

Mount Vernon Gazette

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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 9, 2010



Nick Africano, Willard McMullen and Will Ropt browse the tables at the fair for gift ideas.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ THE GAZETTE

Holiday Bazaar at West Potomac

The West Potomac High School cafeteria was filled Friday afternoon, Dec. 3, with students and vendors kicking off the holiday bazaar. Crafts, cosmetics, jewelry, holiday decoration and freshly baked cookies were just a few of the offerings at this year's fair.



Melody Moore displays a number of her "Delectable Illuminations."



Jean Kuei carries designer accessories at her booth.



Vasti Bighams shows off some of this season's Mary Kay gift boxes.



West Potomac Special Ed instructor Tylane Byrd tries on one of the necklaces from the Tracy Lynn Jewelry line that she carries.



Daryl Mackey encourages students to participate in the local Toastmasters group at the school.

Transparent Steps

Name policy changes as police review board effort moves forward.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When Fairfax County Police Officer David Ziants shot and killed an unarmed driver by the name of David Masters last year, the department had a code of silence. No identification would be made of officers involved in shootings. It was an absolute blackout, and the department even declined to identify Ziants when his name was requested in a Freedom of Information Act request.

Even when the department decided to review cases instead of exerting a blanket policy, officials made it clear that the potential new sense of transparency did not apply to Ziants. His name was kept a secret until he was identified by the Washington Post last month,

shortly before the department confirmed Ziants was the officer who fired that fatal shot at the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway that November day last year.

"We will make a decision about releasing an officer's name on a case-by-case basis, provided a threat assessment is conducted and analyzed," said Mary Ann Jennings, spokeswoman for the Fairfax County Police Department. "The final decision is the chief's."

Within the next few months, Police Chief David Rohrer will make a related decision. For months, the police department has been conducting a review of the potential for a citizen oversight board. The effort was launched in the months after Masters was shot and killed by Ziants, a time when

SEE TRANSPARENCY, PAGE 11

Parents Launch Non-profit To Save Focus Program

Campaign follows funding cut at Hollin Meadows Elementary.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Hollin Meadows Elementary School parents have launched a non-profit organization to save the "Learning Garden" and the Science and Math Education Focus Program.

Diane Moery, a parent with children who attend the school, is chairman of the Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science and Math Education, and one of the

founders of the "Save Our Focus! Save Our Garden! Campaign."

She outlined its history: "In the 2007-08 fiscal year budget Hollin Meadows was placed on the cut list for Focus schools funding. In spite of the proven academic value of the 'Learning Garden' in juxtaposition with the special emphasis on science and math education ... we saw the handwriting on the wall. We were able to save it for a

SEE PROGRAM, PAGE 5

12/10/10
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 Huge condo at over 1472 square feet has three bedrooms, two full baths. New kitchen appliances, new carpet and freshly painted. Fannie Mae hompath property, approved for Fannie Mae hompath & hompath renovation financing.
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Woodbridge **\$285,000**
 Great home 4 bedroom 3 full bath Colonial home- close to schools, major transportation & shopping. Located in the Lake Ridge neighborhood offering many community amenities! Walkout basement, large rear deck & private paved patio.
Jacqueline Wyndham 571-435-7741



Arlington **\$567,000**
 Location!! Lovely home in desirable Arlington neighborhood. Hrdwd flrs on main lvl. Living room w/wood burning fireplace, formal dining room, 3 oversized bedrooms, eat-in kitchen. Finished lower lvl with two bonus rooms & private entrance. Patio & large private lot w/lots of trees!
Meg Olympia 703-475-1552



Alexandria **\$725,000**
 Expanded Granville in Valley View Manor, 3 finished lvls. 4 spacious bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Large kit. w/cook's counter, 3 full size ovens, 42' cabinets & additional built-ins. Main lvl study, formal living & dining rooms. Cathedral ceilings in MBR & family room. Expansive LL rec room w/gas fireplace & wet bar.
Allan Price 703-329-2424



Springfield **\$250,000**
 Renovated TH in Newington Forest! Brand new hrdwd flrs on main level, kitchen completely updated w/new stainless steel appliances, granite counters & back splash. Upper & lower levels have new carpet and completely renovated bathrooms. Fully finished lower lvl walks out to big patio. Must see.
Sheila Gillette 703-407-4040



Alexandria **\$980,000**
 Lots of beauty! A great Colonial home to enjoy with your family & to entertain. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. New kitchen. Family room leads to deck with gazebo overlooking beautifully landscaped lawn. Two car garage.
Bev Morrison 703-517-1257



Alexandria **\$139,900**
 Beautiful top level unit in garden style condo with private 19x12 deck! Three bedrooms, 2 full bath, in great condition. Cozy fireplace. Great commuter locations, right off Route 1S
Moe Soliman 703-981-8614



Alexandria **\$299,900**
 Beautifully appointed home, new kitchen highlighted with ceramic flrs, white cabinets, pantry & stainless appliances. Living room boasts gleaming hrdwd flrs & bay window. Three bedrooms w/ample closet space, neutral décor & Berber carpet. Fenced yard, deck, shed & pond all packing to trees!
Mary Sellman 703-864-9223



Arlington **\$336,500**
 Largest 1 bdrm/1 bath floor plan available! Steps from the Metro, shopping and night life of Ballston. Renovated with new carpet, custom blinds & hrdwd in living/dining room. Other features include large balcony, granite counters, stainless appliances. Building has pool, business center & concierge.
Rob Kennedy 202-352-8558



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Bridget Weaver, Susan Anthony, Everett Hellmuth and Ken Patterson.



Janet Price and Sally Browning.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Woodlawn Celebrates the Holidays

More than 100 friends of Woodlawn Plantation and the Pope Leighey House enjoyed an evening in the mansion dressed for the holidays on

Dec. 2. Greens woven in with pheasant feathers laced up the grand stairwell as guests mingled between rooms enjoying the music of a jazz band, good company and libations and treats.



Kim Gallagher, Gabrielle Voorhees and Ann Scully.



Susan Hellman enjoys a moment with the Moncure's at the holiday party.



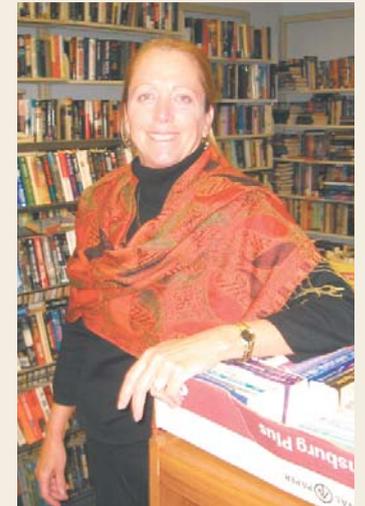
Jan Routh, Denise Austin and Susan Shaw.

Leading Mount Vernon At Home

New executive director named.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Former assistant director of Paul Spring Retirement Center, Barbara Sullivan, becomes director of Mount Vernon At Home on Dec. 15.



Barbara Sullivan

MVAH is one year old now since opening its doors for service to seniors. How many dues paying members do you have?

Currently 142 dues paying members.

What are your membership goals?

We would like to grow by an average of 5 members per month in the near future, or approximately 60 plus new members in 2011.

What are the key events and activities that you are planning for in the new year?

Our annual fundraiser in May is our key event, and we are already planning for that. In addition, we are planning overnight trips, computer tutorials, exercise classes, lectures about a range of topics, restaurant outings, and other social events.

Looking ahead what would you like to see in MVAH's future?

I want to expand the kinds of services which our members need, and to do this by developing partnerships with a variety of organizations such as Mount Vernon Hospital, organizations providing meals delivered to their homes, physical therapy services, individualized therapeutic counseling, and such specialized services as "car-fit" evaluations which will help seniors extend their safe use of automobiles, among other services we are studying. Importantly, we are continuously asking our members: what services do you need to maintain your independence

Profile

BARBARA SULLIVAN

Executive Director, MVAH

Age: 51

Education: George Washington University, Mount Vernon Campus, bachelor's degree in business and political science

Hometown: Ocean City, N.J.

Marital Status: Married to Barry Sullivan; three grown children: Barry, Jr. Brian, and Brendan

Previous Employment: Self employed travel consultant; assistant director, Paul Spring Retirement Center

Volunteer Experience: Chair, and President, Mount Vernon -Lee Chamber of Commerce; Chair, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Development Council

Community Award: Citizen of the Year, 2007, the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce

and quality of life.

What do you see as your biggest challenge as you prepare to assume responsibility of guiding this new organization?

Maintaining and retaining membership, and making certain that our services are appropriate and of the highest quality.

In closing this discussion what would you like to say about taking over the director's job?

I accepted this job because I get great satisfaction out of helping people, and in particular seniors who deserve a choice as to where and how they live.

MVAH gives seniors a choice. This is a new concept and a new organization and I am very excited about this new challenge.



Annual Lights of Love

The atrium of the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital was flowing with music and good cheer on Saturday evening, Dec. 4 as staff and volunteers along with community members enjoyed the annual holiday celebration. Cleve Francis, MD, cardiologist, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, sings holiday songs for the crowd.

