

Mount Vernon Gazette

VOL. XXI, No. 50

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 16, 2010



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE GAZETTE

Entertaining Travelers

Under the direction of music teacher Amanda Roberts, the Woodlawn Elementary School 6th grade chorus performs in Terminal C at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Friday, Dec. 10.

Time and Attention

In the last five years, tickets for distracted driving have more than tripled in county.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

In the past five years, the number of tickets issued by Fairfax County cops to drivers for failing to pay “full time and attention” to the road has more than tripled according to information received by The Gazette in a Freedom of Information Act request. The steep rise indicates a growing use of smart phones, but it also shows a concerted effort in the county to target distracted driving.

Other neighboring jurisdictions have not seen such an increase. In fact, Alexandria and Arlington both reported a decline from 2005 to 2009. Meanwhile, officers in Fairfax County went from 2,451 tickets for failing to pay full time attention in 2005 to issuing 8,229 so far this year — and that was before county officials and business leaders launched the “Orange Cones, No Phones” campaign.

SEE DISTRACTED, PAGE 6

‘Conquering the Rose’ Features Local Players

Local independent film looks to be picked up at film festival.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Michael Whalen has hitched his star to a new independent film, “Conquering the Rose,” that he has just finished filming in the area.

Written by Jenna St. John, it was produced by Jenna St. John and Francis Abbey. Joe Ensley was the cinematographer. Starring in the film are George Katt, Kera O’Byron and Ian Novick.

“Conquering the ‘Rose’ was my passion piece and John Michael helped me bring it to life,” said St. John. “The actors and the crew

were phenomenal, matching the caliber of anyone in Hollywood and was very far the most rewarding experience of my life.”

“We had extensive auditions,” said Whalen. “We had a clear idea of what we wanted and knew almost instantly when we got the right people. I can’t say enough about the two leads.”

Whalen was born in Alexandria Hospital and grew up in Springfield, Va. He attended Lake Braddock High School. He has been a cinematographer, director, writer, producer and editor for sev-



SEE FILM, PAGE 7

12/17/10
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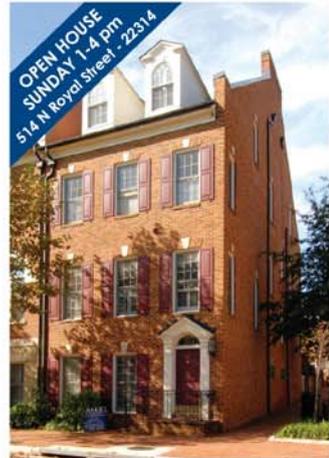


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NEWS

Mary (Katelyn McConville) and Joseph (Paul Amos) are joined by the three kings and the shepherds from the field.



Journey to Bethlehem

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

“So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

“Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.”

On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week, the congregation and students at the preschool of Aldersgate United Methodist Church performed “The Journey to

Bethlehem.” Entering through the doorway at Shepherd Hall, visitors were greeted by holiday singing from Maura Finn, Caroline Austin, Emily Carbone and Jessica Miles. Roman legionnaires stood guards at the entrance to Cesar Augustus and King Herod’s throne room. In the hallway a census clerk and his assistant wrote down pertinent information before allowing the guests to proceed on the journey. The Christmas pageant is performed annually at the church. Usually outside, this year, the pageant was moved inside because of the severe weather though the stable animals that included a mule and sheep and a small herd of llamas remained outside.



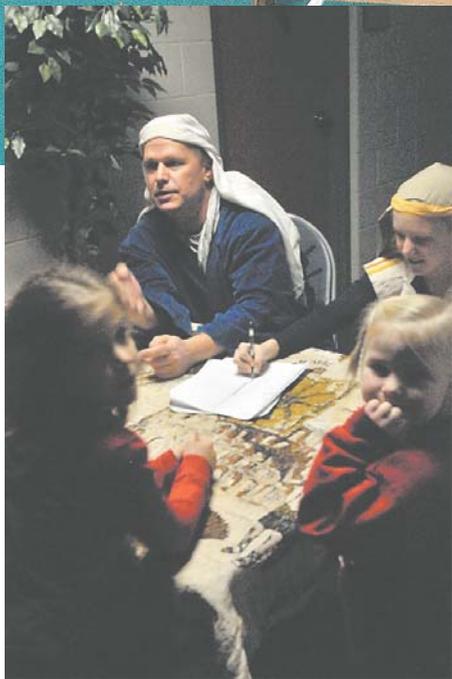
Savannah relaxes on pillows beneath the throne as King Herod (Gary Cramer) and Cesar Augustus (Mike Crane) ask questions of those on the journey.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE

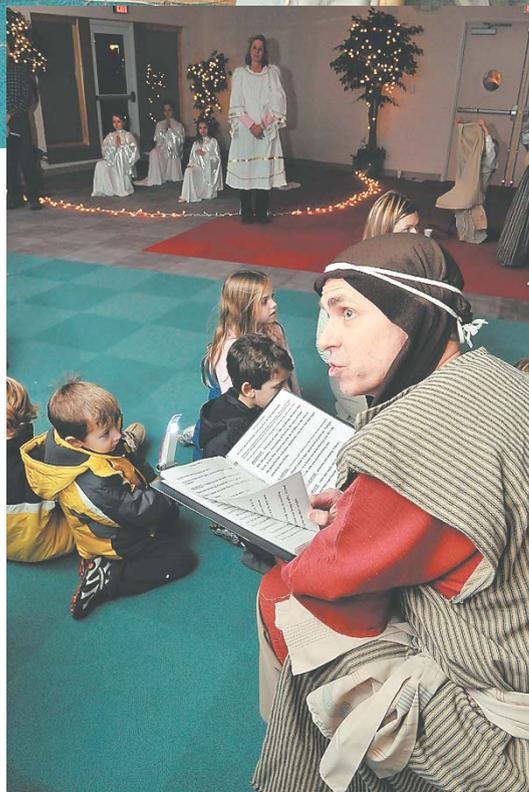
The prophet, Duane Ashton, tells the story of the birth of Christ at the manger scene.



Joseph (Mark Van Buren) is visited by Angel Gabriel (Diane Hohman).



The census takers Jim and Natalie Hohman asked about family and livestock (including stuffed animals) in each household.



OBITUARY

Carl W. Ulrich

Carl William Ulrich, 66, of Richmond, Va., died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at the Medical College of Virginia.

He was born Sept. 30, 1944, in Mount Vernon, N.Y., to Carl A. and Alice B. Ulrich, and attended schools in Bethesda and Annapolis, Maryland. His step-parents, Dorothy M. Ulrich and Charles Wesley Winter, each played an influential



role in his early life. He attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, on an NROTC scholarship and served in Vietnam as an officer of the U.S. Marine Corps. He received a law degree from Georgetown University and entered private practice in Washington, DC, where he worked in energy law for almost

three decades, interrupted by a two-year stint as in-house counsel for Texas Eastern in Houston, Texas. In addition to being a member of the D.C., Texas and Virginia state bars, Carl was a member of the Public Utilities Section of the American Bar Association. He served as both a lecturer and conference moderator on professional responsibility issues, and as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Legal Ethics Committee of the Energy Bar Association. He also pro-

vided pro bono legal counsel to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to defend the health of his beloved Chesapeake Bay.

Throughout his life, Carl felt a strong spiritual calling. He entered Wesley Theological Seminary in 1999 to prepare for a second career as a Methodist minister. He left the practice of law in 2000, graduated from Wesley in 2002, and was ordained an elder of the United Methodist Church in 2005. He served as minister of Accotink

UMC in Fort Belvoir, Silverbrook UMC in Lorton, Central UMC in Mathews, and Belmont UMC in Richmond, all in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was very active in the conference, and served on the boards of the Society of Wesleyan Studies and the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. He greatly valued the many wonderful friends he made in both his legal and religious careers.

Carl is survived by his wife, Christine R. Ulrich of Richmond, Va.; their two daughters, Susanna V. and Catherine L. Ulrich; a grandson, Cassius Corey; two sons-in-law, David Corey and Pawel Nazarewicz; and two stepsisters, Juliette "Archie" Cooper and Helga Reaves. He was preceded in death by his father, Carl A. Ulrich, and his mother, Alice B. Hamilton.

A memorial service was held at on Saturday, Dec. 11, at Belmont United Methodist Church, 3510 Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Belmont United Methodist Church or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Dec. 10.

CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON/ RESISTING ARREST/ DRIVING ON SUSPENDED LICENSE/ FAIL TO MAINTAIN PROPER CONTROL OF A VEHICLE/ ARREST

A man was arrested for illegally carrying a concealed weapon on Thursday, Dec. 2. An officer stopped the man's vehicle on traffic charges in the area of Donora Drive and Memorial Street around 11:37 p.m. and an investigation uncovered a gun under his seat. The suspect reportedly attempted to flee but was apprehended. A 23-year-old male of 4010 Cool Brooke Way in Alexandria was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, resisting arrest, driving on a suspended license and failing to maintain proper control of a vehicle.

AGGRAVATED MALICIOUS WOUNDING/ ARREST

A man was arrested for stabbing a 24-year-old man during an altercation around 11:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3 in the 2900 block of Arlington Drive. Victor A 26-year-old male of Fort Washington, Md., was apprehended nearby and charged with aggravated malicious wounding. The victim was transported to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A CONVICTED FELON/ POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION BY A CONVICTED FELON/ ARREST

An officer stopped a vehicle on traffic charges around 3:44 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7 in the 3500 block of Buckman Road. An investigation determined one of the passengers was allegedly in illegal possession of a firearm. A 33-year-old male of the 300 block of Kirby St. in Manassas was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon.

Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes from Burke & Herbert Bank!



Congratulations to Jovanna Blum, age 11, of Falls Church, VA, winner of our Kids' Holiday Art Contest! Jovanna wins a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Thank you to all the young artists who submitted their creative holiday drawings.

Special thanks to The Art League for judging the entries.

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BUSINESS

Telegraph Station on Telegraph Road

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BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Telegraph Shopping Center has a new business. Formerly the location for Janet's Java, 5735-A Telegraph Road is now home to a new coffee shop after extensive renovations.

It is called Telegraph Station and is co-owned by locals David Wysong, Mark Semans and Brent Richards — all local graduates from T.C. Williams. They are currently having a “soft opening,” but plan a grand opening when they received their ABC license. Wysong takes care of most of the business details, while Semans is the “fix-it” guy.

Matt DiStefano, formerly a sous chef with Vermillion and King Peppers, is the head chef and said, “Everything we sell is my design.”

DiStefano studied in Florence where it was common to have the bar function differently during the day — coffee shop in the morning, sandwiches and salads for lunch and an evening place for micro brews, Virginia wines, snacks and live jazz.

So far, it is working as planned. In addition to the expansive bar, there are plenty of tables to sit at as well. And there is still a fun playroom in the back for the children. Mothers come here to meet on a regular basis in the morning. Afternoons bring in business people from the Eisenhower Avenue corridor, and neighbors enjoy the evening events.

Semans' fiancée, Shantry Pagett, said, “We held [daughter] Coryell's second birthday party in the back room, it was a wonderful success with sandwiches ‘catered’ by Telegraph Station and cupcakes from PS Cupcakes — lovely cupcakes occasionally featured at the restaurant, and have been a huge hit.

“If attitude does get you anywhere, then this restaurant is headed for many great things. I must say, everyone involved is so incredibly devoted to, and excited about, what these guys have going. I am just so excited to get to be a part of it all, and get to see all their hard work truly being enjoyed by others.”

Monica Rodgers, Margaret Roberts and Pam Dandridge stopped by one day last month, and said, “We've been here before and are happy to have a place here again. The coffee is really good.”



Monica Rodgers, Margaret Roberts and Pam Dandridge enjoy breakfast at Telegraph Station.



Dave Wysong, Saba Berhane, Greg Gullace and Matt DiStefano at the juice counter.

Details

TELEGRAPH STATION

Location: 5735 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA, 22303

Hours: Mon-Tues: 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Wed - Fri: 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Take Out Specialties: Breakfast, Lunch, Coffee

Contact Info: 703-373-3376.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Telegraph-Station/113546025362649>

DiStefano said that the coffee beans are free trade organic and they use the Klatch roasting method with high-end roasters Blue Bottle and Intelligentsia.

Employees are trained for specific jobs so that they are expert in what they do.

“Our barista is our barista,” said DiStefano.

Just about everything (other than cheeses, meats and bread) is made on the premises, including the mayonnaise and sauces. DiStefano said that they use the highest quality products and there is a huge focus on healthy foods.

“If you see it on the menu, we make it,” he said.

In addition to egg dishes, they also serve oatmeal, muesli, yogurt and cereal for breakfast. Lunch features a variety of sandwiches that includes two kinds of Nutrella sandwiches, PB&J sandwich and a hummus sandwich.

There are also some interesting sandwich combinations. Most popular are the “Zouave” — turkey, Granny Smith apple, brie and honey Dijon on a baguette; “9th St” — hot capicola, soppressata, cotto, provolone, sweet peppers, lettuce, onion and oregano oil; and “Heater” — hot capicola, prosciutto, soppressata, pepperdew pecorino, lettuce, onion salsa di rucola and hot oil.

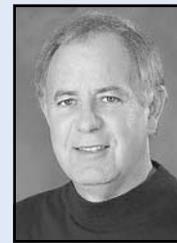
Snack plates include an antipasto plate, a mezze plate (hummus, baba ganoush, tabouli, tzatziki, lebne olives, dates, vegetables and pita); a salsa plate; and “Telegrapho,” finocchiona, hot capicola, prosciutto, parmigiano reggiano, moliterno bianco and pecorino Toscana fresco.

These snack plates can be enjoyed during the various evening events, among them football games, open mic nights, live music, fundraisers and wine tastings. The owners are still waiting for their ABC license, but hope to have one soon.

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



George Schader likes the playroom at Telegraph Station.



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Alex./ Mt. Vernon \$464,900
8424 Washington Avenue

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Alex./Riverside Estates \$469,900
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Alex./Riverside Estates \$559,900
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Alex./Wessynton \$609,000
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Alex./Wessynton \$615,000
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NEWS

Distracted Driving Targeted

FROM PAGE 1

“Communicating the dangers of distracted driving, both internally and externally, has been a priority here since late 2008 and early 2009,” said Mary Ann Jennings, spokeswoman for the Fairfax County Police Department, in an e-mailed response to questions. “It isn’t that difficult to observe many of the driving behaviors associated with distracted driving, such as weaving across lane markings, traveling well below the speed of the flow of traffic, rear-end collisions and near misses and driving into intersections before stopping for traffic signals or stop signs to name a few.”

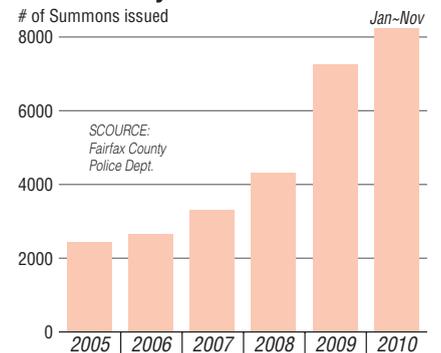
According to a survey conducted by AAA Mid-Atlantic and HOT lanes contractor Transurban-Fluor, one in six drivers reported an accident or near miss as the result of sending texts, reading e-mail or chatting on the telephone. This year, it’s one in four. Half of drivers on the phone say they are responding to urgent work-related issues. Yet few employers have implemented policies to counteract work-related distracted driving. That’s why Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton launched a campaign aiming to persuade 100 businesses to take the Employer Safety Pledge. So far, 42 businesses have signed up.

“Half of all distracted drivers on the Capital Beltway use their phones on the road to address work-related issues, despite having to navigate fully ramped-up construction zones throughout Northern Virginia,” said Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton in a written statement. “Employers have a real opportunity to eliminate a major source of distracted driving, making both their employees and our roadways significantly safer.”

ONE OF THE FASTEST growing trends in distracted driving is texting. While Beltway drivers under the age of 34 remain most likely to text, a growing number of drivers between the ages of 25 to 44 admit to texting while driving. According to the AAA-Transurban survey, 22 percent of respondents admitted to reading texts while driving and 13 percent owned up to writing texts while driving. In one year, the number of Beltway drivers reading text messages while driving increased 47 percent.

“We know that motorists know they shouldn’t be doing it — that it’s dangerous,” said Lon Anderson,

Failure to Pay Full Time and Attention



director of government relations for AAA Mid-Atlantic. “And yet our numbers are still going up.”

