

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

DECEMBER 11, 2008



Guarding the gates to the town of Bethlehem are Roman Centurions Dale Roach and Zach Prinzbach.



The angels gather outside the stable where a child has been born.

A 'Living Bethlehem'

Aldersgate United Methodist Church presented "Living Bethlehem" earlier this week, Dec. 7-9, on the church grounds. The performance included live animals, people, fireplaces and lighting with torches and candles. Spectators were able to follow the path that Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem, witness the appearance of Angel Gabriel, haggle with shopkeepers, register with the census taker, and celebrate of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Census takers Willard McMullen and Jack Kern prepare for the next group of visitors.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE
KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Shepherdess Tricia Crane watches over the sheep on the hillside.



Lindsey Bender as Mary talks with Gabriel, the angel.

Alternative To Freezing To Death

Faith Partner hypothermia program supplements county shelters.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Early Thanksgiving morning the body of James Hubert, age 56, of no fixed address was discovered behind Engleside Shopping Center in the 8000 block of Richmond Highway. Cause of death was determined to be hypothermia. Reason for death could have been listed as "unnecessary."

Fairfax County operates three shelters for homeless adults and two for homeless families with children. Plus, on Dec. 1 the partnership ministry between New Hope

"If we don't have the volunteers, we can't operate the shelter."

— Sherry Edelkamp,
volunteer coordinator,
VIC-HOP

SEE ALTERNATIVE, PAGE 34

Kings Crossing Rises Up Anew

Site to host new style of Wal Mart.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

The final nail has just been put in the coffin of any potential mixed use development for the 11.5-acre Kings Crossing site at the intersection of Richmond and North Kings highways.

That was the essence of a joint Board Matter introduced Monday, Dec. 8, by Mount Vernon and Lee districts Supervisors Gerald Hyland and Jeff McKay during the

SEE MAL MART, PAGE 30

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Guests gather in the main hallway for cocktails at the evening reception.



Beverly Stanley leads a group of guests down the stairwell after a tour of the second floor rooms before dinner.



Molly and Jim Singerling with Gabrielle Voorhees



Jean Buckley and Joanna Driggs.

Dinner at Woodlawn

Woodlawn held its annual Candlelit Holiday dinner last Thursday evening, Dec. 4, in the mansion that was a gift from George Washington to his nephew Major Lawrence Lewis and his wife Eleanor. The reception featured music by The Wright Touch followed by dinner. The mansion was

decorated with native greens and red and white roses by Alexandria resident and designer Beverly Stanley.

Note: Candlelit tours of Woodlawn are scheduled from 5-8 p.m., Dec. 27 and 28. Reservations are recommended; tickets are required. Call 703-780-4000 x26327.



David Wright of The Wright Touch.

Dinner is served in all the parlors and grand rooms on the first floor of the mansion.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE





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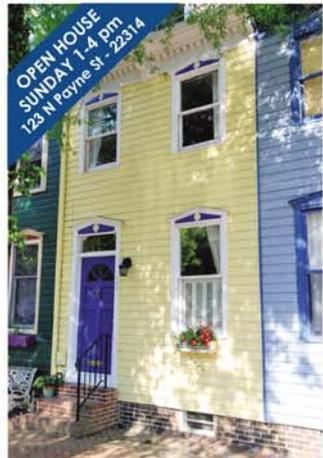
This three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath Del Ray Colonial is gorgeous! Welcoming foyer, gas fireplace in living room, half bath off den. A completely updated chef's kitchen and expansive dining room with sliding glass doors to deck overlooking landscaped backyard. Amazing space in unfinished basement and steps to "The Avenue!"

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$690,000



OPEN HOUSE
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Old Town Appeal

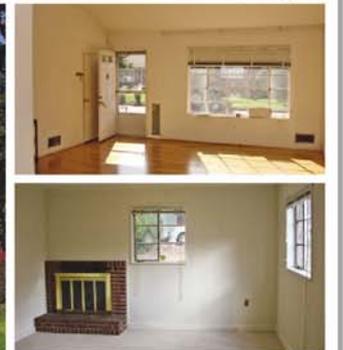
Step inside this wonderful 19th century townhouse and be amazed by all that it has to offer: updated kitchen and baths; a charming patio and garden ready for barbecues; a sunny balcony to sip your morning coffee on and read the paper; a cozy woodburning fireplace; warm hardwood floors; and so much more! Close to all the wonders of Old Town and just minutes to King Street Metro.

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Location, Location, Location

This charmer with soaring ceilings and walk-in bay breakfast nook sits on a corner lot within walking distance to King St. Metro and has been recently landscaped and spruced up. New paint, refinished floors, new carpet, among other updates, await the new owner. Have a bright new year in this sunwashed home priced at assessment.

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Malene Davis (center), president and CEO, Capital Hospice, and Patricia DeBuck (second from right), director, Community & Corporate Support, Capital Hospice, accept a donation of \$2,076.60 from Roy Rogers Restaurants owners Jim and Jeff Todd, (second from left and far right respectively) and Jack Garhart, manager, Roy Rogers, Route 1.

Paying Forward for Hospice Care

A critical quality of life service gets a Roy Rogers special.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. And, that's what took place last Friday at the Roy Rogers Restaurant on Richmond Highway.

Capital Hospice was the recipient of a \$2,076.60 check from the owners of two Roy Rogers restaurants in Mount Vernon District — one on Richmond

Highway and the other in the Belle View Shopping Center. Jim and Jeff Todd presented the check to Capital Hospice President and CEO Malene Davis, and Director of Community and Corporate Support Patricia DeBuck.

"If I didn't have this business I'd become a full-time hospice employee. That's how impressed I am with what they do and the services they provide," said Jim Todd.

"In 1995 our mother had a brain aneurism. That was followed by a stroke. Capital Hospice came and talked to us and gave us all the help we needed," he said.

The check was the result of the sale of Roy Rogers chicken sandwiches throughout the month of November — National Hospice Month. "We gave a percentage of every chicken sandwich sale to Capital Hospice," said Jeff Todd.

"This is the first year we have made a significant contribution to Capital Hospice. But, it's only the beginning. I'm now planning a 'Poker Run' in the spring for motorcyclists, cars and trucks," Jim Todd said.

A poker run is similar to a scavenger hunt, except that at each check point on a preselected route the contestant is given a playing card. At the end, the winning hand wins the run, according to Todd. Contestants all pay a fee to enter the run. Todd intends to donate that money to the care-giving organization.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't know we exist."

— Malene Davis, president & CEO, Capital Hospice

CAPITAL HOSPICE, which has 15 beds, located in Arlington, was the first hospice facility in the nation when it opened in 1977, according to Davis. It was then known as Hospice of Northern Virginia. An additional 21-bed facility is being planned for Loudoun County, Davis said.

Capital Hospice, which employs approximately 600 staff plus relying on an additional 200 volunteers, presently serves an estimate 900 patients. "Ninety percent of our patients are served in their own homes, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities," Davis said.

"When our people go into a nursing home we actually supplement their staff. Where they have to care

SEE PAYING FORWARD, PAGE 9

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Alex/Mt. Vernon \$484,900
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Alex/ Pinewood Lake \$292,500
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McCutcheon: A Man for All Challenges

Market master earns Fowler Award.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Gilbert S. McCutcheon was presented the Lawrence V. Fowler Award for his longstanding volunteer service and leadership by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during Monday's Board meeting at the Fairfax County Government Center. He is renowned in Mount Vernon District as

"Gil McCutcheon has been one of Mount Vernon's most remarkable volunteers."

— Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland

the founder and master of the Mount Vernon Farmers' Market.

"Without a doubt, Gil McCutcheon has been one of Mount Vernon's most remarkable volunteers over the years. His work on the Park Authority Board for the past 16 years is only one ex-

ample of his dedication to our community," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland who nominated McCutcheon for the award.

"His work at the farmers' market is fabulous. It is the best farmers' market in Fairfax County. He runs it with an iron hand and a heart of love. And, he is a special friend," Hyland said.

THE AWARD recognizes the distinguished service of a longstanding member of a county board, authority, commission or committee "whose exceptional service contributed to the overall quality of life in the community." The Park Authority Board, of which McCutcheon, at age 93, remains the Mount Vernon District representative, is only one of his many volunteer involvements.

On the board since 1992, he was recognized for "his tireless work to provide recreational facilities, acquire new parkland and protect natural, cultural and historic resources throughout Fairfax County."

Some of his other accomplishments include:

- ◆ A leader in the acquisition of the former Lorton Prison for parkland in the Laurel Hill area that now provides an array of recreational amenities and a developing art cen-

ter.

- ◆ The improvement of Frying Pan Farm Park which interprets 1920's farm life. During his tenure, new interpretive displays were added, the historic meeting house was restored and a visitor's center and rentable picnic pavilion were added.

- ◆ Parks and facilities throughout Mount Vernon District that are tributes to his many accomplishments include: The Lamond House renovations; Gristmill Park's synthetic turf field conversion; establishment of an off-leash dog park, and renovations to the George Washington and Mount Vernon recreation centers.

As for the award-winner, his response was vintage McCutcheon: "I didn't feel I was qualified. But, others did and I am happy to receive it." During the presentation ceremony, he also produced one of the few times that Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly was at a loss for an appropriate response.

After receiving the award and standing before a microphone, Connolly asked McCutcheon if he would like to say a few words. "No. Not really," said the old labor organizer and tiller of the fields of humanity.

The award was established to honor the accomplishments of Lawrence V. Fowler, who served for 41 years on the Consumer



Gilbert S. McCutcheon

Protection Commission and its predecessor. His work on consumer issues had a major impact on the county's quality of life. To be considered for the award, an individual must have served on a county board, commission, authority or committee for at least 10 years and have demonstrated exceptional service and leadership.

