

## Local firm selected to provide signs for new Nationals stadium

District-based Gelberg Signs has been selected to develop and install all signs for the new Washington Nationals ballpark, expected to open next year in Southeast Washington.

Clark Construction, chief contractor on the project, announced the \$1 million award Monday. The company said Gelberg was selected in part because of its involvement in the District's Local, Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

"Thanks to the [disadvantaged

business] program, Gelberg Signs has a terrific opportunity to be involved in this historic stadium project; an opportunity they might not have received otherwise," said Wes Stith, a vice president at Clark. "Clark Construction is happy to be a supporter of the [disadvantaged business] program, and we look forward to working with Gelberg Signs on this project."

Under the contract, Gelberg is expected to install all signs identifying

the stadium, including signs for directions, parking, concessions and seat numbers. In total, Gelberg is expected to create more than 3,000 signs for the project.

"We are honored to have been selected as the sign company for D.C.'s next major landmark," said Guy Brami, principal of Gelberg Signs, a company he runs with his brothers Luc and Neil. "This latest contract is a major milestone for Gelberg Signs." - David Francis

### MARRIOTT OPTIONS TRADING AT RECORD ON BUYOUT RUMOR

Trading in options to buy shares of Marriott International Inc. surged to a record amid speculation that the owner of the Ritz-Carlton and namesake hotel chain may be acquired. The number of call-option contracts traded in Bethesda-based Marriott jumped to 14,524 as of 4 p.m. in New York. That's a ninefold increase from the average of the previous 20 trading sessions. Michael McCarty, a trader who tracks options patterns at Meridian Equity Partners Inc. in New York, said he's "skeptical" that an offer will actually be made because the company doesn't own most of its real estate, which is what buyers might be most drawn to. - Bloomberg

### HOT STOCKS

#### NYSE

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
Solectron	122,700,199	3.88	+51
WalMart	53,391,465	51.21	+1.74
GenElec	32,056,503	37.81	+36
EMC Corp	31,545,206	17.05	+22
Pfizer	27,134,635	27.52	-16

#### AMEX

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
SPDR	69,269,166	154.15	+07
iShRus2K nya	43,145,606	84.79	+09
SP Energy	17,496,455	69.98	+1.06
ProUltShQQQ	10,737,398	46.08	-21
SP Util	10,653,800	41.49	-12

#### NASDAQ

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
SunMicro	106,388,501	5.11	-07
PwShs QQQ	60,163,255	47.58	+14
SiriusS	51,713,814	2.89	+01
Intel	41,286,286	22.16	-20
Microsoft	38,615,492	30.72	+13

▲ DOW JONES  
8.21 | 13,676.32

▲ NASDAQ  
4.37 | 2,618.29

▲ S&P 500  
2.84 | 1,539.18

▼ 10 YR. T-NOTE  
0.03 | 4.93%

▼ YEN/DOLLAR  
0.0425 | 121.7320

▲ EURO/DOLLAR  
0.0001 | 1.3490

## Dominion sells its stake in oil, natural gas

By Melissa Frederick  
Examiner Staff Writer

Richmond-based utility Dominion will sell the majority of its stake in natural gas and oil exploration for \$6.5 billion, the company announced Monday.

The move will allow the company to focus on its power business, which is growing at an above-average rate in Virginia, Chief Executive Officer Thomas Farrell said in a statement Monday.

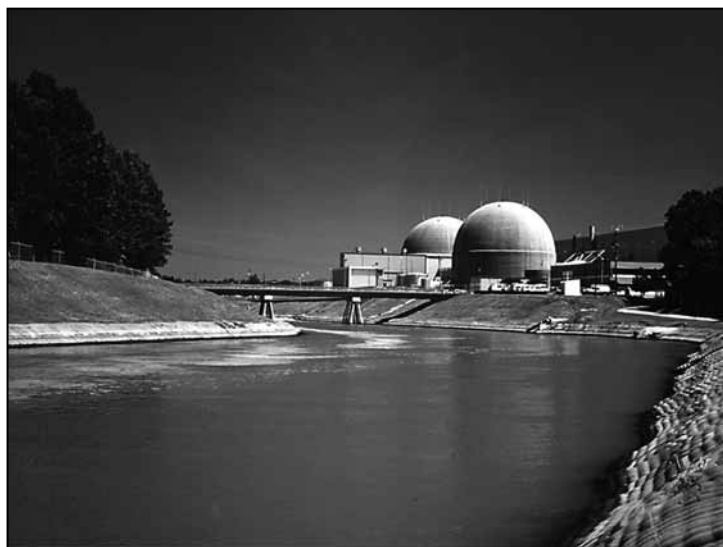
The move should help drive up earnings for 2008, Farrell said.

The divestment primarily revolves around two transactions. The larger is a sale of operations in Michigan, Alabama and the Permian Basin in Texas to Lowes Corp. of New York for \$4.025 billion.

The firm charters offshore drilling rigs to oil and gas explorers.

"We are very positive on the long-term prospects for natural gas in the USA," Loews CEO James Tisch said in a conference call. "I wouldn't be surprised if the gas we produced 20 years from now generates more income for us on a present value basis than the gas that we'll produce next year," Tisch said the company may consider taking the assets public at a later date.