Last year, the Virginia General Assembly passed a law that specifically prohibited texting while driving. But critics say the bill did not go far enough because the offense is only secondary offense, meaning a driver cannot be stopped specifically for driving

while texting. And the statute does not prohibit dialing a cell phone while driving. Some are calling on the General Assembly to strengthen the law before more people die as a result of texting while driving.

“Although the legislature’s attempt to make our highways safer by prohibiting texting while driving, hopefully this new law will be amended to be more effective and

useful,” wrote Richmond Attorney J. David Douthit in a blog post about the topic. “Given the dangers of cell phone use while driving, the legislature should consider these changes.”

POLICE OFFICIALS say the statistics can be misleading. There’s no good way to know if a cell phone was the reason for a crash, police say, because they are depending on those responsible to report the information. Unlike driving while intoxicated, there’s no test that could prove a smart phone was responsible. So the boundaries of the problem remain somewhat of a mystery.

“When you are distracted and you are driving, you are a hazard,” said Fairfax County Police Capt. Tracy Russillo. “You are a threat to yourself and all those people around you, especially when driving through a construction zone where there is already less room to navigate and make an error.”

“When you are distracted and you are driving, you are a hazard.”

— Fairfax County Police Capt. Tracy Russillo



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Film Features Local Players

FROM PAGE 1

eral other independent and short films. He first read St. John's script earlier this year.

"There was such a big scope of characters — we had to do it," said Whalen.

Christine Wasilewski is thrilled to be a part of the newly produced independent film, "Conquering the Rose." A Mount Vernon resident, she also has a small role in the film.

In addition to this film, Wasilewski has also done hair and makeup for "6 Nonsmokers," makeup for "Tracks," and hair and makeup for "The End of Something."

THEY STARTED filming on July 2, 2010. Over the course of four weeks, they filmed 12 hours a day. "It was such a regimented hard core process," said Whalen. "You have to give it everything you have. It's an amazing thing when you put it all together. We all have a good feeling about it. Everybody is so invested in it that it added a level of quality."

They are now in the post production process and then they plan to take it on the festival circuit. They plan to submit to at least a dozen film festivals; the real goal is distribution.

The synopsis of the film reads: "Modernization of 'Roman De La Rose.' When the coffin of Etta Rose Callahan, a charismatic dance student, is uprooted from the earth after days of rain, the small college town of Remington is haunted with questions involving the young girl's sudden suicide. Jeremiah Mouthy, a popular art professor reveals his obsession with Etta when he decides to paint a portrait of her for



J. Michael Whalen directs "Conquering the Rose."



Joe Ensley was the cinematographer for "Conquering the Rose."

COURTESY PHOTOS

the town's annual art exhibit. Jeremiah's act of passion aims to make Etta his and his alone: risking his marriage, friendships, and reputation."

While Whalen and his team haven't discussed venues yet, they also plan to show the film in local theaters. "I'm looking forward to having it in our backyard," said Whalen.

Whalen said that the film is straight drama and deals with a number of major issues. The diversity of the characters covers the spectrum.

While many film makers aspire to live in California or New York, Whalen believes that there are plenty of opportunities her in the D.C. Metro area.

For more information visit www.conqueringtherose.com.



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Local Political Districts Likely To Expand

Preliminary data suggests most local seats fall short of population target.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

A number of local seats in the Virginia General Assembly appear likely to grow in terms of geographic size and reach following the 2010 political redistricting process.

Over the last 10 years, Fairfax County's residential population appears to have increased at about half the rate of Virginia's population overall. As a result, Fairfax's share of representation in the General Assembly is expected to shrink relative to that of other localities, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan organization that studies Virginia government.

Some state legislators said Fairfax could lose up to one seat in the House of Delegates and one-half of a seat in the State Senate, reported the Virginia Public Access Project on its website in early November.

That organization and others have based their predictions on population estimates from 2009 provided by the Virginia Department of Legislative Services. The official 2010 census numbers, which are the figures used for political redistricting, will not be released until February.

"Now, it looks like all Fairfax seats [in the House of Delegates] are going to have to grow in population but that could all change when the real numbers come in. Hopefully, Fairfax will do a little bit better relative to the rest of the state when the real numbers come in," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who represents Franconia.

IF EARLY ESTIMATES hold, several of the delegate and senate seats in the central, southern and southwestern portion of the Fairfax could shift outward toward Prince William County to account for tremendous growth in Northern Virginia's outer suburbs.

"You cannot change one district without having a ripple affect on many others. I can't imagine that every single district won't be impacted," said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who represents northern Fairfax and leads the committee that oversees redistricting in the Senate.

Unlike Fairfax representatives, many General Assembly members representing Loudoun and Prince William counties must lose constituents during this redistricting cycle.

For example, Del. Bob Marshall (R-13), who represents a district that includes parts of Prince William and Loudoun at Fairfax County's border, holds a seat that is estimated to be 186 percent the size of a delegate district's target population. In the next redistricting, he could shed as many as 68,000 constituents, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

FAIRFAX DELEGATES with districts closest to Loudoun and Prince William would

Preliminary data from the Virginia Department of Legislative Services shows that many Fairfax County seats in the House of Delegates probably need to grow to reach their target population. These percentages reflect how much the current delegate districts are either under-populated or over-populated. The Virginia General Assembly is scheduled to take up political redistricting during their 2011 legislative session.

not be able to absorb the excess population from Marshall's seat and others that are too large by themselves. Many of Fairfax's outer ring seats also contain growing communities and have less of a need to pick up new constituents.

For example, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Springfield and Lorton at the Prince William border, needs only 4,000 new constituents — one or two precincts — to reach the target delegate population in the next census.

Sen. George Barker (D-37), whose district stretches from Clifton to Springfield, needs his district to grow by only 3 percent overall, about two precincts, to reach the ideal Senate seat size.

But Barker and Albo's seats could shift so that other districts in Fairfax's core can take

pick up some of the excess population in Prince William and Loudoun.

House of Delegates District 41, represented by Eileen Filler-Corn (D), is located north of Albo's and is the most under-populated of any in Fairfax, according to the estimates. Filler-Corn's seat, which includes West Springfield and Burke, needs to grow by more than 10 percent, or 9,000 residents.

Senate District 35, represented by Chap Petersen (D) needs to increase by about 8 percent, the most of any senate seat in Fairfax. Petersen represents the City of Fairfax and Vienna.

"I need to pick up the equivalent of a couple of precincts. There would be no huge change if everything else were static. But most of the other districts around me also need to pick up precincts and the cumula-

tive affect of that could be rather large," said Del. David Bulova (D-37), who represents the City of Fairfax and surrounding parts of the county.

If Fairfax County's seats have to push out, it is likely that more of the local General Assembly seats would straddle two localities.

Currently only six of the 17 delegates in Fairfax County also represent another city or county. Seven of the Fairfax's 10 state seats are also split between two localities.

"We might have more districts with half of their precincts in Loudoun and half of their precincts in Fairfax," said Sickles.

Sickles added that some Republicans might be pleased about having to absorb part of Prince William and Loudoun, which tend to be more conservative.

"I know there are some members who would probably welcome some Prince William and Loudoun precincts, and they are probably going to get them," he said.

There is the possibility that the Republi-



MAP COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

"You cannot change one district without having a ripple affect on many others."

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)



Jill Stracko celebrates her birthday at the Woodlawn Plantation Christmas Tea.



At Woodlawn Plantation

Chris van Dyke plays the Celtic harp during a Christmas Tea reception inside Woodlawn Plantation on Sunday, Dec. 12.

PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE GAZETTE



Anne McDonald and her granddaughter Carleigh McDonald attend the tea.



Marilyn Avery displays sweet potato crisps to present to guests.

Fundraisers Planned for WPHS Graduation Celebration

West Potomac High School's Class of 2011 will hold its All Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC) at Belle Haven Country Club Friday, June 17, 2011 from 11 p.m. until 4 a.m. The event will provide a safe, fun, supervised drug and alcohol-free celebration for seniors who will have graduated earlier in the day.

The theme for the All Night Graduation Celebration is "Studio '11," patterned after the famed "Studio 54" club in New York, with the number changed to reflect the graduation year. The evening's festivities will include a casino, a disco with a disc jockey, light show and videos, a game room, refreshments, and door prizes throughout the evening as an incentive for all seniors to attend.

