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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

DECEMBER 4, 2008

'Black Friday' Not Black Enough

Sunday's bleak weather rained on merchant's holiday parade.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

For most of the smaller retail merchants in Belle View Shopping Center and Hollin Hall Shopping Center "Black Friday" was not nearly as bleak as many had expected. However, it was nothing to cheer about either based on their Monday assessments.

But, the annually hyped sales day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, which many retailers depend on for a significant amount of their annual gross income does not have the same impact on smaller retailers as it does on the large retail chain stores. This was particularly true this year with the larger stores pushing a myriad of sale items — well before Black Friday.

"It was probably better than I expected."

— **Dorothy Trimber, owner, The Blossom Shop**

"Sales were OK this past weekend but they seemed a bit lower than the same time last year," said Patty Cover, manager, The Gift Store in Hollin Hall Shopping Center.

Next door, Dorothy Trimber, owner, The Blossom Shop, a combination florist and gift shop, also gave the weekend an "OK" grade. "It was probably better than I expected. I was expecting very low numbers due to the economy," she said.

Trimber also has established a clientele for whom she does both in-home and business decorating which has been steadily growing over the past several years. "I didn't get any new clients this year for decorating. People are just not spending as much decorating their homes," Trimber said.

"People seem to be looking for nice gifts but not ones that are over the top in price. One interesting fact was that we sold all but three of our Nativity Scene sets. Maybe they're returning to more of the basics," Trimber speculated.

For Kevin Green, owner of the Virginia Florist, also a combination floral/gift shop in Belle View Shopping Center, Black Friday weekend was only worth an "OK." But, again most of his holiday business occurs closer to Christmas.

"This is particularly true of the floral part of the business. So far the decorating part of the business has stayed solid," he said.

Green always offers a wide range of very unusual gift possibilities such as bookends of the Lincoln Memorial marking the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 2009 and



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



The Virginia Florist in the Belle View Shopping Center.

Sheila Cianciolo trims a tree in the Blossom Shop at the Hollin Hall Shopping Center

a five-foot Santa for decorating. It is these types of items that shoppers did not claim this past weekend as they have in past years.

The Shops at Mount Vernon had a "great Friday and Saturday" but "Sunday was a disaster," according to Julia A. Mosley, director of retail, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. The weather Sunday caused a double problem at Mount Vernon. It not only impacted sales at The Shops but also hurt the Estate's Candlelight Tour that brings visitors to The Shops.

"People are being careful this year. They seem to be buying more items for their homes. A big item for us was our three dimensional Advent Calendar. It is something they can keep and enjoy year after year," Mosley said.

SEE SUNDAY'S WEATHER. PAGE 4

Nick Beltrante: An Original

50th anniversary of American Express has local roots.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Fifty years ago a personal credit crunch such as being experienced today would have been highly unlikely. Why? Because there were no such things as a personal credit card. Then, in 1958, everything changed.

That was the year American Express Corporation issued the first personal credit card. And, 12,000 individuals decided to take a chance on this new form of personal finance.

One of those individuals was Nicholas R. Beltrante, now a resident of Collingwood Springs in the Mount Vernon District. To thank Beltrante, and 22 others of that first 12,000 adventuresome individuals, American Express has just published a book cel

SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY. PAGE 4

Homeless Man Dies in Cold

Frank James Hubert, 56, of no fixed address, found dead behind the Engleside Shopping Center, 8646 Richmond Highway, Nov. 27, was apparently the victim of hypothermia, according to Fairfax County Police.

Officers were summoned to the Shopping Center at approximately 7 a.m. Thanksgiving day where they discovered Hubert's body. Fairfax County has three shelters for homeless adults and two for homeless families with children, according to police.

Local faith communities and nonprofit organizations, in partnership with county government, provide additional hypothermia prevention services and shelter during the coldest months. Residents are asked to contact police at 703-691-2131 if they see someone they believe may be at risk for hypothermia.

For information about the county's homeless shelters, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/factsheets/emershelter.htm.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary
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Mount Vernon community family and friends are invited to join us and welcome the holiday season in a very special way.

Ceremony includes Festival of Music by the Mirage Advanced Women's Chorus and Cleve Francis, MD.

Reception follows in the cafeteria, where Santa will greet our young guests.

For more information on how you can support the 2008 Lights of Love, please call 703-664-7260.



Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

Teacher Charged With Indecent Liberties

Dan Hegarty, 39, of Pratt Street in the Franconia area, turned himself in to police on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 25, 15 days after he allegedly touched an 8-year-old McLean boy in the locker room of Spring Hill Recreation Center, according to police news releases.

He had been identified with help from the public after flyers and a composite sketch had been distributed. Hegarty was charged with taking indecent liberties with a child under the age of 15.

Police spokesman Don Gotthardt said Hegarty had been a teacher at the Browne Academy, a private day school on Telegraph Road. Gotthardt said the man was also a hockey coach, although it is unknown in what league he coached.

The incident, as reported by the police, took place at about 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10. The child was changing after swimming when a naked man allegedly approached him and touched him in a sexual manner.

The child was uninjured and reported the incident to his parents later that evening.



POLICE PHOTO
Dan Hegarty

— MIKE DICICCO

Fritts Resigns as SFDC Executive Director

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC)'s executive director, Lara Fritts, has resigned effective Jan. 2, 2009. She has served in that position since June 2005.

Under Fritt's direction, the agency has seen more than \$433,990,000 in development along Richmond Highway that included the completion of such projects as Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Center, the addition of national retailers and restaurants and preparations being undertaken as a result of the transformation of Fort Belvoir resulting from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report (BRAC), according to an SFDC news release issued Tuesday, Dec. 2,

During her time with SFDC, Fritts also served on the Board of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, contributed her expertise to the economic redevelopment of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and regularly attended the BRAC Board of Advisor meetings at Fort Belvoir representing SFDC.

The agency will conduct a search for a new executive director. Job description and application information is available at www.sfdc.org.

Resumes will be accepted through Dec. 23. They can be sent to info@sfdc.org or to SFDC, 8850 Richmond Highway, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Kiwanis Key Clubs Commence Holiday Tree Sale

Mount Vernon and West Potomac high school Kiwanis Key Club students kicked off the holiday season last Saturday morning, Nov. 29, by pitching in to help Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club members unload and set up 750 Fraser fir trees in the parking lot of the Belle View Shopping Center.

The trees, on sale through Dec. 23, or as long as they last, serve as the Kiwanis Club's main annual fund-raiser, according to Club President Bruce Malkin. Tree sales take place from noon to 8 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

All proceeds will be used to improve the lives of needy families and underprivileged children throughout the Mount Vernon community, according to Malkin. For more information about the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club visit www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org.

NEWS



Parent volunteers **Becky Waitt and Shawn Bloom** help to serve the nearly 900 participants in the annual Thanksgiving tradition.

Feasting on Their Own Raised Food

For the third year, Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus students enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch from the school's classroom gardens. The feast includes a salad made with lettuce, which was planted and harvested by the students. Parent volunteers served the school-grown salads and traditional Thanksgiving lunch with all the "fixin's" to nearly 900 students, family and friends.

Fourth grader Khalif Nashid enjoys the salad he helped grow and harvest. After the classes harvested the lettuce, they weighed what they picked and then graphed their class totals.



Thanksgiving Brought to Shelter

Ft. Belvoir and local groups provide dinner.

Fort Belvoir joined the efforts of New Hope Housing in providing Thanksgiving dinner to the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter on Route 1. Ft. Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Jerry Blixt personally delivered turkey, ham, and all the trimmings for the shelter's holiday meal along with members of his staff.

"We are tremendously appreciative of the many ways Fort Belvoir supports the residents at the Kennedy Shelter. Thanksgiving dinner is only one part of their generous support that includes special dinners and events throughout the year. We thank Col. Blixt and the many individuals and Army Units at Fort Belvoir for their support of the shelter," said Pam Mitchell, executive director.

In addition to support from the U.S. Army installation, the shelter received turkeys and food baskets



Ft. Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Jerry Blixt, right, is joined by **Command Sgt. Major Allison Smith** in delivering Thanksgiving dinner to the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter.

SEE FORT BELVOIR, PAGE 5

50th Anniversary of American Express Has Local Roots

FROM PAGE 1

celebrating its 50th Anniversary entitled "Extraordinary Lives — Members Since 1958."

The 275-page, coffee table size book was issued Nov. 25. It profiles the lives of its subjects, written by AMX selected writers and illustrators.

Each story has its own title that is representative of the personality of the subject. In the case of Nick Beltrante, his story, written by former Washington Post staffer Judy Bachrach and illustrated by Tavis Coburn, is entitled "On Guard."

The title captures this former District of Columbia police detective who, after retirement from the force, opened his own detective agency in the Mount Vernon District and gained a reputation as the "go-to guy" to solve whatever defied solutions by others. He pursued that career until last year when he turned 80 and sold his agency to a long-time employee.

"You know, I just can't get used to being retired. I've always been very active and involved. I'm going to have to find something," Beltrante said seated in his living room looking over the new AMX book he had just received.

EACH OF THE STORIES vary greatly. There is no common thread to the those selected for profiling. "There is no social group that has a monopoly on this talent for living, but there is a noticeable concentration of it in the generation born in the early years of the 20th Century," wrote Susan Orleans who composed the book's forward.

"And, it seems particularly strong among those people who decided, in 1958, to join up with this new notion of a charge card offered by American Express," she wrote. In Beltrante's case his decision was based on pure pragmatism.

"I was a detective with the D.C. Police Department at the time and I had to travel out of town at times due to a given case. The department had no way to provide travel cash. You got paid for expenses after you returned and submitted an expense account," Beltrante said.

"That was fine, but what was I supposed to do on the road. That's why I got the card. It covered me until I got reimbursed," he said.



Nicholas Beltrante, an original American Express card holder, sits in his Collingwood Springs living room reviewing the new book created by the credit card company telling the life stories of 22 of their first subscribers.

Beltrante's gross salary as a D.C. police detective at that time was \$3,077 per year. That amounted to a take home pay check of \$105 every two weeks. "That was a pretty good pay in those days," he said. "New Jersey State Police were only making \$1,800 a year."

Beltrante served on the D.C. Police Force from 1949 to 1963. He was injured several times in the line of duty and retired on disability.

During those years he had a multiplicity of assignments. But, no matter what that might be at any given time, Beltrante had a knack for being in the right place at the right time. He also got to know many of America's most powerful — and they knew him.

On June 17, 1972, his birthday, Beltrante was called to the scene of the Watergate break-in that eventually led to the resignation of U.S. President Richard M. Nixon. Two days later Beltrante was hired by the Democratic National Committee to debug their Watergate offices and find any mole on Democrat candidate George McGovern's staff who aided and abetted the break-in.

He was also the first D.C. police officer

Behind the Book

Nicholas R. Beltrante's Story was chosen from a host of original card holders who answered American Express' inquiry to know if they would be willing to share their stories for publication, according to Frank Vaccaro, vice president, Strategist Communications, AmericanExpress.

"Early this past spring we sent out a card to all 12,000 of our original card holders asking if they would be willing to share their life stories for a book we were preparing to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We received a tremendous response with many sending in their stories," Vaccaro said.

"We didn't ask any American Express type questions. It was about them not us. We felt the best way to celebrate our 50th was to celebrate

them," he said.

"We then spent a number of weeks evaluating their stories. Our objective was to get a wide cross section of individual personalities and life experiences. It was very difficult to make our final selection because there were so many great stories," Vaccaro said.

"We wanted to create a special book to say thank you to our original card holders. That was the ultimate goal. This book is not for sale and we have put out no publicity on it. We have left it up to each individual as to whether or not they want to publicize their portion of the book," he said.

The book does not mention American Express except in the forward. Twenty thousand copies have been printed and will be distributed to the 12,000 original card holders, writers, illustrators and AMX partners, according to Vaccaro.

on the scene, Nov. 1, 1950, of the attempted assassination of President Harry S Truman by Puerto Rican militants, at Blair House, where Truman lived while the White House was undergoing massive renovations. While cruising the streets of D.C., Beltrante heard on his police radio of a shooting near the White House.

When he arrived he discovered the body of a Secret Service agent on the street. Truman stuck his head out the second floor window to inquire what was going on and was told to get "Back in" by other agents now on the scene.

AS A YOUNG D.C. police officer, age 23, he had the Georgetown beat.

Some of those he greeted and assisted each day included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, U.S. Army General George C. Marshall, and a young senator from Massachusetts named John F. Kennedy.

"I ignored him. Never thought he would amount to much," Beltrante said. To his amazement JFK became president and Beltrante became one of his prime protectors in the District. Kennedy proved a difficult assignment because of his penchant for going into crowds to meet the people, according to Beltrante. He still has his doubts about the Warren Commission Report's conclusion on the Kennedy assassination.

Beltrante's life journey commenced in Atlantic City, N.J., where he grew up the son of an Italian immigrant father who worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad and a mother of Italian descent. He had planned to become a pharmacist.

Then, at age 17, those plans were interrupted by World War II. Beltrante decided to forego his senior year at Atlantic City High School to enlist in the U.S. Navy. His senior prom was spent with the U.S. Marines at Okinawa. That Marine Corps tour also changed his occupational dreams and led him into law enforcement after the war.

Beltrante was discharged from the Navy in December 1946. "In those days if you enlisted before graduating from high school but were in your senior year they gave you a War Diploma. So after the war I took advantage of the GI Bill," he said. He got a bachelor of law degree from La Salle University and an associate degree from the Pennsylvania Institute of Criminology.

