

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 3, 2009



The Mount Vernon estate gingerbread house, created by Master Chef Roland Mesnier and his assistants Marlene Roudebush and Samantha Burdman, is on now display at the George Washington Mt. Vernon Estate. SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 3

Ready for The Holidays

Anette Ahiens and Linda Berg provide a chocolate-making demonstration to guests at the Mount Vernon Estate on Nov. 25.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/
THE GAZETTE



Trees For Troops This Weekend

Holly, Woods, and Vines is joining forces with Trees for Troops and the FedEx Corporation to spread Christmas cheer to local military families and U.S. troops around the globe.

As the only participating garden center in the metro D.C. area, Holly, Woods, and Vine is participating in the 5th annual Trees for Troops Weekend (Dec. 4-6), and will be contributing 100 Christmas trees to military families this season.

Trees for Troops is expected to collect and deliver more than

15,000 donated Christmas trees this year. By taking part in the Trees for Troops Weekend, residents can come to the center, pick out the tree they wish to purchase and donate, attach a personalized card that will be delivered along with that tree to a family stationed in Fort Eustis — Holly, Woods, and Vines' designated drop-off location for 2009. FedEx trucks will be coming on Monday, Dec. 7, to load up the chosen trees and will deliver

Trees For Troops

DECEMBER 4-6

Holly, Woods, and Vines
8453 Richmond Highway
Hollywoodsandvines.com
TreesforTroops.org
Realchristmastrees.org

SEE TREES FOR TROOPS,
PAGE 8

Library in the Woods

Estate is planning national library to promote Washington scholarship.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

AIMING to become the intellectual capital for all things George Washington, the Mount Vernon Estate has been quietly working behind the scenes for years to create a new "national library" near the historic mansion. In recent months, the project has taken increased priority at the estate, which is governed by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. A prominent Baltimore architectural firm has been hired to design the building, and a bucolic setting in the woods has been set aside for the project.

Now all that's left is encouraging the big-money donors to make it happen.

"We need an eight-figure leadership gift from a true George Washington believer," said Jim Rees, executive director of the Mount Vernon Estate. "This is not for those donors seeking a lot of publicity or someone who wants their name on a wall seen by millions of visitors every year."

Rees says the building will probably cost anywhere from \$25 million to \$50 million, attracting as many as 10,000 visitors a year. The architecture will have its own



Jim Rees

identity, not a phony colonial re-tread of the 18th century riverside mansion. Inside, visitors will find the complete collection of George Washington's papers, an archive that will eventually be moved from the University of Virginia. The facility will also offer a series of seminar rooms fit for academic conferences or leadership seminars.

"We don't want Johnny to write his term paper here," said Rees, who has been executive director since 1994. "At the same time, we want scholars to think of us first in terms of the place to go — a scholarly retreat that's very much at home in the forest."

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 8

Driver Dies in Single-Car Crash

Police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29 in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County. Ronnie L. Diggs, 51, of 8007 Murray Hill Dr. in Fort Washington, Md. was pronounced dead at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital at 6:05 p.m.

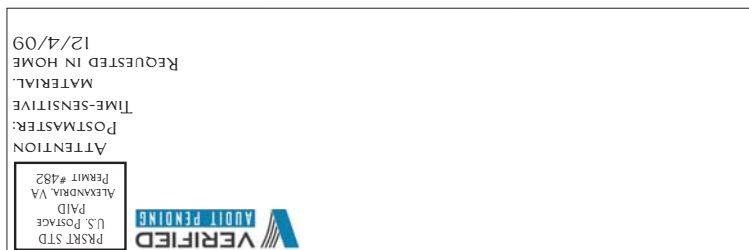
Diggs was driving a 1989 BMW northbound on Fort Hunt Road when he crossed the center line and into oncoming southbound traffic.

Investigators believe he over-

compensated while trying to get back into the northbound lane and hit a ditch on the right side of the road. He was partially ejected from his car when it rolled onto its roof. Speed and alcohol appear to be factors in the crash.

The only passenger in the car, a 37-year-old woman, also of Fort Washington, Md., was treated for non life-threatening injuries and released from the hospital.

Crash Reconstruction detectives responded to the scene and continue to investigate the incident.



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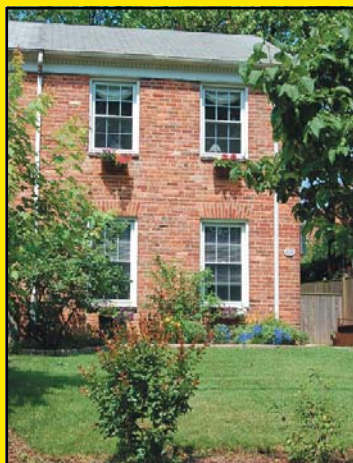
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A Glimpse at Christmas at Mount Vernon

By K.C. GULINO
THE GAZETTE

A sneak-peek at what Mount Vernon has in store for this holiday season was open to the media Tuesday, Nov. 24. Mount Vernon plantation is displaying festive decorations, an exotic Christmas animal and sweet treats that would make even the Grinch want to get in the holiday spirit.

As one walks through the entrance, above there is fresh hand-made garland that frames a sign that reads, Christmas at Mount Vernon.

As one continues the tour into the new facility there are 12 professionally decorated Christmas trees. Although Christmas trees did not exist during the time period of George Washington's life at Mount Vernon, the interior of the new facility exhibits Christmas trees that represent aspects of the history of Mount Vernon today. The trees' decorations include: the Dove of Peace that George Washington added to the weathervane atop Mount Vernon's cupola in 1787, George Washington's Study, where he managed his estate and helped establish the federal government, and George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill where flour, cornmeal and whiskey were produced.

Other trees decorations were themed: George Washington the Surveyor, George Washington the Farmer, The President's Tree, George Washington and His Generals, the Children's Tree, and The Large Din-

ing Room. Two more of the trees have ornaments that are dedicated to the women who helped George Washington and Mount Vernon: The "heart" of George Washington, Lady Washington, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association which restored and re-opened Mount Vernon to the public.

The ornaments on the trees are available for purchase at The Shops at Mount Vernon (open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., 9:30 p.m. during Mount Vernon by Candlelight).

Bright red poinsettias guide the viewer through the border of the facility giving it

yet another Christmas sensation to the historical site.

OUTSIDE, while walking on the brick path towards the mansion is a barn at the right where a friendly 2-year-old Camel named Aladdin resides alongside a woman in colonial costume explaining, "Why a camel?" According to one source, George Washington had shown a camel on the grounds during the holidays. Washington was recognized to have a great interest in exotic animals and Washington's camel may have been the third camel known in America during the 18th century.

To the left of the Christmas camel there

is a tent where more women in colonial costumes demonstrate how people of the 18th century made one of Mount Vernon's favorite holiday sweets, chocolate. The demonstrators show how chocolate did not come pre-made in wrappers or boxes, and explain how there was a lot more time, effort, and ingredients put into this treat than one would think. During the colonial era people would grate hard chocolate and put it into warm milk or water. This was different from today's concept of hot chocolate because colonials considered it an adult beverage and often consumed it at breakfast.

ONE CAN SMELL the sweetness of the holiday display that is Mount Vernon's holiday highlight. Renowned chef Dr. Roland Mesnier returned to Mount Vernon and created the masterpiece of a Mount Vernon Gingerbread House. Mesnier is a former White

House executive pastry chef. Standing five feet wide and three feet tall, this gingerbread house weighs 225 pounds. Seventy-five pounds of it consist of chocolate and 35 pounds of it consist of marzipan. Mesnier and his team of chefs created details on the house ranging from window shutters, the weathervane, the brick walls, shingles on the roof, fences and grass, to the reminiscence of snow on the roof. There is even an opening to George Washington's bedroom and an opening to the kitchen that displays a preparation for a holiday meal. Washington family figures and 40 animals — all hand-made — are scattered throughout the

SEE CHRISTMAS ARRIVES. PAGE 5



Fresh hand-made garland frames the sign at the entrance to Mount Vernon.

PHOTOS BY K.C. GULINO



Christmas trees' decorations include: the Dove of Peace that George Washington added to the weathervane atop Mount Vernon's cupola in 1787, George Washington's Study, where he managed his estate and helped establish the federal government, and George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill where flour, cornmeal and whiskey were produced.



George Washington, according to one source, had shown a camel on the grounds during the holidays.

Fairfax Sponsors Deer Hunt in Two County Parks

Some residents say county should use other methods for controlling deer populations.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

When Eileen Hanrahan discovered that Fairfax County was allowing bow and arrow deer hunts on local parkland, it did not sit well with her. So the Lorton resident, who lives near Fort Belvoir, started doing some research.

"I was troubled by what seemed to be the long range plans to use bow hunting, I didn't even know there was a deer management plan in Virginia before this," said Hanrahan.

But what Hanrahan read about bow hunts worried her.

Some people have called bow hunting the least humane way to kill deer, since shooting an animal with an arrow can result in a slow death. Other reports she saw said deer hunts result in a higher number of car accidents locally because the panicked deer run out into the middle of highways and residential roads, she said.