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 Great opportunity! Solid brick 3 level Cape Cod w/2 car garage close to METRO! Enclosed sun porch, 3 bedrms, 2 baths, fireplace & wonderful gardens.
 2719 King Street
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$499,000
 Convenient 1 level living w/3 bedrms, 2 baths & updated kitchen w/breakfast room. Cozy 2 sided fireplace shared by living & dining rooms. Partially finished LL has plenty of space for expansion. Large fully fenced rear yard w/patio.
 5337 Thayer Avenue
 Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964



Alexandria \$197,500
 Largest 1 bed + den unit Alexandria Square. Corner unit w/lots of windows, excellent closet space, low condo fees & easy parking. Fresh paint & carpet. Short block to "The Avenue" for shopping & dining.
 1800 DeWitt Avenue #C
 Sue Feintheil
 703-819-1964



Alexandria \$674,900
 Fabulous 3 level, 3 bedrm, 2 bath end unit TH. Fully renovated top to bottom, wood floors, high ceilings, finished LL & front porch. Blocks to METRO!
 614 N. Columbus Street
 Christine Garner
 703-587-4855



Arlington \$417,000
 Perfect location on quiet cul-de-sac. Pull in parking at front door. Clarendon model w/three finished levels, delightful patio and many updates.
 3349 A. Wakefield Street
 Sue Feintheil
 703-819-1964



Alexandria \$425,000
 Celebrate the holidays in a warm & inviting new home. Entertain in a dining room w/hardwood floors. Freshly painted with new carpet. Meticulously maintained & move-in ready.
 6811 Duke Street
 Joni Koons 703-209-7277
 Greg Koons 703-209-7678



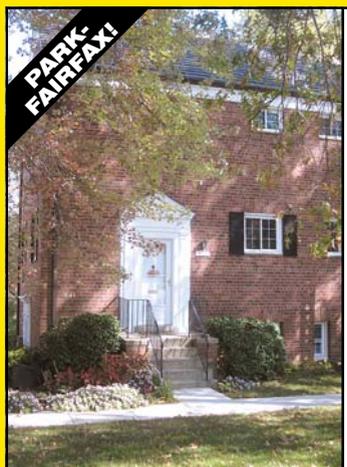
Alexandria \$529,000
 Well-done 3 level TH near Quaker Lane & Duke Streets. Kitchen/family rm combo, 3 bedrms, 3.5 baths, shows beautifully. Quiet community of "Quaker Village"
 26 Arell Court
 Ace Werner 703-625-0678
 Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$359,000
 Relaxing retreat. Walking distance to shopping & public transportation, warm wood flrs, rich wood trimwork & natural wood six panel doors. Perfect back patio w/planters. New Kitchen cabinets & granite counters. Updated baths.
 3812 Keller Avenue
 Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alex/Old Town \$739,000
 Renovated on all 3 levels, this home has 3 bedrooms, 2 fireplaces plus parking! Visit on line.
 926 S. Fairfax Street
 Diann Hicks
 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$329,000
 Fantastic 2 bedrm, 1 bath, 2 level end unit Madison model. Renovated kitchen w/high-end SS, granite counters, tiled floor & backsplash. Gleaming parquet wood flrs, crown molding, recessed lighting & solid wood doors. Steps to Shillington Village.
 3777 Gunston Road
 Jeremy Stewart
 703-879-4131



ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

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

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Effort To Save Focus Program

FROM PAGE 1

few years but this school year is the last year for taxpayer-supported Focus School funding.”

Moery, and others in and outside of the school — business and non-profit, and individual donors — have been using whatever creative marketing and fundraising techniques they can to raise money which will be funneled through their newly established non-profit corporation. Membership is made up of parents, community members, and business leaders. This includes three former PTA presidents of Hollin Meadows Elementary School.

TO DATE the Partnership has raised \$35,000. They have set as a goal to raise \$100,000 by March of this year to demonstrate sufficient support in time to offer a new contract to the teachers involved in the Focus program for the next school year. Another \$70,000 must be raised by September, 2011 to sustain the program for another year.

In the meantime the organization is hopeful that the academic performance of their diverse student body over the past several years will gain the attention of policy makers in and out of the public school system so that others will want to replicate their model of hands-on practical application of concepts and techniques taught in math and science and applied to student managed gardening.

“What our wonderful faculty buttressed by the support of outside advisors have accomplished is to use inquiry-based science — teaching students how to be problem solvers, and apply this knowledge to outdoor gardening ... Teaching how to use the principles of science and math to manage a garden has been a magic elixir for all of our students and it is paying off in their ability to excel in the classroom,” Moery said.

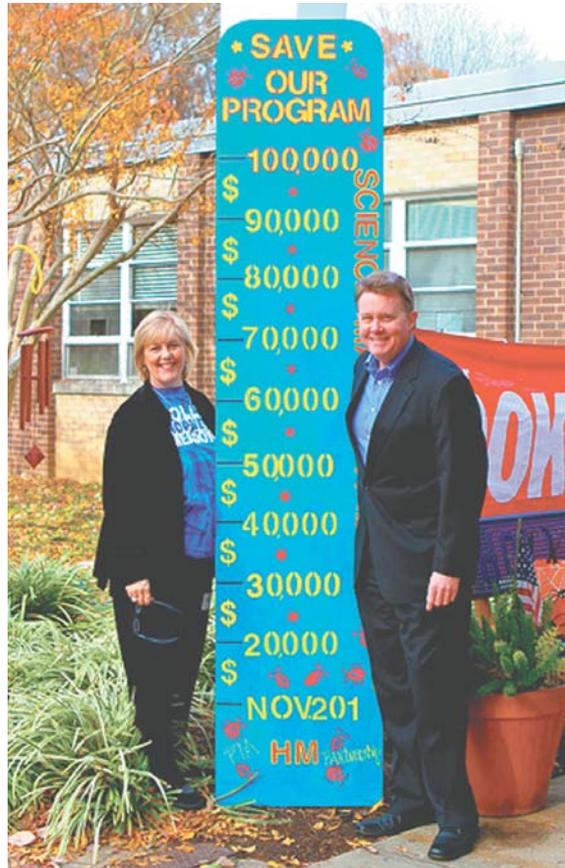
In a recent PTA fundraising letter signed by Moery, Principal Jon Gates, and PTA President Chris McNamara, the academic success of the Focus and gardening program was discussed. The letter stated that the standards of learning test scores have improved since the inception of the program. “Among all elementary schools Hollin Meadows ranks No. 1 in math for all Cluster 4 schools, and No. 1 in reading for all Title 1 elementary schools” in the county.

Ahead

Upcoming Hollin Meadows Partnership Events:
 Garden Gala: March 12, 2011, River Farm, 7931 East Blvd.
 Earth Day Celebration: April 30, 2011, Hollin Meadows Elementary School Partnership Information: To make a donation, make checks payable to: Hollin Meadows Partnership, 23210 Nordok Place, Alexandria, VA 22306
 Or: www.hollinmeadowspta.org Use the PayPal donate button.
 Hollin Meadows Partnership is a non-profit corporation. Tax ID #27-1616138. All donations are deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Details

Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science & Math Education:
 Board Members: Diane Moery, Douglas Greene, Kimberly Monroe, Louise Griffin, Elizabeth Lardner and Sue Bernstein
 Mission: To cultivate an environment supportive of educational achievement in which students are actively engaged in their own learning.
 Vision: All students will excel in Science and Math.
 Guiding Principles:
 ♦ Inspire Young Minds
 ♦ Connect to the Nature World
 ♦ Optimize Individual Learning
 ♦ Nurture Healthy Living



Sue Bernstein, Hollin Meadows Partnership Board Member, and Chris McNamara, PTA President, with the new thermometer to gauge the money raised by a combined fundraising effort of the PTA and the newly formed Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science and Math Education to save Science and Math program at the school. Last week the effort hit \$35,000 from mostly individual Hollin Meadows families and community members.

Moery and her supporters believe passionately in the Focus program, the value of the “Learning Garden,” the leadership and dedication of Gates and his dedicated teaching staff who will often work on weekends.

Focus School

Hollin Meadows Elementary School is designated as a Focus school because of its diverse population (46 percent economically disadvantaged; 25 percent speak a first language other than English) and as such has been eligible for and receiving the school system’s special emphasis funding since 1994. Up until now it has enabled the school to provide supplemental teachers in a particular academic area of emphasis, in this case science and math education. Parents, not satisfied with the progress of the Focus program, in 2004 developed a “Learning Garden” with the assistance of horticulture experts in Arlington and locally the American Horticulture Society, among others. In a short period of time the creative impetus of the learning garden began to pay off in educational progress of students engaged in the science and math focus effort.
 The “learning garden” has since been recognized nationally by the National Children’s Garden Symposium. The Hollin Meadows Focus program includes the availability of an outdoor education coordinator to oversee the development and care of the student-centered outdoor garden. Last month the school celebrated Thanksgiving by serving a luncheon which included a salad with lettuce grown by the students. The luncheon marked the kickoff of the Partnership’s fundraising effort to offset the cuts in Focus School funding. The student garden has become integral to the success of the Focus program which provides supplemental educational resources in the form of a science teacher, math resource teacher, science lab, and the essential science and math education programs.



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Alex./ Mt. Vernon \$464,900
8424 Washington Avenue
 Absolute Cream Puff! Beautiful 3BR, 2BA Cape Cod/FPL, 3 finished levels & spectacular detached 2 car garage/workshop w/extra wide asphalt driveway. Totally updated: kit, baths, HVAC, energy efficient dbl pane windows, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels, beautiful sun room addition w/separate HVAC. Finished walkout basement, interior painted, screened porch-spectacular.42 landscaped lot. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir. 15 Huntington Metro/Old Town, 35 to D.C.



Alex./Riverside Estates \$469,900
3113 Battersea Lane
 Spectacular home on a spectacular lot backing to deep woods. Large Yorkshire model w/spacious 2-car garage. Numerous updates throughout to include: kit. w/bump-out, windows, roof, siding, furnace, gas fpl, etc. Finished basement plus lg hot tub overlooking a beaut & serene back yard. Priced well below market—This is a STEAL!



Alex./Woodland \$619,000
3232 Woodland Lane
 Lovely 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on a spectacular .48 acre wooded lot in prestigious Woodland Park. Stunning sun-room addition in 2006. Cherry cabinets & Corian counters in large remodeled kitchen and updated baths, freshly painted interior and newer energy-efficient replacement windows. Spacious double carport with ample storage. Community boat ramp for water access. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Metro & Old Town, 25 to Natl. Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Riverside Estates \$559,900
3112 Battersea Lane
 Beautiful remodeled 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial in popular Riverside Estates. Updates include: totally remodeled kit w/granite counters, baths, new carpet in family rm & basement. Interior freshly painted, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels. New HVAC & water heater, extensive landscaping. Great location! 6 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Huntington Metro and Old Town, 25 to National Airport & 35 to Pentagon/D.C.



Westgate \$659,900
9010 Volunteer Drive
 Beautiful traditional Colonial w/2-car side garage in fabulous Mount Vernon location. It is classy! Over .5 acre landscaped corner lot. Stunning sunroom addition. Hardwood floors main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kitchen. Wood FP in living room. Lovely kitchen w/Corian counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfin bsmt: ample storage.