In 1949 he married his sweetheart Patricia from Clifton, N.J., and they moved to Washington for Beltrante to join the D.C. Police Department. They bought a house with a two percent mortgage and had three children, a son Michael, now 45 living in North Carolina; and two daughters, Janice now 54 and Susan, 50. Both live in Northern Virginia.

Beltrante has been active in a variety of veterans activities over the years including the effort to establish a U.S. Naval Medical Museum at the site of the site of the first Navy Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, District of Columbia. It was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln in 1866. Unfortunately that project failed when the District acquired the building from the General Services Administration. But, Beltrante remains hopeful it will succeed in the future.

Sunday's Weather Rained on Merchant's Holiday Parade

FROM PAGE 1

The same assessments applied to the shops in Old Town.

"We never consider Black Friday to be a big shopping day. At most, it can usually be compared to a good Saturday," said Adam Winer, owner/manager, Artcraft in Old Town Alexandria.

"We were very busy on both Friday and Saturday. But, Sunday was a bust due to the weather. In general people appear to

be buying less expensive items this year," he said.

Todd Healy at Gallery Lafayette found this Black Friday's sales to be much less than normal. "But, at this point, I attribute that to most people being at the malls hunting for bargains. We'll see as the season progresses," Healy said.

One retailer that found the holiday shopping spirit alive and well was The Christmas Attic on South Union Street in Old

Town. "We were very happy with our sales throughout the weekend. We had a steady flow of shoppers both Friday and Saturday," said Betsy Huser.

Kate Schlabach, owner, Why Not, the children's books, toys, and clothing store at 200 King St., gave the Black Friday weekend an "all right" rating. Again she blamed a poor Sunday showing on the weather.

Cathy Bradford at Kings Jewelry agreed with Winer that the Black Friday weekend

is not a big sales period for them. "Our shoppers usually wait until about 10 days before Christmas to make their purchases. They seem to get their mall shopping done first," she said.

"We had a lot of traffic over the weekend. But, they come in and visit and see what's available before they buy. We have regular customers that shop with us every year close to Christmas," Bradford said.



Molly Parrish, Dedra Parrish, Rachel Manning and Nikky Manning worked on an assembly line at A Celebration of Giving and Sharing.



PHOTOS BY FRANCIS CHUNG/THE CONNECTION

Cameron Richardson, the youngest volunteer at A Celebration of Giving and Sharing, shows off stickers that were among the gifts placed into backpacks for Fairfax County children on Nov. 19.

Season of Giving Begins

Volunteers pack backpacks for 1,100 local students.

Dozens of volunteers took part in a Nov. 19 backpack packing effort at the Massey Building in downtown Fairfax. The effort is part of Volunteer Fairfax's annual A Celebration of Giving and Sharing program, which will provide backpacks filled with goodies to 1,100 students at Weyanoke and Woodlawn elementary schools.

The backpacks will be delivered to schools that were selected based on need.

Nearly half of the students at Weyanoke and Woodlawn qualify for the free and reduced lunch program.

The delivery day is Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the celebration day is Friday, Dec. 12, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Fort Belvoir, New Hope Team Up

FROM PAGE 3

from St. Louis Catholic Church, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Redeemed Church of Christ, Defense Health Information Management, AMYX, Grace AME Church, Mount Vernon Universalist Unitarian Church, and many individuals, according to New Hope Housing. Their donations helped make Thanksgiving fes-

tive for residents of the Mondloch House Family Shelter as well as those in transitional and supportive housing programs operated by New Hope Housing, the oldest provider of shelter programs in Fairfax County. The organization serves over 800 individuals each year, including more than 135 children.

'Bountiful Tom Turkey'

The students of Grace Episcopal School helped feed the homeless of Alexandria by creating a canned-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 20. Measuring 28 feet by 32 feet, this turkey-shaped structure was made of boxed and canned foods



contributed by Grace Episcopal School families. More than 300 cans, jars and boxes of food were used in the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works in conjunction with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed Alexandria families in need.



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Alex/ Pinewood Lake \$292,500
4332 Birchlake Court
Beautifully updated 3/4 bedroom town house with 2.5 baths. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac with wonderful views of the lake. Shows like a model - newer carpeting and light fixtures. Meticulously maintained & great location, by the lake. Commuting minutes: Ft. Belvoir (5), Old Town & Huntington Metro (12), Ntl Airport (27) Pentagon & D.C. (32).



Alex/Stratford \$649,000
8400 Brewster Drive
An Absolute Cream Puff!! This lovely 4BR, 3BA Split has been updated & renovated from top to bottom-total turn key! Kit, baths, flooring, windows, landscaping, driveway, appliances, roof, painting-its all been done. Schools are Stratford Landing, Sandburg & West Potomac! 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 10 minutes to Old Town, 20-25 minutes to NTL Airport & Pentagon, all along scenic GW Parkway.



Alex/Mt.Vernon \$599,900
9326 Craig Avenue
Large brick 5BR, 3BA split with 2 car garage on .4 acre lot in lovely Mt. Vernon area with lots of trees. 2 fireplaces, energy efficient replacement windows, beautiful refinished hdwd floors on main level, new carpeting, landscaped fenced rear lot with huge deck off sunroom addition, freshly painted interior and exterior. Superbly priced so renovate kitchen/baths to your desire. Great commute in minutes to Ft. Belvoir, Alex, Old Town, DC/Pentagon.



Alex/ Belle View \$209,850
6603 East Wakefield Drive #A2
Sunny 1st floor unit with washer/dryer in the building. Immaculate condition. Great Price! Only 2.5 blocks to shopping center. Also walk to recreation center (indoor pool and ice rink). Superb community amenities including outdoor pool, tennis, basketball, volleyball, tot lots and picnic areas. GW Pkwy and bike path down the street. 4 minutes to Old Town and 20 minutes to Ft. Belvoir. Perfect location & price!

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Former White House Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier, center, is joined by his two assistants, Marlene Roudebush, left, and Mark Ramsdell, both of L'Academie de Cuisine, in displaying their gingerbread recreation of the Mount Vernon Mansion.

Gingerbread Mansion for George

A camel and colonial chocolate await holiday visitors.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Aladdin is a little big for a magic carpet and a little small for a robust wise man transporting gold and other goodies. And, chocoholics might find the colonial version a bit bitter to their taste buds. But, the gingerbread version of the Mansion is both awesome and potentially delicious. It's all part of "Christmas at Mount Vernon." And,

each of the above are new for this year's holiday celebration, including the addition of 12 theme-decorated Christmas trees displayed throughout the Ford Orientation Center.

"Aladdin," a one-year-old camel, is making his first yuletide appearance at Mount Vernon in remembrance of George Washington's fascination with exotic animals. During the holidays of 1787 the General paid 18 shillings, the equivalent of \$77, to have a camel visit Mount Vernon for the amusement of his guests and himself.

That camel is thought to have come from a touring show. It arrived at Washington's Mount Vernon plantation on Dec. 29. How long it remained cannot be documented, according to Mount Vernon Research Historian Mary V. Thompson and Livestock Supervisor Lisa Pregent. Aladdin will be visiting until Jan. 9, 2009, according to Thompson.



Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens Executive Director James Rees explains the individual theme decorations on each of the 12 Christmas trees placed throughout the Ford Orientation Center.

THE PEOPLE-FRIENDLY camel was only one element of a Nov. 25 press tour announcing the opening of Mount Vernon Estate's annual holiday festivities. The highlight of that event was the completion of a gingerbread replica of the Mount Vernon Mansion by former White House Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier and his associates Samantha Burdman, Mark Ramsdell and Marlene Roudebush, each of the L'Academie de Cuisine.

This five-foot-wide and three-foot tall edible reproduction of Washington's home now graces the lobby area of the Estate's Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center until after the holidays. It took 300 hours to create, including the intricate reproduction of the Mansion's main dining room that contains edible versions of Martha Washington and her grandchildren preparing their Christmas meal, with food on the table.

"Every element of the gingerbread Mansion display is made completely of edible material. There are no artificial supports as is often the case in other

Women, Art & Shopping HOLIDAY SHOW!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
1:00 – 4:30 pm

Sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission - Our Eleventh Women Artists Show

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Complimentary refreshments served - NO COST TO ATTEND

*15% of the proceeds will be donated by the Friends of the Commission for Women to programs of the Office on Women.

Noodles & Co. Coming to Plaza

The restaurant Noodles & Co. will become the latest addition to Federal Realty's Richmond Highway shopping center, Mount Vernon Plaza.

Mount Vernon Plaza, a 504,000-sq.-ft. regional shopping destination, includes a mix of local and national tenants such as Home Depot, Shoppers Warehouse, Bed Bath & Beyond, and others. The complex at the juncture of Fordson Road and Route 1 has proven to be a major element of the Richmond Highway corridor's ongoing revitalization.

In announcing the addition of Noodles & Co., the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation — the revitalization organization for Richmond Highway — stated in a release, "We are excited to welcome this new addition to our business community."

SFDC promotes economic revitalization along the corridor by identifying and procuring property to suit the needs of potential businesses, according to Lara

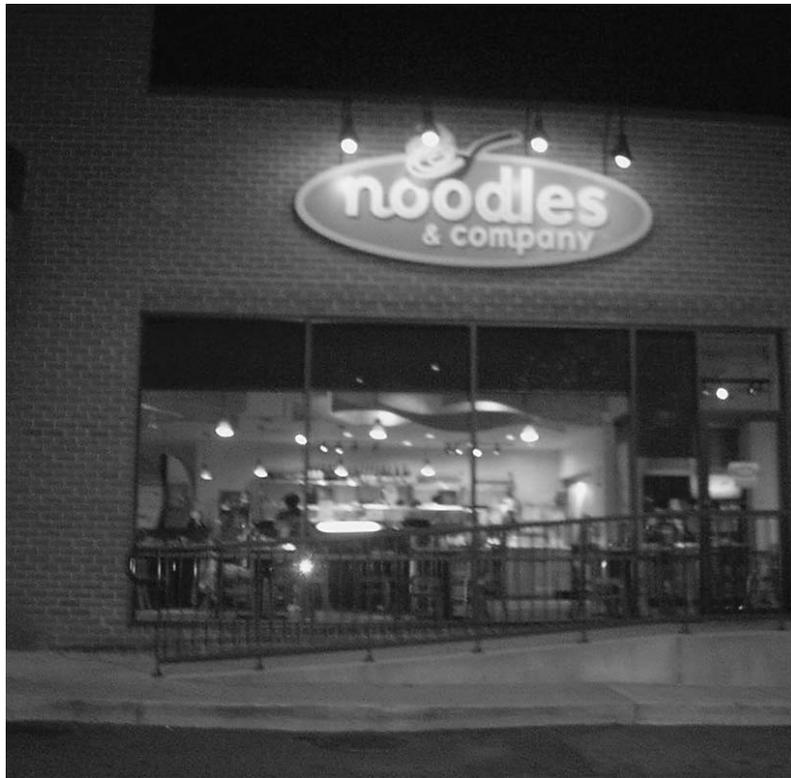


PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

A Noodles & Co. eatery will be the latest addition to the revitalized Mount Vernon Plaza on Rt.1 in 2009.

Fritts, SFDC executive director. It also promotes active economic restructuring and develops urban design plans.



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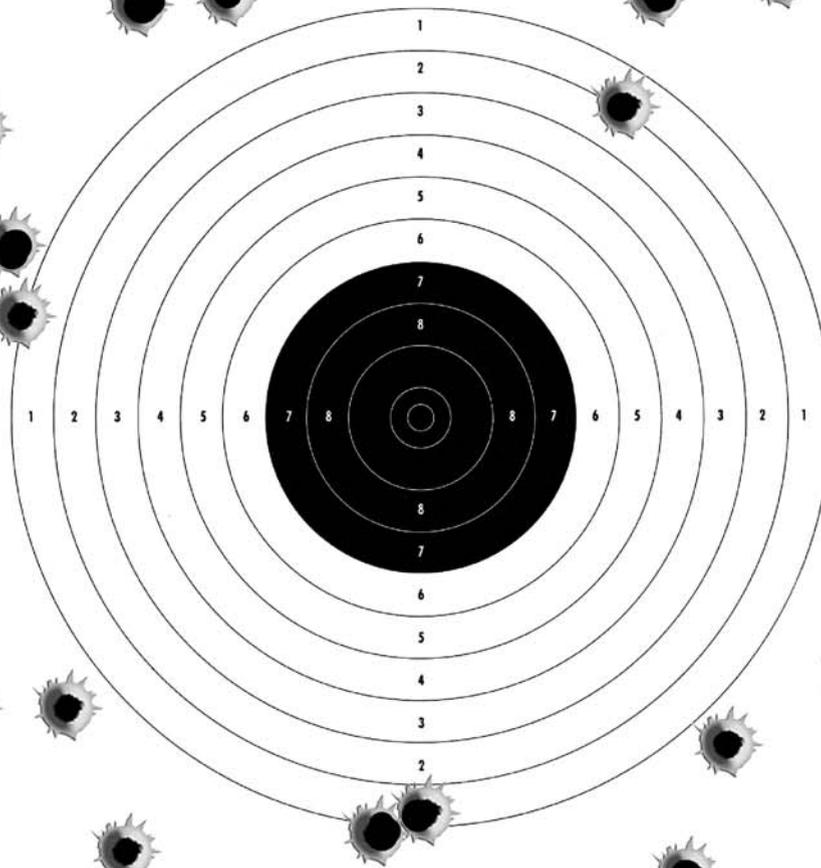
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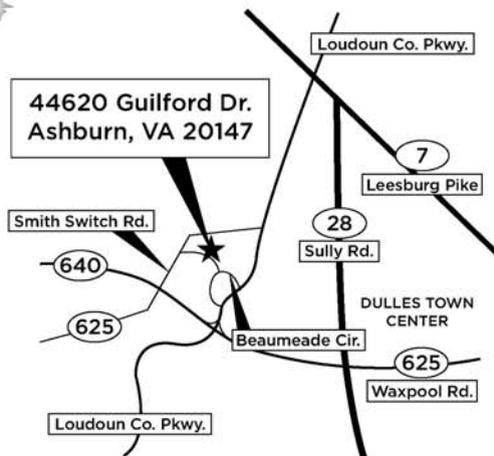
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OBITUARY

Joan Van Ryzin

Joan Van Ryzin, a local artist and office manager, died Nov. 24 from cancer. She was 53.