The All Night Graduation Committee, comprised of parents and students, is busy raising funds to support this effort since there is no school or county funding. Letters have been sent to local businesses

and organizations requesting contributions, and the Committee will provide significant recognition for sponsors.

The ANGC Committee has planned numerous fundraisers. Upcoming events include a community BINGO game Sunday, Feb. 27, as well as a premium mattress sale Feb. 26 - 27, both held at the school. The community can also contribute by shopping on Amazon.com through the ANGC website. Go to www.WPHS2011ANGC.org, and then click on the Amazon link at the bottom of the page. A percentage of sales will go to support this important event. Tax-deductible contributions may also be directed to the West Potomac PTSA, ANGC, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307.

For more information about the West Potomac High School All Night Graduation Celebration event, fundraising activities, how to contribute, and a list of sponsors go to www.WPHS2011ANGC.org.

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OPINION

Counting Your Blessings? Don't Forget Nature

Free gifts to all in Northern Virginia from nature include drinking water from the Potomac River.

The holiday season offers many opportunities to count our blessings and give something back to those who enrich our lives. In the process, we may realize that we've been taking for granted something, or someone, very dear to us. I suspect nature often falls into that category.

From rivers winding through forests to oyster reefs rising from coastal bays, our ecosystems provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, beauty, flood control, storm protection and many other benefits. So this year, I encourage you to join me in showing your appreciation for all that nature does to enhance and sustain our lives.

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, whether a faucet runs in the White House or in your house, that water almost certainly comes from the Potomac River. When you fill your coffeepot before breakfast or your children wash their hands before dinner, you are among more than 4 million other people in our area who depend on the Potomac River

for water.

In addition to household water, the Potomac provides many other natural services. It creates habitat for fish and wildlife, offers opportunities for recreation and tourism, supplies water for irrigation, absorbs wastewater generated by communities, and supports industry and economic development.

GUEST
EDITORIAL

And if we extend our view to take in the whole Potomac watershed, including tributary streams such as Turkey Run and Cabin John Creek, then we see the critical roles that forests play. While some forest benefits are obvious — wildlife habitat, recreation, wood products and forestry jobs — services such as preventing erosion and filtering runoff often go unnoticed.

Now here's the clincher. Nature's services are absolutely free.

But perhaps that fact has been part of their undoing. Many natural systems around the world, from tropical coral reefs to our own Chesapeake Bay, are seriously degraded. This reality begs a question: If humans can't put a

price tag on it, do we really value it?

Even professional conservationists sometimes struggle to describe all the benefits we derive from nature, much less determine an economic value. But scientists from The Nature Conservancy are working with conservation and university partners to do both through our Natural Capital Project. In the near future, we will offer practical tools for factoring natural systems into decisions about how humans interact with our world.

This we already know for certain: Nature is the life-support system for every animal, plant and person on Earth. So for all that nature has given to you in 2010, I hope you'll consider giving something back. One way you can show your appreciation is to be a good neighbor to the Potomac River. To find practical tips for protecting water quality, visit our website and download our guide to river-friendly living, the Good Neighbor Handbook: www.nature.org or www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhndbk_web.pdf

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Costco Vs. What?

To the Editor:

I hate to see an empty, blighted building in a place that meant so much to me when I was growing up on the Route One corridor. That

building was a drive through theater when I was a child; by the time I was a teenager, it had become a multi-plex. Now, Costco has filed a Special Exception application to build a store on the multi-plex site. My initial reaction to this proposal was mixed.

As you may know, Lee District

has a long history of citizen review of land use projects. Ultimately, the final decision about this one will be made by the Lee District Land Use Committee, an independent group composed of representatives appointed by their civic or homeowner associations. The Planning Commission will hear the

case on Feb. 24, after which it will go to the Board of Supervisors.

Land use in Virginia has a long legal tradition of property rights. Local governments cannot turn away a development proposal because of lack of infrastructure — transportation or otherwise. Development that goes in under the existing zoning and does not include a Special Exception is known as 'by-right.' This means that it is not reviewed by the Lee District Land Use Committee because there is no legal mechanism to require the developer to make any changes. Were another development to go in under the existing zoning rather than by a Special Exception, the County would have fewer tools to control noise, traffic, or other undesirable impacts.

Under the existing zoning, up to 258,829 sq. ft. of development could be built with no public hearing and no legislative authority to require any transportation or site improvements! Traffic on Route One is a major issue — mostly because of the state's inaction. Given that, I fear what another 250,000 sq. ft. of unregulated development would mean. A 140,000 sq. ft. Costco is much more manageable. The traffic we create by driving all

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Recognized as Top Unit

The Mount Vernon High School Marine Corps JROTC Unit received the 2009-2010 Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA) Award recognizing the school and the unit as the No. 1 MCJROTC Program in Region 1. Region 1 consists of 50 high schools from Massachusetts to Virginia that contain the MCJROTC Program for students. The award is based on numerous categories of excellence including academic performance, extra-curricular participation, community service performed, competitions attended in drill and marksmanship as well as an inspection of the unit conducted by the Director of Region 1. The program has been in existence at Mount Vernon since 1995 and has been recognized as a Naval Honor School on three occasions. This is the first recognition of the school by the MCRA.



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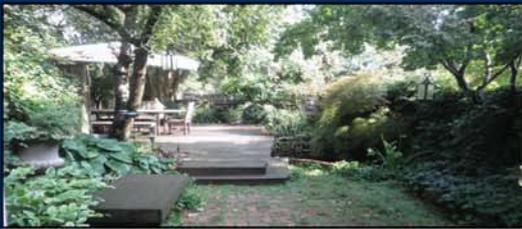


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Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Mount Vernon **\$584,900**
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4 bedroom and 2.5 bath center hall colonial with 2 car garage. Located on one-third acres. This home has been updated throughout - a great bang for your buck.



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



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Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



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OPINION



MVHS Cares 5K Turkey Trot a Success

More than 300 people registered for the Second-Annual Mount Vernon High School Cares 5K Turkey Trot held on Saturday, Nov. 20. The 3.1 mile chip-timed race and wellness walk raised funds for the MVHS Cares Emergency and Equal Opportunity Fund. More than 26 community businesses and individuals heeded this call to community service and donated to the cause. The success of this three-hour event also is due to the support from Fairfax County Public Schools, the Mount Vernon District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, fire and emergency medical services, VDOT, the MVHS faculty and student volunteers and the Wessyngton community. MVHS Cares is a volunteer faculty organization dedicated to furthering the mission of community service and social responsibility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

the way to Newington for a Costco must also be considered. Bringing goods and services closer to the people who use them is good land use. Then there are the jobs. We need higher paying retail jobs on the Highway and Costco pays among the highest wages in the industry.

If you have lived on the Highway for a while — as have I — you know we have made great progress in ridding our community of blight. We've got to keep up the effort by encouraging new investment and keeping pressure on the state for road improvements. A boarded up movie theater does none of the above.

Jeffrey C. McKay
Lee District Supervisor

Building On Success

To the Editor:

As we are about to enter the New Year, the Citizens Coalition For Police Accountability (CCPA) is viewing 2010 as highly successful. It has received overwhelming support from thousands of private citizens, law enforcement professionals and more than a dozen well-respected local, state and national organizations. Six of the 10 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have written to the CCPA to

express their interest or support of our objective to have the Board appoint a Citizen Review Board that will accept and investigate citizen complaints relating to alleged misconduct or negligence by members of the Fairfax County Police Department. Chairman Sharon Bulova recently wrote to the CCPA stating, "I look forward to working with the Chief to create a Citizen Board in Fairfax County." Washington's Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier wrote, "Citizen Review Boards can play an important role in strengthening community trust in police by providing a neutral party to hear complaints, particularly when an individual is uncomfortable filing a complaint directly with the police." Ron E. Hampton, executive director of the 35,000-member National Black Police Association wrote, "The purpose of this correspondence is to endorse the mission, purpose and endeavors of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability."

In recent days, the Mount Vernon District Visioning Task Force – Public Safety Committee that was appointed by Supervisor Gerald W. Hyland voted unanimously to have "The Fairfax County Police Department in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should form a Citizen Review Board to accept and investigate allegations of police misconduct, with the findings and recommendations of the panel

being forwarded to the Chief of Police."

In a letter dated Dec. 6, 2010, Ralph D. Thomas of the National Association Investigative Specialists (NAIS) that has 4,000-plus members, including many prominent law enforcement professionals, stated, "We support the CCPA's efforts of reform and feel that citizens' oversight helps make democracy stronger and provides more justice for citizens. We wish you success in your efforts to bring government reform."