Alex./Wessynton \$609,900
3020 Cunningham Drive
 Priced Below Market for a Quick Sale! Lg 5 BR/2.5 BA Colonial w/2-car garage & full unfinished bsmt in Mt. Vernon’s premiere contemporary subdivision of Wessynton. This home is priced to allow some updating. Lg covered screened porch off the family rm allows you to enjoy your beautiful private bkyd. Wessynton offers a pool, tennis court, & boat launch that allows quick access to the Potomac River – 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town Alex.

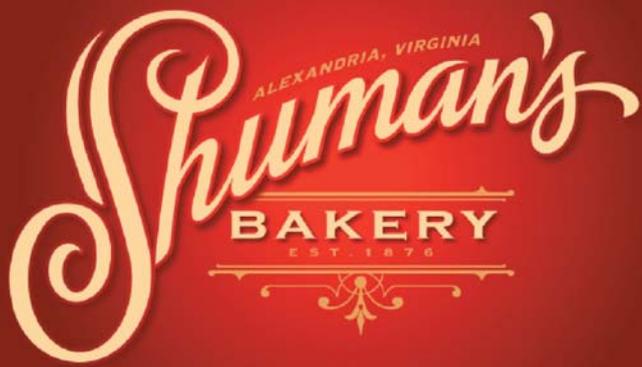


Alex./Mt. Vernon \$350,000
8724 McNair Drive
 One level living in this lovely 3 BR, 2 BA Rambler. Freshly painted interior, refinished hdwd floors, energy efficient double pane replacement windows. Nice family rm addition with wood burning fpl. Lg detached 2 car garage on lg. fenced .5 acre lot in Mount Vernon. Great Location: minutes to Ft. Belvoir, Metro/Old Town and Natl. Airport.

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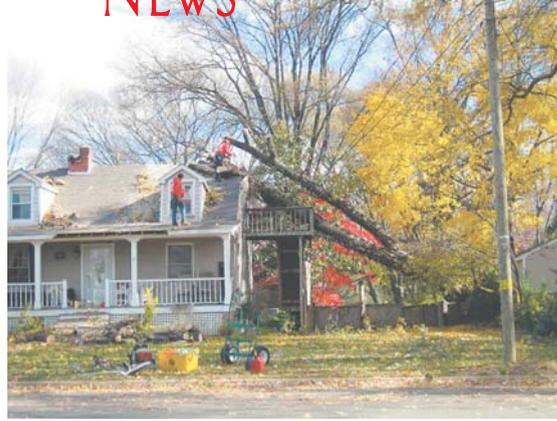
For this holiday season, we are only selling one product: Shuman's Jelly Cake™, made from the original family recipe, using only the finest natural ingredients. We hope to add other Shuman's products in the months to come. For now, we do not have a storefront location. Orders can be placed by phone and online. For your convenience, we have two pick-up locations for pre-ordered Shuman's Jelly Cakes: The Winery at 317 South Washington Street and Alexandria Cupcake at 1022 King Street.

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NEWS



This tree fell on the Gianchetta home on Radford Avenue just minutes after the parents moved their baby to a safe place.



Christina Retamozo's home on Laurel Road was destroyed when a large tree fell and flattened a child's bedroom just minutes after she ran to her parent's room.

Intuition Averts Fatal Results

BY GALE CURCIO
 THE GAZETTE

A small child's intuition last month saved her life. Upon hearing the roaring wind, the child became frightened and she ran and jumped into bed with her mother, Christina Retamozo, who works as an HRIS specialist with INOVA.

Moments later, a 60-ton tree fell through the roof and flattened the bed in the child's room on Laurel Road in the Mount Zephyr community.

Around the corner, in the same neighborhood, the Gianchettas on Radford Avenue became concerned by the noise and high wind and moved their baby from its room to theirs.

Moments later a tree fell through their roof destroying the room.

According to a former neighbor, Dan Fisher-Burrier, both houses have been condemned by the county and the residents displaced.

"I no longer live in Mount Zephyr and my house is on the market, but we lost four trees in front but thankfully no damage to the house or to persons," said Fisher-Burrier. "I truly think the situation about the children and their narrow escapes is truly providential. A story may be good as not only interesting and newsworthy, but may encourage parents to think twice about sheltering their children during storms and encourage them not to take it lightly."

Gale Curcio is an independent writer and public relations consultant in Mount Vernon.

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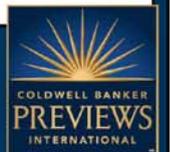


Elegant and stately seven bedroom, five and one half bath solidly built 1940's brick colonial. Renovated in 2006 this beautiful home offers lovely moldings and architectural detail, beautifully finished hardwood floors, slate roof, copper gutters and downspouts, elegant light filled living room, spacious formal dining room with fireplace and French doors leading to a private patio, state of the art gourmet chef's kitchen, cozy family room adjoining the kitchen, luxurious master bedroom with a vaulted ceiling, skylight and walk in California closet, master spa bath with an oversized whirlpool tub, large separate shower with jets and rain showerhead, fabulous recreation room with a stone fireplace, wet bar and 600 bottle wine cellar, and a large private brick patio overlooking a rolling lawn and wooded vista. ~ \$1,750,000

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<p>Listed & SOLD</p>  <p>2213 Belle Haven Road</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>6226 Fort Willard Circle</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>6032 Ft Hunt Road</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>2106 Forresthill Road</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>6306 Barrister Place</p>	
<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>6202 Ft Hunt Road</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>6202 Hillvale Place</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>2210 Windsor Road</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>1906 Belle Haven Road</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>1912 Glen Drive</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>6034 Ft Hunt Road</p>
<p>SOLD</p>  <p>400 Madison Street # 1306</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>411 Pitt Mews</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>3114 Russell Road</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>1250 Dartmouth Court</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>434 1/2 N Saint Asaph</p>	
<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>1116 Allison Street</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>317 Mansion Drive</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>519 East Custis Avenue</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>912 Alfred Street</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>611 Cameron Street</p>	
<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>1401 Namassin Drive</p>	<p>Listed & SOLD</p>  <p>7820 Ridgecrest Drive</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>7831 Kent Road</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>8210 Mack Street</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>8296 Glen Cove Court</p>	
<p>SOLD</p>  <p>7902 Lee Avenue</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>7613 Woodridge Circle</p>	<p>Listed & SOLD</p>  <p>9051 Tower House Place</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>1900 Hackamore Lane</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>8418 Alyce Place</p>	
<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>8304 Marble Dale Court</p>	<p>Brought in the Buyer</p>  <p>8065 Fairfax Drive</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>1900 Sword Lane</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>8733 Plymouth Road</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>8059 Fairfax Drive</p>	
<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>1109 Woodcliff Drive</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>5101 Burke Drive</p>	<p>For Sale</p>  <p>7812 West Boulevard</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>5644 Glenwood Drive</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>4648 Neely Ann Court</p>	
<p>SOLD</p>  <p>4649 Neely Ann Court</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>5620 Clermont Drive</p>	<p>Under Contract!</p>  <p>7012 Polins Court</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>8243 Clifton Farm Court</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>2734 Carter Farm Court</p>	

**The Market Is Moving...
Are You?**

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OPINION

Tough Road Ahead

State and local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation im-

provements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

❖ Government contracts are a major com-

ponent of the Northern Virginia economy. In Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procurement contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts is a major concern.

❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Gazette will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions. Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well. Send to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Please include a photo with your resolutions.

EDITORIALS

The Mostly True Story About a Holiday Pinata

BY MIKE WALKER
MOUNT VERNON UNITARIAN CHURCH

The history of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Pinata goes back more than 20 years to the time when an innocent little paper machè Santa Claus served as the children's Pinata at the Annual Holiday Party. Many parents became alarmed when repeated

blows from a baseball bat took poor Santa's head off. Next year, a widespread, national search for a politically correct, commercially available alternative pinata was completely unsuccessful. Every "pre-made" alternative was deemed unsuitable. Bashing in the head of the traditional donkey pinata was out because it was offensive both to the members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

as well as members of the local Democratic Party. The politically correct, last minute "do anything" compromise pinata ... an organic, recycled, gender neutral brown paper bag of candy hung from the ceiling by a noose ... though perfectly serviceable, was deemed to be lackluster, and devoid of vision and imagination. Some new approach was clearly in order and following considerable discussion a brand new church committee was formed.

In 1989, following 11 and half months of intensive discussion, debate, contemplation, focus groups, multi-voting, TQM, coffee and concerted angst, Mothers Against Violent Encounters: Now Stop!© (MAVENS*) led by MVUC activist Laura Walker, unveiled the world's first politically correct, socially responsible and hopefully acceptable to all pinata: "The Berlin Wall." Holiday partiers were invited to "strike a blow for freedom." The modest and forward dreaming example set by our Mount Vernon Unitarian Children ultimately led President Reagan to challenge Mr. Gorbachev to "tear down that wall." The rest, as they say, is history.

Subsequent pinatas have included an Iraqi missile launcher, a SKUD missile, various hand guns, including the 1997 "Smith & Wesson: Automatic 22" (beat your swords into plowshares), and a "litter bug" (smash litter!). The 1999 pinata "Smoking is Kool," sadly reflected an increase in smoking by children and teenagers in the United States, along with continued costly federal tax-subsidies for tobacco growers and increased exports of tobacco prod

SEE EVOLUTION, PAGE 9



On 'It's Academic' A team of students from Mount Vernon High School competed with teams from James Hubert Blake High School of Silver Spring and Robinson Secondary School of Fairfax on "It's Academic," the nation's foremost high school quiz program. The competition was spirited and James Hubert Blake High School won the match. The program will air Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. on NBC4, Channel 4. The Mount Vernon team consists of Scott Klein, Josephine Lintot, and Elizabeth Portaluppi. Their faculty coach is Mitchell Luxenberg.

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A Connection Newspaper

Evolution of Mount Vernon Unitarian's Pinata

FROM PAGE 8

ucts to the developing world. The 2000 pinata, Colt 45 returned our attention to important unfinished national business. During the week preceding the 2000 Annual Holiday Party, a 5-year-old boy shot and wounded his 11-year-old brother in Maryland, just a few miles across the river from our church. The boy's cries for help brought neighbors and paramedics. Shouldn't we all heed these cries for help and say enough! The time for real handgun control is now.