Van Ryzin lived in the Fort Hunt section of Alexandria for more than 20 years. Since 2006, she served as office manager at LS2PC Land Surveying Services in Falls Church. She also worked as a systems analyst at Freddie Mac in the late 1980s.

Van Ryzin was a lifelong artist and nature enthusiast. For 10 years, she and her sister created pressed flower artwork, which they exhibited and sold at juried shows at Mount Vernon, the U.S. National Arboretum, the Waterford Fair in Waterford, Va., and the Philadelphia Flower Show.



Throughout her life, she also created hundreds of watercolor paint-

ings of the natural world.

Born in Missouri in 1955, Van Ryzin spent most of her youth growing up in New York and New Jersey. She moved to Virginia in the early 1980s, settling first in Manassas and then in Alexandria.

Van Ryzin is survived by her son, a large family, and many friends. A memorial service to celebrate her life is planned for Dec. 20 at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria. The service will begin at 1 p.m., followed by a reception from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Huntley Meadows Park, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306.

MOUNT VERNON BULLETIN

To have a notice listed in the Bulletin, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

Clotilda (Tillie) Cassidy, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Alexandria/Belle View Office, has announced the start of its annual **holiday toy drive** to benefit a local non-profit organization. The community is invited to donate new, unwrapped toys from now until **Dec. 14** at Weichert's Alexandria/Belle View Office, located at 1612 Belle View

Blvd., during normal business hours. Additionally, the public can buy Whitehouse ornaments for \$17 at the office until Dec. 17. Proceeds will go to benefit the DVP. For more information about the toy drive or to place an ornament order call the Alexandria/Belle View Office at 703-765-4000.

The **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary** is currently accepting applications for adult volunteers. A variety of positions are available and every effort is made to match the volunteer's

availability, interest and abilities. The hospital is located at 2501 Parker's Lane. Call 703-664-7260 or visit www.inova.org for more information.

Mt. Vernon Meals on Wheels is seeking a volunteer driver coordinator and a volunteer treasurer. For more information, please call Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Intake Line: 703-324-5406, TTY: 703-449-1186, e-mail DFSAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa.

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OPINION

Don't Lump Poor Students Together

Boundary changes should not create schools with high concentrations of poverty.

Under one proposal, one new elementary school in Fairfax County, Coppermine in Herndon, would open next fall with almost 60 percent of its students poor enough to qualify subsidized meals.

Meanwhile at Oak Hill, the most affluent of the six elementary schools in this boundary change decision, the percentage of poor students would drop from 4.4 to 3.4 percent.

At the other end of the county, the opening of another new school, Laurel Hill, will bring a boundary change there as well. In one proposal, Lorton Station would see its percentage of poor students increase to 41 percent, up from 35, while another school in that boundary study, Silverbrook, would see its percentage of poor students drop to 3 percent from 11 percent.

Students achieve more in schools that do not have high concentrations of poor students, and the county should use boundary change opportunities to improve these ratios.

There is no easy way to change school boundaries, as members of the Fairfax school board can no doubt attest. They are in the midst of another round of redrawing school boundaries, this time because of the imminent opening of

two new elementary schools.

Some of these families have been through multiple boundary studies and changes. In the last decade, homes in the northeastern Floris district have undergone six major school boundary changes.

But some of the proposals on the table both in the north and south part of the county should never have made it to the drawing board, because they would cluster poor students in schools at a much higher rate than the county average.

EDITORIAL

Overall, about 20 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to receive subsidized or free meals. These are students from families who are poor by any reasonable measure.

Research shows that performance lags in schools with high concentrations of poor students, and one set of guidelines suggests that school populations should be no more than 40 percent students who are poor.

There are places where this is nearly impossible, whole school districts that have high concentrations of poverty. Not so here in Fairfax where the average household income is more than \$100,000, the wealthiest county in the country by recent measures.

Poverty Concentrated

On average, about 20 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor. Some schools with high concentrations of poor students:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POVERTY RATE

Bren Mar Park, Alexandria 47.76%
Bucknell, Mount Vernon 53.85%
Cameron, Alexandria 55.61%
Groveton, Mount Vernon 58.44%
Hollin Meadows, Mount Vernon 44.48%
Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon 81.11%
Mount Eagle, Mount Vernon 75.17%
Mount Vernon Woods, Mount Vernon 77.99%
Parklawn, Alexandria 59.22%
Riverside, Mount Vernon 60.61%
Washington Mill, Mount Vernon 42.64%
Weyanoke, Alexandria 67.73%
Woodlawn, Mount Vernon 55.41%
Woodley Hills, Mount Vernon 55.39%

Yet in 31 elementary schools in Fairfax County, more than 40 percent of the students are poor. That's 31 out of 137 schools, or more than 22 percent of the county's elementary schools with a student body with a very high poverty rate, defined as 40 percent or more students receiving subsidized lunch.

Seventeen elementary schools in Fairfax County have a poverty rate of more than 50 percent, with some much higher.

It's one more reason for the school board to consider a county-wide boundary study. (Another big reason: some schools are overcrowded while others have many open seats.)

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

More on Social Justice

To the Editor:

Thanks for printing the great article on Social Action Linking Together (SALT) by DeeDee Tostanoski [Gazette, Nov. 19]. Although I am not a Catholic, I have been a member of SALT for several years and appreciate their educational programs and try to respond to alerts by contacting my Northern Virginia legislators.

However, your readers may also be interested in knowing about the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (virginiainterfaithcenter.org), which has educational training programs highlighting other social justice issues for the 2009 General Assembly Session meeting in Richmond in January.

In fact, they have a Northern Virginia Chapter, which is sponsoring "Social Justice U" on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, in Alexandria. It is free and all are welcome to attend. Father Gerry Creedon of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, a beloved member of the Board of Directors of VICPP, will be the keynote speaker. Health care access, immigration and car title lending are featured workshops to be led by very knowledgeable staff of VICPP.

To register go to <http://ga4.org/interfaithcenter/events/NoVASJU/details.tcl>. For more information contact Deborah Linick at dlinick@jcouncil.org.

Joan McLellan
Alexandria

Climate Change Hits Home

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Climate change is here, it's getting worse and we must act, conclude several recent reports. Temperature in the Washington area has increased at a much faster rate in the last 50 years than in the last 100 years. The Potomac River is rising, the Chesapeake Bay's warming and weather events are becoming more severe, experts say.

Without action, higher temperatures from climate change will bring more heat waves, more extreme droughts, more stormwater runoff, more vector-borne diseases and more respiratory disease.

A new Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) report offers these sobering facts about the metro area:

❖ The region will gain 1.6 million new residents and 1.2 million new jobs by 2030. If we continue "business as usual," greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will climb 35 percent by 2030 and 43 percent by 2050.

❖ Transportation and electricity use is responsible for 70 percent of GHGs.

❖ Individuals contribute one-third through travel (63 percent) and household behavior (37 percent).

❖ Four coal plants produce half of the area's electricity. Coal-fired power plants are a major source of greenhouse gases.

❖ Driving will keep growing, commutes will get longer and transportation emissions will escalate 38 percent by 2030.

Northern Virginia is an energy guzzler, says

Mike Tidwell, director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Ranking 32nd in energy efficiency, "Virginia uses too much power in the present," he wrote in Grist. In fact, Virginians use more electricity every day than 75 percent of the rest of the country.

What should we do?

Scientists say we must reduce greenhouse gases by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, two percent a year. COG's goals, unfortunately, are weaker, 80 percent below the 2005 level by 2050, but they are a good start.

The most cost-effective step is to beef up the energy efficiency of buildings (lighting, heating, air conditioning) and vehicles. Other options include concentrating development around public transit, using cleaner fuels and reducing vehicle trips. An October study found that Virginia could meet 19 percent of its energy needs by 2025 through energy efficiency.

Effectively stemming climate change will take innovative, bold steps by industry, government and, yes, car-dependent suburbanites. Every step helps, from planting more carbon-absorbing trees, to switching to reusable bags, to taking the bus. One compact fluorescent lightbulb cuts carbon dioxide by 1,300 pounds. For more ideas, read Audubon's tips at www.audubon.org/globalwarming. President-elect Barack Obama has given us the charge: "Climate change and our dependence on foreign oil, if left unaddressed, will continue to weaken our economy and threaten our national security. Now is the time to confront this challenge once and for all." Is northern Virginia ready to do its part, and if not, face the consequences and costs of inaction?

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-917-6451
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Chuck Hagee
Reporter, 703-549-1216
cg.hagee@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Rebecca Halik
Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407
rhalik@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics, 703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects, 703-917-6417
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Mark Giannotto
Sports Editor, 703-917-6409
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Publisher
Jerry Vernon

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Mary Kimm

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Steven Mauren

Photography:

Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer
Art/Design:
Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,
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Jean Card

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
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National Sales, 703-518-4631
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

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LETTERS

'Make Sure They're Soccer Fans'

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to President-elect Obama.

No doubt you have spent weeks and months giving serious thought about the makeup of your foreign and defense policy team. Your likely candidates will include experts and veterans of previous administrations, but for all their qualities, please see to one key criterion: make sure they're soccer fans.

Those who follow "the beautiful game" are already predisposed to be effective foreign affairs practitioners, for the same qualities of the game that endear people are also well suited to the shaping of foreign policy. Several come to mind.

❖ Patience is a virtue. Most spectator sports Americans enjoy are rife with the prospect of instant gratification. We're always one swing away from a home run, one long pass from a touchdown, or one "alley oop" away from a slam dunk. A successful soccer goal can take several minutes to set up and may only become an opportunity after seeing a narrow opening. The same tenet can be applied to foreign policy initiatives.

❖ Most Americans like their sports to the extent to which we get to see the stuffing beat out of something. A baseball, basketball rim, visiting football quarterback and golf ball all have one thing in common: crowds go wild when they're assaulted. Soccer can have its violent moments. Last year, for example, a British match witnessed a player's shin bone sawed in half from a slide tackle with his leg nearly being amputated. This is the exception. The general rule is for the team to share passes setting up what frequently becomes a finesse shot. Appreciation of this enhances approaches to the nuances of foreign and defense policy.

❖ Concentrate. American sports fans seem plagued with ADHD. We tend to get anxious if we go more than five minutes without a timeout or commercial break. Soccer requires you to park it and focus for 45 minutes (plus stoppage time!), before you do it again in the second half. The inability to patiently focus on the big picture has led to some noteworthy foreign policy blunders.

❖ Strong bladders only, please. Attend a European soccer match, and you'll find that the quickest

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

way to irritate those around you is to take a comfort break before the half's end. You're there for the game, not the men's room. Squirring during the game because your mind is on a commode is a sure sign of weakness and lack of purpose.

❖ "Friendlies" aren't. In the U.S., we have exhibition games. Many view the exhibition season as tune-ups or tryouts but with relatively little relevance to the regular season. Soccer's variants are called "friendlies." They are anything but. Friendlies can have an enormous impact on how a team is viewed on its home turf and may even lead to fans calling for a manager's ouster. In

summer 2006, Scotland's Celtic played D.C. United at RFK Stadium. D.C. United won 4-0. Back in Glasgow, people stayed up until 3 a.m. to watch the game on television, and Celtic's fans both at the game and back home were literally in tears at the outcome. The D.C. Metro system that night even saw some fabled "soccer hooligans" who were more than a little distraught. Likewise, you should never treat an international gathering as a "friendly." You are being watched and evaluated, and the outcome will shape other countries' approaches to the U.S. during your administration.

❖ It brings the world together. U.S. foreign policy can either unite the world or

divide it. Despite the fierceness of international rivalries (the U.S. and Mexico immediately come to mind), soccer brings people together. Every four years, the world's best national teams come together in the globe's largest sporting event in what may be politely called a "frenzy" to crown the world champion. In June and July 2010, fans will converge on South Africa for the World Cup. Almost every hotel has long since been booked in anticipation. A carefully crafted U.S. foreign policy has the potential to generate the same level of enthusiasm. How you do that, of course, is up to you.

I wish you all the best during the next four years. On Jan. 20, you'll kick off. Will

you immediately charge the goal, or take time to set something up? Both have been successful, and both have led to disappointment.

Jerry E. Sullivan
Vienna

Retired Army colonel, and the director of Intra-governmental Affairs for the Africa Center for Strategic Studies on Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the National Defense University, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

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Gunston Hall Celebrates 'Plantation Christmas'

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Anyone wishing to envision Christmases past need only to visit Gunston Hall Plantation Dec. 12 and 13.

That's when the home of the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, forerunner to the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, will celebrate its annual "Plantation Christmas." These family evenings feature candlelight mansion tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, performances of seasonal music, and samples of festive foods prepared by hearth cooks from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night.