"We need to manage the deer population but I don't think all the community viewpoints have been taken into account. There is a better solution out there and it is troubling to me that we are using one that is upsetting a lot of people," said Hanrahan.

"I think we need a fuller discussion of this. I am not sure if the implications of this particular choice were fully thought through," she added.

FAIRFAX COUNTY launched its second bow and arrow hunt on public property this season at Laurel Hill Park Nov. 30. Archers will be allowed on the grounds on and off until Jan. 30.

The initial bow and arrow deer hunt, located in the Colvin Run area of Vienna, is already underway and has upset nearby residents. South county residents seem largely unaware that a second hunt will be underway in their area shortly.

"I wasn't aware the bow hunt was happening," said Mike Grogan, president of the South County Federation.

In the case of the Vienna bow hunt, residents living next to the park property were informed in advance about the hunt through a letter from the Fairfax County Park

Authority. It is unclear whether any resident lives close enough to the Laurel Hill hunt site to have received the same type of notice ahead of time.

The Belvoir Bow Hunters will be conducting the Laurel Hill park hunt. The group was one of two to win one of the county's bow hunt slots during a lottery process.

"We need to manage the deer population but I don't think all the community viewpoints have been taken into account."

— Eileen Hanrahan,
Lorton resident

The recreational and social group conducts hunts on Fort Belvoir's grounds and helps maintain the army base's archery facilities. The Belvoir Bow Hunters are also active in Hunters for the Hungry, which donates fresh deer and other types of meat culled from hunts to Virginia's homeless shelters, according to the group's Web site.

SOME RESIDENTS may be upset about the bow hunts but Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council, made up of 13 Fairfax residents, supported the government-sponsored hunts in the group's recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

"This is a no win situation. I don't think anyone likes the idea of shooting animals. In a perfect world, we would have coyotes and wolves that would balance out the situation," said Stella Koch, a Great Falls resident who heads the environmental council.

The overpopulation of deer are more than just nuisance, said Koch. In addition to eating the landscaping, deer are devouring local vegetation at an alarming rate, which has significant environmental implications.

"There are no baby trees to replace the big trees we have now that are going to die someday," said Koch.

Deer can also pose a danger for humans. Fairfax reports 4,000 to 5,000 car accidents involving deer

take place in the county each year. Overall, Virginia is ranked fifth among states in deer-related automobile accidents.

Deer are also associated with Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses that are on the rise locally. In Fairfax, the rate of Lyme disease infection quadrupled from 2006 to 2007, according to county health officials.

"Think of the deer as a tick Metro system. It is better than the Metro system because the deer can take ticks all over the county," said health department staff member Jorge Arias in 2008.

FAIRFAX COUNTY has used lethal methods for controlling its deer population for the last decade. But, outside of pilot program conducted in Huntley Meadows Park several years ago, the locality has mostly relied on sharp shooters to kill off excess deer.

Several wildlife activists and archers said the county has turned to bow hunting because it is a cheap deer management tool.

Even when the county uses sharp shooters from its own police department, it has to pay the officers overtime. Bow hunters, on the other hand, will do the work for free.

But Hanrahan is uncomfortable with the prospect using bow hunting to help close Fairfax's large budget shortfall, which is likely to result in a reduction of library hours, school and park programs next year.

"I guess that is not really an answer to me, that there are financial concerns. I would be able to pony up private contributions to



FILE PHOTO

Fairfax County staff have sanctioned bow and arrow deer hunts to take place in Laurel Hill Park and Colvin Run Park starting this month.

pay for a more humane approach to controlling the deer population in the county," said Hanrahan.

Many archers reject the notion that bow hunting is somehow "less humane" than sharp shooting.

Many of the studies that indicate bow hunting results in larger numbers of woundings and slow deaths for deer than sharp shooting are out of date. They were conducted decades ago, before modern archery technology existed, said Eric Huppert, founder and president of Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia, an archery group that volunteers its time exclusively for deer management purposes.

Huppert's group, which mostly works on private residential prop-

erty, is conducting the Vienna hunt.

Huppert added that bow hunting is safer for humans than sharp shooting. The archers frequently stand on raised platforms 20 to 30 feet above the ground and have a much better view of what they are shooting than snipers.

Because bow hunters shoot from high up in the air, their arrows are also much more likely to land directly in the ground if the archer misses a deer or the arrow passes through them, he said.

By contrast, bullets are not that easy to control because they have the ability to travel farther distances and are more likely to ricochet off of surfaces, said Huppert.

Whitman To Host Family Fitness Night

Whitman Middle School is hosting Family Fitness Night on Thursday, Dec. 3, beginning at 6 p.m. Activities will be based on the theme Keep "Our Community Healthy."

Presentations and demonstrations will be provided including basketball, table tennis, karate, Walk Away the Pounds, weight and resistance training, step aerobics, handball, and how to use a heart rate monitor. There will also be a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) demonstration, cho-

lesterol and blood pressure screenings, a presentation on gang awareness by the Fairfax County Police Department, a presentation on fire safety by the Fairfax County Fire Department, chair massage, and taste tests.

This year, the school's Family Fitness Night is being held in conjunction with the National Dairy Council and the National Football League as part of the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, which encourages healthful eating and physical activity.



Dr. Roland Mesnier, a former White House executive pastry chef, created the Mount Vernon Gingerbread House.

Washington family figures and 40 animals — all hand-made — are scattered throughout the grounds of the sculpture.



Christmas Arrives at Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 3

grounds of the sculpture as well. The gingerbread house is 100 percent edible.

The display is open to the public now through Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If this isn't festive enough, then attend Mount Vernon by Candlelight and come join "Mrs. Wash-

ington" as she guides visitors through the first and second floors of the mansion along with merry candlelight tours with hot cider, ginger cookies and fireside caroling. The times available to the public are Dec. 4, 5 and 6 and 11, 12 and 13 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information on Christmas at Mount Vernon, go to Visit.MountVernon.org

Police Arrests Motorists for DWI

Fairfax County police officers conducted DWI directed patrols throughout the Mount Vernon District, to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Friday, Nov. 27 from 11:30 p.m. until 3:30 a.m.

Saturday.

Motorists stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated were checked to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs. Approximately 41 motorists were stopped. Eight arrests

were made for DWI. Nine additional criminal arrests were made and 14 summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses.

Nine officers and one auxiliary police officer participated in the operation.



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OPINION

Support Your Local Businesses

Shop locally, it has never mattered so much.

Economically, things do seem a bit brighter out there. We hear anecdotal reports from some local retailers and others that traffic is up.

Small retail shops are part of what defines our community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the local retail or service person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events. They know how important local traffic issues can

be. They have a lot at stake.

Still, it's a different world than it was one or two holiday seasons ago, and many families, even families who feel financially secure, are approaching this holiday season differently than in the past. We want to do things more simply, we want what we do to be less harmful to the environment, we want our children to learn the pleasure of receiving and being grateful without being overwhelmed.

Still almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes

with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and shopping online make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping online.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Citizens Review Board Needed

To the Editor:

Most county citizens truly appreciate the fine job performed by the Fairfax County Police. However, I am among the many citizens in the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County who are deeply concerned about the shooting death of David Alan Masters by an unidentified county police officer. The shooting death of Mr. Masters for allegedly committing

the misdemeanor crime of stealing flowers from a Mount Vernon business is highly questionable.

In order to guarantee a fair and unbiased investigation of such future incidents, it may be advisable for the County Board of Supervisors to consider the appointment of a Citizens Review Board comprised of doctors, lawyers and retired law enforcement officers to review similar cases and provide their findings and recommendations.

Nicholas R. Beltrante
50-year resident of the
Mount Vernon District

Kathi McNeil

Find More Revenue

To the Editor:

I believe it is imperative that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), along with the County Executive, come up with a plan to generate increased revenue for the county budget in FY2011. I believe, as do many of my neighbors, that this can be accomplished by a combination of an increase in property taxes and reinstating the County vehicle sticker fee.

These decisions need to be made in a timely fashion and announced to the community. Can you imagine knowing for a period of 6 months that your job could be on the "chopping block"? The result of a proposed 15 percent cut to the budgets of the Park Authority and Libraries is having a devastating effect on the employees. No one is left untouched. Job positions are being abolished, not just left unfilled. So, not only is there the threat of loss of services to the public, of loss of resources in the county, but the county workforce is already looking for jobs elsewhere. These are incredibly hard workers, public servants, and dedicated to their jobs. It seems to me that it is not good business practice.

Those of us that live and work in Fairfax County are fortunate that we have such a vibrant and beautiful community with services that try to provide for all interests and needs. Many of us volunteer incredible amounts of

time and talent to make all of this possible. I believe that the BOS are letting us down if they take our roots — those County employees who administer us — out from under us.

I ask that the County Supervisors and the County Executive please look seriously at the ramifications of all of these cuts and do the right thing — put plans into effect to raise additional revenue.

I trust that they will take action on behalf of their constituents, their neighbors and County employees.

Get Informed

To the Editor:

Attacking elected officials for being "big spenders" is a tired old mantra that surfaced yet once again in the November 19-25 Mount Vernon Gazette, in which Frank Medico labeled Congressman Gerry Connolly as a big spender.