Gibson, Tobey Wed

Jennifer Noelle Gibson and Jamieson Matthews Tobey were married Oct. 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Inn in Mt. Vernon. Mary Ellen Stanton, of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society, officiated at the late afternoon ceremony. A dinner reception was held at the Inn following the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gibson of Lorton, and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fishkin of Huntersville, N.C. Jennifer received her B.S. in Design from Radford University and her M.F.A. from Virginia Tech.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Tobey of Reston. Jamieson earned his B.A. from George Mason University.

Maid of Honor was Colleen Gibson, sister of the bride, from Charlotte, N.C. Also attending were bridesmaids Emily Fishkin, from Seattle, Wash.; Starlene Truslow and Elizabeth Underwood from Arlington; Maeve Sheridan and Anie Baker from Alexandria, and Caitlin Tobey from Columbus, Ohio.

The best men were Ned Tobey, brother of the groom, from Winston-Salem, N.C. and Ethan Goldman, from New York, N.Y.

Wedding music was provided by bagpiper Tim Carey.

The bride wore a champagne silk and French lace gown, custom designed by Alvin Thompson of New Couture, Washington, D.C.

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the parents of the groom, was held at Landini Brothers Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria.

The newlyweds are currently residing in Arlington.



Jennifer Noelle Gibson and Jamieson Matthews Tobey were married.



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NEWS

New Home for 'Warriors In Transition'

Wounded soldiers occupy a special place at Fort Belvoir.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

More soldiers are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan than in any previous United States military involvements. That's the good news.

The bad news is that there are more severely wounded soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan than in any previous United States military involvements. And, that has called for a new approach to serving those that now face life-changing challenges.

There is also a new phenomenon taking place within the military services. Many of those Purple Heart warriors want to stay in the military. They are the new class of "Warriors In Transition."

Last Friday, at Fort Belvoir, a ribbon-cutting ceremony highlighted new housing designed and reconfigured for these Warriors In Transition. In typical U.S. Army lexicon, the announcement for the ribbon-cutting ceremony was entitled "Renovated Barracks for Wounded Warriors."

But, these new quarters are far more than that. First they are not "barracks" in the traditional sense of the term. They are multi-level buildings that provide a "home" to those that history placed in the wrong place at the wrong time. And, that home has been specifically and caringly designed to aid each in their personal "transition."

As noted during the ribbon-cutting ceremony by Col. Charles



PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

Fort Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Jerry Blixt and Command Sgt. Maj. Allison Smith, (left) respectively, present a plaque of appreciation to Warrior In Transition Unit Commander Capt. Eduardo Moten and 1st Sgt. Johnnie Bryant, (right) respectively, following an official ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating new base housing designed especially for wounded warriors in transition.



Col. Charles Callahan, commander, DeWitt Army Community Hospital, reviews the history of Army Medical Services.

Callahan, commander, DeWitt Army Community Hospital, "We did not anticipate the number of casualties of this war or how many soldiers would opt to stay in the service after sustaining their injuries."

UP TO TWO-THIRDS of patients who have become part of the Warrior In Transition program eventually have returned to their units. That is an unheard of statistic from all previous conflicts.

The 64 new housing units, costing of \$2.5 million, will provide a personal space where these soldiers can reestablish a productive and personally gratifying life — whether in military service or civilian life.

"A critical component of this program is support of the Garrison
SEE NEW HOME, PAGE 27

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MOUNT VERNON BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

SCAN Child Nutrition Workshop. 10 a.m. at St. Rita's Parish Center, 3825 Russell Road. Free.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Stories and Strategies for Tough Economic Times. 6 p.m. at 634 N. Patrick St. Learn how to stretch a dollar. Free. 202-412-2692.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14

Watershed Forum. 6:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Free. Learn about the watershed management. 703-324-5500.

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Celebrating 50 years, 1958 - 2008

OPINION

Planning for Holiday Party Season

Many ways to avoid drinking and driving.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide enough of a cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlifke, 22, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Earlier this fall, a young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in

Get Involved

Join the Northern Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 14th Annual MADD Red Ribbon Run 5K on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at George Mason University in Fairfax. The run begins at 4 p.m., with many activities for families. See www.maddnova.org or call 703-379-1135.

unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to live for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home of your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-

Safe Ride Home

From Dec. 12 through New Year's Day, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the Washington Regional Alcohol Program offers a free cab ride home (up to \$50) to local callers who are 21 or over. Call 800-200-8294.

metropolitan area.

WRAP's 2008 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1, 2009. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$50 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Determination Matters

To the Editor:

I disagree with your Dec. 4-10, 2008 editorial in the Mt. Vernon Gazette "Don't Lump Poor Students Together" because it implies that students can't learn in that environment.

It's not whether one comes from a poor or modest home environment but rather that one is instilled with the desire to achieve and be somebody later in life with the help of a good education, determination that includes hard work and striving always to do better.

I grew up during the depression and poverty was rampant. Our schools were crowded with students from poor families. But, being poor wasn't mentioned or talked about as an excuse for not learning. Instead, parents and teachers stressed positive values continually. Hard work, learn as much as you can, study hard and graduate from school. Teachers also motivated students by identifying students' abilities and encouraged them to use those abilities to help them learn what was required to be successful.

Quality teachers make a great difference in the classroom regardless of whether students are poor

or not. It is very important to be positive and not negative by dwelling on excuses such as being poor and receiving food subsidies for not learning. Dwelling on the negative generally leads to failure. There are many people who grew up poor but have achieved great success.

I don't believe that it was because they were or were not placed in large numbers in schools from different neighborhoods affluent or not, but, because of hard work and a desire to achieve instilled in them by school teachers and other positive influences. Let them be the shining examples for everyone.

Remember the old expression that is equally applicable today: "The more you learn the more you earn."

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.

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By fax: 703-917-0991.
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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Seasonal Snapshot

The Woodlawn mansion was decorated with native greens and red and white roses for the annual Candlelit Holiday dinner last week.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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A Connection Newspaper

Paying Forward for Hospice Care

FROM PAGE 5

for many patients we can concentrate solely on those couple of people we are there to care for. Plus our efforts are usually on a short-term basis due to the health of the patient," she said.

"However, a study recently completed at Duke University shows that people who receive hospice care live on average 30 days longer than those without that care. Some, like Art Buchwald, improve so much they even graduate from hospice care," Davis said.

AN ESTIMATED 50 percent of the patients seeking hospice care suffer from cancer while the other 50

percent suffer from an array of illnesses, according to Davis. "Last year we served 50 children suffering from incurable cancer," she said.

Capital Hospice's charity care costs have risen to \$1.5 million per year, Davis stated. Their staff includes 20 full-time doctors.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't even know we exist or what services we can provide to both patients and their families," she said. And, its not all end-of-life care. Last year Capital Hospice sent 50 people on a trip to Florida by enabling them to travel with their own oxygen tanks and other physical supports.

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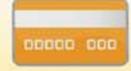
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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ DECEMBER 11-17, 2008 ❖ 9



PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

The season's first measurable snow falls on the newly lighted trees at IMVH following the hospital's annual "Lights of Love" holiday/fundraising celebration.



Dr. Cleve Francis sings "Lights of Love" on the balcony of IMVH during the hospital's annual holiday tree lighting ceremony.



Mirage Advanced Women's Chorus, Mount Vernon High School, offer several selections during IMVH's "Lights of Love" holiday fund-raising event and tree lighting ceremony.

Lighting Up the Night at Inova

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's annual "Lights of Love" fund-raiser/tree lighting ceremony seemed particularly appropriate this past Saturday night; the season's first snowfall descended as the switch was thrown to light the large live evergreens growing just beyond the hospital's main entrance.

As usual, this 27th consecutive holiday event featured a variety of music selections by both the Mirage Advanced Women's Chorus of Mount Vernon High School under the direction of Judi Belzer as well as from the band of Dr. Cleve Francis, a cardiologist at IMVH. Francis also sang the tree lighting dedication song, which he wrote and composed, "Light Up the Night."

In addition to holiday music, attendees, who over
SEE FUND-RAISER, PAGE 11

Bishop O'Connell High School

A place that still wishes its friends a Merry Christmas.

Fund-raiser Benefits Hospital

FROM PAGE 10

flowed the hospital's lobby area, were treated to essays written by four area elementary school students: Cole Purser, Waynewood Elementary; Starr Clark, Fort Hunt Elementary; Evie Strobel, Waynewood Elementary, and Max Dacey, Fort Hunt Elementary. Each essay expressed that child's view of the holiday season.

Sponsored by the IMVH Auxiliary, the Lights of Love event was initiated "to remember loved ones and to honor special friends," Auxiliary President Jimmi Barnwell told the audience. All funds from the event are donated to IMVH for an annually designated specific project.

This year's proceeds will support funding for a new program designed to improve operations in the hospital's emergency department. That department will be implementing a medical evaluation service for patients coming to the ER who have non-life threatening issues, but need medical attention, according to the evening's program.

The goal of this process is to create a special area for those patients to be seen in a timelier manner, according to the Auxiliary. "Through this new program we hope to be able to see more patients more quickly in our ER," said IMVH President and CEO Barbara Doyle.

Each light on the trees represents "a tribute to a loved one given by an individual or



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District resident Sabrina Anthony tell Santa what she wants for Christmas following the annual tree lighting ceremony at IMVH.

group," the Auxiliary stated. The decision for use of each year's funds in made jointly by the hospital and Auxiliary.

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610 N West Street #406 | \$329,000

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More photos at www.joydeevy.com

Joy Deevy | 703 930-5198

Alexandria

New Listing



8461 Chapelwood Court | \$975,000

This spacious, light filled five bedroom, four and a half bath home located on a cul-de-sac with 2 car garage is conveniently located near major commuter routes. Built in 1999 the home has over 4800 square feet. The lovely deck off the gourmet kitchen and breakfast room overlooks the pavers patio with water fountain perfect for outdoor entertaining. The family room and the master suite both feature gas fireplaces. The master bedroom sitting room offers a peaceful retreat.