We are hopeful the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will soon adopt CCPA's proposal for a Citizen Review Board.

For more information or to communicate with the CCPA, log on to its website www.virginiaccpa.org or email virginiaccpa@aol.com.

Nicholas R. Beltrante
Executive Director, CCPA

Supports Compromise

To the Editor:

Earlier this year, I wrote about a member of the Area Plans Review (APR) task force who, concerning one proposed comprehensive plan amendment at the site of the former Kings Crossing proposal, simultaneously wore six hats,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 12

MVCCA official, APR task force member, adjacent neighbor, president of the adjacent community association, questioner and vote counter for the task force. That member was David Dale, president of the Spring Bank Citizens Association and Chairman of the MVCCA's Planning & Zoning (P&Z) committee. Apparently, Mr. Dale has learned his lesson concerning conflicts of interest because word comes that he has announced his resignation as P&Z chair to pursue his long-known opposition to development of affordable housing at North Hill. The MVCCA supports the North Hill "compromise," namely, 1/3 of the property to be developed with about 67 affordable homes and the remainder to become a park. Quoting Mr. Dale: "... as long as I am on the Board of the Council by being the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, I am not really free to represent a viewpoint of opposition ... Therefore, in order to be active in opposing the RHA North Hill plan, I have resigned my position as Chair of P&Z."

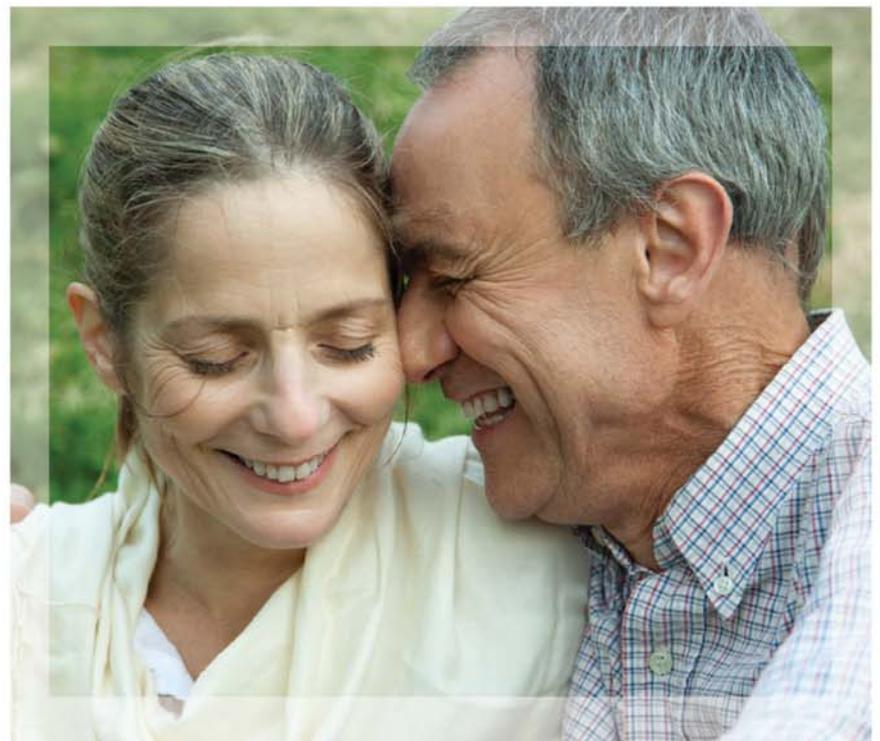
I am not the least bit concerned about David Dale's opposition to the North Hill compromise that has been MVCCA policy since 2007 — that train left the station three years ago and Mr. Dale was left standing on the platform. Since federal Housing & Urban Development (HUD) funds were used to acquire the North Hill property, with Fairfax County representing to the federal

government that the property would be used to construct affordable housing, any other use would introduce the danger that the County might have to reimburse the federal government for that appropriation at the current market value of the 33-acre property. Suffice to say, the County will not expose itself to this possibility.

After four public meetings in 2008 and 2009, the Fairfax County Park Authority approved a Master Plan for the park at North Hill on Feb. 24, 2010. The Master Plan can be viewed at this link: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/north_hill/finalapproved022410masterplan.pdf. Moreover, the Board of Supervisors included the long-range financing of the North Hill project in its mark-up of the 2011 County budget. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2010/board-of-supervisors-marks-up-2011-budget.htm>.

Indeed, the train has left the station, Fairfax County will fulfill its obligation to HUD to construct affordable homes at North Hill and, eventually, there will be a 22-acre public park there. When a compromise is enacted, no one is completely happy, but the result of the North Hill compromise will be new affordable housing and a public park with attractive amenities. I support the compromise at North Hill and look forward to its enactment.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



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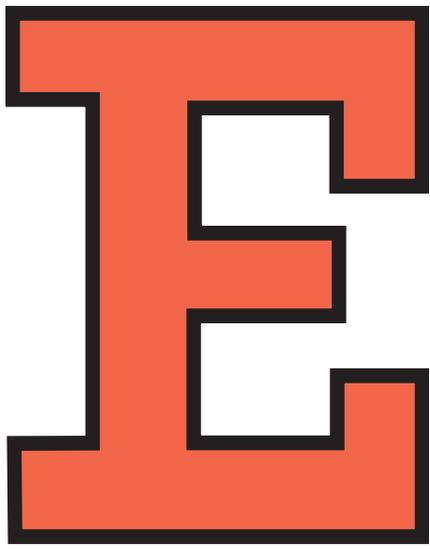
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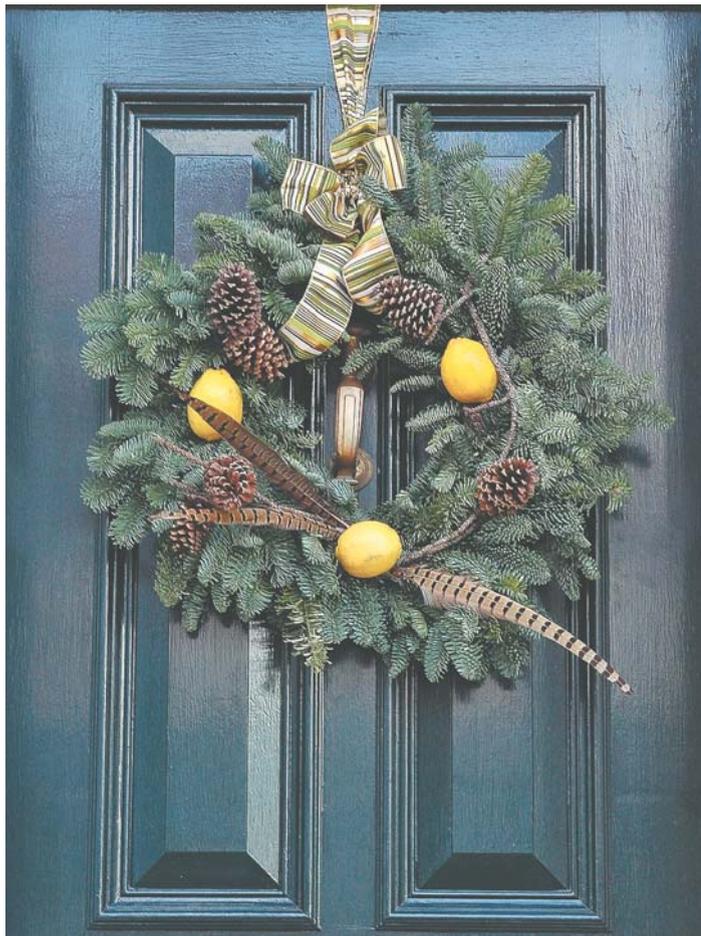
ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



Honorable Mention: 630 S. Fairfax Street, Old Town.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT



First Place: 207 S. Lee Street, Old Town. Won a \$100 gift certificate from Brabo Restaurant.

Focus was on how the decorations, made out of natural materials, enhanced the overall façade of homes.

Deck the Halls ...

2010 Old Town Holiday Decorating Contest Winners



Third Place: 314 Prince Street, Old Town. Won a dozen cupcakes from Buzz Bakery.



Second Place: 320 S. Lee, Old Town. Won a designer signature flower arrangement from Helen Olivia Flowers.