Let's set the record straight:

During the eight years of the George Bush administration and Republican control of the Congress, a combination of tax cuts and increased spending increased the federal deficit and national debt to record levels. This came after former President Bill Clinton left office with a federal budget surplus.

As chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Gerry Connolly balanced the budget every year. As our 11th district congressman, Gerry Connolly, has cosponsored H.R. 2116 and H.R. 2920, to reinstate a requirement that all bills be paid for and to return fiscal responsibility to the federal budget process. The House-passed health insurance reform bill, ending discriminatory coverage denials, would reduce the federal deficit by over \$100 billion. He voted for that bill.

Mr. Medico urges everyone to get informed. I agree. Today's Internet offers easy access to information about the U. S. Congress. You can find Congressman Connolly's votes here: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Karen Stallings
Alexandria



Artistic Vision

Art at the Center hosted a community art event for families supported by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services last month. Children and families gathered at the studio to create artwork around the theme of dreams for their home and community. Above, Tyra Davis works on an art project.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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A Connection Newspaper

PEOPLE



Sharing 'Music Man'

When actress Shirley Jones got word that Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre "The Music Man" cast were going to be in the audience for her Nov. 27 performance with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, she invited them to meet with her after the show. Jones and the NSO were performing the music of "The Music Man" along with her son Patrick Cassidy, Broadway's Mary Poppins star Rebecca Luker and the City Choir of Washington. More than 50 MVCCT cast members and families enjoyed a shortened performance of "The Music Man" with Jones playing the part of Mrs. Paroo, Cassidy as salesman Harold Hill and Luker as librarian and piano teacher Marion Paroo (the role Jones played alongside Robert Preston in the classic 1962 film version). Afterwards Jones met with a long line of fans waiting for autographs before meeting MVCCT's cast and posing for pictures.

PEOPLE NOTES

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has named **Donald Brideau, MD**, as its new vice president of medical affairs. Brideau brings more than 20 years of experience in healthcare management to his new role.



Donald Brideau, MD

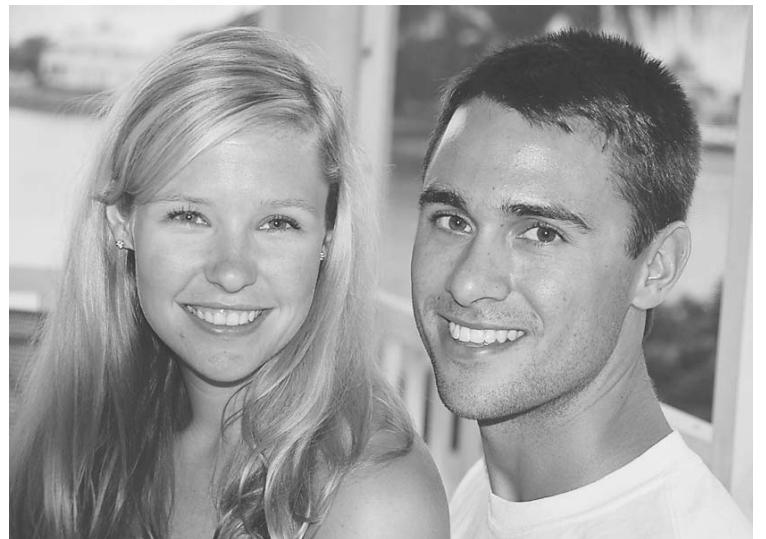
Brideau will be responsible for improving quality initiatives, strengthening communications between the medical staff and administration, and helping to oversee the

efficiency of medical care.

Before being named vice president of medical affairs, Brideau served as a physician advisor for Case Management, and chairman of the family medicine department, at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. While in those roles, he acted as a liaison between physicians and various de-

partments to increase communication and support the delivery of quality care. Brideau also is president of a local family-medicine practice.

Brideau is a graduate of Georgetown University. He earned his medical degree from George Washington University and a Master's degree in Medical Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Brideau is a board-certified family physician and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.



Caitlin Emily Webster and Paul Martin Duncan

Webster and Duncan Engaged

Lisa Webster of Alexandria is delighted to announce the engagement of her daughter, Caitlin Emily, to Paul Martin Duncan, son of Joy Gembecki Duncan of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Dr. David Allen Duncan of Mocksville, N.C. Caitlin is the daughter of the late Robert Timothy Webster.

Caitlin graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 2001 and received her bachelor of science degree with honors in business accounting from James Madison University. She is a certified pub-

lic accountant and senior audit associate with Johnson Lambert and Company in Raleigh, N.C.

Paul graduated from Mount Tabor High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and received his bachelor of science degree with high honors in construction engineering and management from North Carolina State University. He is a project engineer for Ashland Construction Company in Raleigh.

A May 2010 wedding in Alexandria is planned.



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—Josepha Murray Emms

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Mount Vernon Plans National Library

FROM PAGE 1

THE NEW BUILDING will not be a “presidential library” in a formal sense, with federal dollars that are overseen by the government-run Office of Presidential Libraries. Instead the building will be solely owned and operated by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Although it will not be part of a tourist itinerary, the building will offer better availability than the by-appointment-only operation in the basement of the Mount Vernon administration building. But it will also offer researchers easy access to the historic estate and its breathtaking views of the Potomac River.

“Modern presidential libraries have essentially become adjuncts to universities, but you lose something in the process,” said noted Washington historian Richard Norton Smith, a history professor at George Mason University and a former director of two presidential libraries. “The idea of creating a research facility at Mount Vernon is in many ways a throwback to the original model of the presidential system — a kind of turbo-charged model that seems to me to be an improvement on traditional presidential library.”

Striking the right balance between being accessible and discreet will not be easy. When the Ladies Association was in the planning stages for the new education center, neighbors expressed concerns about the scale of the new building, increased amount of traffic, parking availability and the number



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

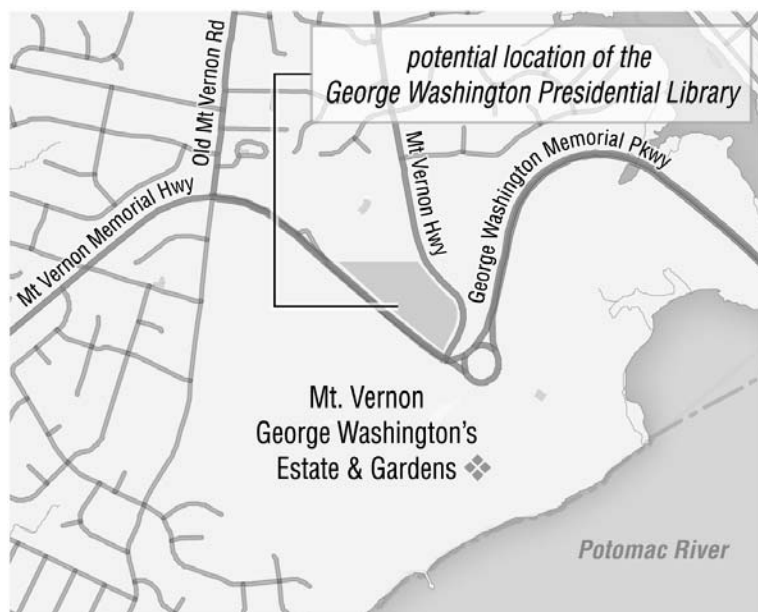
Like the new \$100-million education center, pictured here, the design of a proposed George Washington National Library will attempt to blend into the heavily wooded area south of the Wessynton neighborhood.

gular slice of property that’s been selected for the project is a heavily wooded area south of the Wessynton neighborhood that is certain to renew environmental concerns about trees.

“My advice would be to minimize the number of trees that will be removed,” said Gerry Hyland, who represents the Mount Vernon District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “It’s their land, and I suppose they can do whatever they want with it. But people won’t be happy if there’s significant tree loss.”

ALTHOUGH THE IDEA has been kicked around at Mount Vernon for more than a decade, plans to create a new national library began to gather steam in 2006. That’s when the project was added to a master plan in the wake of a \$110-million campaign to create a 66,700 square-foot education center bankrolled by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and the Ford Motor Company. Now that he’s seeking funding for the next phase of the expansion, Rees has scheduled two different meetings with neighborhood groups to hear their concerns.

“I encouraged him to seek the highest LEED certification possible,” said Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations co-chairwoman Katherine Ward, referring to a rating system developed by the United



GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOON/C/GAZETTE

States Green Building Council. “In his day, George was all about sustainability and I would like to see this project mirror that.”

THE GOALS of the library include assembling a definitive collection of archival material on Washington, hosting conferences relevant to the 18th century and conducting an aggressive outreach program that would dovetail with the mission of the new education center. With the rise of social history over the last half century, Washington’s star has faded as emphasis has shifted away from the “great man theory” of history toward economic and social interpretations. But the George Washington National Library would serve as a counterbalance to that trend, presenting the first president as a model of leadership whose lessons can be applied to government officials and academic scholars alike.

“George Washington coverage in the American classroom is a fraction of what it was 40 or 50 years ago,” said Rees. “We want to re-introduce him as the best example of leadership.”