The 2001 pinata "Unraveling the Challenge: Working Toward Peace for Every Child" was different from prior traditional pinatas since it did not involve any hitting. Following a year of violence, magnified by the 911 tragedy, a large stationary treasure chest was wrapped in more than 90 pieces of "red tape" that had to be methodically unraveled, one at a time, to get to the candy treasure within. Long term solutions to war, global poverty, hunger and unrest; can't come overnight at the point of a gun. The 2002 pinata "Bushmaster" reflected our common experience when we were held hostage by the random killings that terrorized us in the Washington metropolitan area. The availability of assault weapons in a civil society easily can enable a deadly

minority to terrorize the majority. 2003 brought "Prison Walls of Oppression" recognizing scores of people, including U.S. citizens, held in and Guantanamo Bay without access to lawyers, a speedy trial or even notice of their charges. The haste to abandon Constitutional protections erodes the safeguards guaranteed by a free society to each one of us.

Our 2004 pinata, "There Is No Way To Peace, Peace Is The Way" ... a 10 foot bomb, reminded us of the worldwide investment in strategic arms; that they can and do kill and injure innocent civilians; that they should represent a last resort, following negotiations and diplomacy. Our 2005 pinata The Maxi-Guzzler-Supreme questioned our conspicuous consumption of oil and gasoline. The Year 2006 saw a convergence of ocean and global pollution, wars, genocide and death, handgun violence, hunger and inhumanity to children, men and women. The 2006 pinata "Blob Of Troubles" offered few solutions but did offer the satisfaction of smashing those frustrating issues we hate. These included: inhumanity, ocean pollution, global warming, hand gun violence, wars - genocide, Darfur, hunger. Our 2007 pinata "Plastics" recalled the fateful prediction made 40 years ago to Dustin Hoffman in the The Graduate, and urged restraint in the use of plastics, even reclaim-

able plastics, especially shopping bags. Plastic pollution has become a global problem, particularly in the oceans, affecting marine life of all types including birds which ingest plastic and die. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Everyone can start by taking a reusable bag to the grocery store! The 2008 pinata : "Global War-N-ing" urged a careful look at our collective and individual carbon footprint

SEE PINATA, PAGE 10



Joint Service Club Luncheon

Four members of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, from left, Past President Bruce Malkin, Co-Secretary Joanne Malkin, Barbara Callahan and Lee Palmer, listen to Dr. James Gordon, guest speaker at the 18th Annual Joint Service Club Luncheon, hosted by the Alexandria Kiwanis Club on Nov. 18. Gordon discussed mind-body medicine used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. For more information on events in the Mount Vernon area, see www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org or contact Bruce Malkin at brucemalkin1@gmail.com

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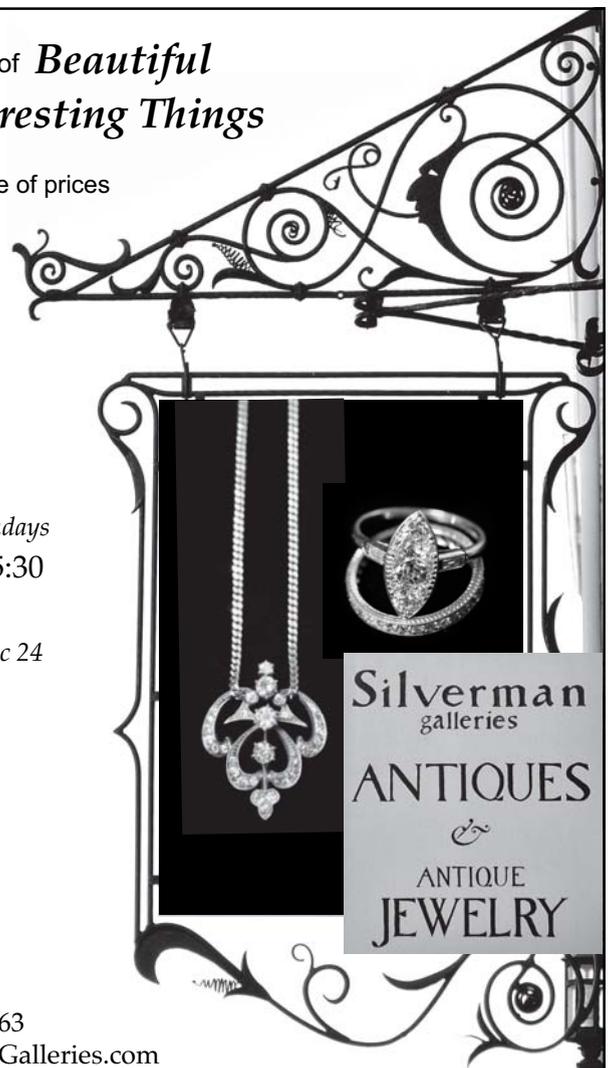
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OPINION

Pinata

FROM PAGE 9

and the long term consequences of energy consumption on health of our planet and the oceans.

The 2009 pinata: "The Swine Flew" acknowledges our need for taking daily, personal responsibility for one's health in the face of microscopic pandemic invaders, noting that even simple, practical and personal efforts at prevention are important and can be effective. Remember: we are all human and vulnerable.

The 2010 pinata: The Big Spill is an opportunity to help "clean up" the oil spill by reducing the demand for oil and petroleum resources. The pinata, approximately 6 feet wide by 5 feet tall represents a peaceful blue ocean with a building oil spill below. The usual bat used to break up the pinata is a modified mop, this year.

(* Of course, broadly and inclusively defined to include fathers and affiliated people of good will.)

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CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Dec. 3.

UPDATE: FATAL CRASH

The bicyclist involved in the Nov. 14 crash near the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Belle Haven Road succumbed to his injuries on Monday, Nov. 22. Christopher Benton, of the 2300 block of Windsor Road in Alexandria, was pronounced dead at 5:16 a.m. Crash Reconstruction detectives are still looking for witnesses and sign boards were posted in the area of Fort Hunt Road and Belle Haven Road. On Sunday, Nov. 14 around 3 p.m., the bicyclist was headed eastbound on Belle Haven Road. At the same time, a four-door 2005 Toyota Corolla attempted to turn left onto Fort Hunt from westbound Belle Haven. The bicyclist and vehicle collided and Benton was thrown from his bike. He was medevaced to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Detectives ask anyone who may have witnessed this crash 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.

ROBBERY

A 27-year-old woman was robbed in a parking lot in the 5700 block of Shadwell Court around 2:13 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 25. The suspect was described as black, in his early 20s, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and between 150 to 180 pounds. He was wearing a dark shirt, colored jeans and a blue and white baseball cap. The victim did not require medical attention.

Glimmers of Transparency

FROM PAGE 1

police refused to release the dashboard video camera footage showing what happened or even release the incident report detailing how public-safety officers acted that day.

"I think it would be helpful to assure ourselves and either confirm that the right decision was made or to be able to go back and correct something that may not have gone as well as it should have," said Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova in October.

NICHOLAS BELTRANTE, executive director of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability based in Mount Vernon, and other supporters of the effort to create a police review board in Fairfax County point to a growing trend in America. According to a 2001 study by the U.S. Department of Justice, citizen review boards can help reassure the public that investigations of citizen complaints are thorough and fair. However, the study also points out that hiring professional investigators can be expensive. Critics say the idea could be a costly endeavor with a questionable mission.

"There isn't really a sense that anything needs to be done about this," said Dallas Shawkey, chairman of the Public Safety Committee for the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. "We haven't seen anything out of the ordinary."

Supporters of the effort to create a new citizen review board in Fairfax County say filing a lawsuit against the police is easier said than done. Court battles can be long and expensive, say supporters,

and many people who would otherwise want to file a complaint could be discouraged by the time and money involved in a formal legal proceeding. Furthermore, supporters say, the court system is inherently adversarial while police review boards tend to encourage mediation. According to the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, the vast majority of jurisdictions that have a population of 500,000 or more already have a police review board.

"Fairfax County is an outlier in that in that it is one of the largest jurisdictions without any form of independent review of the police," wrote Philip Eure, executive director of the association, in a letter endorsing the effort. "Therefore, we urge government officials in Fairfax County to become educated about the benefits of citizen oversight, a field that has become highly professionalized in recent years."

THOSE WHO ARE now pushing for a new oversight body say that the reasons for the creation of a review board may be obscured by the lack of transparency at the Fairfax County Police Department. Unlike most other jurisdictions in America, Fairfax County refuses to release standard public documents such as incident reports. As a result, supporters of a new review board say, the public might not be aware of the misconduct that's already taking place.

"The lack of citizens calling for this doesn't mean that there are not problems," said Kent Willis, executive director of ACLU of Virginia. "It means they don't know about the problems."

