide, waiter, stable master, cabin boy at a rustic resort in the Michigan Upper Peninsula

What was your strangest job?

Industrial waste plant operator (night shift)

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Music, theater, travel. "Putting it all together" we will go anywhere for a Sondheim musical – London, NY, Chicago, and of course, Signature Theatre in Shirlington.

What is your hidden talent?

Thinking around corners

What is the first big arena concert you attended?

Harry Belafonte at Forest Hills, N.Y.

Do you play any musical instruments?

Regret giving up piano lessons at age 8

What movie(s) have you seen more than 10 times?

Casablanca

Who would paint your portrait?

Salvador Dali

What is your comfort food?

Chicken and dumplings

What was your favorite vacation?

Cape Hatteras, anywhere out West, and Paris

Where do you dream to go one day?

Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East

What is your spirit animal?

Whale

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

Café deck



Where did you grow up?

Oklahoma, near Lake Texoma

During high school, how would you have labeled yourself?

A brainy jock. I played half-court girls basketball.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A social worker

What is your nickname?

I will never tell

Who was your biggest early influence?

Cherry Ames

What was your first job?

Waitress

What was your strangest job?

Pocket bagger

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Politics

What is your favorite sound?

The French horn

What is the first big arena concert you attended?

Elvis Presley

Do you play any musical instruments?

Clarinet and Sax, although I don't play them now

What do you binge watch?

House of Cards

What is your comfort food?

Ice cream, chocolate

What was your favorite vacation?

A day trip to a concert

Where do you dream to go one day?

Australia

What turns you on?

A clean house

What turns you off?

Litter

Apple or PC?

Both

What fashion style do you wish would return?

Bell bottoms

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

The Fitness Center

Lauren Pierce

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Cryptologist. As a child I used purchase and spend hours working the Cryptology magazines.

What was your first job?

At age 9, I was hired at an after school daycare as a teacher

What profession, other than your own, would you like to try?

Professional linguist. Languages intrigue me.

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Traveling, exercising, caring for domesticated pets, learning new skills

What books/magazines are currently on your nightstand or Kindle?

On my nightstand: An Alaskan Journey by Jasper James

What is your favorite sound?

Ocean sounds

What is the first big arena concert you attended?

Prince "1999"

What do you binge watch?

Memorable Entertainment on Me-TV

What is your comfort food?

Cheesecake Factory's Tex-Mex Eggrolls

If you could share a meal with anyone present or past, who would it be and what would you serve?

My deceased father – spicy baked shrimp over jasmine rice (lemon wedge on the side), green beans, hot apple cider for a toast, and sorbet dessert.

What was your favorite vacation?

Chorus travel to South Korea & the Demilitarized Zone

Where do you dream to go one day?

Antarctica

What furry/feathered/scaly friends do you have now?

My dog, Pumpkin

What is your spirit animal?

The tiger

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

Village Green



Lauren with Pumpkin at the Fourth of July parade

Board Candidates



John Powers

At the base of the Alpe d'Huez (1860 m) three years ago. I figured if Lance Armstrong could get up it in 40 minutes, I could do so in 2 hours.

Wrong! At the end of 2 hours I was toast and only 40% of the way to the top.

Where did you grow up?

Minneapolis through age 5, Bismarck, N.D., first and second grades.

What was your biggest early influence?

A congressional trip at age 14 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt (CVA-42) that my father was invited to accompany as an AP writer on the Hill. At age 21, I landed aboard it.

What was your first job?

Selling women's shoes in Clarendon as a 15-year-old.

What was your strangest job?

Selling women's shoes in Clarendon.

What profession, other than your own, would you like to try?

Commissioner of Juvenile Justice in New Jersey. [Gov. Jim] Florio was about to appoint me in September 1993, but his lead over [Christine Todd] Whitman was vanishing and he suggested waiting until after the election.

What are your pastimes?

D.C. Men's Fast Pitch Softball League

What movie(s) have you seen more than 10 times?