Denise Davis | 571 332-8531

Annandale

New Listing



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Richard Kalnins | 202 550-3177

Alexandria

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



504 South Columbus St | \$539,000

Elegantly appointed three bedroom townhome in charming south Old Town. Main floor features an ample living room, open dining room and kitchen with granite counters, sparkling glass backsplash and room for a center island. Brazilian hardwood flooring, oversized brick hearth, stylishly renovated bathrooms. Glass doors lead to private brick patio and access to private walkway and convenient parking.

Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041

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Charm and Location



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Lee Guerry | 703 969-3566

Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4



1209 Duke Street | \$575,000

Circa 1846 brick TH gem, heart of Old Town with garage and driveway parking! Two levels, 2BRs, 1.5BAs. Warm hardwood floors, tasteful moldings, two fireplaces, updated kitchen with granite counters and SS appliances, neutral decor. Walk out to Georgetown patio and carriage house garage with bonus upstairs storage. Just blocks to King St Metro, Whole Foods, restaurants, et al. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com

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Old Town

New Listing



504 Bashford Ln #3103 | \$272,000

Beautiful one-bedroom ground-floor Riverton unit located in North Old Town on the GW Parkway and Bike Path. Completely renovated in 2006. One of very few units to have open kitchen floor plan that flows into living area including large granite countertop with room for four bar stools. Renovations include granite counters, stainless steel appliances, combo washer/dryer, hardwoods in kitchen & newer wall-to-wall carpet.

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Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria

Country Lane Living

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$ 949,000**



A lovely, all brick spacious colonial featuring five/six bedrooms and three and a half baths with a two 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 inviting family room perfect for gatherings. A short drive to shops, restaurants and entertainment, and provides an easy commute to Washington DC. Dir: GW Pkwy S, left on Collingwood Dr, right on Grassymeade Ln.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria S

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Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Annandale

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Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Alexandria S

Model Home Condition

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**6406 Wood Haven Drive
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Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 New Alexandria

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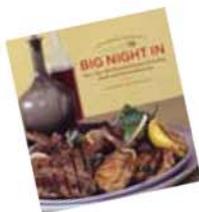
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FESTIVITIES

Decorations of Remembrance, Honor

Ceremony is one of many nationwide.

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

At this time of year there are festive decorations throughout the land — in homes, schools, businesses, shopping malls, and government buildings. But, this Saturday, Dec. 13, just 12 days before Christmas, there will be a different kind of decorating taking place marking a much different tribute.

Known as “Wreaths Across America,” these decorations are for the tens of thousands who made the ultimate sacrifice so that this nation can remain “the land of the free.” Wreaths will be placed on the graves of fallen military veterans in cemeteries and at monuments from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico.

More than 200 of those symbolic expressions of gratitude are expected to decorate graves in Alexandria’s National Cemetery, 1450 Wilkes St., during a noon hour ceremony. They will join the more than 10,000 wreaths to be placed at individual gravesites in Arlington National Cemetery.

“The mission of ‘Wreaths Across America’ is to Remember-Honor-and Teach. Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach our children the value of freedom,” according to the project’s founder. This will be the 17th year for this solemn holiday ceremony begun by Morrill Worcester, president, Worcester Wreath Company, Harrington, Maine.

Worcester originally donated wreaths for Arlington National Cemetery to show his appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices of American military personnel. In 2006, he decided to expand his tribute to 250 state and national cemeteries and Veterans memorials nationwide.

To accomplish this, Worcester solicited the aid of the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group composed primarily of military veterans and active



“Love for freedom goes beyond death.”
— A student poem by Stephanie C.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE/GAZETTE

At last year’s event, T.C. Williams volunteer students joined with the school’s Junior ROTC Color Guard in placing Christmas wreaths on graves at Alexandria National Cemetery.

duty personnel with over 65,000 members, to escort the wreaths from Maine to Arlington. The week-long journey, a 750-mile trek, begins in Harrington and travels most of the way on Route 1, arriving in the Washington area just prior to the wreath-laying ceremony.

The mileage is significant in that it represents one mile for every 1,000 of the approximately 750,000 men and women who have died as a result of armed conflict throughout this nation’s history. Part of that contingent also brings wreath to the Alex-

andria National Cemetery, which pre-dates Arlington National Cemetery, going back to the Civil War.

Conducting the wreath-laying ceremony in Alexandria this year, as he did in 2007, is Patriot Guard Rider Patrick Gallagher. “We hope this will be a much bigger ceremony than last year,” Gallagher said.

Participating in the ceremony, which is open to anyone wishing to attend, will be members of the various Armed Services and volunteer students from T.C. Williams High School. Following remarks by Gallagher and others, wreaths will be placed on individual’s graves throughout the cemetery, including the 128 unknown dead from the Civil War.

MORRILL AND KAREN WORCESTER

began their personal veterans’ tribute in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers, that were placed on graves in Arlington National Cemetery. It was their wish to bring children and veterans together — a way to bring past, present and future sacrifices of veterans and their families together.

From that effort by the Worcesters and their volunteers has grown this national tribute at one of the most family times of the year. It also serves as an educational vehicle to make the next generation aware of the cost of freedom.

Each year dozens of students make the annual trip to Arlington National

Cemetery to participate in the wreath-laying event. It was just such a trip to Arlington National Cemetery years ago by Morrill Worcester, as a 12-year-old boy from Maine, that triggered his desire to create Wreaths Across America.

Involving children in the project has inspired works of art as well as essays and poems. The final lines of one of those poems, written by a participating student, identified only as Stephanie C., captures the essence of the project. “And so the sun goes down; Another child has learned the lesson; War is not glorious but the people are; Love for freedom goes beyond death.”

In expressing his appreciation to all those that give of their time and talents to make this annual project possible, Worcester issued the following statement: “On behalf of everyone at Worcester Wreath, we wish to express our appreciation. It provides the inspiration for all of us to renew our commitment to honor the men and women of the armed forces who have served, and those currently serving our country.

“To each, and especially, those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we owe unwavering support and a profound debt of gratitude for preserving the way of life we all enjoy here in the United States of America.”

Alexandria’s National Cemetery is located six blocks west of Route 1 at the end of Wilkes Street. There is a direction sign at the intersection of South Washington and Gibbon streets. To learn more about this event visit www.wreaths-across-america.org.



A wreath was laid at each grave at last year’s event.



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CALENDAR

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OTHER ITEMS

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is now accepting applications for its new **Junior Docent Program**. After training, Junior Docents will be able to give tours and assist with public programs including candlelight tours, 18th-century teas, open houses and other special events. Students in grades 2 through 5 are invited to join Gadsby's staff for a training series Sunday afternoons early next year. Classes will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 18, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1. These free classes will cover basic history and presentation skills to prepare Junior Docents to help with museum special events. To receive an application, call 703-838-4242. Applications are due by Wednesday, Dec. 17.

This holiday season, River Farm will be a collection site for **Toys for Tots**, an organization that gives toys to needy children in the United States. To make a donation, drop off unwrapped, new toys in the collection box in the estate house by Dec. 16. 703-768-5700 ext. 114.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Community bands need members. All concert band musicians wanted. Most needed are: oboes, bassoons, French horns, saxophones, flutes, trombones, and

clarinets. Also needed and welcome are: percussionists, and players of tubas, euphoniums, trumpets. Visit www.mvbands.com, e-mail MVSwingBand@Cox.net or call 703-339-6534 for more information.

On **Sundays** from noon-5 p.m., visit the Waterfront and see **history-inspired performances** near the Torpedo Factory; do a "meet and greet" of early Alexandria residents and travelers near the Waterfront and lower King Street. Free. Visit www.historicalalexandria.org for more.

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, **"Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon"**, held every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. through **December** at the Hands-On History room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The storytelling program is recommended for children ages three to eight. Parental supervision is required. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00; youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free.

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. 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.

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 Alexandria Jaycees will sell Christmas trees this season, with proceeds in part benefiting the chapter's holiday shopping tour for kids. The **Holiday Shopping Tour** is set for **Dec. 13**. Lot is located in the parking lot at the Safeway on the corner of S. Royal and Gibbon Streets. **Tree sales** until **Dec. 20** or when trees sell out). Hours are: Monday-Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-866-7171 or visit www.alexjaycees.org.

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. Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp.

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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

Zemfira Stage THE LITTLEST ANGEL

by Patricia Gray, and

JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Tom Mula

Every Thurs, Fri and Sat @ 8P.M.

Starting Dec 11 through Dec 20

Dec 20, Sat at 3P.M. matinee as well as an evening performance

The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St, Alexandria, VA

\$15.00 General admission - \$10 Srs and students - \$5 Children

Info/Res: 703-318-0619 or 703-615-6626
www.zemfirastage.com

Mount Vernon
Paint Company
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\$4.00 OFF
Per gallon of any
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Must be presented at time of purchase.

FREE
Drop Cloth and
Sanding Sponge

6229 Richmond Hwy
Must be presented at time of purchase.

The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

"What's for Dinner?!"

You don't have to think too hard, let us solve this classic question.

In addition to our award winning menu, we have added some popular specials that add variety for everybody taste.

Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night

Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.

Tuesday - Greek Night

Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours,
Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616



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6609 BERKSHIRE DRIVE
Alexandria - \$359,000

Impeccably maintained by same owner for 24yrs. Updates to this 4Br/2Ba are siding, roof, paint & carpet. Landscaped front yard leads to front porch add. on 1/3 acre lot. Out-building w/electric works as a shop/studio.