Lanterns line the path as visitors make their way to George Mason's elegantly appointed home 20 miles south of Washington, D.C., just off Gunston Road, Virginia 242, where Gunston Cove flows into the Potomac River. Thomas Jefferson referred to Mason as "a man of the first order of wisdom among those who acted on the theater of the revolution."

Mason built Gunston Hall between 1755 and 1759, "engaging the services of William Buckland, a talented London-trained carpenter/joiner, who designed the mansion's magnificently carved interiors." Mason lived at his plantation from its completion until his death in 1792.

In the candle-lit interiors, costumed characters representing the Mason family and their guests prepare for daughter Mary's upcoming wedding. Mason fathered nine children.

A spectacular holiday feast will be set on the dining table, and guests will have the opportunity to sample a few of the displayed offerings being prepared by hearth cooks in the plantation kitchen yard. Those cooks are graduates of Gunston Hall's Historic Foodways Program.

SEE GUNSTON, PAGE 20

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

THEATER

A Bit of Quebec for Christmas

The Washington Christmas Revels brings French-Canadian traditions to area audiences.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DEBBIE GROSSMAN

Revelers - back row (from left): Victoria Metz, Steve Miller. Front row (from left): Erin Schwartz, Caroline Birasa, Jill Kester

BY ALISSA FIGUEROA
GAZETTE

Several Alexandria and Arlington residents are playing a part in the annual Washington Christmas Revels performance, celebrating the Winter Solstice — the shortest day of the year — a midwinter tradition that dates back to medieval Europe. This year, Christmas Revels will bring the songs, dances and theatrical traditions of early Quebec to area audiences.

The show tells the story of a group of revelers bringing in the New Year in Troi Rivieres, a historic town in Quebec. The action follows a group of men who leave the party by canoe, traveling along one of the three rivers that flows through the town in search of adventure. They find it in the way of the Devil, whom the men must defeat in a dance-off in order to return home.

The show has a cast of 80, including 60 adult chorus members, about a dozen children and a handful of specialty performers, including the "tradition bearers," internationally known professional performers brought in from Quebec to play featured roles. About 10,000 people attend the event annually.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

ONGOING

Women can **learn how to sing** with lessons in a group from 7-8 p.m. on **Dec. 10**. Free. Held at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. 703-764-3896 to RSVP.

Martha Washington hosts an 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor during *Mount Vernon by Candlelight*. The Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings (Dec. 5, 6 & 7; and 12, 13 & 14) from 5-8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center or through www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.

Gallery West presents "Small Works and Holiday Show and Silent Auction" **through Jan. 4** at



"Everyone should experience [Revels] at least once."

— **Melissa Carter, Assistant Musical Director**

Local residents have been participating in weekly evening and bi-monthly weekend rehearsals since early September.

"It's a lot of work, but it's absolutely worth it," said Arlingtonian Erin Schwartz, who is performing in the chorus for the second time this year.

Schwartz first joined the Revels in 2006, auditioning just four days after moving to the area in an effort to meet people. Last year she worked backstage, serving as volunteer coordinator.

"It's very different being onstage versus backstage," she said. "Being able to see both sides gives you a really good idea how much goes into it. People work year round on the show."

FOR SCHWARTZ, the most important part of the show is the community it brings together.

"It doesn't feel like traditional theater," said Schwartz, who has acted in community and summer stock theater for years. "There are no egos. Everyone is there as part of a family."

Alexandria-based elementary school

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 20

1213 King St. Features a variety of art work by members in every size. Silent auction ends Dec. 8. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

Gather the Family at Woodlawn runs **Dec. 14, 21 and 28** at Woodlawn. Experience an 1820s Christmas with America's First Family before trees, Santa and stockings. Tours available from 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$15/person; \$5/grades K-12. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000.

The Little Theater of Alexandria will perform "Scrooge! The Musical" from Nov. 22-Dec. 14 at 600 Wolfe St., Old Town. Performances are **Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$18-\$21 and can be purchased at www.thelittletheatre.com.

The Alliance Dance Institute presents "**The Nutcracker**" from **Nov. 29 through Dec. 28** in the Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Fifty-five minute long performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$20/

person. After the show, stay for photo opportunities. Visit www.adidance.com or 703-354-6000.

This Christmas, arrange for a **personalized letter from Santa Claus**, postmarked from the North Pole. The Alexandria Jaycees are offering customized letters sent directly to children from Santa for only \$5 each. The letter will also include a coupon to a child-friendly restaurant. Letter requests must be received by Dec. 8. Orders received after Dec. 8 will be postmarked from Virginia. For more information or to place an order, visit www.alexjaycees.org.

The American Horticultural Society hosts **holiday happenings** at its headquarters at River Farm. **From Dec. 1 to Jan. 16**, River Farm's grounds and estate house will feature lights, poinsettias, and other festive holiday decorations. All are welcome to visit and enjoy Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but note that the grounds will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 4.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ DECEMBER 4-10, 2008 ♦ 13

La Strada

1905 ON THE AVENUE

1905 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria (Del Ray) VA 22301
703-548-2542 or 703-548-2593 • www.lastrada-ontheave.com

December 15, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve in Italia

WINE AND OLIVE OIL DINNER

Featuring an Italian Christmas Eve, Chef Stephen will prepare a six-course Italian Christmas Eve dinner, featuring wines and olive oils in each of the courses. Please make your reservations early—Space will be limited.

New Year's Eve

Prepare for the new year with a great Italian dinner feast.

Chef Stephen will be preparing his daily menu and a special two-, three- or four-course Prix Fixe menu.

Seating will be at 5:30, 8:00 and 10:00 P.M.

Please make your reservations early—Space will be limited.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Mystique Fine Jewelry and Designs, 211 Strand Waterfront in Alexandria, will sell "December Love Stone," a 25-carat rose quartz cabochon ring. Visit www.mystiquejewelers.com or 703-836-1401.

La Muse, 108 N. Patrick St., collects and ships donations for www.AnySoldier.com every day of the year. Bring donations to La Muse and it will be packaged and shipped to soldiers. For ideas on what to donate go to: www.ShopLaMuse.net/Anysoldier.html or call 703-683-1696.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

ArtFest: Fiber & Form Celebration. 6-9 p.m. at the Art League's Madison Annex. Join for the relaunch of Springwater Studios at the Art League. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Holiday Concert. 8 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the NOVA Community Chorus and the Alexandria Band. Donations requested, 703-845-6252.

Pet Photos. Pets can take photos with Santa at Olde Towne School for Dogs, 529 Oronoco St. Proceeds benefit Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. \$45/sitting. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

Lunch Bunch. Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Scottish Christmas Walk

Marketplace. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Shop for a variety of holiday items, visit a café and buy heather and greens. Visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703-549-0111.

Heather and Greens Sales. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Try a touch of heather and greens to enhance holiday decorations with a Scottish flair. Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods and more. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Tree Sale. The Alexandria Police department Christmas tree sale begins on Friday, Dec. 5 at the Alexandria Union Station parking lot (110 Callahan Drive). The official lot hours are: Monday-Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. This year's tree selection includes Scotch Pines, Douglas Firs, Fraser Firs, and Concolor Firs. They will range in size from 4 1/2 feet to 10 feet tall. Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp.

Art & Crafts Holiday Market. 7 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Search through gifts created by more than 20 artist members and enjoy baked goods. Call 703-838-4827 for more.

Very Merry Musical. 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. Hear A cappella music and enjoy a family meal with Santa. \$25/adult; \$12/child. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 703-910-4600.

Holiday Dinner Theater. Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus presents "A Very

Merry Musical" at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. \$15/adult; children ages 6-12 are \$7; age 5 and under free. Enjoy favorite songs and a family meal with Santa. Reserved table seating. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 240-206-9626 for tickets.

Artists Reception. The Del Ray Artisans' Fine Art & Crafts Holiday Market will have a free reception from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Wreath Making. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create your own holiday wreath. Materials provided. \$48. Registration required - 703-642-5173.

Art Exhibit. See artwork by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Brahlter Ltd./Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call for weekday hours, 703-798-8686. Free.

Wild for Winter Waterfowl. 11:30 a.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Observe swans, ducks and more. Free. 703-339-2385.

Majestic Eagles. 5 p.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Look for bald eagles while learning about them. Free. 703-339-2385.

Pet Photos. Pets can take photos with Santa at Olde Towne School for Dogs, 529 Oronoco St. Proceeds benefit Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. \$45/sitting. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

A Christmas Marketplace. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

Looking to Sell or Buy a home in Northern VA so you can make that move to or from the NNK? Alexandria native & Irvington homeowner at your service. Now it's your turn and I will make the transition easy.

call
703 599-8964
bobbazzle@gmail.com

BOB BAZZLE
Weichert Realtors

The Campagna Center

38th ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6

A Christmas Marketplace
Thursday, Dec. 4-Saturday, Dec. 6

Taste of Scotland
Friday, Dec. 5th at 8:00 pm-10:30 pm

Scottish Walk Parade
Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.

Designer Tour of Homes
Saturday, Dec. 6th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

More Activities
Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea • Celtic Concert

Presented by The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center, The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the City of Alexandria.

Join Us Again at
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!

The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services. For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center's efforts, please visit www.campagnacenter.org or call (703) 549-0111.

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 548-0111.
Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

Warmer Beach Waters Worth the Drive

Explore golf passion at more than 100 courses

Drive couple hours south of Outer Banks and discover ocean breezes and soothing golf for months longer at quiet, quaint Sunset Beach, NC, located just across the state line and 30 minute drive time from airport in busy Myrtle Beach, SC. Furnished 3 or 4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$525,000. Newly remodeled, bright and airy single family, beach island home on a secluded area of the island surrounded by views of the canal, marsh and ocean inlet. Sit on one of the newly built front porches (1 screened) and capture a gorgeous sunrise with your morning coffee or unwind with friends in the evening on the back deck and experience stunning sunset views.

Whether looking for an investment property with excellent rental history, a vacation home on an unique island, or a little bit of both, this is the house for you.

Call Carly or David, 336-282-1870



LONG & FOSTER • ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

500 MONTGOMERY STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
 WWW.OLDTOWNALEXANDRIA.COM • 703.548.3700



2912 BRIANS HILL LANE
 Oakton - \$949,900

From a private drive, this home is nestled in 1.8 acres of serene grounds/landscaped gardens, stocked pond w/waterfall, Jacuzzi, heated pool & decks. 4Br, 3.5Ba, gourmet kitchen, 3FPs, MBr w/luxury bath & dressing room.

Maude Dixon 703-628-0096



5744 GOVERNORS POND CIR
 Alexandria - \$599,900

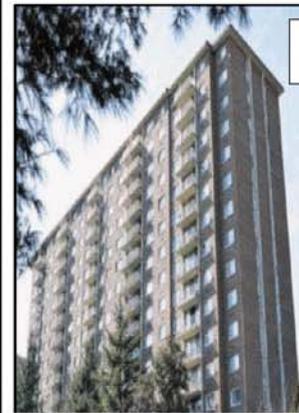
OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4PM

from METRO, I-95, Old Town, Ft. Belvoir & the Pentagon.

Heidi 703-609-7367 Elke 703-967-7633
 The Kohler Team



STUNNING end unit TH w/over 3,000sqft on a premium lot fenced, trees & landscaped. First fl hardwoods, gourmet Kit, FR, gas FP & deck. Lower level features small Kit, patio, gas FP, bath w/handicapped shower & a 2nd laundry. Minutes



Alexandria - \$190,000

POTOMAC RIVER VIEW

Walk to the METRO from this very spacious 850 sq ft, 1Br w/ balcony on 6th floor with 24hr front desk, pool, tennis, sauna & plenty of pkg. Minutes south of Old Town Alexandria w/easy access to I-495.

\$5K Closing Costs Paid

visualtours@homedatabase.com/charlene
Charlene Schaper 703-217-3666



OPEN SUN 1-4

1804 MACADAMS PLACE
 Alexandria - \$439,900

Wonderful Hollin Hall Rambler! Family room add., 2 Fba, open Kit & DR. LR w/FP. Large, very private backyard. Wayneswood School District. Walk to shops. Minutes to Old Town.

www.homesfromanita.com
Anita Vida D'Antonio 202-460-1809



2506 GROVETON STREET
 Alexandria - \$850,000

Existing 1929 farm home as is. Value is in the land. Building lots in Memorial Heights for \$170K. Each parcel includes approx 1.42 acres currently zoned R-3. Adjoins R-8. Contract not to be contingent upon permits or approvals. Call for more details / brochure.

Pat Garrity 703-298-2287



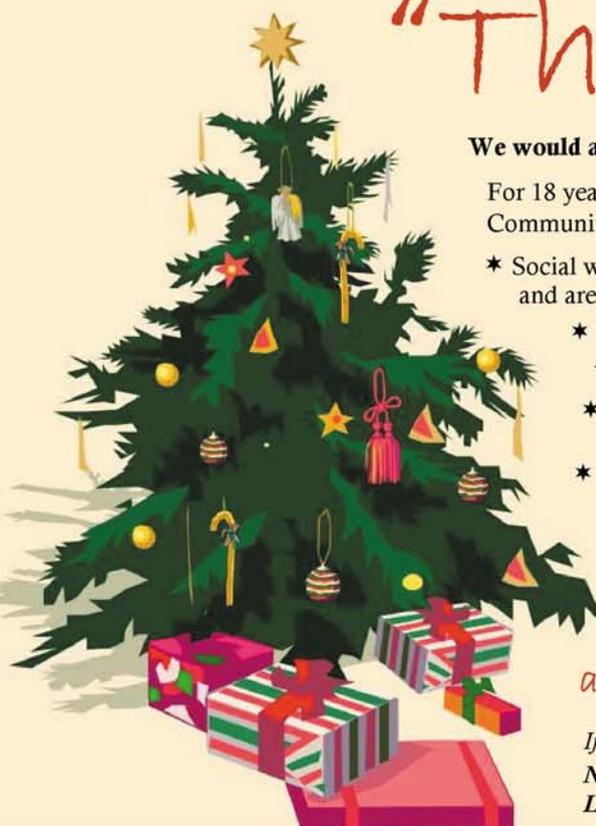
7237 WORSLEY WAY
 Kingstowne - \$415,000

Fashionable TH, previously a model, needs some updating. This 4L 3Br/3.5Ba home comes w/loft, sauna, FP, 2 w/out plus 2 car spaces. Close to recreational facilities, jogging trails, shops, Multiplex, mini-golf & restaurants. You'll love the gracious tree-lined setting and the price even more.