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CHRIS WHITE

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CONTRACT!
1702
Cool Spring Dr
\$569,000



CONTRACT!
3427
Ramsgate Terr
\$499,500



SOLD!
7115
Colgate Dr
\$695,000



SOLD! **JUST LISTED!**
9335
Brambly Ln
\$649,900



SOLD!
3618
Old Vernon Court
\$859,900



SOLD!
8709
Gateshead Rd
\$559,000



OPEN SUN! **JUST LISTED!**
8531
Mount Vernon Hwy
\$475,000
Huge House - Little Price!
Spacious 5 bedroom home in pristine condition! Many new features include large room sizes, recently remodeled baths, kitchen w/cherry cabs and corian counters, fresh paint, new carpet, new windows and siding, 2 car garage, patio and more! Deck overlooking beautiful backyard. OPEN SUN 12/19, 1-4. GW Pky S, sharp R on 235; R-Battersea; Immediate Left on service rd to 8531.



OPEN SUN!
Just Completed!
8826 Camden St \$879,900
Unique opportunity-Brand new custom home by Wakefield on stunning large tract spanning both sides of creek in prestigious Stratford Landing. Fabulous floor plan loaded with upgrades! OPEN SUN 12/19, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Stratford; L-Camden.



OPEN SUN!
6309
Barrister Pl
\$649,900
Elegant Townhome
Olde Belle Haven Towne
Prestigious Belle Haven on the Green's large model. Prime location across from the grounds of Belle Haven C.C. Stately townhome abounds w/old world charm and modern efficiency. Special features include 3 finished levels and spacious walled garden, gourmet kit and more. Exceptionally attractive price for this gorgeous community. Just minutes to Old Town. OPEN SUN 12/19, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Belle Haven Rd; L-Barrister.



4504
Neptune Dr
\$479,900
Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates
Great Potential! Large brick rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot near river in Yacht Haven Est. Many features include: maintenance free exterior. 4BRs on main level, including master with private bath, large room sizes, 2 FPs, hardwood floors, huge lower level family room w/fireplace plus storage area! Exceptional price provides opportunity to create your own masterpiece!



NEW PRICE!
9316
Allwood Dr
\$489,500
Absolutely Impeccable!
New Price! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon.



6515
Princeton Dr
\$749,900
Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!
PRICE REDUCTION!
Move in ready! Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan featuring kit with SS & granite, family room, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, fin LL & oversized 2 car gar. "Close In" location with 2 tiered deck & seasonal river views.



NEW PRICE!
7106
Colgate Dr
\$499,500
Hollin Glen-Super Value!
WOW!!! MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! OWNER WANTS IMMEDIATE SALE. Owners have priced to sell immediately! Spacious home in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many special features include: updated kitchen, 4 large BRs, 3BAs, hardwood floors, fin LL, 2 fireplaces, fenced in rear yard with two level deck. Move fast nothing like it at this price in prime 'close-in' market!



4408
Tarpon Ln
\$625,000
Yacht Haven-Near River!
Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.

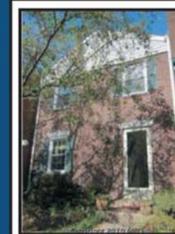


9316
Heather Glen Dr
\$650,000
Price Slashed - Large Colonial!
The most house for the money in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's. Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price accordingly!



1685 HUNTING CREEK DR
Old Town / Alex
\$840,000
Immaculate & lovely 4BR/4.5BA end unit in OT Greens. Gorgeous open floor plan, wonderful built-ins, upgraded kit w/granite, lots of storage & 2-car garage. Roof deck, deck off kit & rear fenced patio. Amenities: pool, tennis, tot lot & 1 mile to Braddock Metro-shops & restaurants + more!

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



PRICE REDUCED!
5826 WYOMISSING CT
Alexandria
\$385,500
EASY COMMUTE! Large 3 lvl townhouse just blocks from Metro and a short drive to Old Town, Beltway & DC. HW flrs on main lvl, 2 half baths, large rooms and an amazing brick patio is accessed from the walk-out lower level.

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



NEW LISTING!
2406 HUNTINGTON AVE / Alex
\$319,900
RENOVATED & IN IMMACULATE CONDITION! Move-in ready, too! Extra large corner lot w/established garden. Dine or party al fresco. New windows in LR. Hardwoods. 3 season Sunroom. Lower level w/big window & closet - could be 3rd bedroom. Cross the street to Huntington Metro. 3BR/2BA.

June Sherwood 703.346.3029



507 S SAINT ASAPH ST
Old Town / Alex
\$799,999
Tannery Yard 4 lvl TH renovated & upgraded: HW, granite, AC, new windows, patio & roof deck.

Georgia McLaughlin Patricia Landaeta 703.628.4663



910 PRINCE ST
Old Town / Alex
\$1,100,000
Stunningly renovated semi-detached 1880 Victorian row house. 3 levels include: spacious bedrooms, lavish master BA, walk-in closet, wood floors, 1 fireplace, spacious gourmet kit, sep DR, private outdoor space, 2-car off-street parking. Perfectly located bet. King St Metro & Potomac w/shops & eateries either way.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



1321 OTIS PL, NW
Washington, DC
\$589,999
Spacious townhome - renovated, open flpl, wood flrs, upgraded kit w/SSA, lux BA & porch/fenced bk yard.

Georgia McLaughlin Patricia Landaeta 703.628.4663



PRICE REDUCED!
2302 VICTORY DR
Huntington / Alex
\$279,000
1 blk to METRO RAIL! Enjoy the convenience of this well cared for 3-lvl duplex - 2BR, 2FBA - hdwds on 2 lvl - completely redone kit - bright LL. Nice deck & sizeable backyard. Many updates - Don't delay!

Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Julia Lutz 703.795.0789



5904 MT EAGLE DR
#910 Montebello
\$355,000
Beautiful river view, popular "E" floor plan. 2BR/2BA condo w/brand new carpet, extra large enclosed balcony, new kit appliances, newer HVAC. Amenities: indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, bowling, cafe & bar, local shuttle to METRO & shopping.

Susan Houghton / Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



7911 NEW ORLEANS DR
Hollin Hall Village
\$469,900
REDUCED AND READY FOR YOU. Don't delay! Beautiful 4BR/2 level home w/carport & screened porch on peaceful cul-de-sac. 2 frpls, HW, many updates. Over 2,100sqft of space with w-out daylight basement. Waynewood Schools, parkland, shopping, & GW Pkwy. Call for appointment.

Louise Devers 703.795.9944



4161 LEGATO RD
Fairfax / \$639,000
JUST LISTED! Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA townhome in Centerpointe. With 4 finished levels, this home features a gourmet kit, master suite, gas fireplace, finished loft w/full bath that opens to rooftop terrace and more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



6423 15th ST
New Alexandria
\$649,900
BEAUTIFULLY updated colonial on large private lot. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, wine refrigerator, huge family room with built-in bookcases, 2 fireplaces, patio, hardwood floors and custom trim & moldings throughout. Appointment only!

Klanc Vanderhyde 703.919.4460



ALEXANDRIA CITY
Malvern Hill
\$949,900
All brick Colonial on large, level lot w/ 4BR, 2.5BA. Formal living/dining rooms, eat-in kit, family room, laundry room & LL rec room, 3 fireplaces, & deep backyard w/patio. Sold as-is.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

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chris.white@longandfoster.com

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 St. Killian Importing Co., Inc. - Stanton Gallery - Stella & Dot - Sugar House Day Spa and Salon - Sweet Tea Photography & Graphic Design - TD Bank
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 Virginia Ballet Company and School, Inc - Virginia Distillery Co. - Virginia Imports - Walkers - Whole Foods - Why Not?

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH JAN. 6

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 children 5 and younger.

EVERY FRIDAY

Grown & Sexy Happy Hour and Comedy Show. 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Hosted by comedian Ed Blaze. Ladies free until 9 p.m. Men \$10/\$15. At Weyone Lounge, 5801 Duke St. # E100, Alexandria, located in the back of Landmark Mall. Call 202-321-0867.

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.

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 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.

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.

"Yule School Reunion." Alexandria Singers Holiday Show. In 3 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.; At Convergence, 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.AlexandriaSingers.com (703)941-SING (7464).

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Handmade Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 45 local crafters will be selling jewelry, pottery, handbags and more. Also cookie and ornament decorating for kids, gingerbread house raffles, club-run food and merchandise booths and raffles. A fundraiser for Joining Hearts and Hands. At TC Williams High School cafeteria, 3330 King St., Alexandria.