Jim Crowe 703-856-8244



6602 FARGO STREET
Springfield - \$408,190

BRING ALL OFFERS for this freshly painted 3Br/2Ba sun-filled home. Nice sized living space, large level fenced lot, just minutes to Springfield Mall. Brand new carpet!



Laura Biederman 202-309-1350



4129 FOUNTAINSIDE LANE #102
FAIRFAX - \$285,000

Private, tucked away, landscaped enclave housing a 10 years young 2Br/2Ba, bright and sunny, ground floor Condo. Built-in bookcases, gas fireplace in Living room, carpeting, walk-out Patio. Walk to Pool, shops, and restaurants. Minutes to Fair Oaks Mall and Rte 66.



Connie McKeen 703-866-8118



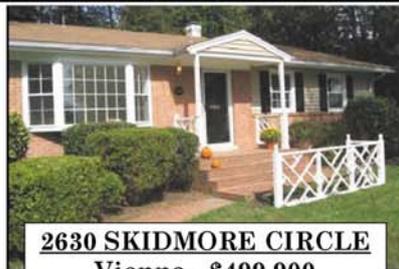
5708 SHADWELL COURT #98
Alexandria - \$170,000

Ready to SELL! 1Br/1Ba home has been impeccably maintained. New flrs, fresh paint, newer heat pump/air handler, hot water heater, refrigerator/dishwasher. Built-in bkcase/TV cab, chair rail, FP/patio. Close to Ft. Belvoir.



www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton 703-470-4545

7minute walk Dunn Loring METRO



2630 SKIDMORE CIRCLE
Vienna - \$499,900

BRING OFFERS for this lovely 3Br/2Ba/2lvl updated Brick rambler w/w-out finished recreation room on quiet cul-de-sac. Hardwood floors, granite countertops, deck, new furnace, newer water heater and so much more.



Sharon Edwards 703-408-8144



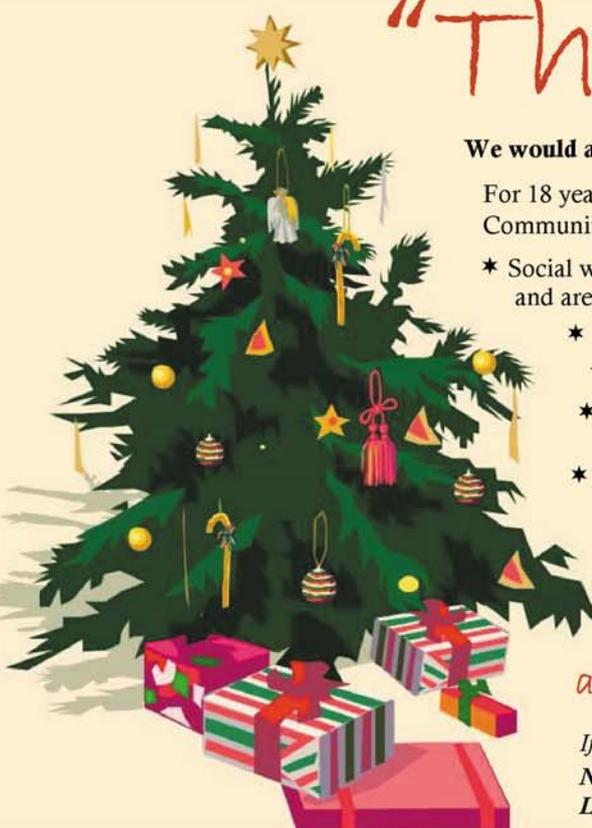
Reston - \$1,125,000

Stunning 5Br / 5.5Ba home of almost 6400 sq ft of pristine living space on 3 finished levels. Dramatic 2-story Family Room & huge sunny Kitchen overlook parkland. View the elegant master suite other special features at:



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

"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.*



Brambly Lane
Mount Vernon Grove
\$969,900
Only 1 Available at This Price!
THE FIRST CONTRACT IN DECEMBER GETS A FREE FINISHED BASEMENT – APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 VALUE! 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, 4BR, 3.5BA, 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.) Off Site Model Home at 7202 Marine Drive Open Sunday 12/14 from 1-4pm.



1600
Noral Place
\$1,090,000
New 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! S GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, L Ft Hunt, R Noral.



3601 Riverwood Rd
Riverwood Gem!
\$749,500
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.



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 ¾ 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!



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!



STRATFORD LANDING!
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

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\$2,990,000

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Unique 1815 Old Town residence has nearly all of the original woodwork, hardware & fixtures. High ceilings, hardwood floors, 6BRs (3 w/private sitting rooms), 7.5 BAs, 9FPLs (2 working) & charming patio. 5 OFF STREET PRKG SPACES! Located in the heart of Old Town just steps to City Hall, boutiques, restaurants, as well as the Metro.

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703-472-1282



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703-346-7283



Alexandria
\$735,000
CLASSIC
BUNGLOW

Updated & expanded 3BR, 3BA Bungalow with 2 story addition! Open floor plan, large eat-in kitchen, MBR suite with bath and generous closet, 2 main level BRs & recreation room with private bath. Updates include: HVAC, roof, appliances, plumbing, fixtures & refinished hardwood floors. Open front porch, deck, fenced yard & detached garage. Walk to shops, restaurants, & METRO!

107 E. Windsor Avenue

EMILY CAPELLI 703.472.1282



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.



Alex/Old Town
\$889,900
1 LIGHT TO DC
AND AIRPORT

4 gorgeous levels, 4BR/4.5BA. Elegantly appointed with beautiful moldings and hardwoods on the main level. Open floor plan and gourmet kitchen makes entertaining a breeze. Large guest suite with full bath on private upper floor.

1675 Hunting Creek Drive

ANN LOGSDON 703.568.8433



Alexandria
\$585,000
HOLLIN HILLS
CHARMER

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/Mt. Vernon
\$1,195,000

WATERFRONT

Launch your boat from the 80 ft. dock and be at the mouth of the Potomac in 3 minutes. Enjoy panoramic views of the water and wildlife. Open interior spaces for easy entertaining. Additional features include 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, rec. room, kitchen/family room, heated indoor pool and sauna. See me on www.marylousage.com



2329 Creek Drive

MARYLOU SAGE 703.851.5441



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

The Alliance Dance Institute presents **"The Nutcracker"** from **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.

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.

Woodlawn's Needlework exhibition is **March 1-31** at 9000 Richmond Highway. There will be demonstrations, lunch by Nelly's Needlers and more. See needleworks from around the world. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or 703-780-4000 for more.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

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.

Plantation Christmas. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston

Road. Take candlelight mansion tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, music and food samples. \$14/adult; \$7/children. 703-550-9220. Visit www.GunstonHall.org.

Holiday Dinner. Seatings available at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Holiday dinner includes the traditional fare. \$39.95/adult and children ages 11 and up. \$19.95/children ages 6-10. Price includes admission to "Plantation Christmas." Reservations required, 703-550-9220. Visit www.GunstonHall.org.

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.

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. 8:30-11:30 p.m. dance the waltz, rumba, fox trot, and more to live music. At a private dance club in Mount Vernon. \$15/person. Visit www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com/contactUs.html

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Author Reading. Leslie Young will read at 12:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. The author wrote the Plaid books. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road. Watch "Oklahoma." \$10/person.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Christmas Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Hear holiday storytelling and enjoy a family tea party. \$25. Registration required - 703-941-7987.

Gardening Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about perennial design using lawn and groundcovers. \$18. Call to register - 703-642-5173.

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.

'Tis the Season. 8 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Hear music by the Alexandria Choral Society and

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 22

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
presents its

Children's Holiday Concert

Featuring Duke Ellington's jazz-band arrangement of Tchaikovsky's **The Nutcracker**, seasonal favorites, and sing-a-long selections

The ASO will be joined by members of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Choirs

Sunday, December 14 3:30pm

Alfred Street Baptist Church
301 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tickets: \$25 General Admission
Post-concert reception in the Parish Hall included



www.alexsym.org 703-548-0885

 Presented by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

BULL RUN Festival of Lights

A Festival of Lights from the comfort of your car!

November 26 to January 4

Admission per car:
Monday to Thursday: \$15
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$20

\$3 off weekday admission price. Coupon good Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Holidays include Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1. Offer valid for 2008 season. Coupon good for one car only, cannot be combined with other offers.

Bull Run Regional Park
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville

www.nvrpa.org



Shop and Dine Locally Night December 11th

Free beverage or store discount if you shop and dine at participating businesses in Del Ray on Dec 11th between 6 and 9pm

More information at www.ashowofhands.biz



Holiday Hours: open until 9pm Thursdays and Fridays in December AND on Monday Dec 22, Tuesday Dec 23 and Wednesday Dec 24
2204 Mt Vernon Ave - Alexandria VA 22301



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CHEVY MALIBU



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'09 CHEVY MALIBU LS 4-CYL.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Aldersgate choirs. Free. Visit www.alexchorsociety.org or 703-548-4734.

Cheerleading Exhibition. 11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Features squads from around the city. \$6/adult; \$3/child. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or 703-838-4345.

Holiday Concert. 1 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Hear Bell's Angels, St. John's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir and the Alexandria Singers. Free. 703-883-4686.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Free. Books for all ages. 703-339-4610.

Sing-Along with Miss Belle. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. All ages can enjoy singing along. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

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 703-360-9420 for more information.

High School Christmas Concert. Bishop Ireton Christmas Concert featuring students playing in the Concert Band, Choir, and Wind Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. \$5/adult; \$3/student/senior. 703-212-5183.

Historic Candlelight Tour. Four of Old Town Alexandria's historic sites will welcome guests and open their doors from 5-9 p.m. for the festive

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tour program. Ticket prices are \$20 for adult, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for children ages 6-17. 703-838-4242. Tickets for this event can also be purchased on-line at www.HistoricAlexandria.org.

Civil War Christmas Celebration.