Janice Allen 703-509-0906



"The Giving Tree"



We would appreciate your help . . .

For 18 years the **Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office** has sponsored "The Giving Tree" as a Community Service Project for the Holiday Season. Here is how it works:

- * Social workers in the Alexandria City Elementary Schools identify families and kids who have "fallen through the cracks" and are in desperate need of clothes, toys and other necessities this Holiday Season.
- * Our agents "adopt" 50+ kids and purchase gifts to fulfill their "wish list" which has been provided by their families.

You can also help by:

- * Providing toys, games and children's clothes. Please wrap your gifts and attach a note letting us know if the present should go to a boy or a girl and the corresponding age and/or size.
- * Making a monetary donation payable to **Long & Foster's "The Giving Tree,"** which will be used to provide food certificates for families.
- * Gifts, and monetary donations can be dropped off or sent to:

Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office, 500 Montgomery Street, #140, Alexandria, VA 2231

Together we can make this Holiday Season special for many children and their families. Thanks very much for your help!

If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 703.548.3700 and ask for Charlene Schaper or Bill Jourdan.

Note . . . all administrative and advertising costs for this program are underwritten by the agents of the Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office. This means that all of the gift and monetary donations go to the people in need.



CHRIS WHITE

*#1 Individual Agent in Long & Foster's VA/WV Region in 2007!
Call today for a free market analysis of your home.*



3601 Riverwood Rd
\$749,500 *Riverwood Gem!*
 Updated Colonial in premier location near the Potomac River neighboring homes selling for \$3,595,850 and \$5,500,000! Owner spent \$175,000 in recent upgrades. Special features include: spectacular custom kitchen with granite, stainless and light maple cabinets, four bedrooms, hardwood floors,



updated and reconfigured baths, large screened porch, oversized garage and fenced yard. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW pkwy, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Riverwood Rd.



2505
Crest Street
\$459,000
Rare Bargain!
 Very attractive Braddock Heights rambler with all brick exterior, spacious updated

kitchen, replacement thermal pane windows and large attic for great storage. Gorgeous setting on beautiful fenced lot convenient to everything! Live in Alexandria's premier single family neighborhood for less than the cost of a townhouse! Open Sun 1-4pm. From Braddock Metro: W Braddock Rd, R Crest St to 2505 on right.



Brambly Lane
Mount Vernon Grove
\$969,900 *Only 1 Available at This Price!*
 Pre-construction special makes this new luxury home available at a price that is simply incomprehensible! The same model sold a few months ago for over \$1,600,000! All the modern amenities: high ceilings, open floor plan, four bedrooms, three and a half baths, energy conserving features, oversize garage and much more! Premier setting where

neighboring homes sold for well over \$1,000,000! (Picture of same model in different location for illustration purposes only.)



4212
Dandridge Terr
\$619,000
Classic Center Hall Colonial!
 Great New Price! Spacious 4BR home has master suite with private

bath, open kitchen/family room, granite counters in kitchen, updated baths, replacement thermal pane windows, hardwood floors, walk-out lower level and oversized 2 car garage. Prime location on large fenced lot on quiet Southwood cul-de-sac. Offers encouraged.



4003
Belle Rive Terr
\$4,800,000
Riverfront Estate!
 Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river

views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft of living space with five bedrooms including river view master bedroom suite on the main level with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Dramatic river views from every corner of the home! Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River



1700
River Farm Dr
\$1,975,000
New Estate Just off Pkwy!
 Pre-construction opportunity on rare, exceptionally scenic 3/4 acre site

just minutes from Old Town near the GW Pkwy! Exquisite new home by leading builder to feature absolute luxury and virtually every modern amenity. Spectacular floor plan was designed to capitalize on the natural beauty of this gorgeous setting near the Potomac River. One of the last true estate opportunities in a prime close-in location!



4307
Sheridan's Point
\$899,000
Georgian Colonial!
 Large Price Reduction! Classic Colonial in prime

Mt Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! 3 finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Stately updated home is in pristine condition.



9003
Patton Blvd
\$479,000
Stunning Value!
 Previously listed for \$633,500! Rare large rambler overlooking scenic country club grounds. Main level

MBR suite, upgraded roof, gas heat & hot water, full walk-out LL and 2 car carport. Sold in as-is condition. Awaits your finishing touches! Unique opportunity for investors - just two miles from Fort Belvoir - huge rental potential!



1600
Noral Place
\$1,090,000
New Home Ambiance!
 The best of both worlds: the open spacious feel of a modern home

combined with a premier location in the heart of the highly desirable Fort Hunt area! Popular Fairfax model by Wakefield homes offers exceptionally bright open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, high ceilings, dramatic two story family room, gourmet kitchen and large garage. Gorgeous corner lot on quiet cul-de-sac!



8826
Camden Street
\$899,500
New Home - Gorgeous Setting!
 There's nothing like it on the market today -

fabulous new Wakefield Home custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization.

CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

LONG & FOSTER OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT • 400 KING STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

WWW.CHRISANDPEGGYWHITE.COM





OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

400 KING STREET · ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

703.683.0400 · WWW.LONGANDFOSTER.COM



Alexandria South
\$225,000

NEWLY LISTED

Neat and tidy 3 level TH with great sunny exposure! Fresh interior paint, vaulted ceilings in the bedrooms, sliding glass door to newly treated deck, landscaped yard backs to common area. A real value!

3722 Hampton Court

ANN LONGSDON 703.568.8433



Alexandria
\$189,995

HIGHPOINTE

Wonderful 2BR/2BA condo in great condition. Enjoy the awesome eastern view toward Old Town from this 10th floor balcony. Very spacious home with "split" floor plan (great for company/roommates), and tons of closet space. A great buy!!

5911 Edsall Road #1011

MIKE LEKAS 703.927.9895



Arlington
\$725,000

FOREST HILLS COMMON

When access to Pentagon & DC are important, come to Forest Hills Common. You can live in a beautiful 3BR/2 Full/2 Half BA townhome. Crown & chair decorate the living & dining rooms. Hardwoods, granite, FPs, brick patios & ceramic abound.

2403 Queen Street

CATHERINE FOLTZ
703.626.6914



Alexandria
\$669,900

JUST OFF THE PARKWAY

This all brick end TH is located just off the GW Pkwy, minutes from Old Town, Reagan Airport & DC. Completely updated with new kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, repainted and ready for quick occupancy. Large bonus room, deck and enclosed garden.

6317 Fort Hunt Road

BETTY QUIRK 703.851.3447



Long & Foster's Alexandria Old Town Historic District office is an Official Sponsor and Drop-Off Point for New, Unwrapped Toys going to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves annual Toys for Tots program. Toys may be dropped off seven days a week at Long & Foster's Alexandria Old Town Historic District office located at 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 prior to December 15, 2008. **YOUR TOY WILL BRING JOY TO A NEEDY TOT!**

Thank you for your consideration.



Alexandria
\$585,000

DRASTICALLY REDUCED!!

Beautifully renovated, expanded contemporary— You don't want to miss it—All newer quality appl.—lighting—fixtures—systems—thermopane windows throughout—deluxe kitchen w/ island— SS appl.—large Fam. Rm addition, vaulted ceilings—Master suite, sitting rm—separate shower. FP—patio & more!

2410 Brentwood Place

FRANKI ROBERTS 703.898.0840



Alexandria
\$259,000 &
\$269,000
WATERGATE @ LANDMARK

Resort living in a gated community catering to those seeking a pampered lifestyle! Year round amenities: indoor/outdoor pools, fitness center, tennis & more. BOTH are located in popular Bldg 2. #220 has 2BR/1.5BA & #405 has 2BR/2BA both w/updated kitchen & baths.

205 Yoakum Pkwy #220 & #405

MIKE LEKAS 703.927.9895



Alexandria
\$775,000
SPECTACULAR PRINCE ST...

club unit unlike any others. Soaring 20' ceilings in LR/DR, open floor plan ideal for entertaining. Large renovated kitchen w/patio, access to Royal St. Newly expanded MBR will wow you. Private lower level bedroom w/sunny greenhouse window. Only 1 of 4 units w/direct access to parking space. Premier Old Town location. Walk to everything.

318 Prince Street #7

SUZANNE BACKUS
703.338.3594



Alexandria
\$1,599,999
BELLE HAVEN

This stunning all brick center hall colonial in sought after Belle Haven has been greatly reduced. You have to see it to appreciate the quality & detail represented in this stately home with 5BR/3.5BAs, updated Kit, w/eat-in space & exposed brick FP, butler's pantry for extra storage & service, hdwd flrs thru out w/heart pine flooring in Kit area & deep moldings. Fab. Sun-room overlooking dreamy boxwood garden.

2106 Forrest Hill Drive

BETTY QUIRK 703.851.3447



703 518-8300

cbmove.com

We know your neighborhood and reach the world

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



4 West Rosemont Avenue | \$879,000

A classic Rosemont beauty on a great lot just blocks from the King St Metro. Comfortable, flowing floor plan with sunny living room leading to charming porch, large formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, powder room and family room that opens to private patio and yard. This three bedroom, two and a half bath home is an elegant renovation of a timeless classic. Dir: From King Street, turn north on Russell Rd, turn right on Rosemont Ave.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria

Just Listed—Open Sunday 1-4



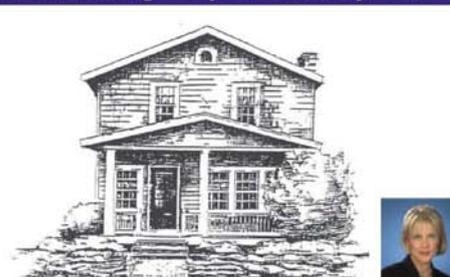
5501 Seminary Rd. #1302S | \$259,900

LUXURY HIGH RISE LIVING!

Conveniently located, this spacious one bedroom and den, one and a half bath condo in Skyline Square has fresh paint throughout, plus brand new carpet and kitchen flooring. Den could be used as second bedroom. Building includes exercise room, party room, outdoor pool, etc. Ownership includes two garage spaces.

Carol Hooks | 703-509-4199 Falls Church

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



114 Hume Avenue | \$849,900

HEART OF DEL RAY

Historic plaqued, charming 1925 colonial with front porch that has been thoughtfully expanded with a rear two story addition. Center hall foyer, four fireplaces, four bedrooms, three and a half baths, pine floors and large rooms. Finished lower level with game room & storage. Screened porch with hot tub, deck, fenced yard and garage.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Del Ray

Just Listed



10313 Latney Road | \$335,775

MOVE IN CONDITION!
All new windows and wood floors in foyer, kitchen & breakfast room. New carpets in living room, dining room and three bedrooms. Updated kitchen cabinets, new counters and appliances. All bathrooms updated. Large family room with fireplace and built-ins. Newer HVAC. Fenced brick patio. Reserved parking. Low HOA (includes pool.) Close to Braddock Rd, RT 123, I-495, VRE station, Robinson HS. GREAT VALUE!

Bob Woods | 703 682-5443 Fairfax

Open Sunday 1-4



1821 Belmont Street, NW, #4 | \$499,000

MOVE IN BY INAUGURATION!

Fabulous two bedroom, one bath boutique condominium with low condo fees, granite, stainless, wood burning fireplace, hardwoods, glass block, great open floor plan, 11 foot ceilings, 1000 plus square feet; and the owner will pay for parking for one year! For additional photos go to www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com Call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Kalamora/Adams Morgan

New On Market



501 Slaters Lane #1007 | \$425,000

Lovely one bedroom, ON THE WATER! Large, private balcony with 180 degree view of the Potomac River, Maryland, DC and the bird sanctuary. Pool, exercise, parking, 5 minutes to National Airport—no traffic hassles! Modern kitchen, wood floors throughout. Access to balcony from kitchen and living room. Breakfast area and pantry in kitchen. Floor plan available. Contact Marie Meyer for more information MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080 River Towers

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



2181 Jamieson Avenue #501 | \$480,000

VACATION AT HOME
Wonderful two bedroom, two bath condominium in the Fabulous Carlyle Towers. Beautifully appointed 1,228 square feet of living space plus a large glassed in terrace. A one owner home, it is in mint condition. Amenities galore and walking distance to two metros makes it a must see property.

Eileen Casamo | 703 855-7233 Carlyle Towers

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



801 Pitt Street South | \$335,000

Convenience, Charm and Affordability!

Beautifully finished one bedroom unit in St. Asaph Square. Lovely private patio on quiet side of community facing Green St. Convenient outside access through secure patio. Sunny unit with many upgrades, garage parking and community swimming pool. Convenient to restaurants, stores, bike path, DC and airport. Park on Green Street between South St Asaph and South Pitt and look for balloons! Call Linda Wolf for more information.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4



523 North Alfred Street | \$575,000

JUST ABOUT PERFECT!