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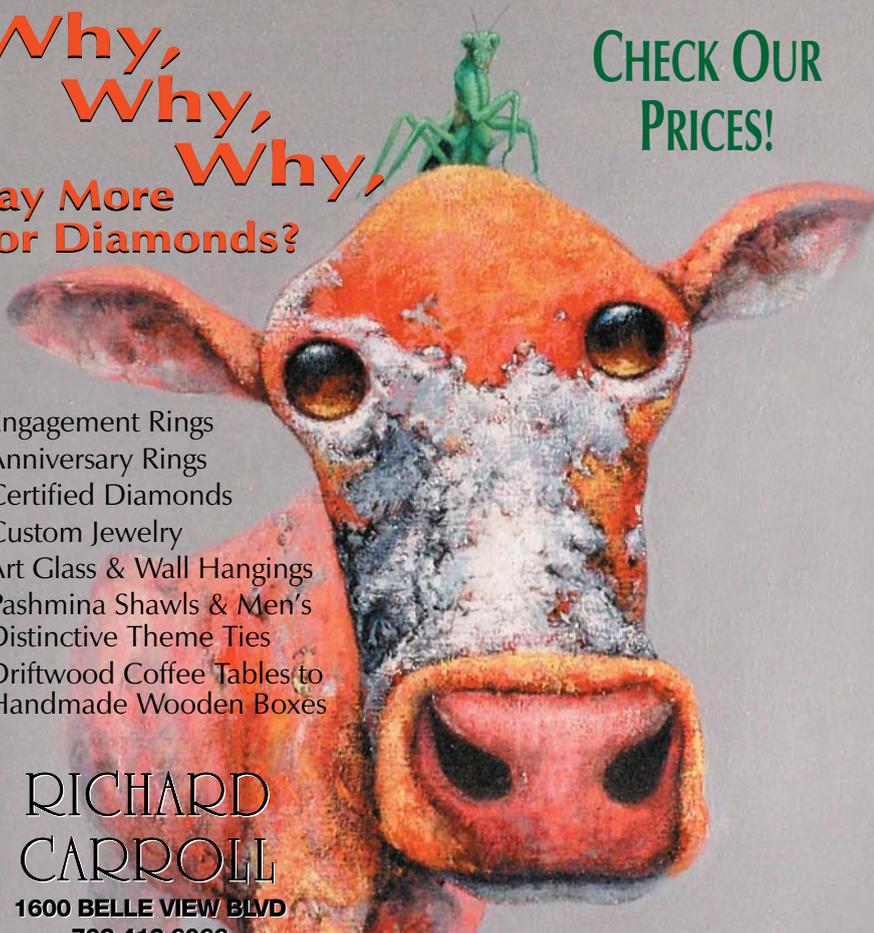
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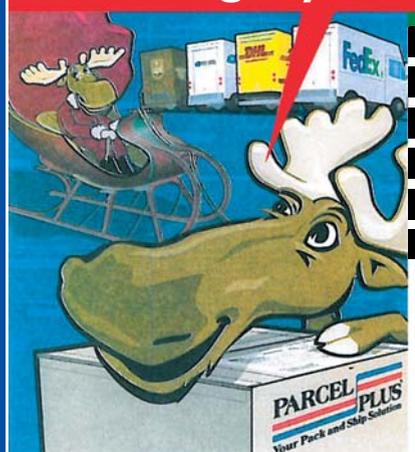
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Full bsmt w/lg fin rec rm & storage/utility rm.

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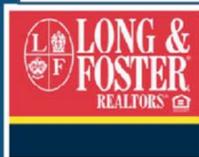
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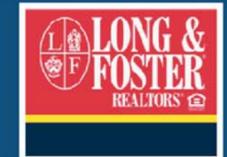
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Updated townhouse in Yates Gardens. Renovated kitchen and baths, hardwoods on three levels, fully finished basement with full bath, plenty of storage throughout, bonus fourth bedroom in finished part of the attic. Two-zone HVAC, skylight and window seat in sunroom with walkout to a private brick patio. Walk to Safeway, Balducci's, restaurants and shops.



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Vicki Binkley 703.994.0778
www.janallison.com
MLS ID# AX7488247



ALEXANDRIA/Rosemont Park \$629,900



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Adorable, updated, three-bedroom, two-full-bath, all-brick bungalow just steps from the Braddock Metro. Living room with fireplace, spacious dining room, fabulous sunroom addition off kitchen, loft style master suite for total relaxation plus gorgeous professionally landscaped yard offering stone patio and deck. Walk to "The Avenue" and Old Town.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.jenwalker.com
MLS ID# AX7489752



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$635,000



Great Opportunity

to live in this updated, five year young end townhouse in Chatham Square. Great open floor plan features hardwood floors, nine-foot ceilings, crown molding, gas fireplace, modern kitchen with granite, black appliances and maple cabinets. Three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, master bedroom suite with luxury bath and two walk-in closets. Two-car garage. Plantation shutters with custom valances. Great space for entertaining.



Jan Allison 703.780.3999
Vicki Binkley 703.994.0778
www.janallison.com
MLS ID# AX7450279



ALEXANDRIA/Jefferson Park \$625,000



Just in Time For Christmas

Located in the George Mason school district and situated on a cul-de-sac, this home features three bedrooms, two full baths, updated kitchen with oak cabinets and Corian counter tops, lower level rec room with gas fireplace, built-in cabinets, bar with wine cooler, professionally landscaped yard with brick patio, fire pit, and shed. A MUST SEE!

Brian M. Murphy
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ALEXANDRIA/Del Ray \$529,900



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Built-ins, moldings, hardwoods, and recessed lighting. The kitchen has been updated with new counters, stainless steel appliances and hanging pot rack. The finished lower level has a fireplace and wet bar, making it perfect for entertaining or relaxing. Updated baths on each level. Enjoy the fenced yard with patio! Walk to Metro and fun on The Avenue.

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Alexandria and Dundee:

“Linking Arms” for an ever-stronger Sister-City relationship

A half-century ago, Alexandria twinned with Dundee, Scotland, as part of the Sister Cities International movement. Among countless exchanges between the two seaports since then was the visit to Dundee some five years ago by Alexandria’s mayor, Bill Euille. Treated to, and thrilled by, an evening of entertainment at Mains Castle featuring the Dundee Schools Music Theatre group, the mayor invited the group’s founder and producer, Lina Waghorn, to bring her students to Alexandria that year during the December Scottish Walk, which she did. This past week, Ms. Waghorn returned to the city with her husband Iain; her staff, Director Kenny Christie and Musical Director Paul Clancy; and a selection of Dundee Schools musical and theatrical stars.

The compelling story of the group’s beginning and trajectory merits recounting. A dozen years ago, Ms. Waghorn — who had been a teacher in the Dundee school system and later advanced to a system-wide administrative position — noticed that many of the students lacked the self-confidence needed to assure their academic and social success. A musical production, she thought, would bring out their natural abilities, imbue them with a stronger sense of self, and possibly even set them on a surer path to life-long accomplishment. That first show (which had been modestly conceived as a one-time-only undertaking) proved a huge success, and the city encouraged Ms. Waghorn to continue. Over the ensuing years the group has trained hundreds of students; currently, some 150 young Dundonians — from age 4 to late teens — take weekend music and theatre classes and perform throughout the city, the country, and beyond. Validating Ms. Waghorn’s conviction that “If we link arms, together we’ll be stronger,” many of them have gone on, and are going on, to pursue performing-arts careers and other advanced degrees at university.

On Saturday, Nov. 27, a selection of eight of the older students and four adults of the Dundee Schools Music and Theatre group arrived in Alexandria to participate in a week of cultural exchange leading up to the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Students and staff of the Dundee Schools Music and Theatre group of Scotland joined the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee and sang their way through the parade route on Saturday morning.

Scottish Walk on Dec. 4 — a visit sponsored by Alexandria’s Sister Cities Committee. Several families in the city graciously hosted the students, while the adults settled in at the Monaco Hotel on King Street. The group’s program consisted of tours of Old Town, Fort Ward, and select Washington monuments, engagingly led by the Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, Lance Mallamo, as well as of the U.S. Capitol and various national museums. Two days were set aside to interact with young people sharing similar artistic interests at T.C. Williams High School and St. Stephens and St. Agnes Upper School. Mid-week Mayor Euille hosted a reception for the group at City Hall.

In return, the Dundonians treated Alexandria to a series of unforgettable performances. In addition to several impromptu public bursts of song and dance, the group entertained a standing-room-only crowd at the Lyceum on Dec. 1 with gospel songs, renditions of Gershwin and Sondheim, other Broadway hits, and soulfully rendered Scottish ballads. The next night they entertained at the Torpedo Factory with more informal presentations that stopped en-

chanted Christmas shoppers in their tracks. The group capped its week by leading the Alexandria-Dundee Sister Cities contingent in the Scottish Walk, singing selections of Scottish songs to the general and enthusiastic delight of spectators bracketing the parade along Old Town’s sidewalks. When the Scottish delegation passed the reviewing stand, Mayor Euille jumped from his official perch there to give each and every one of them a grateful embrace.

In helping to assure a wonderful week with our visitors from Dundee, the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee would like to recognize the time and generosity of the Office of the Mayor, the Office of Historic Alexandria and especially the Lyceum, the faculty of T.C. Williams High School and of St. Stephens and St. Agnes Upper School, the Office of U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, the Office of Citizen Assistance, Hard Times Cafe, Union Street Public House, O’Connell’s Restaurant, and Whole Foods Market, as well as former Committee members Chris Beatley and Willie Dixon — all of whom helped sponsor activities in which the Dundee group participated. We would most especially like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Bracken, Crabill, Rush, and Schonberger families for offering their homes to the young delegation from Scotland: they proved to be hosts who, in short order, genuinely became the trouper’s Alexandria “families.”

The visit this year of the Music and Theatre group is but the latest, albeit undoubtedly the most fun, in a series of exchanges between Dundee and our city — exchanges which redound to the collateral benefit of the cities themselves, their young people, and all those who realize the critical importance, in today’s ever-more global reality, of Lina Waghorn’s counsel that “together we’ll be stronger.”

— JUDY NAVARRO
Secretary

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee

Holiday Concert Series

The City of Alexandria Announces 2010 Holiday Concert Series. Enjoy the festive sounds of the season in Alexandria as a break between shopping, on your way to dinner, or just to get into the holiday spirit. Come enjoy local performers with their rich talent as they entertain you during this festive time of year. Types of music featured include barbershop, folk, Hanukah favorites, hand bell ringers and good old fashioned caroling.

All the performances are free and held outdoors. Concerts will be cancelled due to inclement weather. For up to date information, call the City’s Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592. The following concerts are scheduled at Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

- 1 p.m. — Bell’s Angels, St. John’s Lutheran Church Handbell Choir (Handbells);
- 2 p.m. — Alexandria Harmonizers (Men’s Barbershop);

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

- 2 p.m. — St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church Handbell Choir (Handbells);
 - 3 p.m. — Blue Book Value Band (Swing Blues);
- The public is encouraged to take public transit or walk to the event. Visitors to Old Town can take the Metrorail lines to the King Street Station, and then take the free King Street Trolley to the event. For DASH schedule information, call 703-370-DASH or visit www.dashbus.com. For Metrobus schedule information, call 202-637-7000 or visit www.wmata.com. For a parking map, visit www.alexandriava.gov/12490.