Fort Ward Museum is holding its annual Camp Open House from noon-4 p.m. There will be live history, music of the period, decorations, tours and refreshments. Suggested donation. A highlight of the program will be a Civil War-era Santa Claus, dressed according to a wartime image made popular by Thomas Nast. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site is located at 4301 W. Braddock Road in Alexandria. 703-838-4848.

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.

Plantation Christmas. 6:30-9:30

p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Take candlelight mansion tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, music and food samples. \$14/adult; \$7/children. 703-550-9220. Visit www.GunstonHall.org.

Holiday Dinner. Seatings available at

4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Holiday dinner includes the traditional fare. \$39.95/adult and children ages 11 and up. \$19.95/children ages 6-10. Price includes admission to "Plantation Christmas." Reservations required, 703-550-9220. Visit www.GunstonHall.org.

Holiday Open House. Noon-3 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Celebrate the holidays with tree trimming, caroling, special entertainment and refreshments. RSVP by Dec. 4. 703-797-3815.

Kwanzaa Workshop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Do crafts and play games to learn about Kwanzaa. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or 703-838-4356.

Pancakes with Santa. 8-11 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School. \$7/person and proceeds benefit MVHS class of 2009. E-mail terence.donohue@fcps.edu for more.

Craft Sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Proceeds benefit the women's outreach programs. 703-360-9546.

Winter Solstice Cultural Fest. 5:30-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. See works by 30 artists, browse gifts and more. Free. Visit www.convergenceccf.net for more.

Family Christmas Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring, 4603 Green Spring Road. Hear stories by Margaret Chatham. \$25/person. 703-941-7987.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. \$5/adult; \$3/student, senior. Hear music by the concert band, wind ensemble and more. 703-212-5162.

Holiday Performance. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Historic Alexandria History Center, 101 N. Union St. Charlotte, enslaved seamstress to Martha Washington, will talk about her life. Free. 703-706-5262.

Solstice Cultural Fest. 5:30-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Free. RSVP to 301-693-1346. See artwork, music and more.

Things That Go Storytime. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and up can learn about things that move. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Author Reading. 2 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Marc Nobleman will read from "Boys of Steel." Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Christmas Concert. 8 p.m. at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Hear "Gloria" by the adult choirs and the Alexandria Choral Society. \$15/adult donation. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road. Watch "Oklahoma." \$10/person.

Saturday Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

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

Holiday Open House. Noon-2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Free. Hear music by the Harmony Heritage Singers. 703-765-3645.

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.

Wintering Animals. 1 p.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Visit some animals that live in the park. Free. 703-339-2385.

Music Performance. 3:30 p.m. at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and choirs will perform Duke Ellington's jazz band arrangement of "The Nutcracker." \$25/person. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

'Tis the Season. 3 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Hear music by the Alexandria Choral Society and Aldersgate choirs. Free. Visit www.alexchoralsociety.org or 703-548-4734.

Holiday Music. 2 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Hear the Alexandria Harmonizers and the St. Matthews United Methodist Church Youth Handbell Choir. Free. 703-883-4686.

Holiday Open House. Noon at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All ages can enjoy a performance by Harmony Heritage Singers. Free. 703-765-3645.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Teens and adults can learn how to play. Free. 703-765-3645.

Tree Lighting. 6:15 p.m. at the King Street Garden Park, across from the King Street metro. Enjoy a tree lighting, caroling, hot cider, cookies and a special guest. Free.

High School Christmas Performance. Bishop Ireton Christmas Concert featuring students performing at 2 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Features special guests. Free. 703-212-5183.

Holiday Performance. The Asaph Ensemble will be performing their Christmas performance at 4 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. in Alexandria. Tickets \$15/adult; \$10/children and seniors. For more information call 703-368-1812.

Holiday Performance. The Alexandria Choral Society will perform at 4 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Features music by the adult and children's choir and more. \$20/adult; \$15/senior and children. Visit www.alexchoralsociety.org or 703-548-4734 ext. 2.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road, will hold its annual Christmas Candlelight Service with choirs and instrumentalists, the Belmont Brass, and carol singing by candlelight. A reception will follow. For information, call 703-683-3348 or visit www.alexandriapres.org.

Children's Holiday Concert. 3:30 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. \$25/person. Hear music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 703-548-0885.

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.

Holiday Tea at Woodlawn. Enjoy a special blend of tea and period confections while learning about tea customs of the early 19th century and then take a tour of the house. Noon and 2 p.m. \$25/tea or \$30/including tour. Reservations required. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000 ext. 27.

Kissing Ball Demonstrations. 1-4 p.m. at Lee Fendall House, 101 N. Union St. Learn how to make one. Donations suggested.

Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m., see a nature photography show at Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd.

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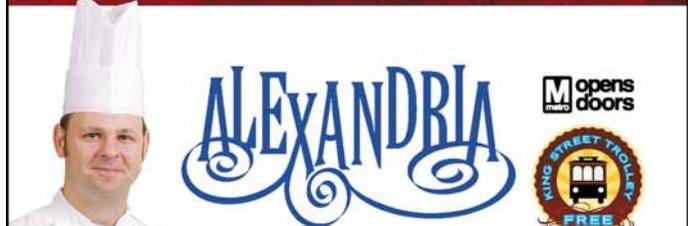
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White Out

While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

When he is sworn in on Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama will be the first African American to hold that office. He will also boost the number of people of color who represent Fairfax County by 25 percent.

Only four of Fairfax County's 80 current elected representatives, from United States President to Northern Virginia Soil and Water board members, are not white. None are Hispanic or Latino.

According to the 2006 U.S. Census, about 40 percent of Fairfax County defines itself as members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

Fairfax County Public Schools is a "majority minority" system, with white students making up just 48 percent of the total student population in 2008.

YET FAIRFAX COUNTY'S representatives hardly reflect the county's multi-ethnic and multi-racial make up. While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

Until Obama takes office, none of Fairfax County's elected official at the federal level is a member of a minority group. Every person that represents Fairfax County in the state government, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, six state Senators and 16 members House of Delegates members, is white.

At the local government level, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who is African American, is the only person of 10 sitting on the county board that is not white. Elected in 2003, Hudgins is the first African American and non-white person elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Ilryong Moon, Korean American, and Tina Hone, who is biracial, are both at-large members on the 12-member Fairfax County School Board.

George Lovelace, who is African American, sits on the Vienna's town council. He is the only non-white elected representative out of 20 in the county's three town governments of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership," said Hudgins.

From 2004 to 2007, just three of the 80 people holding public office in Fairfax County – 3.75 percent overall – were not white.

"It is one of the reasons I ran," said Hone about the lack of racial and ethnic diversity among Fairfax County's political leadership.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE

When Barack Obama, shown here at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax in July, takes office as President, he will increase the current minority representation of Fairfax County by 25 percent.



Tina Hone



Ilryong Moon



Cathy Hudgins



George Lovelace

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership."

— Cathy Hudgins,
Board of Supervisors

"I know fully that one does not have to be a minority to understand and be passionate about issues that affect minorities. ... [But] I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

"Especially for something like the school board, it is important to have various points of view represented on the board," said Bob Frye, an African American elected to Fairfax school board in 1995. "Having people from diverse backgrounds and occupations helped."

Elected officials also run the risk of leaving minority communities isolated or disenfranchised when the political leadership fails to reflect the electorate.

"Such imbalance does not help garnering support and buy-in from the under represented communities for policies set by the political leaders," said Moon. "Such imbalances also miss opportunities to tap resources and talents that minority candidates and communities can provide."

THERE ARE different theories as to why Fairfax County's political leadership does not reflect the county's population.

Some say Fairfax County's minority com-

munities have grown fairly recently and are still trying to grow roots establish themselves.

According to the U.S. Census, Fairfax was 81.3 percent white in 1990. By 2006, the county population was 67.9 percent white.

"When you compare [Northern] Virginia to the rest of the United States, our communities are still very young," said Isis Castro, a former county school board member.

MANY OF the new residents who make up Fairfax's fastest growing minority communities, Asian and Hispanic, are also immigrants. About 27 percent of Fairfax residents are foreign born and 32 percent speak a language other than English in their homes, according to 2006 census data.

The language barrier can make it very difficult for minority communities to get involved in politics and could also explain why certain groups have lagged in representation. "If you come here, you have to learn the language first, become successful and get involved in your community before you can move on to politics. That can take time," said Castro, who was a refugee from Cuba, moving to Florida as a child.

Fairfax Minority Elected Officials:

- George Lovelace:** Town of Vienna Council (1982-1996, 2003- present); House of Delegates (1997-1999)
- Bob Frye:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (1996-2003)
- Ernestine Heastie:** Fairfax County School Board, Providence District (1996-2003)
- Ilryong Moon:** Fairfax County School Board, Braddock District (1996-1999); Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2004-present)
- Isis Castro:** Fairfax County School Board, Mount Vernon District (2000-2003)
- Rita Thompson:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2000-2003)
- Cathy Hudgins:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Hunter Mill (2004-present)
- Tina Hone:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2008-present)
- Barack Obama:** United States President (takes office 2009)

New immigrants may also have a hard time understanding the political process in the United States or have had negative experiences with government officials in their home country.

"Many minority communities have not been in Fairfax long enough to learn and become comfortable with the American political process. Some communities have also traditionally shunned politics due to their own cultural and historical experiences," said Moon, who moved to Northern Virginia from Korea in high school.

"In addition to candidate recruiting, more education on our political process needs to be provided to communities," he said.

MANY CANDIDATES don't believe people of color really need "majority minority" districts to get elected in Fairfax County. Every minority elected official in Fairfax County was chosen by a majority white elector-

torate. County voters seem willing to look past race when voting.