Dominion also sold its opera-



Dominion's nuclear reactor-powered Surry Power Station, near Surrey, Va., is pictured in this undated company photo. Richmond-based utility Dominion will sell the majority of its stake in natural gas and oil exploration for \$6.5 billion, the company announced Monday. - Bloomberg

tions in the Rocky Mountains, Gulf Coast, San Juan Basin and south Louisiana to XTO Energy Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas, for \$2.5 billion.

As of Dec. 31, the two operations owned a total of about 3.51 trillion cubic feet equivalent of proven natural gas and oil reserves.

Both sales is expected to close in August.

The company also expects to sell

its operations in the Mid-Century Basin by the end of the year to an undisclosed buyer, according to the statement.

Dominion shares rose 23 cents to \$87.87 Monday, Loews shares gained \$1.33 to \$52.35, and XTO Energy jumped \$3.24 to \$61.61.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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## Survey: Real estate services viewed favorably

By David Francis  
Examiner Staff Writer

Most U.S. consumers have a positive view of the real estate profession, according to a new survey, yet have little understanding to how the industry works.

The Opinion Research Corporation for the Washington-based Consumer Federation of America, a nonprofit comprising more than 300 consumer groups, conducted the survey.

The research corporation surveyed 2,036 people, including 536 who had used the services of a real estate broker in recent years.

"Our analysis of the survey data reveals that most consumers view the real estate industry and services favorably, but understand

them poorly and object to specific practices," Consumer Federation Executive Director Stephen Brobeck told *The Examiner*. "Most consumers disapprove of actual industry practices related to listings, disclosure of representation and compensation. ... Yet, most consumers have favorable views of real estate agents and brokers and the services they offer."

For example, many consumers do not understand how brokers make their commissions on sales.

Many times, commission fees are hidden in the cost of the home without the buyer's knowledge.

Brobeck calls this the "Alice in Wonderland" phenomena, where "things are not what they appear to be."

"Only about one-quarter [of consumers] know that commissions

can be negotiated," he said. "In fact, about two-fifths [of consumers] think that commissions are set by the industry or its agents while 13 percent believe commissions are set by state law."

Still, many consumers are aware of their ignorance; about two-thirds admitted they know little about real estate practices or services.

Despite some reservations about industry practices, the survey indicated consumers are generally pleased with real estate brokers when compared with other workers in the service industry.

"There is a good reason for that," Brobeck said. "This is an infrequent purchase. People do not understand and are extremely dependent" on their broker for assistance.

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### AROUND THE REGION

#### TAXIS

#### Arlington Red Top Cab to incorporate hybrids into fleet

Arlington Red Top Cab Company on Monday announced a new initiative to cut down on vehicle emissions.

The company said it had placed orders for five Ford hybrid vehicles, expected to arrive next month.

These cars primarily use electricity for power, using gas only to travel at speeds of more than 35 miles per hour.

This means in a dense urban environment such as Arlington, these cabs will rarely use gas and will not produce any emissions while idling.

Hybrids in other large cities get 36 miles per gallon, compared with 16 miles per gallon on only gas. - David Francis

#### REAL ESTATE

#### Federal Realty purchases Charlottesville shopping center

Rockville-based Federal Realty Investment Trust has acquired a 166,000-square-foot shopping center in Charlottesville for \$27.2 million.

The property was bought from a private owner.

Staples, Advance Auto and Whole Foods anchor the shopping center. The purchase brings the trust's total Charlottesville holdings to 650,000 square feet of retail space.

"These acquisitions provide the trust with significant re-leasing and redevelopment opportunities as well as enhance Federal Realty's regional concentration in our core markets," said Jeff Berkes, executive vice president and chief investment officer at Federal Realty. - David Francis

#### HEALTH CARE

#### New Fairfax nonprofit seeks more affordable assisted living

CareFAX TLC, a new Fairfax-based nonprofit, opened Monday with goals of improving access to assisted living, adding new support programs for severely disabled young adults and providing benefits for the elderly.

The group has received initial funding from the county, but plans to become self-sustaining in the future. - David Francis

### MARKET MOVERS

Stocks that moved substantially or traded heavily Monday:

#### NYSE

Dow Jones & Co.

- \$1.05 at \$60.15;

News Corp.

- 12 cents at \$24.10

News Corp chairman Rupert Murdoch held meetings Monday with the family that controls Dow Jones about a possible deal to buy the parent of The Wall Street Journal.

Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

+ \$2.30 at \$51.95;

Atlas Pipeline Partners LP

+ \$8.14 at \$39.56

Oil and natural gas producer Anadarko Petroleum said Sunday it is selling natural gas systems and associated processing plants to Atlas for \$1.85 billion.

#### NASDAQ

Apple Inc.

+ \$2.93 at \$121.33

The company's highly anticipated iPhone will be available June 29, according to TV commercials broadcast Sunday night.

Palm Inc.

+ \$1.48 at \$17.57

The smart phone maker said it got \$325 million from private equity firm Elevation Partners and announced a shakeup on its board. - AP

### MORE IN BUSINESS

#### >> MUSIC

#### Starbucks' label debuts with new Paul McCartney CD

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