Including the Price! This totally renovated, 2-3 bedroom Victorian town home, 1 1/2 baths and located in Old Town is in move in condition. Nothing left to do! Kitchen, baths, floors, appliances, carpet, painting, partial roof, HVAC, most replaced in 2008. Even a beautiful patio and landscaping! A perfect Old Town location... close to Metro, shopping, restaurants, bike path, Starbuck's, DC and airport. Call Linda Wolf for more information.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Old Town



Previews International

Marketing the world's premier properties

City Living At It's Best

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



227 North Lee Street
\$1,250,000



Beautiful 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA townhouse just steps from King Street and the scenic Old Town waterfront. This home effortlessly blends old and new to create the ideal living space! Handsome moldings, tray ceilings, hardwood floors, plentiful recessed lighting and many elegant details. The luxurious master bedroom suite features a bay window, gas log fireplace, and a shining marble bath with dual sinks, Jacuzzi and separate glass-enclosed shower. There are two additional "bedroom suites", an upper level family room, formal living and dining rooms and a sparkling eat-in chef's kitchen with granite. Two off-street parking places, and come Spring, look forward to enjoying the rooftop skyline from the sunny private patio!

Jane Cole | 703 682-5407

Old Town

Seller Financing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



649 First Street
\$1,285,000



This large 3600+ sq ft brick townhouse at Liberty Row in Old Town is so close to DC, airport, Capitol Hill and the center of Old Town! High ceilings, brick, wood floors, enclosed garden, garage, 4.5 baths, 3 BR + guest room with bath, MBR with sitting room, large recreation room, front parlor, separate large dining room, and perfect family room with gas fireplace! Kitchen centered between the breakfast room and family room. Sweeping staircase - a bright and sunny house. Floor plan and brochure available... Call Marie Louise Meyer for details MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080

Old Town

One of Arlington's Finest

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1915 South Arlington Ridge Rd
\$2,400,000



Located high on the hill overlooking Washington, this lovely colonial boasts a grand 38' x 10' entrance hallway, a beautiful wide staircase and wonderfully spacious rooms. Rich in architectural detail, this gracious five bedroom plus five and a half bath residence features detailed moldings, extensive wainscoting, sparkling hardwood floors and five fireplaces. Garage parking for eight cars! Sited on a 37,000 square foot lot with towering oaks, this property also includes two charming guest or rental cottages. Reasonably priced at \$2,400,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156

Alexandria

Country Lane Living

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$949,000



A lovely, all brick spacious colonial featuring 5/6 bedrooms and three and half baths with a 2 car garage. Off a "Country Lane" just down the George Washington Parkway, this home sits far back on a large wooded lot. Open and spacious with cozy fireplaces, hardwoods, lovely eat in kitchen with large island and granite countertops, and an inviting family room perfect for gatherings. A short drive to shops, restaurants and entertainment, and provides an easy commute to Washington DC. Directions: South on the George Washington Parkway, right on Collingwood Rd, left on Fort Hunt Rd, right on Grassymeade Ln.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041

Alexandria S

Gorgeous Belle Haven

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



2003 Glen Drive
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Belle Haven

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Callahan Drive. Vendors sell unique, holiday gift wares in a boutique setting. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Heather and Greens Sales. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Try a touch of heather and greens to enhance holiday decorations with a Scottish flair. Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods and more. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Craft Sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is holding a craft sale "Made by the Bell" from 9 a.m.-noon at the church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call Jenny Kennedy at 703-360-9546 or visit www.heritagechurchva.org for more information.

Art & Crafts Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Search through gifts created by more than 20 artist members and enjoy baked goods. Call 703-838-4827 for more.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church Holiday Bazaar. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1608 Russell Road. Free. There will be a silent auction, vendors, variety of items, children's activities and more. 703-683-0798.

Holiday Pottery Event. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Browse works

by students of NOVA. Visit www2.nvcc.edu for more.

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

Begins at 3 p.m. with a holiday review featuring local school groups performing. Santa will arrive via boat dockside at the gazebo. Pets are welcome for photos as well. Boat parade starts at 5:30 p.m. Free. Visit www.funside.com for more.

Lights of Love.

The Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary will present the 26th annual Lights of Love program at 5 p.m. in the hospital's main lobby. For a donation of \$5 dedicate a light in memory of a loved one or to honor a friend, neighbor, or relative who has added joy. For a donation of \$100, dedicate a light in the tree-top star.

Entertainment includes the "Festival of Music" by the West Potomac High School Soundations and songs by Dr. Cleve Francis, Inova MVH cardiologist and renowned vocalist. A reception in the hospital cafeteria will follow the program. The hospital is located at 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria. For any questions contact the Volunteer Services Office at 703-664-7260.

Tree Lighting and Luminaria Display.

5:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue, followed by a tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. near the Mount Vernon Rec Center, located at Commonwealth and Mount Vernon avenues. Free. Visit www.pwba.org, www.funside.com or 703-683-2570.

Massed Band Concert.

1-1:30 p.m. at King and Royal streets, in front of City Hall at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Hear a variety of songs after the parade route.

Holiday Concert.

7-8:30 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. Features music by Jody Marshall, Andrea Hoag and Paul Nahay. \$10/

member or \$15/nonmember. Space is limited. Visit www.ahs.org or 703-768-5700 ext. 125.

Scottish Preview. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Includes bagpipe performances, Celtic music, military living history demonstrations and more. Free. Call 703-838-4994 for more information.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight.

Learn about the Washington's Christmas traditions, meet historic characters and tour the home by candlelight, including the rarely seen third floor from 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000 for cost information.

Santa Railway Express.

Ride with Santa from King Street Station to Old Town Manassas and back on two Fridays before Christmas. The train departs King Street Train Station in Alexandria at 1:25 p.m. and travels to Old Town Manassas Train Station. Passengers will disembark for holiday stories and treats. The train returns to King Street at 3:30 p.m. Buy tickets only at Whistle Stop Hobbies in Old Town. Visit www.whistlestophobbies.com for more.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

11 a.m. beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South Pitt Streets in Old Town and ending at the Campagna Center. Over 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march down the cobblestone streets of Old Town. For more information on the Scottish

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

Holiday Show

FROM PAGE 13

Where and When

teacher Jill Kester is performing in the chorus for the first time this year.

"It's remarkable how open [Revels] is to new people," said Kester. As a newcomer, she was paired with a veteran "buddy" who helped her and served as a resource for any questions or problems that arose.

"What really blows me away is the size and scope of the show," she added. Kester was particularly impressed by the commitment to historical accuracy and careful attention to detail demonstrated by the show's organizers and creative directors.

Melissa Carter agrees. She's participated with the Revels since 1989, first as a volunteer performer and now as assistant musical director. In that time she's seen the chorus grow by 50 per cent and a more narrative, complex story structure taking shape in the performances.

"AT THE BEGINNING there was a lot less choral involve-

Performances take place the weekends of Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at Lisner Auditorium (730 21 St., NW, Washington, D.C.). Ticket prices range from \$18 - \$45. To purchase tickets visit www.revelsdc.org or call 301-587-3835.

ment. Now there is a story behind every person on stage. It's much more intricate," she said. "When the chorus has full knowledge of the story's timeline and storyline, they are more able to reach out to the audience and draw people in."

This idea — of incorporating the audience into the action on stage — is a key component of the Revels. Carter contends that the Revels is also one of the few places where audiences can experience traditional folk music from all over the world. This year's show is uniquely French-Canadian, she explained, in that it represents at all aspects of the culture, incorporating Native American and French influences and all the nuances they bring.

"It's really a wonderful experience," said Carter. "Everyone should experience it at least once."

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Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

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Friday - Fish Night
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Saturday - Steak and Chop Night
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Ample Free Parking



FROM PAGE 20

Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Stroll through buildings of historic importance dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. Tickets required \$25/advance or \$30/day of purchase and can be purchased at homes. Call 703-549-0111 for tickets. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Holiday Dinner Theater. Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus presents "A Very Merry Musical" at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. \$15/adult; children ages 6-12 are \$7; age 5 and under free. Enjoy favorite songs and a family meal with Santa. Reserved table seating. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 240-206-9626 for tickets.

Holiday Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., 3rd floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Decorate take-home ornaments using shapes, colors and patterns based on the Museum's collection of excavated artifacts. Free. Call Alexandria Archaeology for more information, 703-838-4399.

Holiday Reception. 6-9 p.m., Gallery West presents "Small Works and Holiday Show and Silent Auction" through Dec. 24 at 1213 King St. Features a variety of art work by members in every size. Silent auction ends Dec. 8. Visit www.gallerywest.com or call 703-549-6006.

Gunston Hall Celebrates

FROM PAGE 13

In conjunction with Plantation Christmas, Gunston is offering its annual Yuletide Dinner. This holiday meal, with all the trimmings, features a selection of traditional fare and includes admission to Plantation Christmas.

The Yuletide Dinner is \$39.95 for adults and children ages 11 and older, \$19.95 for children age six to 10. Those wishing to participate are urged to call 703-550-9220, as limited seating is available for Friday and Saturday evenings.

Admission to the Plantation Christmas is \$14 for adults, \$7 for ages six to 18, and free for children age six and under. For additional information call 703-550-9220 or visit www.GunstonHall.org.

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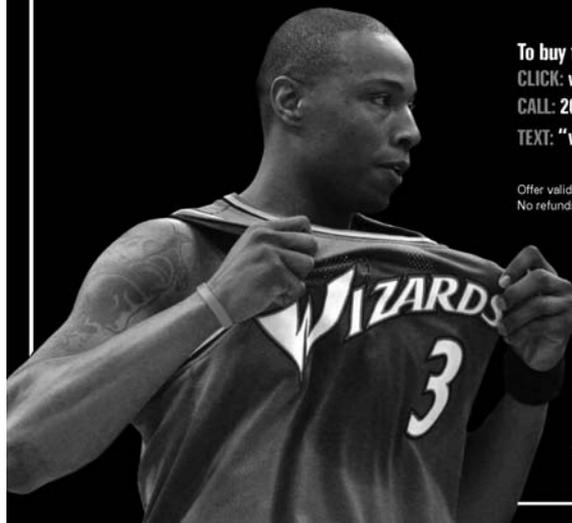
vs. Cleveland Cavaliers Jan 4th @ 1pm
 vs. Charlotte Bobcats Jan 10th @ 7pm
 vs. Phoenix Suns Jan 26th @ 7pm

Option #2 (Lower/Club Level for \$199):

vs. Charlotte Bobcats Jan 10th @ 7pm
 vs. New York Knicks Jan 16th @ 7pm
 vs. Indiana Pacers Feb 8th @ 6pm

To buy tickets:
 CLICK: www.WashingtonWizards.com
 CALL: 202.661.5050
 TEXT: "wiztix" to 71855

Offer valid while supplies last. Jersey sizes are not guaranteed. No refunds or exchanges.



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Alexandria \$499,500
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Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964



Alex/Old Town \$675,000
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3717 Ingalls Avenue
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



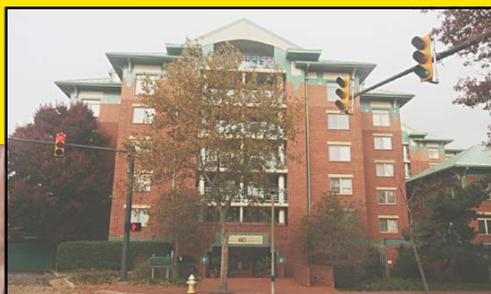
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ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Please bring a new unwrapped toy to the office between now and December 18th. All toys will be donated to LOCAL children c/o The Campagna Center.



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Holidays Transform Mount Vernon Estate

FROM PAGE 6

display gingerbread houses,” said Mesnier.

“We worked on this for two weeks. Many of the parts are made ahead of time. The glue holding those parts together is chocolate,” he said.

“It was great fun as the various parts began to come together. The reason it is all natural, with no non-edible part, is that I always believe that someone will be tempted to take a bite when no one is looking and then discover that it is a non-edible frame just covered with gingerbread. This is the real thing,” Mesnier said.

Every intricate detail of the Mansion was fashioned from edible materials — from the snow on the driveway, to the curtains in the dining room, to the tiles on the roof. Even the chain link fence bordering the circular drive to the Mansion entrance is made from carefully fashioned, miniature chocolate rings.

THE TOUR commenced in the lobby of the Estate’s new Ford Orientation Center where Mount Vernon Estate Executive Director James Rees explained the various themes represented by the decorations on the 12 trees placed throughout the center. Each focused on a particular element of either



“Aladdin” the camel is a 2008 addition to the Christmas celebration at historic Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

the Mansion or the Washingtons’ lives.

Upon entering the Orientation Center visitors are welcomed by three trees decorated in the themes of George Washington: Com-

mander-in-Chief; Lady Washington; and George Washington’s Study. “The study was Washington’s retreat from the world. It was the room in the Mansion that most reflects

“Every element of the gingerbread mansion display is made completely of edible material.”

— Chef Roland Mesnier, former White House Pastry Chef

Washington,” Rees said.

Other tree decoration themes include Dove of Peace, the weathervane atop the Mansion’s cupola; Mount Vernon Architecture, displaying the various addition to the Mansion made by Washington commencing with his residency in 1754; and George Washington: Surveyor, his initial career which he undertook at age 17.