When Ernestine Heastie was elected Providence's representative on the school board in 1995, the district had one of the smallest African American populations, just 5.2 percent, of any in the county. According to 2006 census data, the Hunter Mill district, which Hudgins represents, is just 6.2 percent African American and

nearly 70 percent white. "I think if a person of color runs for office in Northern Virginia, I think they are chosen based on what they bring to the table," said Lovelace, the Vienna Town Councilmember. "I am not naive enough to think that color doesn't matter but a person of color would get a fair look in Northern Virginia."

FAIRFAX COUNTY has a deficit of minority elected officials not because people of

SEE LITTLE DIVERSITY, PAGE 26



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Little Diversity in County Leadership

FROM PAGE 24

color can't get elected but because of a deficit of minority candidates.

"There have not been enough minority candidates running for public office," said Moon. "The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

Mexican American and Republican activist Laura Varamirez Drain agreed with Moon. The Reston resident was focused on national politics this past fall as national co-chair of Latinas for McCain and Virginia's only Hispanic delegate to the Republican National Convention in early September. But she says she will direct more of her attention to local politics now. "Fairfax is a very diverse community and we are not well represented. I think we have to do a better job of running for positions," said Drain.

SCOTT SUROVELL hopes to increase minority participation in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as the organization's current president.

"I think candidates will come from that," he said. The local Democrats are trying to have more of a presence at ethnic community events and fairs. Surovell said party officials are also reaching out more to the ethnic media.

The party's information piece for public schools' Back-to-School Night was printed in four different languages this year. Fairfax County Democrats are also working toward offering their "sample ballots" in several languages.

Surovell added that the amount of money and time it takes to run for office is also a barrier. "A lot of people simply can't afford to make the jump [to elected office]," he said.

MOST of Fairfax County's minority elected officials have been affiliated with the Democratic Party, though Rita Thompson, a former school board member, was a Republican. The Republican Party also ran Vellie Dietrich Hall, a Filipino American, unsuccessfully for Mason District supervisor in 2007.

"In my opinion, we have a very diverse Republican Party. We have a lot of people participating from very different backgrounds. Our party vice chair is Korean and the head of the Mason District Republican Committee is African American. ... But all that hasn't translated into candidates and candidates getting elected," said Jim Hyland, recent head of the Fairfax County Republican Party.

The local Republicans have a hard time recruiting candidates, whether they are

Northern Virginia's Minority Populations

This information is based on U.S. Census data for 2000 and 2006, depending on which data is available for the locality. The numbers given are percentages.

	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black
City of Alexandria	66.4	5.3	13	20.9
Arlington County	71	8.9	15.8	8.7
City of Fairfax	72.9	12.2	13.6	5.1
Fairfax County	67.9	15.8	12.9	9.5
Loudoun County	72	13.1	9.7	7.6
Virginia	70.5	4.8	6.2	19.6
United States	73.9	4.4	14.8	12.4

Fairfax County's Minority Communities by Magisterial District:

This information is given in percentages and based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census.

	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black
Braddock	71.2	16.1	9	5.6
Dranesville	75.6	11.3	9.7	4.2
Hunter Mill	69.9	11.1	8.3	6.7
Lee	59.1	11.8	14.9	17.7
Mason	58.1	15.7	23.5	9.1
Mount Vernon	68	5.6	9.1	18.5
Providence	67.2	18	13.3	5.2
Springfield	77	12.6	6.1	5.3
Sully	74.7	13.9	6.6	6.1

from a minority community or not, he said.

"It is getting harder and harder to get people to run for office. It has gotten more expensive and time consuming so people are less inclined to do it. You essentially have to be wealthy or in a situation where you don't have to work," said Hyland. "There are lots of good people I would love to run for office and they say they like being active in the party but they are not sure they want to quit their job, raise money and get pummeled by the press," he added.

Several people who currently hold and previously held elected office agreed the running for election is an intimidating task.

"It appears to be an awesome venture to do something like that. The person either has to have the resources or the ability to raise the resources," said Frye.

For minority candidates, role models and mentors are also few and far between.

"That fact that there are not many minority elected officials itself is not encouraging to any minority who may be considering a run," said

Moon.

Time and money are major reasons that minorities in particular do not run for office, according to several current and former minority representatives.

"Being on the school board pays \$12,000 per year and it is a matter of people who can do it. In my case, I was retired so I knew I would have a pension coming in," said Heastie, former school board member.

The average household income of Asian, African American or Hispanic households in Fairfax significantly lower than it is for their white counterparts, indicating that people from minority communities may

have less financial flexibility to run.

"For people who have kids it is just very difficult to give up the time and the money," said Hone, current school board member.

She added that people of color are more likely to have grown up poor or working class and giving up the luxury of free space in their schedule or extra money can be particularly hard because they have never had that flexibility before.

"It was hard to give up time and that extra financial security because I had never had it growing up. If I have extra time and extra money, do I give it to politics or my family?" Hone said.

The local Democratic Party expects its candidates to be active in the community and local politics for years before they attempt to run for office so energy and financial investment can be a long one that some people can't make.

Still, Hudgins, on the Board of Supervisors, said the way to cultivate and encourage minority leaders is to get them involved in community and county leadership.

As a supervisor, Hudgins tries to make sure her appointments to commissions, boards and authorities include people from an array of backgrounds.

"Most people in serving in elected office in Fairfax County today have been involved in some part of county government as citizen activists," said Hudgins.

HUDGINS also emphasized the importance of having a diverse county workforce, particularly among the civil servant leadership.

Currently, about 65 percent of county employees, excluding those in the school system, are white. Senior management in county government, however, is 82 percent white, 12 percent African American, two percent Asian and four percent Hispanic.

Fairfax County Government Employees by Race/Ethnicity

The Asian and Hispanic communities - Fairfax County's two largest minority groups - are underrepresented in the Fairfax County government. The following information is provided by the U.S. Census and Fairfax County government.



Fairfax County Public Schools Employees by Race/Ethnicity

Fairfax County Public Schools is a majority minority system, where white students make up less than half of the school population. But Fairfax County's teaching core and administrators are still overwhelmingly white.



Though students in Fairfax public schools are only 48 percent white, 84 percent of its teachers are white. About seven percent of teachers are African American, three percent are Hispanic and four percent are Asian.

IN TERMS OF elected officials, Obama could prove inspiration for other people from minority communities who might want to run for public office.

"The Obama campaign did a lot to bring people in that we have not seen before. I am hoping that it will have a lasting impact," said Surovell of the local Democrats.

Several of the people of color who have been elected to office said they were inspired by previous campaigns.

"I reflected on the success Doug Wilder had running for Governor. I had been an appointed school board member so I thought I would try to run and I was successful," said Frye of his decision to become a candidate for school board.

Hudgins said she and others were inspired by Jesse Jackson's run for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988. Jackson won the Virginia Democratic primary in 1988.

"There was a ground swell, particularly after '88, of folks who started running for office. When you are not seeing your face in a leadership role, it takes a bit more effort to say 'I can make that move,'" she said.

"The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

— Ilryong Moon, Fairfax school board

"I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

— Martina Hone, Fairfax school board



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 23
through Feb. 28. All pictures were taken at the park. Free. 703-768-2525.

Music Performance. 3:30 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. Hear music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. \$25/person. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Music Performance. Noon-6 p.m. at Historic Alexandria History Center, 101 N. Union St. Stephen Christoff will play early American music on an octave mandolin and other instruments. Free. 703-706-5262.

Global Rhyme Workshop. 11:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Construct a storybook. Materials fee. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092 to reserve a spot.

Christmas Concert. 3 p.m. at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Hear "Gloria" by the adult choirs and the Alexandria Choral Society. \$15/adult donation. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road. Watch "Oklahoma." \$10/person.

Advent Lessons and Carols. 4 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington St. Hear music by the Chancel Choir, bell choir and more. Free. Visit www.wsumc.com or 703-836-4324.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy fingerplays, songs and more. Free. 703-765-3645.

Early Reader Book Discussion.

3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 6-8 can take part in activities. Call for title. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss "Desert Queen" by Jane Wallach. Free. 703-838-4566.

TUESDAY/DEC. 16

Put On a Sweater. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Mother-Daughter Book Group. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Ages 9-11 call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Noonday Noel. 12:05 p.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Hear music sung by the Potomac River Chorale. Free. Visit www.opmh.org or 703-549-6670. Followed by lunch for \$5.

Small Wonders. 10:15 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories, fingerplays and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

Holiday Music Performance. West Potomac High School Chorus and Orchestra will present "Messiah" at 6:30 p.m. in the Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. Other holiday favorites will be performed. \$5/person.

Sisters in Crime. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Authors such as Donna Andrews, Meriah Crawford and others will read. Free. 703-838-4566.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Stories and Science. 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 4-6 can enjoy experiments, stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Music Performance. Hear music by Douglas A. Beck at noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 S. Pitt St. Free.

Musical Soiree. 6 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hear music by Emily Bentgen and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Books Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Discuss "The End and the Beginning," "Hatred," and "Reality Demands" in "Poems, New and Collected" by Wislawa Szymborska. Free. 703-931-3559.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 11 a.m. at River Farm. See designs by students from Art Institute of Washington. Pieces will be auctioned off. Reservations required, 703-768-5700 ext. 114.

Holiday Performance. 7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Thomas Jefferson High School Choral Department gives choral performance and then go caroling. Free.

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.

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NEWS

New Home for Warriors

FROM PAGE 7

where the housing is located," said First Sgt. Johnnie Bryant, Warrior Transition Unit, Ft. Belvoir.

Each single occupancy unit is specifically designed to suit the needs of the transitioning soldier. Complementing the unit's floor plan, each contains new furniture consisting of a desk, bookcases, night tables, table and chairs and a two-person couch. They are also provided with a computer and flat screen television.

Private bathrooms are equipped with grab bars and new fixtures. Air conditioning/heating units have been installed in the rooms and hallways. Each room has its own air purification system designed to reduce the growth of mold.