Sound of Music

If you could share a meal with anyone present or past, who would it be?

Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Rosa Parks

What was your favorite vacation?

Trekking in Nepal for 28 days climbing to 6,436 meters. Second best was staying at the Hotel Silvana about 200 meters above Zermatt in Switzerland and hiking the many trails in the area (incredible food, btw).

Where do you dream to go one day?

Gliese 832c just 16 light years from Earth

What feathered friends did I once have?

As a teen, I found an injured baby blue jay in our back yard, cared for it until it recovered and released it once it could fly.

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

The woodland trail. We need to be diligent in preserving the canopy.



Jerry Stedge

On Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, in the Arctic Ocean

Where did you grow up?

Nanuet, New York

During high school, how would you have labeled yourself?

A mix of jock and brainy

Who was your biggest early influence?

My father

What songs played at your prom/school dance?

Everything from the early '80s. Our theme was "One More Night" by Phil Collins.

What was your first job?

A make-your-own ice cream sundae shop

What was your strangest job?

Lifeguard at a camp for developmentally disabled children. The strange part was how it changed my life.

What profession, other than your own, would you like to try?

Crane operator

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Tennis and nature photography

What is your hidden talent?

I can bake really great bread

What is the first big arena concert you attended?

REO Speedwagon at the Meadowlands in New Jersey

What movie(s) have you seen more than 10 times?

Young Frankenstein

What is your comfort food?

Blueberry pancakes with REAL maple syrup

What was your favorite vacation?

It's a tie: When Lisa and I went to Thailand and the trip to Alaska in an RV with my Dad.

What furry/feathered/scaly friends do you have now?

Clark, our Australian Shepherd

Apple or PC?

Apple

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

Again, another tie: The outdoor pool on a weekday, or the trails on a sunny spring or fall day.

Board Candidates

Peg Wesbecher



Floating in the Dead Sea in 2014

Where did you grow up?

Dayton, Ohio

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Farmer's wife with eight children

Who was your biggest early influence?

Mother

What was your first job?

Beauty shop comb and brush girl

What was your strangest job?

Beauty shop comb and brush girl

What are your hobbies/sports/pastimes?

Downhill skiing, reading

What books/magazines are currently on your nightstand or Kindle?

Economist

What is your hidden talent?

Projecting my voice without a microphone in a large room

Who would paint your portrait?

Cezanne, a French post-Impressionist artist who inspired Van Gogh, Gauguin and Picasso. Cezanne provided the bridge to the modern art world of the 20th century.

What was your favorite vacation?

As a child, Shakamak State Park; as an adult, Rockies (skiing), Iran, and China

What is your spirit animal?

A mutt named Kelly

What is your favorite spot at Montebello?

Condo patio and pools

Comments? Story ideas?
Photos? Free ads?
Announcements? Subscriptions?
Montebellovoice@cox.net
is your independent news source
for life at the Montebello



After nearly four years at Montebello, Bill and Nanette Frank have a one-way ticket to Honolulu. Bill will enjoy his retirement in paradise and Nanette will return to her roots by becoming the Hearing Aid Lady at Miracle Ear. Montebello is eternally grateful to the Franks for their many friendships, terrific events as co-chairs of the Activities Committee, and all the contributions to this community. They say their new home is always open to visitors. Aloha and mahalo nui loa!