“The idea of creating a research facility at Mount Vernon is in many ways a throwback to the original model of the presidential system — a kind of turbo-charged model that seems to me to be an improvement on traditional presidential library.”

— **Richard Norton Smith, professor of history, George Mason University**

of trees removed in the construction process. Now that planning for the new library is moving forward, Rees has already met twice with neighborhood groups in an effort to be proactive about the project. But the trian-



PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/THE GAZETTE

Alicia Wheeler, co-owner of Holly, Woods, and Vines, stands among the many Christmas trees available for donation to the Trees for Troops project this weekend, Dec. 4-6.

Trees For Troops

FROM PAGE 1

to the families on base. For more information on Trees for Troops Weekend, contact Vanessa Wheeler, 703-799-1607

Bakery Employee Robbed at Gunpoint

A 36-year-old woman was robbed on Thursday, Nov. 19 while working at the Casa Blanca Bakery, located at 2258 Huntington Ave. The employee was inside the store around 7:30 p.m. when a man walked in, locked the door and displayed a handgun. The suspect demanded money, stole an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the store. The victim was not injured.

The suspect was described as white, about 25 years old. He was between 5 feet and 5 feet 5 inches tall and 125 pounds, with black hair.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

HOME SALES

OCTOBER 2009
\$1,161,957 ~ \$275,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
1207 HUNTLY PL	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,161,957	Detached	0.51		MARLAN HEIGHTS
9000 CAPTAINS ROW	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.33		STRATFORD LANDING
9413 BRAMBLY LN	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$924,163	Detached	0.41		MT VERNON GROVES
3809 COLONIAL AVE	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$901,755	Detached	0.53		COLONIAL ACRES
7200 MARINE DR	5	3	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$880,000	Detached	0.41		MARLAN FOREST
6907 BAYLOR DR	5	4	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$873,000	Detached	0.27		WESTGROVE
1209 TATUM DR	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.40		VILLAMAY
7116 MARLAN DR	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.75		MARLAN FOREST
1105 POTOMAC LN	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$671,000	Detached	0.44		WAYNEWOOD
6921 BAYLOR DR	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$665,000	Detached	0.33		WESTGROVE
7816 RIDGECREST DR	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Detached	0.52		WELLINGTON
8013 CANDLEWOOD DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.31		KIRK
2509 LONDONDERRY RD	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Detached	0.26		STRATFORD LANDING
1300 NAMASSIN RD	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$605,000	Detached	0.50		TAUXEMONT
1701 BELLE HAVEN RD	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.19		OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE
2207 PAUL SPRING PKWY	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$567,500	Detached	0.28		HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
1206 WAKE FOREST DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$551,000	Detached	0.31		WESTGROVE
1915 DUFFIELD LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$541,000	Townhouse	0.04		BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN
3105 SPRING DR	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.27		VALLEY VIEW
7018 GREEN SPRING LN	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Detached	0.21		WOODSTONE
8620 VERNON AVE	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Detached	0.20		MT VERNON HILLS
1810 COOL SPRING DR	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.25		COLLINGWOOD SPRINGS
8500 BOULEVARD DR W	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$496,000	Detached	0.37		COLLINGWOOD ON POTOMAC
8402 CHERRY VALLEY LN	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$489,900	Detached	0.24		RIVERSIDE ESTATES
1202 PRISCILLA LN	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Detached	0.24		WAYNEWOOD
8733 OAK LEAF DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Detached	0.66		MARY LEA PARK
4221 LAUREL RD	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Detached	0.43		MT ZEPHYR
2415 CHILDS LN	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$469,000	Detached	0.28		STRATFORD ON THE POTOMAC
1049 DALEBROOK DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$462,000	Detached	0.25		WAYNEWOOD
8804 FALKSTONE LN	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Detached	0.34		MT VERNON MANOR
8527 MOUNT VERNON HWY	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Detached	0.41		RIVERSIDE ESTATES
5904 MOUNT EAGLE DR #804	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$442,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MONTEBELLO
8808 MCNAIR DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Detached	0.50		TWIN OAKS
4013 GIBBS ST	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Detached	0.46		SEDGEWICK FOREST
7567 GREY GOOSE WAY	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.04		GROVE AT HUNTLEY MEADOWS
3209 ARUNDEL AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$419,000	Detached	0.45		VALLEY VIEW
3705 LAKOTA RD	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$418,000	Detached	0.25		BURGUNDY FARM
1306 GAHANT RD	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$414,000	Detached	0.50		TAUXEMONT
6625 HUIVEY TER	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Detached	0.26		BEDDOO HEIGHTS
1611 BALTIMORE RD	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Detached	0.24		HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
6635 CORNELL DR	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Detached	0.20		BUCKNELL MANOR
8621 CURTIS AVE	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$398,000	Detached	0.10		MOUNT VERNON HILLS
8230 GREGORY DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$392,000	Detached	0.50		GARCIA BLAS G
3632 RANSOM PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$385,000	Townhouse	0.04		HUNTLEY MEADOWS
8103 YORKTOWN DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$380,000	Detached	0.34		HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
7916 HOLLAND RD	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$379,900	Detached	0.51		GUM SPRINGS
5832 EDGEHILL DR	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$367,500	Duplex	0.08		JEFFERSON MANOR
8306 BOUND BROOK LN	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$366,750	Detached	0.37		RIVERSIDE ESTATES
2700 JEFFERSON DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$360,000	Duplex	0.08		JEFFERSON MANOR
3379 BEECHCLIFF DR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$359,000	Townhouse	0.00		HOLLY ACRES
8011 CANDLEWOOD DR	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$352,000	Detached	0.31		KIRK
8170 BIANCA PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.05		ROXBURY MEWS
1901 ROLLINS DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$341,500	Detached	0.23		BUCKNELL MANOR
5726 OFF OF KINGS HWY N	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Detached	0.23		FORT LYON HEIGHTS
3706 HAMPTON CT	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$339,950	Townhouse	0.04		WOODSTONE
6466 BRICK HEARTH CT	2	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.05		SOUTH KINGS STATION
8421 BYERS DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.04		SKYVIEW PARK
7904 PENN PL	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$326,000	Detached	0.24		HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
5209 CEDAR RD	3	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$324,000	Detached	0.50		KEYS AND RUSSELL
7994 AVERY PARK CT	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$316,000	Townhouse	0.03		AVERY PARK
7115 BERTRAM LN	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Detached	0.23		CALVERT PARK
4612 ODESSA DR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.03		SKYVIEW PARK
8210 GLYN ST	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$309,000	Detached	0.24		MT VERNON VALLEY
5877 BLAINE DR	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Duplex	0.19		HUNTINGTON
6815 SMITHWAY DR	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$304,000	Detached	0.24		HAZELTINE HEIGHTS
7230 STOVER CT	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$292,500	Townhouse	0.03		WOODSTONE
3414 BEECHCRAFT DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$292,000	Detached	0.20		HYBLA VALLEY
6631 WAKEFIELD DR #403	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$292,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RIVER TOWERS
6508 BOULEVARD VW #C1	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			BELLE VIEW
8478 HALLIE ROSE ST	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.03		SKYVIEW PARK
4417 LONGWORTHE SQ	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.05		PINEWOOD LAKE
7240 STOVER CT	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.05		WOODSTONE
3413 CLAYBORNE AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$280,000	Detached	0.34		GROVETON HEIGHTS
7825 GUM SPRINGS VILLAGE DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.03		VILLAGE AT GUM SPGS

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Applebaum's *Ani ma'amin*
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Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Mount Vernon High School will continue to celebrate its 70th Anniversary with a day of basketball on Saturday, Dec. 5. MVHS alumni will take to the court for two games of basketball. Afterwards, the alumni will be treated to a building tour and a food reception followed by a continuation of a fierce rivalry as the MVHS boys varsity basketball team take on the West Potomac Wolverines. The schedule of events are as follows: Alumni games (\$1); Women's Game 12 p.m.; Men's Game 2 p.m.; MVHS Building Tour 4 p.m.; Food Reception (no cost) 5 p.m.; Boys Varsity Game vs. West Potomac High School 7 p.m. The varsity basketball game is \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door. Contact Dawn Dickerson at dddickerson2@fcps.edu or 703-619-3289.

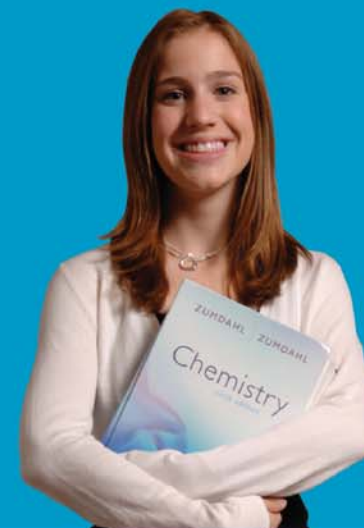
Fort Hunt High School, Alexandria, class of 1980 announces its 30th reunion. Plans are underway for a fun-filled weekend in July 2010. Visit the web site to register and stay connected on all of the happenings. Go to fhhs80.com or email: fhhsclassof80@yahoo.com.