Dance Studio Lioudmila's Christmas Ball. Swing Class at 7:30 p.m. Party starts at 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a Dance Show with students and professionals. Attire: Elegant-Casual. Admission \$20/advance; or \$25/door. At Dance Studio Lioudmila, 18 Roth Street, Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868 or visit www.dancelioudmila.com.

Steven Gellman in Concert. 8 to 10 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-739-9268.

Author Barb Winters. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Come hear Alexandria's history author introduce you to "Letters to Virginia — Correspondence from Three Generations of Alexandrians Before, During and After the Civil." Book signing and refreshments served. At the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria; call 703-746-1704.

Story Time Tea. 2 p.m. "Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. Personalized readings, arts and crafts activities and house-made treats. Reservations are required. Cost is \$38/adults; \$28/children. Call 703-838-8000 or email storytime@morrisonhouse.com. At the Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.thegrillealexandria.com.

Holiday Fair. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts, books, pictures, Christmas artifacts, sorority/fraternity/OES gifts, jewelry and more. At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit www.meadechurch.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Christmas Cantata. 11 a.m. Follow the Star, Follow the King: The Journey from Darkness to



DEC. 18 AND 19

"Nutcracker in a Nutshell." Saturday at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. A production of The Center for Ballet Arts and The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax. Reserved tickets are \$18/studio; \$20/door. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and help support the U.S. Marines drive for Toys for Tots. At the Rachel Schlessinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3100 N. Beaugard St., Alexandria (NOVA Campus).

Light. The work is a collaboration among Lloyd Larson, Mary MacDonald, Larry Shackley and Douglas Wagner, all contemporary composers. Presented by Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church, 3512 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-836-2406 or visit www.bhcumc.org.

Colonial Handbell Ringers. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Free. Get into the holiday spirit as you listen – and sing along – with their performance of holiday classics using a long set of Whitechapel bells. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 20

Walk This Way Productions/Kalaj! will host a runway modeling workshop for beginners (ages 13 and up) on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. Registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 20, and all registrations and payments are to be made/received on or before Dec. 20, in order to reserve your space. Learn the basics: Model stance, posture, poses, turns, runway walk (singles, doubles, triples) and more. Build your confidence and learn how to take command of the runway with your unique personality, in relaxed and fun atmosphere! The cost for the workshop is \$35 per person. Call 703-927-2927.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Jewish Community Center's Day of Service. Join 1,000 volunteers who will help out at over 50 non-profits throughout DC, Virginia and Maryland. Projects vary from 2-4 hours and encompass a variety of activities such as throwing holiday parties for children, visiting seniors and serving meals to the homeless. Family and group projects are also available. Visit www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer. There is a nominal registration fee of \$20, which helps cover the cost of the event.



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Online Business Directory

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See our new dining hall, gymnasium, and performing arts center at an OPEN HOUSE

January 13



COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
2400 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301
703 548 4804

*More than a school,
a community*

more info at
acdsnet.org

THEATER



NOW THROUGH DEC. 26

“Walter Cronkite Is Dead.” Written and Directed by Joe Calarco. Tickets are \$50 to \$76 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Show times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Signature Theater in Arlington.



JAN. 14 TO FEB. 12

“Beyond the Horizon (1920)” by Eugene O’Neill. Produced by the American Century Theatre. Eugene O’Neill’s romantic tragedy is considered a turning point in the development of American drama. At Theatre Two at Gunston, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Call 703-998-4555. Visit <http://www.americancentury.org>.



NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

A Broadway Christmas Carol. Created by Kathy Feininger, the story of the classic Dickens’ tale with uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50 (students \$25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org. Groups/Info 703-548-9044. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 13

“Sunset Boulevard.” Show times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are now on sale. Tickets range in price from \$59 - \$85 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. At Signature Theater in Arlington.

The 2010–2011 American Century Theater season is a year-long adventure encountering spacemen, demons, lovers, ambitious actresses, and vaudeville memories.

❖ Jan. 14–Feb. 12, 2011 — “Beyond the Horizon” by Eugene O’Neill

❖ April 8–May 7, 2011 — “Stage Door” by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

❖ July 8–Aug. 6, 2011 — “Visit to a Small Planet” by Gore Vidal
The American Century Theater performs at Theatre II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington. This season, “One Night With Fanny Brice” will be performed at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, 1611 North Kent Street, Arlington. Subscription season packages are available. Friday or Saturday evening ticket subscriptions are \$150 each (\$175 value). Thursday evening or weekend matinee subscriptions are \$130 each (\$150 value). More information is available at www.AmericanCentury.org, by email

at info@americancentury.org, or by calling the theater at 703-998-4555.

The Keegan Theatre of Arlington will be the full-time resident company at Church Street Theater in the District, beginning with its 2009-2010 season. Church Street Theater is located at 1742 Church Street, NW, Washington, D.C., has been a partial home to Keegan for many years. The Keegan Theatre 2010-2011 Season includes:
❖ January 2011 — “A Shadow of Honor” by Peter Coy
❖ February–March 2011 — “Parade” by Alfred Uhry and Jason Robert Brown
❖ April–May 2011 — “Grapes of

Wrath” by John Steinbeck, adaptation by Frank Galati
❖ April–May 2011 — “Basra Boy” by Rosemary Jenkins
❖ June 2011 — “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn
❖ July–August 2011 — “Steel Magnolias” by Robert Harling

Signature Theatre Announces its 2010-2011 Season

Subscription packages are now on sale by calling Signature’s Box Office at 703-820-9771. Signature Theatre is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit in Arlington. Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328).
❖ Now Through Dec. 26, 2010 — “Walter Cronkite is Dead. Written and Directed by Joe Calarco.
❖ Dec. 7, 2010–Feb. 13 — “Sunset Boulevard.”

The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

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

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

Wednesday - All American Night
Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night
Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night
Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night
Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday
Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.
Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616

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Sunday Worship Service – 10 a.m.
Inter-generational Sunday School – after service
Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier
www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

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Faith, Works & Family
Christmas Eve Services
5:00 PM and 10:00 PM
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Office: 703-780-3081 • www.StJamesMV.org

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Sunday
7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)
8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
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DEL RAY BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-8116
DOWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-5544
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA...703-684-3720
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SHILOH BAPTIST...703-683-4373
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VICTORY TEMPLE...703-370-2233
PLYMOUTH HAVEN BAPTIST...703-360-4370
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FINE ARTS



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. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town, Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.



Handpainted dogwood soup/luncheon set by Suan Ying of Vienna.

JAN. 3 TO JAN. 30

Hot Pottery. Clay artists create toasty treats with their kilns for the Kiln Club's "Snuggling Up: Pots for Comfort Food" show. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

represented. Juror Lenny Campello is an artist, art critic and writer. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria.

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. At the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 2

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.

JAN. 5 THROUGH JAN. 30

Gallery West Presents WOW! Works in wax, oil, and wire by new member artists Susan Stayer, Katy Forden, Margaret Lindsey, and Sue Lindsey. Meet the artists at their reception on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be included. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 7

The Springfield Art Guild Art Show. 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 Donnalynne Lefever 703-644-6677.

JAN. 7 THROUGH JAN. 30

Baby, It's Cold Outside & Sock It To Winter: Celebrating all things good and bad about winter. Meet the artists reception Friday, Jan. 7, from 7-10 p.m. The all-member show runs through Sunday, Jan. 30. Check out the best works and "sock it to winter" by donating a pair of new socks to benefit the Carpenter's Shelter. Join the Sock Hop Saturday, Jan. 15 from 7-10 p.m., admission: donated pair of new socks. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or cspringer43@gmail.com.

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 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.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Greg Viggiano Photo Exhibit. The exhibit will showcase local digital photography, the Pentagon Memorial, and other selected images. At Firehook Coffee Shop on Union Street in Old Town Alexandria.