*Building
2 party on
April 1*

*Photos by
Dian
McDonald*

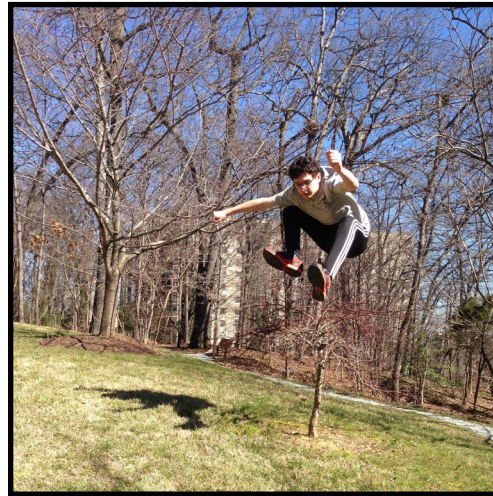
Extreme insanity cross-fit boot camp in the woods

On a balmy afternoon, two very fit and reasonably reckless teenagers, Albéric and Amédé, took their workouts *al fresco*. No gym equipment is necessary for this intense calorie-burning circuit.

O'er the creek



Balance beam walk



Small tree long jumps



Pull-ups



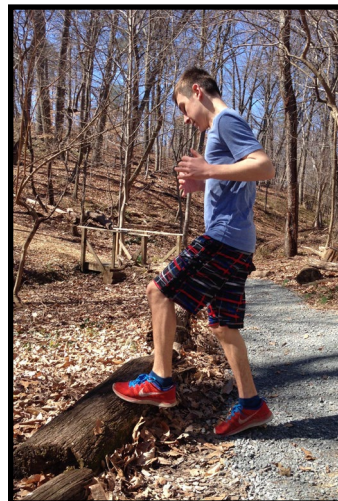
Wood chips head stand



Bridge push-ups



Rocking a tree pose



Front log hops



Lateral log hops

Guess where?



An exhibit of photos by
Rita Adrosko
Opening reception April 16
4 - 6 p.m.
Montebello Café



MONTEBELLO MUSIC CLUB

PRESENTS

THE POLARIS ENSEMBLE



Katherine Murdock



Mark Hill



Audrey Andrist

Montebello Community Center
Sunday, April 10, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

We invite you to come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music provided by viola, oboe, and piano.

Works by composers G.P. Telemann, Johannes Brahms, Joseph Schwantner, George Gershwin, and August Klughardt will be performed.

Free admission

Reception to follow

2015-2016
Concert Season!

National Concert
Band of America

Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

Hayfield Secondary School
7630 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315

Our program begins with *Chester Overture for Band* by William Schumann, followed by *Hail to the Spirit of Liberty* by John Philip Sousa. *Mannin Veen* by Haydn Wood is next, followed by *The New Colonial March* by R. B. Hall. We continue with Grainger's *Irish Tune from County Derry*, followed by Persichetti's *Symphony for Band*. Next up is *America the Beautiful* by Ward, as arranged by Carmen Dragon. As always, we close our program with a musical salute to all veterans — past, present and future — with Bob Lowden's arrangement of *Armed Forces Salute*, followed by the National Concert Band's signature song, *This Is My Country!*

Please bring a friend and support excellent, live music!



ADMISSION	
Adults	\$10
Seniors/Military/Vets	\$ 5
Students (with ID)	Free
Children (with paying Adult)	Free



Melvin Paul Kessler
Lt. Commander, USN (Ret.)
Music Director

*Program is subject to change. NCBA Contact, Judy Powell at 703-599-1075, or email: j_v_powell@yahoo.com
NCBA is a Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. For further information on the group and future performances, please visit our website at www.nationalconcertband.org, or look for us on **FACEBOOK**.

Civil War Medical Living
History Program at Fort Ward

Saturday, April 23
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Civil War army field hospital display and presentation featuring medical historian and surgeon interpreter Von Barron.
- View a variety of original and reproduction medical equipment and instruments of the period.
- Meet Civil War African-American nurse Susie King Taylor, portrayed by Heather Butts, author of *African-American Medicine in Washington, D.C.*
- View the Museum exhibit, "Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier."

Follow-up watching the PBS series "Mercy Street" by learning more about Civil War surgical practices & medical care!



Free!
Rain Date April 30

Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site
4301 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA
703-746-4848 www.forward.org

Fort Ward complies with ADA guidelines. To request an accommodation, please notify the Museum at least seven business days in advance.