Thanksgiving for 30 Families

The First AME Church of Alexandria partnered with UCM Sacramento Neighborhood Center on Tuesday, Nov. 24, to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to 30 Sacramento area families, most of them SNC program participants. An estimated 100 guests were served a Thanksgiving dinner prepared by the church members and then Thanksgiving gift baskets were distributed to more than 10 needy families at the event.

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have something
to say
”

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Sunday, December 6 • 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 21 • 7:30 p.m.

Please contact the Admissions Office at 703.556.8273 for program details or to arrange an alternate time to visit.

We look forward to seeing you.

THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

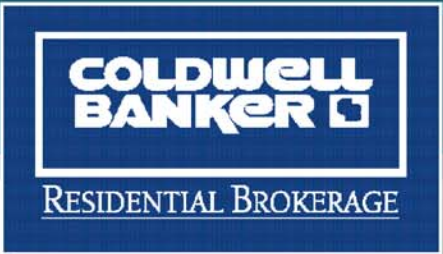
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8296 GLEN COVE COURT
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125 NORTH PAYNE STREET
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Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



8307 EAST BOULEVARD DRIVE
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Sue Massey
Brian McMahon
Glenn Mikols
Brittany Patterson
Ricardo Wanzer
Lily Yoseph

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114 FRANKLIN STREET
\$1,149,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Absolutely gorgeous 3BR, 3.5BA solid Brk, 4th corner townhome w/huge kitchen, 2 gas fps, off street parking!
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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, 1:00 - 4:00!



405 QUEEN STREET
\$599,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Historic 2 BR townhome! Hardwood floors, new kitchen, exposed brick, fireplace, upper deck, huge patio!
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NEW PRICE!



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Managing Brokers
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan



4401 Jackson Place
\$475,000
Special Value!

Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Woodley Dr, R Washington Ave, L Jackson Pl.



1208 Tatum Drive
\$875,000
Villamay!

Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Tulane, L Park Terr, R Tatum.



4413 Ferry Landing Road
\$559,900
Yacht Haven!

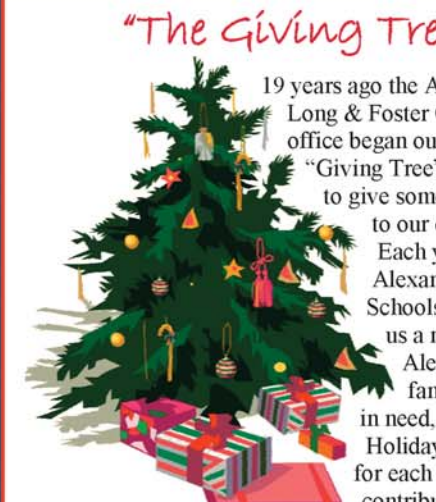
Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets & granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck & covered parking. Bright, open floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds in one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Less than 5 mins from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty!



318 PRINCE ST #7
Alex / \$739,000

RARE - PRINCE ST CLUB! 3 level, 2BR, 2.5BA former model is spectacular. Main level entertaining space, eat-in kitchen w/access to Royal St (only unit with this benefit). 20ft ceilings w/column detail in living/dining, custom built-ins for TV, CD & speaker systems. Direct access from unit to prkg space. Huge brick common area. Walk everywhere!

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



19 years ago the Agents of the Long & Foster Old Town office began our annual "Giving Tree" as a way to give something back to our community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools identify for us a number of Alexandria families truly in need, and a Holiday Wish List for each child. AGENT contributions of toys, games, children's clothes, monetary donations (for food vouchers), and your help give these CHILDREN and their FAMILIES A GREAT HOLIDAY. Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated!

Please stop by our office OR contact/mail to:
Bill Jourdan OR Janice Allen (703.683.0400)
400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Please make checks payable to: Long & Foster's Giving Tree



7116 Tolliver Street
Alexandria
\$259,000

BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! Move right into this wonderful, light filled 2BR, 1.5BA Townhouse, convenient to METRO, OT & DC! Open kitchen w/breakfast bar, deep fenced rear yard backing to trees, ample parking, new roof, HVAC & more! Fabulous value in this close in location!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



3906 Rive Drive
\$998,500
Stunning Property!

The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.



4821 Stillwell Avenue
\$499,000
Curb Appeal!

Character abounds in this fabulous Cape Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated by its caring owners. Four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland!



4816 Stillwell Avenue
\$525,000
Renovated!

Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 3/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value!



313 EAST OAK STREET
Alex / Rosemont Park
\$515,000

Move right into this renovated 2BR/1.5BA home just 2 blocks from Metro. Features include updated kitchen w/maple & ceramic tile, HW flrs on main/upper lvls, fin bsmt, spacious deck, landscaped yard, driveway & more.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



7501 Park Terrace Drive
\$1,150,000
Stunning!

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.)



1810 Hollindale Dr
\$625,000
Gorgeous Setting!

Estate sale of spacious rambler on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!



9516 Mt Vernon Landing
\$2,900,000
Waterfront!

Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mount Vernon on the Potomac! This spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. Six bedrooms, five baths, full walk out lower level and many rooms with dramatic river views.



118 HILTON STREET
Alexandria
King St Metro
\$575,900

• Great home & location
• 4BR/2BA
• Updated Kitchen & Baths
• Close to METRO
• BRING ALL OFFERS

Delaine Campbell 703.518.8740



600 SECOND STREET #205
Alex / Liberty Row -
\$795,000

Don't miss this fabulous, high end, luxury condo in OT. 2BR, 2.5BA plus Den. This 1,769 sq ft home offers gourmet kit w/SS, granite & wine cooler. Also, bamboo floors, gas FP, W/D, plantation shutters, balcony, crown plus 2 indoor garage spaces.

Adele dePolo 703.298.5987



7532 HOLLINDALE CT
Alex / Hollindale
\$599,000

This 3BR/3BA ramblor features gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters & state of the art appliances. Other highlights include HW floors, remodeled baths, custom closets, 2 FPs, rear patio, landscaped yard & more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



4003 Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,200,000
Riverfront!

Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!



8108 East Boulevard Dr
\$2,395,000
Premier Property!

Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!



3706 Riverwood Court
\$775,000
Riverwood Gem!

The first home available in highly sought after Riverwood in months! Truly spectacular property with exceptionally gorgeous pool and grounds! Three finished levels, four bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, two car garage and top quality new roof. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in area's premier waterfront community.



1732 W ABINGDON DRIVE #202
Alex / Potowmack Crossing
\$250,000

Bright sunny 2nd floor 1BR Old Town condo with spacious floor plan. Well-kept with lots of updates & built-ins. Vintage charm. Excellent condition. Near jog / bike trails, and the Potomac river. 1 traffic light to DC.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



801 N PITT ST #417
Alexandria
\$190,000

PIED-A-TERRRE If you need a place to stay in Old Town, this just listed updated studio apartment is probably cheaper than a hotel. If you need a primary residence or second home to lock up and leave with no worry, this could be it. Leave your car in the underground garage. Balcony has partial river view. AX7190684

Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



8311 MT VERNON HIGHWAY
HOMES STARTING AT \$735,900

Old world charm & attention to detail is the trademark of these fab new Wakefield Homes. Standard features include high ceilings, hand finished HW floors, molding, 2 car garage, gas FP, gourmet kit + your own personal touches. Preview our model home this weekend & take advantage of pre-construction prices.

Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314

703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303

www.OldTownAlexandria.com



Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary
Invites you to
JOIN US FOR THE 28TH ANNUAL LIGHTS OF LOVE CEREMONY



LIVING TREES LIGHTED IN THE MEMORY OF LOVED ONES
AND TO HONOR SPECIAL FRIENDS
WILL BE LIT AT THE 28TH ANNUAL LIGHTS OF LOVE CEREMONY

Saturday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m.
in the Hospital Main Lobby

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
2501 Parker's Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Admission is FREE

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

Ceremony includes Festival of Music by the Bella Voce Singers and Cleve Francis, MD.

Reception follows in the cafeteria.

To honor a family member or friend, call 703-664-7260 to make a \$5 donation or for more information about the 2009 Lights of Love ceremony.



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

NEWS

Launch of Local Drucker Society

The Drucker Society of Mount Vernon announced its formation on Nov. 19 on the 100th anniversary of Peter F. Drucker's birth.

Drucker made his last trip to Washington D.C. at the invitation of the President of the United States to receive America's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal Of Freedom. He was honored for his work and influence on the success of modern American business enterprise.

Today, as business and community leaders participate in the worldwide Drucker 100th Centennial activities and seven years af-

ter receiving his Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush, the Society celebrates Peter Drucker's return to Washington D.C.

Through the dedication of Society volunteers around the world, and now joined by the Drucker Society of Mount Vernon, his spirit and commitment to excellence and ethical leadership will be represented and pursued in the Washington D.C. area.

Help others learn these principles that have proven effective in organizational management across all sectors of society by joining now.