All units have fully equipped kitchens with tile floor, ceiling fan, refrigerator, stove and microwave oven. In addition to the standard 64 renovated units, three are being converted to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. These will include ramp access and a laundry area to comply with ADA specifications.



Spec. William Swift, an Iraq War veteran, enjoys his new accommodations in the recently renovated Warrior In Transition housing on Fort Belvoir.

flat screen television.

When the entire \$21 million Warrior In Transition project is complete in 2011, Ft. Belvoir is expected to have 276 "Wounded Warrior" units. Presently there are 50 warriors in transition assigned to Ft. Belvoir, according to personnel records.

TWO OF THE FIRST occupants, Spec. Brandon Baptiste and Spec. William Swift have nothing but praise for their new digs. "These new quarters are really nice," said Baptiste, a native of Northern Virginia, who had been in the Army for two years when he was diagnosed with hodgkin lymphoma cancer on his birthday this past spring. He is now in remission and expects to make the military his career.

"We did not anticipate the casualties of this war."

— Col. Charles Callahan, commander, DeWitt Army Community Hospital

Swift suffered a traumatic brain disorder after returning from Iraq. He was taking calisthenics one morning when he went into a seizure without warning. That was followed by a stroke, according to his doctors.

A native of Garden City, Mich., Swift, an avid ice hockey fan, had been home from Iraq for three months when his brain incident occurred. He is working through his medical challenge and hoping to return to full military status.

As for the new housing, "This is sure more spacious than what I was used to before. And, it's a lot nicer to come home to a place where I can enjoy some television and have a desk to work — not just sit and stare at the walls and worry," he said seated near his new

TO ACCOMMODATE the more severely wounded returning soldiers, some units are wheelchair accessible. Cabinetry and sinks are lower in both the kitchen and bathroom, bathrooms are larger for wheelchair mobility and maneuverability, light switches and doorways are wheelchair friendly, to mention only a few of the accommodations built into the new units.

Following the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, Ft. Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Jerry Blixt and Command Sgt. Maj. Allison Smith presented a plaque of appreciation to Capt. Eduardo Moten and First Sgt. Johnnie Bryant, both of the Ft. Belvoir Warrior Transition Unit, for their work on bringing this project to fruition.

The buildings in the Warrior In Transition program were constructed in 1975. They were last renovated in 1999/2000. The WTU renovation commenced in November 2007.

Overseeing the WTU renovation project has been Patricia A. Seaman, manager, Barracks Housing, Ft. Belvoir. "It is my job to keep our soldiers in the best living environment. And, that's what I will do," she said.

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Wal Mart for Kings Crossing?

FROM PAGE 1

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting. In their joint Board Matter, Hyland and McKay announced that the owner of the Kings Crossing site, JBG Rosenfeld, has decided "to permanently abandon the community's long sought after plans to revitalize the site and cut off discussions with adjacent property owners. Instead, JBG Rosenfeld desires to extend a lease with ... Chuck-E-Cheese, and offer a lease in the remaining 80,000-square-foot section of the existing building to Wal Mart for a Supercenter."

The Board Matter directed the zoning administrator and Office of the County Attorney "to review the building plans and permits, especially in light of our big box ordinance, and determine if the use requires a special exception or other zoning review." It also requested that "staff evaluate and recommend other courses of action to attempt to have the property developed as envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan."

As the two supervisors noted, JBG Rosenfeld's plans for the existing Chuck-E-Cheese and the future Wal Mart SuperCenter "cannot be marketed as revitalization." This turn of events "kills the community's vision of the site for another hundred years," they stated.

"The sea of asphalt will continue to erode an already damaged Quander Brook. Trucks, not far from a residential community, will load and unload daily. More cars will traverse our clogged roadways in a place where a rail station is planned," the supervisors told their colleagues.

"The property owner claims that they cannot obtain financing nor find other retail leases in the current economic climate to build a mixed use project. This project is the lowest common denominator and deserves scrutiny. Its construction is a death knell to Kings Crossing," Hyland and McKay wrote.

As noted in their Board Matter, the Board of Supervisors has added more tools to the county's revitalization toolbox over the past several years "by extending tax credits for developers who build mixed use projects in revitalization zones and approving principles for Community Development Authorities which would allow developers to borrow against property improvements to offset the cost of development."

HOWEVER, from the beginning of potential development discussions for the site, then owned by Texas-based Archon Corporation, there was always the potential for "by-right" development. This would require no zoning involvement for potential uses of the existing site subject only to building permit requirements.

In those initial discussions JPI Development of Vienna, Va., had proposed a mixed use for the site that was heavily weighted on residential. That proved to be a deal-breaker with not only Hyland but also the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, and the Spring Bank Community Association. All wanted a mixed use with no more than 50 percent residential.

The Council was pushing for a 70/30 split with the lesser being residential. The opposing parties were also calling for more upscale retail occupants.

However, SBCA eventually became a vocal supporter of a more residentially tilted development plan with continued emphasis on upscale retail/restaurant occupants.

Over the course of the last four years the site has been reconfigured a variety of times, the mixed use percentages have varied, and other parcels have been added theoretically to the original acreage to make it more viable from a development perspective. Then came the national economic slump and housing crunch.

Archon sold the property to JPI. They, in turn sold it to JBG Rosenfeld, who had partnered with them prior to JPI withdrawing from the project. JBG Rosenfeld brought in a final development plan in April 2008. It portrayed the by-right development of the existing large structure plus the eventual addition of some smaller retail/business structured closer to Richmond Highway with upgraded landscaping.

"This kills the community's vision of the site for another hundred years."

— Supervisors Gerald Hyland and Jeff McKay in their statement

THROUGH IT ALL, the potential to just reinvigorate the site as it originally existed with several large merchandisers remained "by-right." That is now what is intended by JBG Rosenfeld, according to Krista Carlson Di Iaconi, vice president, JBG Rosenfeld.

"The overall footprint of the existing building will not change under this present plan. Chuck-E-Cheese will move to the north end of the building and gain 2,000 square feet from its present 13,000 square feet," she said during a phone interview on Tuesday.

"Their lease will be extended for 10 years with options to extend further at their discretion. Their new space will be totally redesigned and upgraded. The 10,000-square-foot space next to them has not yet been leased," Di Iaconi said.

"We are also in negotiations with Wal Mart for the large area on the south end of the existing building. That is where they intend to put in their new SuperCenter. That space will come in under the 80,000-square-foot big box requirements," she said.

"We anticipate that lease to be for 20 years with 20- and 30-year extension options, again at their discretion. None of this involves zoning, only building permits," she said.

"The Wal Mart that is planned is entirely different than what

people normally envision when they think of a Wal Mart. It will be primarily an upscale, full service grocery store with some general merchandise," according to Di Iaconi.

"This store will carry the grocery products you find in Whole Foods and other stores of that nature. They only have one other such store at this time out in the Front Royal area. It's a whole new concept for Wal Mart," she said.

There will be a new facade for all the retail entities with eventual landscaping improvements for the entire site. JBG Rosenfeld outlined their proposal to the county last week, according to Di Iaconi.

"When we get closer to developing the small retail/business entities nearer Richmond Highway is when we will need additional site plans. We expect that to happen in the first quarter of 2009," she said.

"This entire plan will be a definite economic improvement for the site. It is actually much more economically viable than JPI's original residential plan had it gone ahead," Di Iaconi said.

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A Major Balancing Act

Mount Vernon starts season 2-2, defeats rival West Potomac.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

At first glance, it would appear the Mount Vernon boys' basketball team had gone through an entire season's worth of emotions, surprising considering the 2008-09 campaign is little more than a week old now.

Already having to deal with the loss of 2008 National District Player of the Year Marquel De Lancey and a late start to practice thanks to the Mount Vernon football team's playoff run this fall, the Majors have endured through several tests and emerged looking like a force to be reckoned with — even if their record indicates otherwise.

“Last year we had Marquel, but this year everybody is stepping up.”

— Mount Vernon senior Derek Pruitt

In just the year's first four games, Mount Vernon has scored more than 70 points twice, gone to rival West



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Senior guard Derek Pruitt finishes off a behind-the-back pass in Mount Vernon's 74-45 win over West Potomac last Friday night.

Potomac's gym and defeated its Richmond Highway brethren, gone up against Veritas Academy, a North Carolina school with a starting front court of seven footers, and then had to play the defending Virginia AAA state champions, T.C. Williams, in the Titans first game since winning that title.

And while Mount Vernon did not emerge from this roller coaster of a beginning unscathed — the Majors lost to Veritas, 56-51, Saturday and T.C. Williams, 70-66, Tuesday night — coach Alfonso Smith has reason to believe he has the right ingredients for another run at the National District crown.

“We're playing quality opponents early in the season, which is forcing us to grow up a little quicker than what we normally need to,” said Smith. “But to come away with two wins to start with and still thinking we're not close to the peak we can reach, it's a good feeling.”

SMITH KNEW it would take more than one player to offset the loss of De Lancey, who is playing for Old Dominion. But it's safe to assume he didn't anticipate 10 guys picking up the slack. But more often than not in the early going, that has been the case.

West Potomac Regroups

West Potomac coach David Houston III could only turn to what ifs after his team suffered an 74-45 loss at the hands of Richmond Highway rival Mount Vernon.

What if his team had shot better than 11-for-24 from the free throw line? What if players didn't rush easy layups, which led to a woeful 29 percent shooting percentage? What if his normally solid guards hadn't succumbed to Mount Vernon's pressure and turned the ball over so much?

There was, however, no question as to who the one bright spot for the Wolverines was. Junior Martez Redfean, a third-year varsity player, dominated the offensive glass, finishing with a game-high 18 points and 14 rebounds. It was all for naught after Mount Vernon opened up a large second-half lead.