Alexandria Black History Museum Hosts Day of Kwanzaa Events

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Alexandria Black History Museum will host three Kwanzaa events — an informative program, a craft workshop for children, and a film screening.

The day kicks off with the free Pre-Kwanzaa Program from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This annual event explores the history and significance of Kwanzaa. Participants will learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, a seven-day cultural celebration that begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, and find out how to incorporate it into your holiday season. Brian Sales, who studied with Kwanzaa founder Dr. Maulana Karenga, will instruct participants in the basic history of Kwanzaa, provide advice on celebrating Kwanzaa at home, and perform a traditional libation ceremony.

Then from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., families can

take part in a Children’s Kwanzaa Craft Workshop. Jessica Smith, founder of Culture Kingdom Kids, and Kwanzaa educator Pier Penic will direct children (ages 4-12) and their parents in making Kwanzaa crafts. This event will be located in the Museum’s Watson Reading Room. Advance reservations are requested and a \$5 fee covers craft supplies.

Finally, at 4:30 p.m., attend a free screening of “The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration.” This vibrant documentary from M.K. Asante uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience. Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, “The Black Candle” is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa are so important to African Americans today. Narrated by Maya Angelou, it traces the holiday’s growth

out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants. This viewing is part of “Movies with a Mission,” a series of films about the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue.

The Kwanzaa celebration was created in 1966 by Dr. Karenga who designed the celebration as a way for African Americans to reaffirm their heritage and culture and their bonds to one another as a community.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the heart of Alexandria’s historic Parker-Gray District, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

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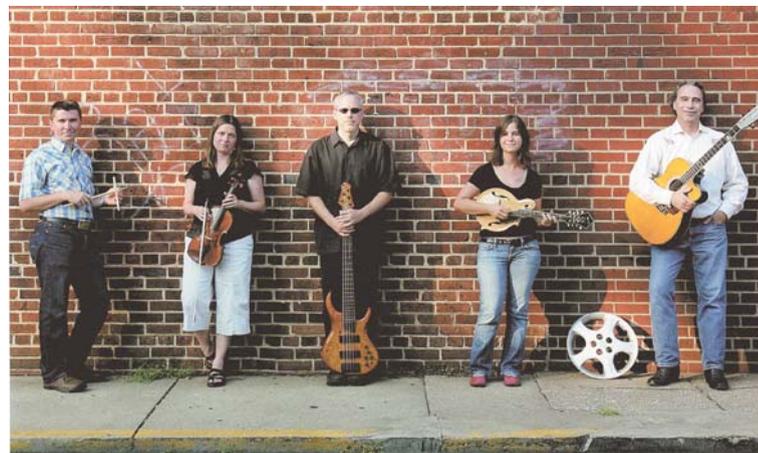
A Tribute to Hazel Dickens

Friday/Dec. 10 at 8 p.m.

Ten Bluegrass Acts with headliners Bill Emerson (and Sweet Dixie), Dudley Connell and Dede Wyland will honor Bluegrass legend Hazel Dickens, 75, who will also grace the stage. The show's lineup also includes Randy Barrett, Bumpkin Pie (with Coup de Grass), Karen Collins and the Backroads Trio, Dead Men's Hollow, Sally



Dede Wyland



U-Liners

Love, Akira Otsuka and the U-Liners. Also a benefit for Hungry for Music. At the Lee Center's Richard Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$20/general, available at www.hungryformusic.org or by calling 240-582-6193.

PHOTO BY KENNETH M. WYNER



Bumpkin Pie (Michael Dunkley and Suzanne Ives Dunkley) are based in the Bucknell area of Alexandria.



PHOTO BY TOM PICH

Hazel Dickens



Karen Collins and the Backroads Trio



Bill Emerson



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Dutch's Grill

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FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

“Small Works.” Fifteen members from the Multiple Exposures Gallery are exhibiting “Small Works.” Noting larger than 12x12-inches in film, digital, color and B&W will all be represented. Juror Lenny Campello is an artist, art critic and writer. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 24

Holiday Small Works and Silent Auction. Gallery West fills the walls with an eclectic show of small works just in time for holiday gift giving. The display will feature original paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photographs, digital art and jewelry. Artist’s Reception is Saturday, Dec. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town, Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1, 2011

Exhibition of Commemorative Wares. Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community’s keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

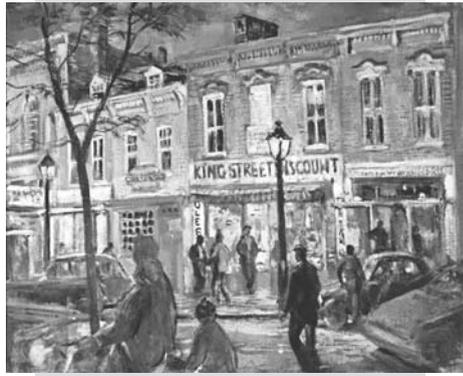
Andrew Zimmerman’s Colorado Winter. Featuring Andrew Zimmerman’s silver-gelatin photographic prints. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 2

Ceramic Guild Show. Santa is coming to town and the Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Scope Gallery has clay creations and stocking stuffers to jingle everyone’s bells. Shopping is Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At Scope Gallery, 101 North Union Street, Studio 19, Alexandria. 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 7

The Springfield Art Guild Art Show.



TUESDAY/DEC. 14

Artist Horace Day. 6 to 8 p.m. Reception to celebrate the current exhibition, “Style and Identity: Black Alexandria in the 1970s, Portraits by Horace Day.” The exhibition of more than 30 paintings by Horace Day (1909-1984) features Alexandria street scenes and portraits of African American Alexandrians from the early 1970s. The exhibition will be open through Friday, May 7. The reception is free but reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4356. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street in the heart of Alexandria’s historic Parker-Gray District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring: 40 works of art are displayed in this exhibition and sale. These works include oil, watercolor, photography, and mixed media. At Godwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Call Donnalyne Lefever 703-644-6677.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 2

Metalwork 2010. Free. Metalwork 2010 is the Washington Guild of Goldsmiths (WGG) biennial show and sale to exhibit their members’ work. Reception to meet the artists on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 6-9 p.m. At the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Second Thursday Art Night. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Browse open studios, interact with artists, enjoy live music and refreshments. Meet the artists at Metalwork ’10 in Target Gallery. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Women of Courage. 4 to 7 p.m. Free. The Art and Stories of Entrepreneur Artists and Change Makers. A multicultural celebration of art, music and entrepreneurship. Meet Empowered Women International’s 12 graduates from the 2010 Entrepreneur Training for Success program. The event program starts at 5 p.m. and includes a keynote address from Jimena Ryan of Raffa, P.C.; a live jazz performance by Tacha Coleman Parr (vocals) and Scott Giambusso (electric guitar); a book presentation and signing by novelist Jameela Alter; and a reception and holiday shopping extravaganza with wine and appetizers. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. RSVP required at cfrupp@aol.com.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 2, 2011

Molded from Complicated Mixtures. Drawing inspiration from the quirky characters and funky forms produced in plastic toys, Megan Marlatt renders in a classic style paintings that depict the many meanings behind toys. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 12

Faculty Exhibition. Marymount University’s Barry Gallery will showcase the work of 11 Marymount faculty artists in the upcoming Fine Art and Graphic Design Faculty Exhibition. Marymount’s Barry Gallery is located in the Reinsch Library on the University’s Main Campus, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington. The Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Judy Bass, the Barry Gallery curator, at 703-284-1561.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 23

Artist Jan. E. Moffatt. Featuring the 2010 Blue Door Collection and more. At Art in the Garden at the Historic Manor House, Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon-4:30 p.m. Call 703-941-7987, 703-642-5173, www.GreenSpring.org.

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Thursday - Italian Night Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari
Friday - Fish Night Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce
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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 6, 2011

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread Mount Vernon, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Visit Aladdin, George Washington's Christmas Camel, take special Mansion tours, and make a Chocolate Toast to Christmas, with our 18th-century-style chocolate drink, a Washington family favorite. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon; call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org. Admission: \$15 for adults, \$7 for youth (6-11), and free for kids 5 and under.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

Alexandria Jaycees' Christmas Tree Sales. The tree lot features a variety of trees, including Canaan Firs, Douglas Firs, Fraser Firs, and Scotch Pines in heights from 4-10 feet, with prices from \$45-\$90. Proceeds to benefit the Holiday Shopping Tour for underprivileged children. Operating hours are Tuesday-Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At the Safeway Parking Lot, 500 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-866-7171 or go to www.alexjaycees.org or visit <http://www.alexjaycees.org/trees.php>.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Dec. 11-12; Dec. 18-19. From 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" for an evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tour the first and second floors, hear characters from Washington's world as they guide visitors through the home, adding ambiance to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults/\$20, Youth 11 and under/\$14. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon; call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 12

"A Christmas Carol." Admission: \$15. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holidays with a return of a classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria; call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Second Thursday Art Night. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Studios and galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for holiday shopping and indulgent treats will make for a decadent evening. Visit Target Gallery from 6-8 p.m. for the reception for the Washington Guild of Goldsmiths show, featuring work by jewelry, metal, and enamel artists. From 6:30-8 p.m., The Art League Gallery hosts the reception for the All-Media Membership Show and Greetings From..., a show of 4x6" work depicting real or imagined places the artists have visited or would like to visit. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Latin American Book Discussion Group. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

Jon Carroll Performs. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Jon Carroll is the Grammy winning songwriter-performer from the Mary Chapin Carpenter Band and Starland Vocal Band. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.joncarroll.org.

Ghosts Along the Waterfront. 7 p.m. Author Michael Lee Pope will share stories from his book, "Ghosts of Alexandria," and discuss the waterfront planning process. At the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison Room, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

DEC. 9-11

"A Christmas Carol." Admission is \$10/adults; \$7/students or seniors. Family rates of \$30 for 4 or more. Presented by the Mount Vernon High School drama department. Dec. 9, 10 and 11. At the Little Theatre, Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. For details, go to eademarc@fcps.edu or 703-619-3259. Group sales contact Jeanette Kraynak at 703-619-9069.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Fair Trade — Fair Play Drum Circle. 8 to 10 p.m. Bring your drums, other musical

instruments, or just your feet and dance! Join a community of like-minded activists drumming for fair trade. Learn more about the fair trade movement and enjoy fair trade treats. Sponsored by the D.C. Fair Trade Network (dfairtradenetwork.org). At Mindful Hands, 211 King Street. Visit www.mindfulhands.com or call 703-683-2074.