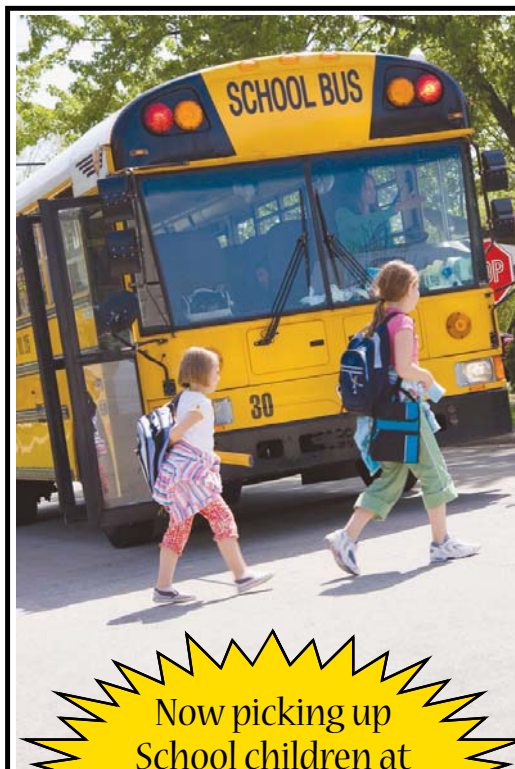
Visit www.druckerinstitute.com for ore information.

Robbery on Richmond Highway

A 40-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint around 1:43 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 22, in the 8100 block of Richmond Highway, according to police. The victim was approached by a man who displayed a handgun. The suspect took cash from the victim and fled in a green Ford Explorer. The victim was not injured. The suspect was described as

black, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, around 160 pounds and wearing a black jacket and blue jeans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



Now picking up School children at Belle View & Hollin Meadows

FREE REGISTRATION

For NEW Students Only

Valid through Jan. 30, 2010

The  stops here!
Since 1983

A Child's Place at Hollin Hall

Ages 2 - 14 years

- Before & After School Care
- Holiday Camps
- Summer Camps
- Teacher Work Day

Other schools provided pick up:

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- Stratford Landing
- Waynewood

703-765-8811

www.hollinhall.com

1500 Shenandoah Road
Alexandria, Virginia

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Holiday gatherings to fit any budget, custom fit for groups of 10-200!

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- Completely Smoke Free as of Dec. 1, 2009
- Party Planning: email us at gatherings@bungalow4u.com

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Buy \$25, Get \$5 for You!

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13891 Metrotech Dr.
Chantilly, VA 20151

(703) 502-3925

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7003-C Manchester Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22310

(703) 924-8730

SHIRLINGTON

2766 S. Arlington Mill Dr.
Arlington, VA 22206

(703) 578-0020

Visit our website: www.bungalow4u.com

Coming Soon! The Bungalow AleHouse in Gainesville!



39th ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

December 4 – 5, 2009

Parade: Saturday, December 5 at 11:00 am

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

- Scottish Walk Parade
- A Taste of Scotland
- Heather & Greens Sales
- Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
- Children's Tea Party
- A Christmas Marketplace (Friday Only)



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

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 549-0111. Weekend events are Metro-accessible.



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Reunion for a Reunion Musical

Signature sponsors
“Glory Days” CD
release concert.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

There was a very unusual celebration at Signature Theatre in Shirlington on Monday night. Two young men who wrote a musical and the four young men who played in that musical took the stage for a one-night-only concert to celebrate something that had never happened before: the release of an original Broadway cast album of a musical that started right here in Arlington.

“Glory Days” had its premiere here in January of last year. It was an unusual project to begin with, but few could have predicted that it would become the first musical that premiered in Arlington to transfer to Broadway, even if the reception there wasn't quite as positive as everyone would have hoped. The opening night at Signature Theatre was met with unbounded optimism. The opening night on Broadway five months later was also the closing night on Broadway.

The musical was the work of two Montgomery County lads who played some of the music from their project for Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer when they were 20 years old and attending the Musical Theatre Institute he teaches at The Kennedy Center every year. He liked what he heard and agreed to work with them to develop the musical.

It told a simple story of a reunion of four buddies from high school on the first anniversary of their graduation. After being inseparable during high school, they have had a year of growing up and, it turns out, a year of growing apart. The one-act musical had a pop-rock score of 15 songs ranging from high-spirited to touching as the four



Steven Booth played Will and Andrew C. Call played Andy in “Glory Days.”

brought each other up to date on their lives and reminisced about the highs and lows of their high school careers.

The two who wrote the musical were Nick Blaemire, who had previously appeared in musicals in Washington and Maryland, and James Gardner, who had featured roles in musicals at Signature. Neither, however, appeared in the cast of their musical. Instead, Steven Booth, Andrew C. Call, Adam Halpin and Jesse JP Johnson portrayed the four friends. All had national tour or regional theatre experience.

The six twenty-somethings got back together on the stage at Signature Monday night for a “CD Release Celebration” concert on the occasion of the issuance of a recording of the full score on Sh-K-Boom's Ghostlight Records label. Blaemire and Gardner told some of the story of the development of the show and then Booth, Call,

Halpin and Johnson responded to questions about their experiences from the first auditions through the brief run on Broadway (the show had two weeks of previews before its one-night run at the Circle in the Square Theatre in the same building as the Gerswhin Theatre where the Broadway production of “Wicked” was in its fifth year as a major hit).

Most of the time of the concert was devoted to singing some of the songs of “Glory Days.” Blaemire and Gardner sang some of the songs that had been written but not used in the final version of the show while the cast members sang a number of the songs that were in the show and are on the CD. Blaemire and Gardner are working on another musical and they sang one song from that project as well.

A touching moment in the evening was the appearance of Gardner's brother Matt who was the assistant director of the show at Signature and on Broadway. He told the story of his first reading of an early version of the script which he found less than impressive. It was just out of loyalty to his brother that he agreed to direct its first try-out reading. He then resisted his brother's efforts to have him read subsequent drafts for over a year, but when he finally returned to the piece he was moved.

“Glory Days” has already had a post-Broadway life. It was translated into Japanese and opened in Tokyo with a Japanese rock band performing the piece.

Not all musicals that are produced on Broadway get an original Broadway cast recording but those that do often have more productions afterwards because of the exposure the album gets them. People become familiar with the score and are more likely to explore the possibility of a production.

♦♦♦

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, a Web site covering theater in the region (www.PotomacStages.com). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Old Town Walled Garden Club Holiday Decorating Contest

The judging of exterior holiday decorations in the Old Town Historic District will take place on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009. The decorations are handmade using natural greens, fruit and flowers. Photos of the winners will be published in this newspaper the following week.

CPC Kicks Off Holiday Toy Drive

Each holiday season, Community Partners for Children (CPC) collects toys for deserving youngsters in the Alexandria area, and asks the community for help.

CPC volunteers have delivered decorated boxes to local businesses and government offices. In mid-December, volunteers will pick up the donated toys. On Distribution Day, Saturday, Dec. 19, CPC will sort the donations by age group, and then help deserving families select toys for their children.

Here's how to support the holiday toy drive:

Make a cash contribution by sending a check to Community Partners for Children, P.O. Box 2738, Alexandria, VA 22301.

Donate a Grocery Gift Card at a CPC donation box.

Donate toys. Leave a doll, toy truck, game, or any other new toy for a deserv-

ing child or infant at a CPC donation box.

Volunteer: Contact Kendra Chambers (kendranedc@aol.com or 703-717-0373).

Volunteer Dates:

♦ Help pick up donations during week of Dec. 14 through 18, as needed. Drive to drop-off locations and pick up items and boxes. Deliver to storage areas.

♦ Help pick up donations on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

♦ Pick up donations from storage areas and deliver to Cora Kelly Elementary School.

♦ Help sort and count toys on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary School.

♦ Assist families to select toys on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary School.



Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club Holds Tree Sale

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club is holding its annual fund-raiser by selling 750 choice Fraser firs, door wreaths, and rolls of garland to the community. This three-week long effort began Saturday, Nov. 28, in the Belle View Shopping Center parking lot near Fort Hunt Road. This is its major source of raising money for 2010, which is used exclusively to run projects and programs to help needy individuals, families, and especially the children of this community. The tree lot will be open for sales from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends and noon to 9 p.m. on weekdays through Dec. 20. Visit www.mtvernonkiwanis.org.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Open House. 6 to 9 p.m. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts as live music and refreshments get you into the holiday spirit at this annual bash! Guests are also invited to give back with a food drive benefiting Carpenter's Shelter. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, with the Alexandria Band. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

DEC. 3-4

Holiday Market. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Shop for jewelry, purses, soaps and more. At St. Luke's Day School, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call Tracey Navratil at 703-417-9219.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Luminarias. 6-9 p.m. Free viewing. Lit candles and Christmas trees line the streets, providing a holiday glow. In the Historic Del Ray District, Mount Vernon Avenue from Bellefonte to Hume Avenues.

ArtFest 2009 Open House. 6-9 p.m. Free. Exhibits, holiday sales and more. The event features 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic sale, jewelry sale, wearable fiber art show and sale, music by Rew Smith Band, artist demos and food and drinks.

The Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale will run through the weekend and will feature ceramic vessels and forms made by students and associates of The Art League that are perfect for holiday

gift giving. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6, 12 noon-5 p.m.

The Jewelry Show and Sale, featured Friday and Saturday, will showcase a variety of jewelry to fit all tastes. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. At the Madison Annex in Old Town Alexandria.