The one tree that is synonymous with the historical preservation of Mount Vernon Estate and the reinvigorated interest in Washington, his life and times, is the Mount Vernon Ladies Association tree. America’s first national preservation organization, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association was formed in 1853 by Pamela Cunningham to save Washington’s

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 28

PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

A Community Celebration

Living Bethlehem

December 7, 8 and 9, 2008 • 6:00 to 8:00pm
Aldersgate Church • 1301 Collingwood Road • Alexandria, VA 22308

Experience Living Bethlehem at Aldersgate

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You and your family are invited to experience the Living Bethlehem at Aldersgate Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, Monday, Dec. 8, and Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 6pm – 8pm each evening.

Tours through Living Bethlehem begin behind the church near the Collingwood Road entrance.

www.aldersgate.net — 703-765-6555
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SPORTS

Bigger Fish To Fry

Area girl's basketball teams head into season with higher aspirations than the past.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Forgive West Potomac senior Shoqoya Banks if she feels like her basketball career has been stunted a bit for reasons that have nothing to do with any sort of work she has or hasn't put in. It's a natural feeling for someone who is just now experiencing what life is like when the same coach sticks around for more than one season.

Banks and the rest of the Wolverines have an inkling the continuity brought about by the return of second-year coach Michael Weber will propel them out of the Patriot District cellar, a place they've unfortunately grown accustomed to for reasons beyond the court.

"Since my freshman year this is my fourth coach, so it has been hard," said Banks after a recent practice. "Every coach wants to take the program a different way since they had just come here."

Said Weber, who before coming to West Potomac was the girl's basketball coach at Jefferson: "They've always had some decent basketball players here, it just seemed like they weren't getting the most out of those players."

Banks is one of three seniors on the team this season, but she is the only one who has been in the program all four years. Weber also expects contributions from two newcomers, seniors Kelly Wood and Tee Wilkins. Because of the relative inexperience of everyone around Banks, Weber plans to lean on his loyal star to provide leadership for a team that is learning on the fly when it

comes to playing winning basketball.

The Wolverines are coming off a 7-14 season that ended in the first round of the Patriot District playoffs, so the second-year coach and Banks are planning to make up for some lost time.

"One of our first conversations was about putting the things that happened in the past behind her and just look at this as a new beginning," said Weber. "Even though she's a senior, you can leave a legacy on a program after one year."

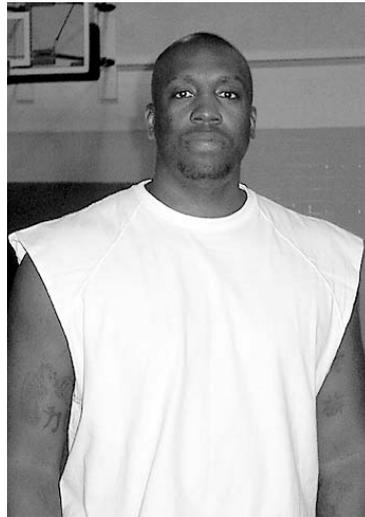
LEAVING AN IMPRINT on the Mount Vernon girl's basketball team shouldn't be too difficult for first-year coach Terry Henderson. It's unlikely his presence will go undetected on the sidelines considering his 6-foot-6 frame.

But the girls playing for him should also leave a lasting impression. Returning six players and four starters from last year's 15-10 season that ended with losses to Edison in the National District tournament and W.T. Woodson in the regional tournament, the Majors are primed to be one of the best teams in the Northern Region.

Leading the charge for Mount Vernon will be junior Tracy King, a second-team all-district performer as a sophomore. And thanks to the addition of junior point guard Jalinda Venable, a transfer from Paul VI, Henderson will be able to move King around to multiple positions rather than have her pigeonholed as the team's primary ballhandler.

"Last year she was at the point quite a bit, so it'll free her up and get her back to more of a natural wing position," said Henderson.

It has been a smooth transition for



New Mount Vernon girl's basketball coach Terry Henderson thinks his Majors are poised to be one of the top teams in the Northern Region this season.



Seniors Shoqoya Banks (left) and Tee Wilkins (right) will lead a West Potomac team that is looking to make its mark on the Patriot District after a 7-14 record a season ago

PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac

Coach: Michael Weber
Player to Watch: Shoqoya Banks, senior
Last Season's Record: 7-14
First Game: Dec. 2 at Washington-Lee

Mount Vernon

Coach: Terry Henderson
Player to Watch: Tracy King, junior
Last Season's Record: 15-10
First Game: Dec. 2 at South County

Henderson, who was the JV boy's basketball coach at Mount Vernon last year. He said even last year he kept a close eye on the girl's team and watched plenty of tape in the off-season, which has led him to believe that, with the right breaks, this team could be onto something special.

For that reason, Henderson has Mount Vernon slated to attend a holiday tourna-

ment in Portsmouth, Va., where the past three Virginia state champions have emerged from.

"I want to put the team in the situation where we are facing the best, so when district season comes, we'll be on a roll," said Henderson. "Hopefully it'll give us something to build on and strive for the rest of the season."

Basketball Season Off and Running

The West Potomac boy's team got its campaign off on the right foot with a 57-55 win over Washington-Lee in Arlington.

The Wolverines used a 9-2 run in the beginning of the fourth quarter to grab a cushion they would never relinquish. It would come in handy down the stretch after West Potomac missed several foul shots, allowing Washington-Lee back in the game. The Generals missed two potential game-tying shots on the game's final possession.

West Potomac junior forward Keevyn Hankins had 14 points and six rebounds off the bench, while junior Martez Redfean pitched in eight points and four rebounds. Guard Jalen Rosen (pictured at right) added eight points as well.

"We started playing good defense at

the end," said Redfean. "That's how we came out with the win."

The West Potomac girl's team wasn't so lucky against Washington-Lee, losing 44-30.

The Mount Vernon boy's basketball team opened the season with a 85-65 victory over South County. Mount Vernon and West Potomac meet in both boy's and girl's basketball this Friday night.

The Northern Virginia basketball season tipped off Tuesday night with both the West Potomac boy's and girl's teams in action on the road.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

SCHOOLS

Students entering grades nine through 12 are invited to spend a day with a **student host** at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Upper School campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Call for reservations: 703-212-2706. Visiting days are Dec. 8, Jan. 12 and Feb. 9.

The following students are from Mount Vernon were named to the High List, Episcopal High School's academic honor roll: **Hunter Joseph Fairchild**, sophomore, and **Nancy Elizabeth Walker**, sophomore.

A Celebration of Giving and Sharing will be held on Dec. 11-12 at two local schools in Alexandria. The program helps plant the seeds of volunteerism in youth. Students receive a special surprise - backpacks full of books and toys - then talk to community volunteers about the importance of sharing and giving back. After benefiting from volunteerism, partner schools then engage their students in volunteer projects, thus completing the circle of community service. Partner schools are selected based on need; nearly half of their students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. The schools are Weyanoke Elementary and Woodlawn Elementary, both in Alexandria.

Gillian Hodge, a second grade teacher at Woodley Hills Elementary School in Alexandria, has been named the WETA Hometown Hero for October. Hodge founded Grandma Rita's Children Inc., an Alexandria organization that offers summer outreach programs and educational opportunities to underprivileged children between the ages of 5 and 14, when she was just 16. Using an inheritance from her Grandma Rita, Hodge made it a goal to educate neighborhood children who were uninspired, were not challenged, and did not understand the world around them. Through the program, she introduced the children to career and service opportunities in their communities and provided mentors and role models while giving the children a sense of self-worth and building positive character traits. Hodge has worked at Woodley Hills for two years and has been a Fairfax County Public Schools employee since 2002.

Local student journalists and publications recently won awards from the Journalism Education Association (JEA) and National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) at the JEA-NSPA Fall Journalism Convention in St. Louis. Winning Best of Show awards were:

- ❖ Newspaper (13-16 pages): *tjToday*, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), seventh place, Teresa Ventura, editor, Jennifer Seavey, advisor.

- ❖ Literary Magazine: *Threshold*, TJHSST, ninth place, Liz Lagerfeld, editor, Emily Orser and Julie Punaro, advisors.

- ❖ Newspaper Pacemaker Finalists: *tjToday*, TJHSST, Teresa Ventura, editor, Jennifer Seavey, advisor; and *The Purple Tide*, Chantilly High School, Alex Ott, editor, Bretton Zinger, advisor.

Individual students received awards in the JEA Write-Off contest, held during the convention. Winners from FCPS included:

- ❖ Excellent awards were given to Carolyn McCallister of TJHSST for Newswriting; Teresa Ventura of TJHSST for Editorial Writing; Carter

Lockwood of TJHSST for Sports Writing; Hailey Arnold of TJHSST for Review Writing; Amelia Friedman of TJHSST for Commentary Writing.

- ❖ Honorable Mention awards were given to Gloria Driessnack of TJHSST for Copy Editing/Headline/Caption Writing; Arvin Ahmadi of TJHSST for Newspaper: Layout;

Ten Fairfax County public schools and the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) alternative school programs have been awarded 2008 grants by the Fairfax Education Association (FEA). FEA sets aside \$5,000 for grants for its members each year.

At Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School, students will be able to use traditional African musical instruments in their music classes, thanks to the FEA grant. Music teacher Russell Nadel, who wrote the grant application, said, "In a tough budget year such as this one, our school has no dependable source of funding other than grants for expensive items such as musical instruments." Approximately 77 percent of Mount Vernon Woods students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.

Nadel plans to teach students about world music with the instruments, as well as help them learn more about their own and others' native cultures. He also hopes to enhance general music instruction with the instruments by providing new musical styles and performance techniques for the students and offering them for use in songs, games, dances, instrumental ensembles, and concerts. The school's Percussion Ensemble, which includes students in grades 4-6, will be able to perform traditional world songs on the new instruments as well as using them for improvisation and composing.

The FEA also awarded grants to:

- ❖ Bren Mar Park Elementary School in Alexandria (Nadine James and Melody Berry), Closing the Achievement Gap: Supporting Literacy for ESOL Students.

- ❖ ESOL Alternative School Programs (Carey Crimmel), Helping ESOL Students Develop Oral Language Skills.

- ❖ Hollin Meadows Elementary School in Alexandria (Sally Chadbourn), Bridging the Gap: Supporting Reading and Social Studies Achievement for ESOL Students; and (Robin Rossi), Bridging the Gap: Supporting Reading and Math Achievement for ESOL Students.

- ❖ Hybla Valley Elementary School in Alexandria (Sherry Chevalley), Family Literacy: Using KEEP Books to Promote Kindergarten Literacy.

- ❖ Woodley Hills Elementary School in Alexandria (Barbara Dees), Student Recognition: Helping Students Achieve With Positive Behavior Support.

Teacher job fairs. Fairfax County Public Schools is searching for teachers, counselors, speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, social workers, and psychologists with strong academic backgrounds and the passion to make a difference in the lives of students for the 2009-10 school year. Employment Services will interview candidates at a Secondary School Instructional Job Fair on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, (snow date Jan. 31) and an Elementary School Instructional Job Fair on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, (snow date Feb. 28), at Oakton High School.

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6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

