

# MOUNT VERNON VOICE

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Staff photos/Steve Hunt

River Bend Bistro in the Hollin Hall Shopping Ctr. opened Monday.

## Open for Business!

At long last, Mount Vernon residents have a new locally-owned restaurant to enjoy in the Fort Hunt area.

On Monday, the River Bend Bistro & Wine Bar opened its doors in the space which had formally been the Village Wharf.

However, patrons of the former restaurant would not recognize the place as River Bend has been completely remodeled.

Owners Caroline and Bill Ross stated they are so happy to finally be open after putting more than two years of planning and effort into the endeavor.



Chef/Owner Caroline Ross

"What took us so long? Well, there are so many hoops to jump through ... construction, equip-

See *Bistro Page 9*

## FCPS Budget Crisis Critical Velkoff Says, 'We're Not Crying Wolf'

By STEVE HUNT

Staff Writer

West Potomac High senior Mary Hill says she would one day like to be superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Hill, president of the school's Student Government Association and a member of the FCPS superintendent student advisory committee, was the first student to contact superintendent Karen Garza after being named superintendent this summer.

"I want to have her job someday," Hill told the Voice following an education town hall meeting Tuesday night at Whitman Middle School.

In the meantime, it is up to Garza to figure out how to cut more than \$140 million from FCPS' projected FY 2015 budget.

Monday night, Garza presented a list of "discussion items" to the Fairfax County School Board which member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) noted were not recommendations but options.

For many FCPS parents and students, those options, which include increasing class size, cutting staff, and implementing fees

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Staff photos/Steve Hunt

FCPS Supt. Karen Garza addresses the crowd at Walt Whitman Middle School as school board member Dan Storck looks on.

## A Home of Their Own at Mondloch Place

By STEVE HUNT

Staff Writer

Terry Taylor has a job and a home thanks to his own perseverance — and assistance from New Hope Housing.

Sunday, Taylor, 62, told NHH supporters how he went from being homeless and having no possessions other than what he could fit in a suitcase to now having a full time job and a home to call his own at Mondloch Place.

"I did my part," Taylor said, "and everybody helped me. It came together."

Anthony, 46, was more comfortable living in the woods than a shelter, but after a serious bout

See *Mondloch Place Page 3*



Staff photo/Steve Hunt

New Hope Housing has opened Mondloch Place, efficiency apartments for the formerly homeless.



Staff photo/Steve Hunt

## Renewing the Covenant

Fort Belvoir garrison commander Col. Greg Gadson signs the Community Covenant with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at Celebration! Saturday. Behind him, from left, are Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44th) and Fairfax County School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon). See more photos, page 7.

# Homeless Find Homes at Mondloch Place

*Mondloch Place from Page 1*

with alcoholism requiring months of hospitalization, he found New Hope Housing and also ended up at Mondloch Place.

"I was fortunate to get this place here," he said.

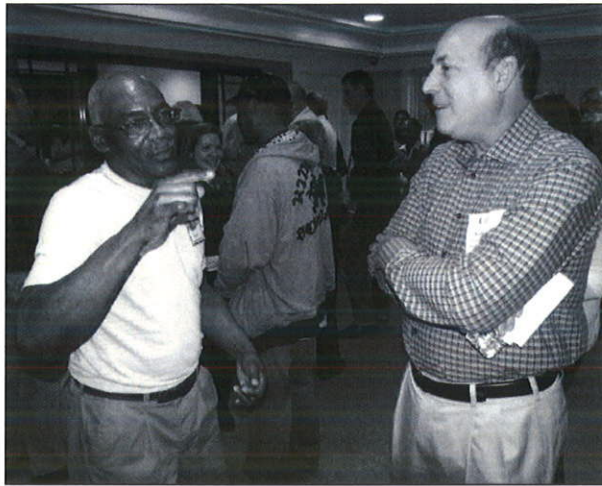
Al Gardner is another Mondloch Place resident who was happy to have a home to call his own and pleased to show it off Sunday to those who helped make it a reality.

Sunday, New Hope Housing hosted a grand opening for Mondloch Place, a major renovation and transformation of the former Mondloch family shelter on Lockheed Boulevard.

And, as New Hope Housing executive director Pam Michell explained, "It's not a program, it's housing."

The 20 residents, all who have been homeless for a period of time, sign a lease, pay rent and have a home to call their own where they can live with dignity and respect.

New Hope Housing, which operates several facilities for homeless individuals and families, such as the Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway near



Staff photo/Steve Hunt

**Mondloch Place resident Terry Taylor, left, spoke with New Hope Housing board member Robert Lavet at an open house Sunday.**

Fort Belvoir, notes that it is in the forefront of the effort to end homelessness in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria by creating another innovative housing opportunity for the homeless in northern Virginia.

The new building consists of 20 fully-furnished efficiency apartments which provide permanent housing with on-site support to single adults, many of whom

have been residents of the Kennedy or the Ventures in Community hypothermia shelters.

Michell has been working on the idea for a decade on a county-wide single-residence-occupancy task force and as New Hope states, "this is a dream come true not only for the 20 residents but also for New Hope Housing's work to end homelessness in the community."


The building also has a community room and staff offices for the program and case managers and volunteers and staff offer life skills and recreational activities.

"Staff and volunteers are working to make this building a true home for some of the most vulnerable residents in our community," New Hope states.

New Hope Housing board member Robert Lavet commented at the open house that Mondloch Place is today a place where 20 people can call home and the culmination of a vision for New Hope Housing.

And, as resident Taylor stated, "This is the perfect place for me."

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## Re-Elect Del. Scott Surovell

Our Neighbor:

- Lifelong Resident of Mount Vernon Community
- Husband and Father of Eva (12), Leia (11), Mara (8) & Colin Surovell (7)
- Community Leader and HOA Officer
- Girls Soccer Coach
- Founder 20-Attorney Law Firm

Invest In Our People and Our Community:

- Widen Richmond Highway & Extend Yellow Line To Fort Belvoir
- Raise Teacher Salaries, Reduce Class Sizes, and Provide a Computer to Every Student
- Expand Head Start and Early Childhood Education
- Hold the Line on Tuition and Expand In-State Slots At Virginia's Universities
- Protect Reproductive Freedom and Marriage Equality, and Encourage Energy Efficiency

# VOTE NOVEMBER 5

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*Our neighbor. Our values. Our voice.*

*Paid for and authorized by Surovell for Delegate.*