DEC. 10-12

"The Lamplighter." Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. A musical ghost story adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale, "A Christmas Carol," presented by Bishop O'Connell Theater. Tickets are \$5/students and seniors, \$10/general admission, and can be purchased at the door or by calling the box office at 703-237-1448. Bishop O'Connell High School at 6600 Little Falls Road in Arlington. Find out more at www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration" Film Screening. Free. Kwanzaa Celebration Program. From 1 to 3 p.m., families can take part in a Children's Kwanzaa Craft Workshop (\$5 for supplies). Educational program 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Film screening 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. At the Alexandria Black History Museum 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free. Hosted by Jefferson-Houston K-8 School. Come to relax, have fun. Donations are greatly appreciated. At 1501 Cameron St.

Bike Collection. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wheels to Africa Bike Collection taking place at T.C. Williams High School. A suggested donation of \$10 will help ship a bike to Africa. Wheels to Africa was started by an 11-year-old Arlington boy, Winston Duncan, who decided he had to help people in Africa who need transportation to obtain food, water and medicine. Since 2005, Wheels to Africa has shipped over 2700 bikes to Africa. Wheels to Africa, requests a \$10 donation with each bike to help cover the costs of shipping bikes. Visit www.wheels-to-africa.org.

Beading and Jewelry Making. 2 p.m. Free. Beginner's class. Space is limited. Call Renee at 703-746-1784 or email rdipilato@alexandria.lib.va.us. At the Alexandria Library, Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria.

Gunston Hall Plantation Christmas and Yuletide Dinner. Plantation Christmas: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Yuletide Dinner: 4:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Plantation Christmas: \$15 adults; \$8 ages 6-18; \$2 ages 2-5; Yuletide Dinner: \$49.95 adults and ages 11 and older; \$24.95 ages 6-10; \$9.95 ages 2-5. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period recipes prepared in the hearth kitchen. Costumed characters engaged in seasonal activities greet you in the house and throughout the grounds. At Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton; call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org.

Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert. 2 p.m. Free. Celebrate the holidays with this free concert of seasonal favorites in the barbershop style by the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria; call 703-746-5592. Visit www.harmonizers.org

"Christmas in Camp." Noon to 4 p.m. This family holiday event interprets how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history presentations, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Ice Skating Show. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Watch local ice skaters show off their moves at Mt. Vernon RECenter's Holiday Ice Show. Features the RECenter's most experienced skaters, as well as beginners of all ages. At Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria. Contact Skating Director Carl Kirtley 703-768-3224, or via e-mail at carl.kirtley@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Christmas Boutique. 9 a.m. to noon. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts. Proceeds support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Call 703-360-9546.

DEC. 11 TO 12

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Tour times are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. At Carlyle House Historic Park (121 North Fairfax Street), Gadsby's Tavern Museum (134 North Royal Street), Lee-Fendall House (614 Oronoco Street), and The



DEC. 17-18

Alexandria Singers Holiday Show. "Yule School Reunion!" In three family-friendly performances, following a colorful and whimsical story line, The Alexandria Singers will take you through their favorite music of the holiday season both old and new. Premium seats \$20; General admission \$15; Discounted rate* \$10 (*Seniors 65+, Students, Groups of 10+, Active Military); Children (6 and under) \$5. Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Convergence, 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.AlexandriaSingers.com or 703-941-SING (7464).

Athenaeum (201 Prince Street). Enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. Admission: \$20 adults/\$15 seniors/\$5 kids. Reservations recommended. Call 703-746-4242 or Visit AlexandriaVA.com

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Christmas at Mount Vernon Concert. 7 p.m. The event will feature the Bells at Mount Vernon hand-bell choir, along with choirs and instrumental performances. Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At the Mount Vernon Virginia Stake Center, 6219 Villa Street, Alexandria (S. Van Dorn and Franconia Road). Contact Craig Steinburg at (703) 550-7307 or csteinburg@cox.net or Jared Whitley at (801) 518-0826 or jaredwhitley@gmail.com.

Book Fair Fundraiser. Maury Elementary School PTA is hosting its book fair fundraiser. At the Potomac Yards Barnes & Noble. Volunteers will be providing free gift wrapping for purchases. Plus, if you "Just say Maury" when you make your purchase of books, games, DVDs or cafe treats, a percentage of the sale will go to fund literacy programs. Contact Kelly Smith at kellyandwill@aol.com or 703-739-0983.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Doors open 5:40 p.m. for instrumental prelude. Entitled "Sing Noel," this Christmas celebration will feature readers, the APC Adult and Children's choirs, instrumentalists, and congregational carol singing by candlelight. Childcare will be provided, including special activities for kids through age six. A Christmas reception will follow immediately after the service. Alexandria Presbyterian Church is at 2405 Russell Road in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. Contact: 703-683-3348, www.alexandriapres.org.

Interactive Nativity Pageant. 2 to 4 p.m. The pageant will feature live animals, including sheep and a donkey. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be served in the church's community room. Opportunities for worship, Bible study, youth activities, grief counseling and healing are offered throughout the week. At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., in the Del Ray area of Alexandria. Visit www.standrewandstmargaret.org or call 703-683-3343.

Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar. A fundraiser for local charity. After the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. In the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.wpc-alex.org.

Air Force Brass Quintet. 3 p.m. Free. Performs with the Seika Girls High School Wind Orchestra. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit our homepage: www.usafband.af.mil

Children's Holiday Concert. 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, includes post-concert candy reception.

"The Nutcracker Suite" with conductor Kim Allen Kluge and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0885 or visit <http://www.alexsym.org>.

DEC. 12-14

Journey to Bethlehem. Free. 6 to 8 p.m. Guided tours through the "City of Bethlehem" on the front lawn of Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, at the corner of Collingwood and Fort Hunt roads in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria. Call 703-765-6555 or visit www.aldersgate.net.

TUESDAY/DEC. 14

UCM Fundraiser. All Day. Mamma's Kitchen will donate 10 percent of the sale from your meal to the United Community Ministries. At Mamma's Kitchen, 7601 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 571-312-6690.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 15

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Smokin' Polecats with Marianna Prevetti. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Toastmasters Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Mount Vernon Chapter, Toastmasters International. Meets on the first and third Monday of each month at the Fairfax County South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Visit <http://mountvernon.freetoasthost.org/> or Email: mtvernontoast@gmail.com.

Author Talk by Thomas Kaufman. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Will introduce his Washington, D.C., detective novel, Drink the Tea. At the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

A Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Featuring seasonal selections and Vivaldi's "Gloria in D." Guest soloists will be Jennifer Wintle, soprano; Melanie Bales, soprano; Kathryn Morrison, mezzo soprano, and Jihanna Davis, mezzo soprano. Sponsored by the West Potomac High School Choirs.

Model Railroad Club Train Display. 10 a.m. Enjoy a holiday tradition with the Model Train Club. A display in the front lobby as well as a working train set-up in Room 213 will be featured. The Club will also discuss the history of subways in America. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573 to make reservations.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Evening of Music for Brass Quintet. 8 p.m. Free. The U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series will perform. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

MVHS Drama To Perform 'A Christmas Carol'

The Mt. Vernon High School Drama Department will be performing the classic Charles Dickens' tale, "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 9-12 at the Little Theater. Scrooge is warned by his dead business partner Marley to heed the advice of three spirits of his past, present and future. Through a journey of epic proportions, Ebenezer Scrooge discovers the true meaning of Christmas, hope, charity and family.

The times are Dec. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.; and Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Mount Vernon High School. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$7/students. Family rates are \$30 for families of four or more (extended relatives excluded). Call the Mount Vernon Drama Department at 703-619-3259.



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<p>Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)</p> <p>Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)</p>	<p>Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)</p> <p>Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)</p> <p>Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass</p> <p>8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309 Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves</p>
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SCHOOLS

OBITUARY



'Help the Homeless'

Browne Academy students take part in the annual Fannie Mae "Help the Homeless" mini-walk around campus. From left are Charlie S., Gabriella A., Charlie N. and Timothy L. The mini-walk raised more than \$1,400 through registration fees and donations to benefit the United Community Ministries.



Spirit Week

While this year marks the 70th Anniversary of Browne Academy, it also marks the inaugural year of Browne Academy's Spirit Week Extravaganza. Students gather with fellow Grey Team students at the Spirit Week Pep Rally celebration. From left are, back row, Dany R., DeSea S., Anthony A., Charlie N., and front row, Danielle B., Carson M., and Alan R.

Katherine Alice Danaher

Katherine Alice Danaher died on Nov. 16, 2010, following a brief illness. Her husband Dan and other devoted family members were by her side. Kate was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up in Alexandria, where she graduated from Fort Hunt High School. She earned a master's degree from U.C. Irvine in social sciences, and another master's degree in history from Cal. State Fullerton. She was a professor of American History at both Palomar Community College and at Mira Costa Community College. She was a hard working, goal-oriented, professional educator who was justifiably proud of all of her accomplishments. She possessed an incomparable will to live that inspired everyone who knew her or knew of her. She is preceded in death by her father Timothy and brothers Steve and Timothy.

Kate is survived by her loving husband Dan, step-son Jason (Brandy) Rodriguez, step-daughters Mandy and Tina Rodriguez of Garden Grove, Calif., step-son Andrew Rodriguez of Vista, Calif., step-granddaughters Gabby and Ava, her mother Margaret Danaher, sister Mary Sikes, and brother Pat Danaher (Lisa) of Coronado, Calif., sister Margaret Sikes (Steve) of Portland Ore., brother John Danaher (Traci) of Verona, Wisc, 10 nieces and nephews, and 16 grandnieces and grand nephews.

The Celebration of Life was Sunday, Nov 28 at Twin Oaks House and Gardens in San Marcos, Calif.