Weekdays
(Mass or Communion Service)
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9320 LUDGATE DR	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.45			WYCLIFFE ON THE POTOMAC
1111 LYNDALE DR	6	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$910,000	Detached	0.54			WELLINGTON HEIGHTS
8501 DOTER DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$765,000	Detached	0.39			WAYNEWOOD
1211 OLDE TOWNE RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.24			NEW ALEXANDRIA
1109 CUSTIS ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$711,000	Detached	0.66			WELLINGTON
2503 RYEGATE LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$690,000	Detached	0.31			STRATFORD LANDING
1797 DUFFIELD LN	4	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$664,000	Townhouse	0.08			BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN
6011 GROVE DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Detached	0.22			BELLE HAVEN
7109 MARLAN DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Detached	0.34			MARLAN FOREST
8807 BLACK ALDER DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$630,000	Detached	0.23			WOODMILL ESTATES
1730 OLDE TOWNE RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$630,000	Townhouse	0.12			OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE
8424 PORTER LN	6	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Detached	0.34			STRATFORD ON THE POTOMAC
2212 FORDHAM DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Detached	0.23			FORDHAM VILLAGE
8733 FORT HUNT RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Detached	0.46			PLYMOUTH HAVEN
4018 COOL BROOKE WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Detached	0.25			WOODSTONE
8224 CHANCERY CT	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Detached	0.27			WILLIAMSBURG MANOR NORTH
7922 FAIRFAX RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Detached	0.23			HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
2418 CHILDS LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$522,000	Detached	0.29			STRATFORD ON THE POTOMAC
8411 BOUND BROOK LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$515,000	Detached	0.30			RIVERSIDE ESTATES
2111 WILKINSON PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$513,800	Detached	0.34			KIRKSIDE
8406 CULVER PL	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.33			WAYNEWOOD
3769 MARY EVELYN WAY	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Detached	0.09			VERNON HEIGHTS
4407 ARAGON PL	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$469,900	Detached	0.35			MT VERNON MANOR
3308 CLAYBORNE AVE	4	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Detached	0.26			GROVETON HEIGHTS
6719 STONEYBROOKE LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$447,000	Detached	0.20			STONEYBROOKE
4400 GRANADA ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$446,600	Detached	0.38			MT VERNON MANOR
5993 GRAND PAVILION WAY	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.03			PAVILIONS AT HUNTINGTON
2467 HUNTINGTON PARK DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$436,000	Townhouse	0.02			PAVILIONS AT HUNTINGTON
3906 STONE MANSION CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$428,000	Detached	0.31			STONEYBROOKE
8102 COOPER ST	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Detached	0.29			TIMOTHY PARK
3381 BEECHCLIFF DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.04			HOLLY ACRES
2507 DAWN DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$399,000	Detached	0.23			TEMPLE VIEW
3771 SHANNONS GREEN WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.03			MOUNT VEE MANOR
6521 CAVALIER DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$379,000	Detached	0.17			BUCKNELL MANOR
2451 MIDDLETOWN AVE #1206	1	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$378,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MIDDLETOWN ALEXANDRIA STATION CONDO
5901 MOUNT EAGLE DR #506	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MONTEBELLO
8362 WAGON WHEEL RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Detached	0.26			RIVERSIDE ESTATES
8403 BOUND BROOK LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$371,000	Detached	0.24			RIVERSIDE ESTATES
2215 ARLINGTON TER	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Duplex	0.08			HUNTINGTON
8436 HALLIE ROSE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.04			SKYVIEW PARK
7604 AUDUBON MEADOW WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$339,900	Townhouse	0.03			HUNTLEY MEADOWS
4710 LAURIEFROST CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$337,000	Townhouse	0.03			SKYVIEW PARK
5823 MONTICELLO RD	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Duplex	0.13			JEFFERSON MANOR
7015 QUANDER RD	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Detached	0.17			BUCKNELL MANOR
4719 LAURIEFROST CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.03			SKYVIEW PARK
7210 STOVER DR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$322,000	Townhouse	0.03			WOODSTONE
7911 GRIMSLEY ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$319,900	Detached	0.20			MT VERNON VALLEY
4709 LAURIEFROST CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.03			SKYVIEW PARK
4224 ADRIENNE DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Detached	0.54			SULGRAVE MANOR
7415 NORTHROP RD	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Detached	0.27			HYBLA VALLEY
8109 KIDD ST	5	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Detached	0.30			MT VERNON VALLEY
7145 MASON GROVE CT #20	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Other				GROVETON WOODS
6858 DEER RUN DR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03			DEER RUN CROSSING
8507 TOWNE MANOR CT	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03			MOUNT VERNON TOWNES
7921 GRIMSLEY ST	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$299,000	Detached	0.21			MT VERNON VALLEY
4301 GRAMERCY CIR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$293,000	Townhouse	0.09			PINEWOOD LAKE
1905 ROLLINS DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$289,000	Detached	0.17			BUCKNELL MANOR
2485 WINDBREAK DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.09			MT VERNON SQUARE TOWNHOU
2408 FORT DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Detached	0.16			FAIR HAVEN
8505 TOWNE MANOR CT	2	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.03			MOUNT VERNON TOWNES
2603 STONE HEDGE DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$269,900	Detached	0.23			CAIVERT PARK
2451 MIDDLETOWN AVE #618	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$269,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MIDDLETOWN ALEXANDRIA
5903 MOUNT EAGLE DR #312	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$260,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MONTEBELLO
7252 STOVER DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$260,000	Townhouse	0.05			WOODSTONE
3757 ROXBURY LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$253,277	Townhouse	0.05			ROXBURY OF MT VERNON
7927 CENTRAL PARK CIR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$245,900	Townhouse	0.09			PINEWOOD LAKE
7831 ASHTON ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$240,320	Detached	0.28			MT VERNON WOODS
4310 GRAMERCY CIR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.05			PINEWOOD LAKE
7837 GUM SPRINGS VILLAGE DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$239,000	Townhouse	0.04			VILLAGE AT GUM SPGS
4400 LONGWORTHE SQ	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$239,000	Townhouse	0.05			PINEWOOD LAKE
6473 BRICK HEARTH CT	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$239,000	Townhouse	0.03			SOUTH KINGS STATION
4219 MAIN ST	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.04			CHATEAUNEUF
4346 PEMBROOK VILLAGE DR#53	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				PEMBROOK VILLAGE
8104 OAKLAKE CT	5	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,000	Townhouse	0.05			PINEWOOD LAKE
2028 ARLINGTON TERRACE	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,000	Duplex	0.09			HUNTINGTON
2334 FAIRVIEW TER	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$214,000	Duplex	0.08			HUNTINGTON
8313 CLAREMONT WOODS DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$200,000	Townhouse	0.03			GEORGELAND VILLAGE
8238 CLAREMONT WOODS DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$200,000	Townhouse	0.05			GEORGELAND VILLAGE
2912 GROVETON ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$199,900	Detached	0.15			MEMORIAL HEIGHTS
7029 BRYANT TOWNE CT	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$198,000	Townhouse	0.04			BRYANT TOWNE
6641 WAKEFIELD DR #912	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$194,750	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				RIVER TOWERS
2303 FARRINGTON AVE #302	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$185,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				FARRINGTON PLACE
5847 FIFER DR	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$185,000	Duplex	0.09			HUNTINGTON
8605 VENOY CT	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$184,550	Townhouse	0.03			VILLAGES OF MOUNT VERNON
8223 CLAREMONT WOODS DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.05			GEORGELAND VILLAGE
5840 FIFER DR	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.10			HUNTINGTON
2321 GLENDALE TER	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$171,000	Duplex	0.08			HUNTINGTON
3502 GROVETON ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$168,000	Detached	0.29			KINGS HIGHWAY
4301 PEMBROOK VILLAGE DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$158,000	Townhouse				PEMBROOK VILLAGE
8624C BEEKMAN PL #24C	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$155,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				CLUSTERS AT WOODLAWN
3218 GROVETON ST	1	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$150,000	Detached	0.16			GROVETON HEIGHTS
6621 WAKEFIELD DR #519	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$150,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors				RIVER TOWERS
8526 ENGLSIDE ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$148,000	Detached	0.13			ENGLSIDE
7918 SAUSALITO PL #30B	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$130,000	Townhouse				SEQUOYAH
3891 MANZANITA PL #59E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$124,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				SEQUOYAH
7939 SAN LEANDRO PL #106B	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$110,000	Townhouse	0.00			SEQUOYAH
8402 EUREKA CT #98	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$104,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				PINEWOOD LAWS
3870 HAVENWOOD PL #75E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$101,929	Garden 1-4 Floors				SEQUOYAH
7970 AUDUBON AVE #A1	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$100,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				COLCHESTER TOWNE COND
3803 LARAMIE PL #122K	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$89,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				SEQUOYAH
7915 SAN LEANDRO PL #119E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$89,900	Townhouse				SEQUOYAH
8604 VILLAGE WAY #B	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$85,050	Garden 1-4 Floors				VILLAGES THE

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

A detailed reproduction of the Mount Vernon Mansion, created completely of gingerbread, decorates the lobby area of the Estate's Reynolds Museum/Education Center for the holidays, just in front of a life-size bronze statue of George Washington.

Holiday Magic

FROM PAGE 23

home.

Those visiting Mount Vernon this holiday season will also be able to learn how one of the real delicacies of the America's colonial era was made as well as savor a taste. Chocolate was not only a favorite sweet but also a favorite drink at the Washingtons' Mount Vernon.

"This was a drink and treat only for adults at that time. Balls of chocolate were often given by Martha Washington as special gifts to guests," said Gail Cassidy, manager of interpretations, Mount Vernon.

Washington's first recorded order for chocolate was for 20 pounds, which arrived from England in 1758. It was a typical breakfast beverage in colonial America. Eventually, it was far more prevalent here than in Britain or Europe because America was closer to the source of the cocoa bean which grew primarily in the Caribbean and South America, according to Cassidy.

She and colonial interpreter Donna Boulter demonstrated how chocolate was prepared in colonial America and offered samples to visitors. They will be an integral part of this year's "Christmas at Mount Vernon."

All of this and more is part of a dramatically expanded Mount Vernon Christmas program that commenced this past Thanksgiving weekend and runs through Jan. 6. "Mount Vernon was bustling with activity and visitors during Christmas in Washington's day. We wanted to bring that same energy and anticipation to today's visitors," said Emily Coleman Dibella, director,

SEE GINGERBREAD, PAGE 28

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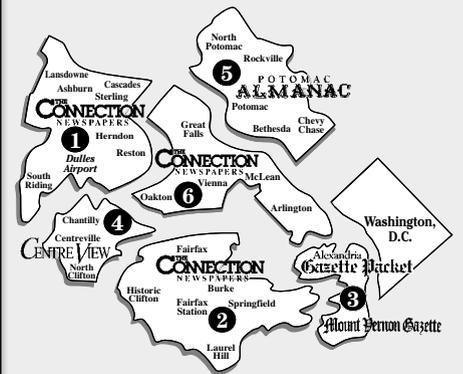
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As of October 13, 2008, Mr. Lenin (Butch) Lobaton is no longer a manager of ASIAN IMPORTS, LLC of 8249-K Backlick Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Mr Lobaton is not authorized to engage in any business transaction on behalf of Asian Imports, LLC

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SHAWN DAVID MCCASLIN

Passed on November 23, 2008, beloved husband of Lisa Bourne McCaslin and loving father of McKechnie Caroline McCaslin, age 3. He was born in Lynchburg, VA on June 17, 1960 to the Rev. Robert O. McCaslin, Presbyterian minister, and Donna Lathrop. Shawn was a graduate of Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC (B.A., History) and University of Southampton (M.A., International Relations), England. Surviving are Wife Lisa and Child McKechnie, Mother Donna, Brothers Tom, Ian, John, and sister Barbara and their loving families; and dog Daisy and cat Hank. A Memorial Service will be held Friday, November 28, 2008 at 2:00 PM at Beverly Hills Community United Methodist Church at 3512 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22305. In lieu of flowers an Education Fund has been established for McKechnie. Contributions can be made to McKechnie McCaslin, c/o Ron Moriarty, Bank of America, 8300 Greensboro Drive, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102. He was a light to all he met and that light will shine on in others

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Gail Cassidy, right, manager of interpretation, Mount Vernon Estate, and Donna Boulter, interpreter, explain the history and making of chocolate in Colonial America.

Gingerbread Version Of George's Mansion

FROM PAGE 28

public affairs, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens.

A highlight of the season is the Mansion candlelight tours that include a rare visit to the third floor where Martha Washington lived after George's death. This is the only time of the year this area of the Mansion is open for evening tours.

The special Candlelight Tours are scheduled for Dec. 5, 6 and 7; and 12, 13, and 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. each night. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or through www.visitmountvernon.org. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.

IN THE MANSION kitchen, the final stop on the tour, guests will hear about 18th-century holiday cooking, see Martha Washington's Great Cake, and be given a complimentary copy of the recipe. Following the Mansion tour, guest are invited to stroll candlelit walks, join in fireside caroling, and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies.

Both the Food Court and The Shops at Mount Vernon will remain open evenings of the Candlelight Tours until 9:30 p.m. There is also the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant that offers early-American fare served by costumed waiters and waitresses. Reservations for the latter are suggested by calling 703-780-0011.

As with every holiday season Mount Vernon takes on a festive atmosphere for daily tours. Traditional boughs of hand-cut greenery adorn doorways throughout the Mansion and over 100 poinsettias line hallways and other paths walked by visitors, transforming

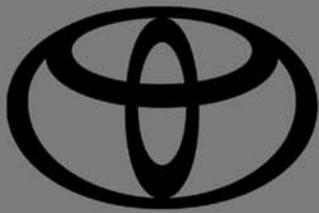
the home from its normal appearance to one preparing for overnight holiday guests.

All programs are included in the regular price of daytime admission: \$13 for adults; \$6 for youth, ages six to 11; and free for children five and younger. These tours take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily during "Christmas at Mount Vernon."

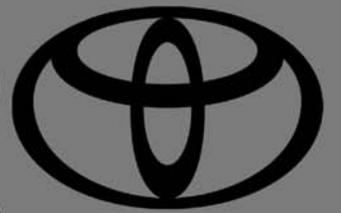
Mount Vernon visitors are also assured of a white Christmas — at least in the Revolutionary War theater. Feel the seat rumble and snow fall gentle on one's shoulders as Washington and his troops cross the Delaware River that Christmas night in 1776 to turn the tide of the American Revolution.



Martha Washington, also known as Mary Wiseman, explains some of the holiday traditions she and "The General" enjoy at their Mount Vernon Plantation.



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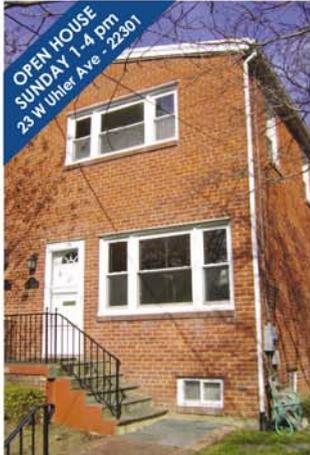
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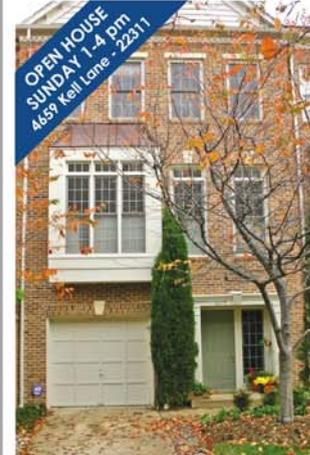
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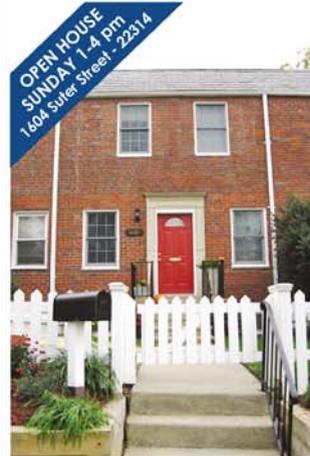
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