Parent's Night Out. Once a Month from 5-10 p.m. At Meade Episcopal Church, Alexandria. Meade staff will entertain kids ages 1-9 with age-appropriate educational theme activities. Cost is \$15/child (\$80 family maximum). Call Meade Church at 703-549-1334.

A Christmas Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special shopping hours for Taste of Scotland 7-10:30 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or call 703-549-0111 x107.

DEC. 4-5

Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk, Parade and Weekend. Free. Parade is Saturday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m. Even dogs wear kilts during the annual Scottish Christmas Walk. Christmas Marketplace is Friday, Dec. 4 all day, George Washington Masonic Memorial. Taste of Scotland, Friday, Dec. 4, evening. Call 703-549-0111, or go to www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

The Nutcracker. Friday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 and 6:30 p.m. Performance includes ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical and hip hop



DEC. 3-19

A Tuna Christmas. By Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard featuring Katherine Bisulca and Erin Gallalee. Presented by Zemfira Stage. Dec. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/adults; \$10 seniors, students. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626.

dance and gymnastics. Joint venture between West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance. At West Potomac High School's Springbank Auditorium. For tickets, contact Courtney Betzel at 703-718-2641 or cjbetzel@fcps.edu, or Jennifer Lissenby, Alexandria Community Dance director, at glissenby@verizon.net.

DEC. 4-6

Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Unique handmade fine arts and crafts from 16 exhibitors and bake sale items to benefit Food for Others. Free. Go to www.TheDelRayArtisans.org. The Del Ray Artisans Gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. Mrs. Washington hosts 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor. Cost is \$18/adults, \$12/children under 11. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Christmas Fair. St. Joseph's Catholic Church basement hall, 711 North Columbus St., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Vendors with jewelry, Christmas cards, gifts, food, cosmetics and more. Call 703-836-3725.

Respite Day for Kinship Care Families. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free activities for kinship children ages 3-12 who are residents of Fairfax County or the cities of Fairfax or Falls Church. At Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Pre-registration required by Dec. 1. Call 703-324-3517.

Opera Production. 7:30 p.m. \$20 admission/\$15 students. The Repertory Opera Theater of Washington presents Giuseppe Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera;" a story about love, betrayal, and the fate that binds us all. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. For advanced tickets, call 571-403-0814 or email ROTW@live.com.

Musical Event. 2 p.m. Mystic Harmony will perform Celtic-influenced folk music. At Washington Street UMC, 115 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Go to www.wsumc.com.

Concert Featuring Ars Choralis. 7 p.m. Ars Choralis, under the direction of Douglas A. Beck, will be featuring selections from Handel's "Messiah," with soloists and brass and strings accompaniment. Ars Choralis is the choir-in-residence of St. Paul's Old Town Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, corner of Pitt and Duke Streets in Old Town. Call Douglas A. Beck, 703-549-3312.

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 6-7 p.m. Some 50 brightly lit powerboats and sailboats parade down the Potomac River from D.C. to Alexandria's harbor. Free viewing. Santa arrives by fireboat at 4 p.m. at the Alexandria Marina, One Cameron Street. Sponsored by Burke & Herbert Bank.

Holiday on the Avenue. Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood gets into the festive spirit with Holiday on the Avenue. Local businesses around the one-mile stretch of Mount Vernon Avenue feature all-day events and stay open until 9 p.m. The Del Ray tree lighting is at 6 p.m. at Colosanto Park at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. Then follow Santa down the luminary-lit Mount Vernon Avenue. Kids can sit on Santa's lap for a photo at the end of the walk. Join in the caroling and stop in the shops for a hot drink. Free. www.VisitDelRay.com.

Ornament Decorating Workshop for Families. 1-4 p.m. Be inspired by the colors and patterns of pottery excavated in Alexandria and make a memorable holiday keepsake. 1-4 p.m. Free. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum (inside the Torpedo Factory), Alexandria. Call 703-838-4399,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
presents

the 2009 Holiday Concerts

Featuring **The Nutcracker Suite** by Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington's jazz-band arrangement, along with seasonal favorites and sing-a-long selections.

ASO
in Arlington!
Saturday, December 5
8:00pm
Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre
1611 N. Kent St.,
Arlington, VA 22209
TICKETS: \$10 youth/student;
\$20 adult

CHILDREN'S
HOLIDAY CONCERT
Sunday, December 13
3:30pm
Alfred Street Baptist Church
301 South Alfred St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
TICKETS: \$25 General Admission
includes post-concert candy
reception in the Parish Hall

www.alexsym.org 703-548-0885

MOUNT VERNON
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OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Featured Special Event:

Christmas at Mount Vernon
NOVEMBER 27 - JANUARY 6, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
A festive daytime program with themed trees, a gingerbread Mansion, dancing, and a Christmas camel!

Mount Vernon by Candlelight
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5-8 P.M.,
NOVEMBER 27-29; DECEMBER 4-6 & 11-13
A traditional candlelit evening with "Mrs. Washington," live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets on sale now at the estate and on MountVernon.org. \$18 adults, \$12 youth.

FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION
AT MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org.
A Soldier's Christmas. Noon-4 p.m.
 The "Soldier's Christmas" program will feature re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, as well as interpreters from the Carlyle House and will highlight life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. At 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or go to www.nvrpa.org/parks/CarlyleHouse/index.php.
Women's Holiday Breakfast Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event hosted by Agape Embassy Ministries will feature special musical guest Minister Martha Munizzi and speaker First Lady Dee Dee Freeman of Spirit of Faith Christian Center. Ticket purchase includes a full breakfast and access to a vendor exhibit hall. Hosted by Agape Embassy Ministries. Go to www.agapembassy.org.
"Lion, Witch and Wardrobe." 9 a.m. At Medieval Madness at Renaissance Hall, 1121 King Street. Alexandria. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-912-4005 or email info@ktheatre.org to reserve seats. Free parking is available in the garage at 1101 King Street. Entry to the garage is on Cameron Street. Visit www.ktheatre.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

"Classical Christmas." 4 p.m. Featuring Amanda Gosier, soprano, the 200-voice New Dominion Choral chorus and full orchestra. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Tickets and information: www.newdominion.org or by phone at 703-442-9404.
Brass of Peace Recital. 4 p.m. Free. Holiday music and more. Hosted by the Alexandria Performing Arts Association. At The Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-505-0700.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. Admission by donation. With Music Director Ulysses S. James. Pre-concert talks for WMPA members at 2:30 p.m. in the atrium. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic perform. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

Shopping Holiday Party. 1-4:30 p.m. The Alexandria Commission for Women and Friends of the Commission present the "Women, Art, and Shopping Holiday Party." Some 30 artists offering pottery, jewelry, handcrafted clothing, crafts, photography and more. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5030.

Holiday Art Show. 1-4:30 p.m. More than 30 exhibitors will display their wares. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact Lisa Baker at 703-746-5030 or e-mail lisa.baker@alexandriava.gov.

Toys for Tots Benefit. 1-5 p.m. "Gonna Thrive at Thirty-Five" Toys for Tots annual benefit round and square dance. At Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. The Capital Square Demonstration team will perform at 3 p.m. Recommended donation per couple is a new, unopened toy or \$10 contribution (\$5/singles). Call 703-746-5418.

Holiday Concert. 2 p.m. Shir Tze'ir, a performer of Jewish a cappella music, will perform at 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686.

Advent Procession. 6 p.m. Free. "From Darkness to Light." Presented by the choirs of Grace Episcopal Church, the services include music by Paul Manz, Stephen Paulus, Sergei Rachmaninov, Charles Wood, and G.P. Palestrina. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

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Brennan Boyle just made a paper bat at Country Market Fair on Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Alexandria Country Day School.

To Market, To Market



Cecily Boyle is enjoying the arts and crafts. Susan Carney is displaying her belt collection with guest Camille Massie at the Country Market Fair.

Moran Undergoes Double Knee Surgery

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) had successful total knee replacement surgery on both knees Nov. 24 at the Anderson Orthopedic Clinic located at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. The surgery was conducted by Dr. C. Anderson Engh.

According to the Attending Physician's Office in the U.S. Capitol, Moran will become only the second member to have both knees replaced during the same surgery. The first was Rep. Sonny Montgomery, a long-time Democratic member from Mississippi who served from 1967 to 1997.

Moran's recovery period is expected to last 6-8 weeks. He will be recovering at home on bed rest during this time. Given the recovery associated with a double knee replacement, he is not expected to be able make votes on the floor of the House of Representatives during the month of December.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the congressman has requested well-wishers make donations to their local food pantry or homeless shelter.

MILITARY NOTES

Air Force Airman 1st Class Narang Choi graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Okju Choi of Saint Genevieve Place, Alexandria. Choi graduated in 2004 from Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

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Mount Vernon Girls Add Depth to Talent

Majors look to defend their National District crown with mixture of youth and experience.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon girls basketball team climbed to the top of the National District mountain last season. Now the Majors will fight to stay there.