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Wolverines Beat Majors for First Time in 3 Years

Dawson's pair of four-point plays push West Potomac past Mount Vernon.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Daryl Copeland's first four-point play of the third quarter gave the West Potomac boys basketball team some breathing room in what had been a close contest against rival Mount Vernon. Four minutes later, Copeland's second four-point play of the period gave the Wolverines a commanding 16-point lead.

Copeland drained a 3-pointer to open the Dec. 2 game at West Potomac High School but went cold for the rest of the first half. The best player on the defending Patriot District championship Wolverines found his stroke in the second half and shot the team to a 72-57 victory. The 5-foot-8 Copeland wasn't rattled by a poor first half, choosing to continue firing from deep. Not only did Copeland's perimeter attempts start falling, the point guard added style points for making them while being fouled.

"I try to shoot my way through" slumps, Copeland said. Coach [David Houston] told me to keep shooting. I don't lose confidence. I just think they're going to fall."

Copeland knocked down five 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 21 points to help West Potomac beat Mount Vernon for the first time since the 2007-08 season.

"He needs to get shots for us," said Houston, adding he'd never seen someone convert a pair of four-point plays in the same quarter.

Copeland's second four-point play gave West Potomac a 51-35 lead with 1:55 remaining in the third quarter, but Mount Vernon continued to battle. Twice the Majors cut the Wolverines lead to eight in the



Jalen Dawson scored 16 points for West Potomac during the Wolverines' victory over rival Mount Vernon on Dec. 2.

he got."

With Konadu out of the game, Mount Vernon made one final push. Trailing by 14, Dion Harris made a free throw, Kevin Pyles knocked down a 3-pointer and Harris scored on a fast break to cut the deficit to eight. Each team added a bucket to make score 58-50 before West Potomac sophomore Brandon Pressley made one free throw and Bryant Fultz completed a three-point play to bring the lead to 12 with 2:38 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Wolverines led by double digits the rest of the way.

"I try to shoot my way through [slumps]. Coach [David Houston] told me to keep shooting. I don't lose confidence. I just think they're going to fall."

— West Potomac senior Daryl Copeland

PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Fultz finished with 12 points for West Potomac, Evans Labossiere finished with 11 and Pressley added eight.

For Mount Vernon, the two-time defending National District champion, the game signaled the start of the post-Skylar Jones era. The 6-foot-5 Jones scored more than 1,000 points during his Mount Vernon career and earned a scholarship to Niagara. He averaged 19 points per game as a senior and led the Majors to the Northern Region semifinals. Also gone is

SEE WOLVERINES, PAGE 24

SPORTS BRIEFS

Senior West Potomac Transfer a Force Inside

West Potomac senior Evans Labossiere plays an intense, physical brand of basketball. Mention to head coach David Houston that Labossiere appears to play with a bit of a nasty streak and the coach smiles.

"He's a nice kid," Houston said.

Is his on-court demeanor something Labossiere turns on for game day?

"He's a nice kid," Houston said, still grinning.

Labossiere describes his style of play in a simple manner.

"Hungry," he said.

Vernon standout Jesse Konadu on the defensive end. Konadu fouled out early in the second half and finished with seven points.

"Our focus was on him," Houston said. "I know he's a good player. Our focus was on him and trying to make him for every shot

However one describes Labossiere's game, the 6-foot-5 forward adds athleticism and a toughness that should help West Potomac this season. Labossiere transferred from South County and is a work in progress, but Houston likes what he sees.

"He's a strong player," the coach said. "I thought [we had an] advantage inside [against Mount Vernon]. He did a good job of commanding the ball and finishing the shot. Coming off the bench, he's going to help us."

Labossiere scored 11 points in the Wolverines' 72-57 victory over rival Mount Vernon on Dec. 2 at West Potomac High School. Houston has worked with No. 23 on being more aggressive on offense, rather than fading away from the basket. As the season progresses, Labossiere figures to improve.

"It's been very positive," the senior said of his transition to West Potomac. "It's been very comfortable for me. The guys have been helping me out, helping me learn the offense."

— JON ROETMAN

Mount Vernon Girls Beat West Potomac

The Mount Vernon girls basketball team defeated West Potomac 84-32 on Dec. 3 at Mount Vernon.

The Majors are off to a 3-0 start under first-year head coach Courtney Coffey, including wins over Woodbridge (66-56, Dec. 1) and C.D. Hylton (56-30, Dec. 4). Mount

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 24



West Potomac senior Evans Labossiere, left, prepares to go up against Mount Vernon junior Kevin Pyles during the Wolverines' 72-57 victory on Dec. 2.

PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

SPORTS

Wolverines

FROM PAGE 23

point guard Robert Smith, leaving Konadu as the lone remaining member of the “big three.”

Konadu described his role as a “do-everything” role. Mount Vernon head coach Alfonso Smith the senior not only needs to play well for the Majors to succeed, he needs to elevate the games of those around him.

“He’s going to have to be a leader,” Smith said. “We’ve got a lot of guys that are coming into the program. He’s got to see to it that he makes everyone around him better — almost to the point where he makes them believe they’re better than they really are.”

Harris led Mount Vernon with 19 points. Juwan Bullard scored 10 points and Michael Lewis and Pyles each finished with six.

West Potomac will travel to face Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. The Wolverines (1-1) lost to Wakefield 63-59 in overtime on Dec. 7. Copeland scored 21 points in defeat. Mount Vernon (0-1) will travel to face Woodbridge at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14. The Majors’ first home game is Dec. 17 against Washington-Lee.

“We’re a work in progress,” Smith said.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Mount Vernon senior Jesse Konadu will be relied upon to make his teammates better, head coach Alfonso Smith said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 23

Vernon will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14.

West Potomac is 0-2, including a 52-44 loss to Wakefield on Dec. 7. The Wolverines will host Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10.

Mount Vernon Fall Sports Honors

Mount Vernon High School issued Most Outstanding and Most Improved awards for each of its fall sports teams.

Most Outstanding winners were: Casey Bannon (golf), Adel Lahlou (cross country, male), Katja Rowell (cross country, female), Logan Bougher (football, offense), Julien Randolph (football, defense), Ashleigh Sable (field hockey), Alexis Hamilton (cheer) and Alexis Gable (volleyball). Most Improved honors went to: PJ Virostek (golf), Liam Bourgeois (cross country, male), Elisabeth Donnelly (cross country, female), Emmanuel Kusi, (football), Liesl Tahmassebi (field hockey), Amber Tanksley (cheer) and Rashidat Omotosho (volleyball).

Eight athletes earned first-team all-National District honors: Rowell (cross country), Jane Heller (field hockey), Serenna Schantz (field hockey), Allie Schray (field hockey), Randolph (football, offense and defense), Bougher (defense), and Deontre Wooten (defense) Raquese Harris (kick returner). Heller was also second-team all-Northern Region.

Mount Vernon Recruiting Seminar

In an effort to educate parents and athletes about athletic scholarships and the college recruiting process, Mount Vernon High School has contracted Dynamite Sports to conduct an hour-long seminar entitled “Guiding the College-Bound Athlete” at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15 in The Little Theatre at Mount Vernon High School. This seminar will help both parents and students to be more knowledgeable and realistic about athletic scholarships and the recruiting process. It will also teach how to find the right college and where to look for financial aid/scholarships.

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January 13

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PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Philip Schoene, Lester Schoene, Jeff Shindler, Meg Schoene and Vini Schoene.

Schoene Family Honored

Grandparent's Day celebrated at Burgundy Farm.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

For the past 17 years, Burgundy Farm Country Day School has honored grandparents and special friends at their annual Grandparents & Special Friends Day.

Held the week before Thanksgiving, it was no surprise that this year's honorees were Meg and Lester Schoene.

Head of School Jeff Shindler said, "They are the backbone of the school. They volunteered to transform the buildings here and in West Virginia. They did everything from using a pick and shovel to cleaning the toilet bowl. The result of parent participation is that if mother and dad thinks it's worthwhile for them to be there [at the school], it must be worthwhile for them [the kids]."

Along with a group of parents united by their vision of a small, cooperatively owned school serving an ethnically, racially and economically diverse student body, the Schoenes chose the setting on Burgundy Road. Located on a dairy farm with 25 rolling, partially wooded acres, it was an ideal setting for a new school.

The Schoenes and other parents cleaned and painted barns and farmhouses, creating classrooms and the school office. In the school's early days, parents operated the library and admissions office. Today, parent participation continues to be an important part of the life of the school.

In 1963, the Schoenes located and purchased the property that would eventually become The Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies. It is also known as Cooper's Cove or "The Cove," and is a wildlife sanctuary in an open Appalachian valley near Capon Bridge, W.Va.

During the school year the facility is used primarily by the school, and classes spend

three days during the fall and spring at the Cove. Children and teens from all over the country attend the BCWS residential nature camp.

The purpose of BCWS is to nurture in children and teens a respect and sensitivity to the natural world through greater knowledge of nature and self. Campers develop this through direct interactions with nature and the staff, through learning scientific information, and through gaining experiences as part of a community. The camp is comprised of three senior programs (ages 11-15), one junior program (ages 8-10) and one adult weekend (ages 21+).

All three of the Schoene children, Vini, Philip and Karl attended Burgundy Farm. Vini Schoene has been the director of the Cove for three decades.

"Her leadership is a wonderful tribute and fitting follow-up to her parent's legacy," said Shindler.

When Lester Schoene was younger, he used to ride ponies on the property that now houses Burgundy Farm Country Day School.

He grew up on Telegraph Road and said, "My connection to Burgundy goes way back."

Lester Schoene said, "The things I like most about Burgundy are that students have an innate thirst for learning and are still excited to learn; it is a racially diverse school and teaches respect for others; and children are never in awe of adults (they call them by first name)."

Meg Schoene followed up with an example about how much their children loved the school. She remembers a snow day in 1960, when her children complained, "I don't want to stay home. I want to go to school."

Shindler also gave a presentation, "Burgundy Today," and students performed songs in the Gym for their grandparents and special friends. Before dismissing for Thanksgiving break, students invited grandparents and special friends to their classrooms for additional activities.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School is located at 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria, VA 22303. For more information, call 703-960-3431 or visit <http://www.bfcds.org/>.

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