Following the loss, though, Houston took solace in the fact that his team sat at 1-1, and at the very least knows exactly what it needs to work on now. Last season the Wolverines lost to the Majors by 19 and proceeded to reel off victories in seven of their next eight games.

“We're just not a team right now that we can have one guy play well and the others not,” he said. “We need to have 11 guys playing well. ... I hate the idea that you got to lose to learn, but hopefully that's the case here.”

His words rung true Tuesday night, as the Wolverines rebounded with a 59-53 win over Oakton to up their record to 2-1 this season.

Mount Vernon started the year off with an 85-56 thumping of South County, which set the Majors up for their much-ballyhooed

SEE BALANCING ACT, PAGE 32

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local Team Wins Hockey Tournament

The Northern Virginia Ice Dog PeeWee A hockey team capped off a 4-0 weekend in York, Pa., with a 3-2 victory over the Lehigh Valley Comets to win the championship trophy over Thanksgiving weekend.

The Ice Dogs played some tough defense all weekend while allowing only 28 shots total to reach their goalie Matt Stewart in all four games. Stewart played solid all weekend picking up a shutout in game three in a 2-0 win over York and posting a 1.75 goals against average for the tournament.

Northern Virginia started strong on Friday with a 6-3 win over Lehigh Valley with Duke Roach leading the way with two goals and an assist. In game two, Henry Chastain got the Dogs going early with two quick goals and they never looked back, beating the Metro Maple Leafs 7-2. Stewart led the Ice Dogs to a shutout in game three with the help of defenseman Lewey Adeson.

In the championship game, Andrew Stone earned the MVP award with two spectacular assists, including one on the game-win-

ning goal. During the four games, all 12 Ice Dog skaters got their name on the score sheet. Davon Abercrombie led the way with nine points and Chastain led all goal scorers with five. The Ice Dogs will be in tournament action again Dec. 27-29 in the Crabtown Showdown in Annapolis, Md. For more info on the NoVa Ice Dogs, visit www.nova-icedogs.com.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Mount Vernon High School girls' basketball team is hosting its 10th annual spaghetti dinner, silent auction and raffle fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 3-6 p.m., in the school cafeteria, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For ticket information or purchase, contact Terry Henderson 703-619-3146.

Tennis League Sign-Ups

The Northern Virginia US Tennis Association Super Duper (over 70) Men's Doubles Tennis League is open for registration for



COURTESY OF NOVA ICE DOGS

The Ice Dogs: Front row (from left) Nicholas Keppler, Drew Butler, Andrew Stone, Matt Stewart, John Dwyer, Clay Shapiro, Henry Chastain, Willie Leidolf; middle row (from left) Lewey Adeson, Devan Abercrombie, Ian Rush, Ryan Scott, Duke Roach; back row (from left) Coaches Bob Wakefield, Rob Stewart and Bill Dwyer.

the season scheduled to begin in March 2009. Play will be at the Regency Sport and Health Club on Old Meadow Road, exit 46-

B of the Beltway. For more information, contact League Coordinator EdwardBernier@aol.com.

SPORTS

A Major Balancing Act

FROM PAGE 31

confrontation with neighborhood rival West Potomac.

And in what is fast becoming the early-season theme for the team, the Majors utilized a balanced attack and some old fashioned defensive intensity that eventually wore down the Wolverines. Mount Vernon held the Wolverines to just 14 first-half points, six of which came from the free throw line. Still, West Potomac lurked closely throughout the second quarter and much of the third until Mount Vernon upped its defensive effort once again and put away West Potomac thanks in large part to a 14-2 run late in the third quarter that extended into the fourth quarter. It allowed the Majors to coast to a 74-45 victory.

Twelve different Majors had a point, led by junior Skylar Jones, who had a team-high 15 points and seven rebounds.

"Last year we had Marquel but this year everybody is stepping up, everybody can score, and everybody shares the ball," said senior guard Derek Pruitt.

Smith says this balance should be the team's strength all year if players accept their roles. He pointed to Pruitt and senior captain Brian Green as prime examples of unselfishness, since the two veterans have swallowed their egos thus far and come off the bench.

"We got a lot of weapons this year," said senior Kyle Ricks, who had seven rebounds against West Potomac. "We got a lot of people who can start or come off the bench."

BUT NO AMOUNT of balance could help Mount Vernon when it went up against the defending state champion, T.C. Williams, Tuesday night.

Mount Vernon stayed within striking distance the entire way, trailing by just one at halftime, but the Titans went 9-2 in the beginning of the fourth quarter to extend their lead to 13. A late Mount Vernon comeback proved too little, too late.

Jones was once again impressive, scoring 23 points on 9-of-14 shooting, while grabbing another seven boards. Senior Robert Coleman also chipped in 13 points.

One glaring issue that has cropped up in the Majors' two losses thus far has been free throw shooting. In their defeats last week, Mount Vernon shot a combined 25-for-50 from the charity stripe. Had it not been for the mental errors at the line, the Majors could easily be sporting a 4-0 record right now.

"We definitely have to become a more mentally tough team," said Smith after the loss to T.C. Williams. "We're a pretty decent team, but we still have some areas where we need to improve. You play a pretty good team like (T.C. Williams), it exposes those areas."

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NEWS

Churches Offer Alternative To Freezing to Death

FROM PAGE 1

Housing and Ventures in Community (VIC) opened their shelter at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, 8220 Russell Road, Lee District, just over a mile from where Hubert spent his last night.

This is the fourth year for the VIC Hypothermia Outreach Program (HOP) whose stated goal is "Zero Hypothermia Deaths." Given the confluence of the ever-weakening economy, rise in unemployment, home foreclosures, and a colder start to the winter months, achieving that goal this winter may prove to be more challenging than ever.

"The first year the program operated only during February and March. However, the second year we began on Dec. 1 and have kept that start time. It closes each year on March 31," said Sherry Edelkamp, volunteer coordinator, VIC-HOP, which provides shelter to the homeless in the Route 1 corridor who are either not able or choose not to use the Fairfax County shelter system.

Compounding the problem this year is that there are still shelter nights with no volunteer staff. The Rising Hope shelter will not be able to open those nights if they are not staffed by the required volunteers.

At this time the nights not covered by volunteers are Dec.

28, Dec. 31, every Sunday and Wednesday in January, as well as Saturday, Jan. 3, and every Monday and Saturday night in February and March, according to Edelkamp.

"Our volunteers come from various church congregations that participate in VIC. It is broken up into two sessions — one session covers the months of December and January and the other February and March. If we don't have the volunteers we can't operate the shelter," Edelkamp said.

VARIOUS CHURCHES provide volunteers for a given night of the week. For example, at the present time Bethlehem Baptist Church is responsible for Monday nights and Aldersgate United Methodist is providing volunteers for Tuesday nights.

Other VIC-HOP participating congregations include: Mt. Vernon Unitarian, St. Mark's Episcopal, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian, Friends, St. Aidan's, Mt. Vernon UMC, St. Luke's, Heritage Presbyterian, Wesley UMC, and Good Shepherd Catholic.

Rising Hope Church can accept a maximum of 25 people on any given night. "It always starts off slow with maybe only eight or so people the first couple of nights. But, it builds rather quickly. This past Monday night, just a week after we started, we had our maximum number — 25," said Laura Derby, programs and office administrator, Rising Hope UMMC.

A minimum of three volunteers must be

on the premises at all times throughout the night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. "We had approximately 500 volunteers last year," Edelkamp said.

IN ADDITION to volunteers familiar with Rising Hope UMMC, faith partners are asked to provide:

- Dinner, snacks and beverages. The evening meal may be prepared by the host venue or purchased for delivery.

- A selection of suitable movies. A TV/VCR/DVD is provided by Rising Hope.

- An overnight kit of essential bathroom items.

New Hope Housing and Rising Hope UMMC provide:

- Training for two levels of volunteers: Team leaders and volunteers

- A core facilitator on site or on call each night

- Sleeping gear i.e. mats, blankets, and sleeping bags

- Emergency first aid kits, including gloves and other universal precaution items plus fire extinguishers

- A list of emergency telephone numbers.

All guests are required to be in bed by 11 p.m. and arise by 6 a.m. Volunteers remain

awake throughout the night to monitor the facility and guests, according to Edelkamp.

There is a set of rules that must be adhered to by all guests. Any infraction of those rules can result in that person or persons being expelled from the program, according to VIC-HOP

Program guidelines.

"**THE POLICE** from Mount Vernon Station have been very helpful over the years. They quietly check on our volunteers throughout the night but do not disturb the guests. We have not had any real issues over the past three years," she said.

Breakfast is provided each morning prior to guests leaving the shelter by 7 a.m. All guests must be off Rising Hope property by that time until 7 p.m. when it reopens.

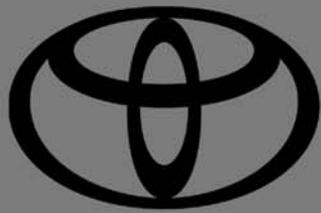
As stated in the program guidelines, "Nothing is more important than the safety and security of the Faith Partner team and the program's guests." That is why it is essential that additional volunteers come forward for this winter's program.

"We have so many churches in the immediate area that are not involved with this program. It would be great to get them on board for this year or next. Even if they took just one night this year to get a feel for it," Edelkamp said.

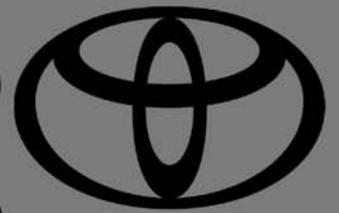
Additional information on the VIC-HOP program is available by visiting www.vichop2009@yahoo.com or by calling 703-799-1255.

"We have so many churches in the immediate area that are not involved with this program."

— Sherry Edelkamp, volunteer coordinator, VIC-HOP



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