Mount Vernon set the bar high during the 2008-09 campaign, finishing 24-3 while wresting the district crown away from Edison and eventually losing to Oakton in the regional semifinal. The senior trio of Tracy King (5-foot-8), Jalinda Venable (5-3) and Jasmine McDonald (5-7) assure the Majors will be one of the most talented teams in the district, if not the region. But it's a group of freshmen that could make the Majors even better in this season.

Kelly Loftus (5-7), Taylor Dunham (5-3) and Tiffany Webster (5-6) will play important roles for Mount Vernon. The three freshmen, along with sophomore Lafatima Gray (5-9), provide Mount Vernon with a deep nucleus of talent. While the Majors will rely on young players for key minutes, additional talent coming off the bench provides the team more weapons for its up-tempo offense and in-your-face defense.

THE MAJORS' DEPTH should pay dividends early as King recovers from tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in last season's regional semifinal loss to Oakton. King, a second-



The Mount Vernon girls basketball team is the defending National District champion.

team all-state selection last season, is expected back in late December or early January.

"We have a young team, but we have a very skilled team," King said. "We had a skilled team last year, but we have more to look forward to coming off the bench. ... We have it to where there won't be so much stress on the starting five. We will be able to get breaks and ... be ready at any time."

Second-year head coach Terry Henderson said the Majors have a chance to be strong team, but he hasn't allowed them to rest on last season's success. Edison, which won five consecutive National District championships before last season, returns district player of

the year Myisha Goodwin and figures to be tough once again.

"The main thing is just to continue to work hard every day and continue to give [the Majors] challenges," Henderson said. "As far as finishing 24-3, whether we do or we don't, we've got our eyes on trying to get back to that regional semifinal game and going from there. I think we can have a better team this year than we had last year and accomplish some of the same goals."

Upon her return, King will be the Majors' most potent offensive threat. She averaged 19.1 points per game as a junior and can score from anywhere on the floor. At 5-foot-8, she was also one of team's

top rebounders at 8.3 per contest. King is practicing with the team and hopes to return by Christmas.

"At 75 percent," Henderson said, "I'll take [King] over half the people in the region."

AT POINT GUARD, Venable was a first-team all-district selection as a junior. Henderson said he considers Venable the second-best point guard in the Northern Region behind Edison's Goodwin. Venable will once again be the catalyst for the Majors' up-tempo offense.

"She sees plays two and three seconds before they actually happen," Henderson said. "Sometimes she's actually putting the ball in places girls should be and just

"As far as finishing 24-3, whether we do or we don't, we've got our eyes on trying to get back to that regional semifinal game and going from there."

— Terry Henderson, Mount Vernon head girls basketball coach

haven't made it there yet."

McDonald is one of the team's top defensive players and will be looked upon as a senior leader.

"We just help [the freshmen] out when we're running over plays and going over the defenses," she said. A leader shouldn't "yell at them and get down on them because they're new to this, they're freshmen."

Seniors Anita Johnson (5-8), Gabrielle Gadson (5-7), junior Casey Thompson (5-7) and sophomores Nichole Parker (5-7) and Elizabeth Owusuwaa (5-6) will compete for playing time.

Mount Vernon travels to take on West Potomac at 7:45 p.m. Friday.

"I feel that the games aren't going to be as easy as they were last year because we have a younger team," McDonald said. "There's always room for improvement."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon, West Potomac Face Off

The Mount Vernon and West Potomac boys basketball teams will meet Saturday for a 7 p.m. game at Mount Vernon High School.

MVHS Dinner and Auction Approaching

Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Dec. 19. Tickets are \$5. See a student athlete from the girls basketball team or contact Terry Henderson at 703-619-3146 or Terry.Henderson@fcps.edu.

Cheerleading Exhibition

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will host the Annual City-Wide

Cheerleading Exhibition on Saturday, Dec. 12 at T.C. Williams High School beginning at 11 a.m.

The exhibition features cheerleading teams from Charles Barrett, Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Mount Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Recreation Centers. T

here will also be special performances by the T. C. Williams High School cheerleaders and others.

The exhibition features teams in three divisions: the pee wee, junior varsity and varsity divisions.

Teams will display their skills and enthusiasm as they prepare for the main event, the cheerleading competition, in April of 2010. The April competition will be an invitational event with teams from the Washington D.C., Virginia, and Maryland areas competing against the Alexandria teams.

Tickets will be on sale in advance of the exhibition at the neighborhood recreation centers as well as at the Lee Center Recreation Services Division Office now through 5 p.m., Dec. 10.

Adult tickets for ages 13 and older are \$5; youth tickets

for 6-12 years are \$2, and youth 5 and under are free. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

For more information on the cheerleading program and other youth sports programs, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402.

Winter Box Lacrosse Registration

The Beltway Box Lacrosse League is registering now for a boys high school and youth winter box lacrosse program beginning Dec. 19. Games will be played in Alexandria at the in-line hockey rink behind Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Divisions are boys high school varsity and JV and youth U-9/U-11, U-13, and U-15. A seven-game season is planned. US Lacrosse membership is required. Information is available at www.BeltwayBoxLacrosse.com.



U.S. Department of Defense, Partners in Flight Program manager Chris Eberly receives an Important Bird Area marker. Eberly is stationed at Fort Belvoir.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

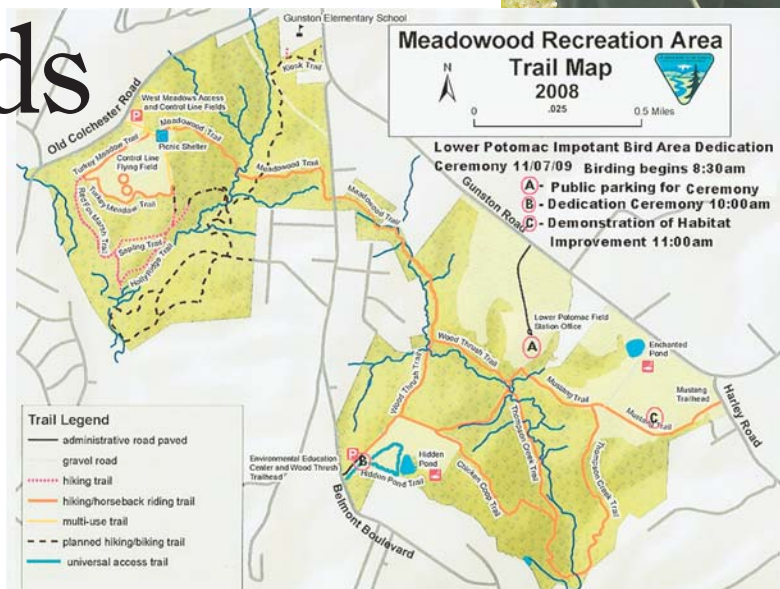


State Park district manager of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Jeff Foster picks up a few more markers.

It's for the Birds

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia hosted a dedication on Nov. 7 at Meadowood Recreation Area, designating the 800 acres as an Important Bird Area.

According to the National Audubon Society, the Important Bird Areas Program is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. Located in Mason Neck, Meadowood is the winter home of 30 different species of migratory songbirds and over 20,000 waterfowl. This dedication marked the 20th site in the Commonwealth of Virginia that has been so designated. Meadowood is part of the property owned by the Federal Bureau of Land Management.



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Meadowood Special Recreation Area is located at 10705 Belmont Blvd., Lorton.

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Sue Goodhart
703.263.8321 www.suegoodhart.com
MLS ID# AX7210947



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1925 Del Ray Bungalow

Built in 1925, this residence is the truest of bungalows. From the moment you walk up the walkway to the front porch, you know you are seeing a special home with the eight-foot wide front porch. The hanging baskets and swing all say, "Welcome and relax!" Three bedrooms and two baths.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.286.1239 www.lizluke.com
MLS ID# AX7210411



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When you step into the welcoming foyer of this beautiful Williamsburg style Colonial you will be duly impressed by the handsome custom built-ins and fabulous moldings throughout. It has a walk-up attic, fully finished walk-out basement and an expansive deck. But the heart of this home is the kitchen with its brick hearth fireplace, generous eat-in space with bay window seating, warm cherry cabinetry and a large center island all overlooking a picturesque sweeping lawn, Paul Springs Creek and the woods beyond. Truly home SWEET home.

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457 www.robinarnoldsells.com
MLS ID# FX7208753



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Watergate of Alexandria

Renovated brick and stucco townhouse with windows on three sides in great community in north Old Town. Two garage spaces, three bedrooms, two baths, new granite and stainless kitchen, renovated baths, large walled patio.

Paul Anderson
703.408.0676 www.paulvanderanderson.com
MLS ID# AX7208611



ALEXANDRIA

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Mason Montague Bavin
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MLS ID# FX7151879



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Carol Cleary
703.625.6829 www.carolcleary.com
MLS ID# AX7156297



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$719,000



Patina of Time

permeates this totally renovated, plaqued two/three-bedroom, two-bath, 1820 clapboard home with enchanting rooms for entertaining, heart pine floors, two fireplaces, period mouldings, hardware and built-ins. A granite and stainless kitchen abuts the family room and looks out to the charming walled garden with artist studio and patio while an additional den and office/third bedroom add to the distinctive pleasures of an early Alexandria residence.

Babs Beckwith
703.836.1297 www.babsbeckwith.com
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