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, ground floor, Studio 19, Alexandria. 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

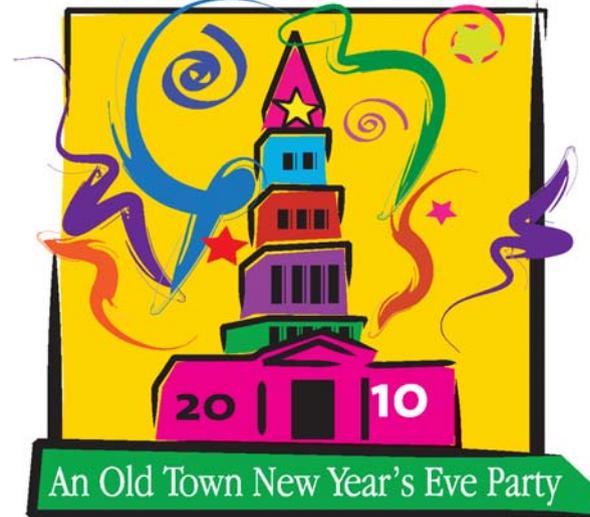
"Small Works." Fifteen members from the Multiple Exposures Gallery are exhibiting "Small Works." Noting larger than 12x12-inches in film, digital, color and B&W will all be



George Washington's pitcher.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1
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.

First Night ALEXANDRIA



12•31•10



Second Annual Fun Hunt
 starts at
1:00 pm

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring one hundred performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 21 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

More information and retail badge sites at FirstNightAlexandria.org

CAMPAGNA KIDS

"ARTIC BLAST"

WINTER GAP CAMP 2010

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS DEC 21, 2010!

WHERE: SAMUEL TUCKER, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive Alexandria, VA 22304

CAMP HOURS: 7AM-6PM

DATES: DECEMBER 23*, 27-30th

REGISTRATION: At The Campagna Center - 9:00am-4:30pm

* December 23rd, will be a Fun Day snow tubing at Bryce Resort in Basye, VA. Campagna Kids will provide a light breakfast, lunch, snack, and admission to resort for this day. Bus departs at 9:00 am.

Exciting Activities and Field Trips, including:

- Illstyle & Peace Productions dance company, Mon Dec 27th
- Skate-N-Fun Zone, Tues Dec. 28th
- "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" ICE! Show, Wed Dec. 29th
- New Year's Winter Ball, Thurs Dec. 30th

Breakfast and snack will be provided during camp. All children must bring their own lunch. Advance payment is required. Spaces are limited. Campagna Kids is funded in part by the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools.



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First Night Alexandria's New Year's Eve Bash

100 live performances include a Capella, Swing, Argentinean Tango, Russian Folk, Cajun, Rock, Jazz at 17 venues in Old Town.

The harmonies of two a capella ensembles are part of the colorful lineup of more than 100 live performances throughout Old Town Alexandria for First Night's annual New Year's Eve bash — professional a capella ensemble Musikanten and the popular College of William & Mary Stairwells. The Stairwells will usher in the New Year just prior to the fireworks finale.

Swing, Argentinean tango, Cajun, Russian folk, rock, blues, jazz, even a comedy magic show and entertainment for kids, are just some of the acts that can be found at 17 indoor venues throughout Old Town. With these performances, plus interactive kids' activities and the all-ages, Fun Hunt, First Night Alexandria is the largest family-friendly and alcohol-free New Year's Eve event in the region. Your ticket for the event is a First Night badge which gives you access to entertainment and activities at spots all around Old Town. This year's First Night headquarters is the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street, blocks from King Street Metro Station.

Starting at 7 p.m., with your First Night badge and schedule in hand, stroll

Alexandria's streets among venues, or hop on and off the free King Street Trolley to catch your favorite acts. Check out entertainment at venues including the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the Little Theatre of Alexandria, historic Christ Church, and the Lyceum. Museums, public buildings, and even retail shops are turned into performance venues to showcase regional and national talent. Make a night of it with dinner at one of Old Town's restaurants, or grab a bite to eat at designated First Night venues.

Award-winning acts include Al and Amy's Celtic and Appalachian acoustic groove, as heard on the Ken Burns documentary "The National Parks: America's Best Idea", Grammy-nominated Bill Kirchen's roots rock and roll, and 2009 WAMA Best Jazz Recording winner Al Williams. QuinTango serenades with sounds from Argentina, and Russkie Musikanti will play Russian folk music that might be heard in the village after a long day's work. The History of Acoustic Blues show includes authentic instruments from the 1920s and 1930s and is performed by Curtis Blues who was voted Solo Blues Artist of the Year.

To Go

WHAT: First Night Alexandria

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 31, 2010

Second Annual Fun Hunt: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kick-off Event at Durant Arts Center: 5 p.m.

100 Live Performances throughout Old Town: 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Multimedia Fireworks Finale at George Washington Masonic Memorial: 12 midnight

WHERE: Headquarters: Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria

Event: Throughout Old Town

INFO: www.FirstNightAlexandria.org; 703-746-3301

TICKETS: \$15 before Dec. 21; \$20 after. Children 12 and under are free. Admission badges may be purchased online through Dec. 25. Badges can be purchased in person at the Alexandria Visitors Center at Ramsay House, 221 King Street. On Dec. 31, all First Night venues will have badges for sale beginning 15 minutes prior to the first performance. Admission badges will also be available beginning at noon on Dec. 31 at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street.

Dance the night away with the irresistible swing dance band King Teddy plus country and honky tonk by the Folsom Prisoners, Americana roots music by the Grandsons, the Cajun tunes of Zydeco Crayz, and the lively sounds of the Irish Breakfast Band.

Delight in the a capella renaissance with the Stairwells' mix of musical genres and holiday favorites, or the inspiring choral chamber sounds of professional a capella ensemble Musikanten.

This family-friendly event is full of activities for kids including face painting, moon bounce, clowns doing balloon sculptures, and interactive games. Try model boat building and sailing for an additional fee. Kids will also

love the How-To Cowboy Joke Fest, sing-along and rhythm instruments with Mr. Don, and more. Alcohol-free venues keep it fun and accessible for all ages — and children under 12 are free.

New this year, First Night Alexandria's New Year's Eve midnight finale is exploding into a multimedia spectacular with videos, lasers, music and fireworks. The city's most visible monument, the George Washington Masonic Memorial, will be the focus, with pyrotechnics that explode from the roof of the building! Be sure to grab a seat on the memorial lawn for a great view and to hear a vocal performance by the College of William & Mary Stairwells.



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\$265 per couple!

Mount Vernon Boys Defeat Woodbridge

The Mount Vernon boys basketball team evened its record at 1-1 with a 65-55 win over Woodbridge on Tuesday. Senior guard Jesse Konadu led the Majors with 32 points. Dion Harris scored 20 points, including five 3-pointers, and Michael Lewis led the way defensively with seven steals.

Mount Vernon opens National District play at home against Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The Majors will play a home doubleheader against Edison on Dec. 21.

West Potomac Boys Lose to South County

The West Potomac boys basketball team lost to South County 73-61 on Tuesday, dropping the Wolverines' record to 2-2, 1-1 in the Patriot District. The Wolverines defeated Lee 70-51 on Dec. 10.

Daryl Copeland led West Potomac with 18 points and Bryant Fultz added 14.

West Potomac will travel to face Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Mount Vernon Girls Improve to 4-0

The Mount Vernon girls basketball team improved to 4-0 under first-year head coach Courtney Coffey with a 60-38 win over Woodson on Tuesday. The Majors' average margin of victory is 28 points.

Against Woodson, Mount Vernon led 28-23 at halftime. Coffey said the Majors pulled away in the second half with strong defense.



Sophomore Brandon Pressley and the West Potomac boys basketball team are off to a 2-2 start.

"We played very well," the coach said. "The first half, we didn't play our style of basketball, defensively. But in the second half, we really came out and put two good quarters together. Our defense ignites our offense, so we had a good second half."

Mount Vernon has not been slowed by the graduation of seniors Tracy King, Jasmine McDonald or Jalinda Venable. This year's team has no seniors on the roster, but the Majors are playing at a high level.

Against Woodson, sophomore guard Kelly Loftus led Mount Vernon with 20 points, sophomore guard Tiffany Webster and junior forward Lafatima Gray each scored 10, junior guard Elizabeth Owusuwaa finished with nine and sophomore guard Taylor Dunham added seven.

"Right now, I'm really happy with where we are as a team," Coffey said. "They're kind of surpassing my expectations, which is a good thing."

The roster contains three juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen.

"They're getting their chance to be the go-to player," Coffey said. "They're responding to that really well."

Mount Vernon opens National District play on the road against Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The Majors will play a home doubleheader with the boys team against Edison on Dec. 21. The girls will play at 5:45 p.m.

Mount Vernon defeated Woodbridge (66-56, Dec. 1), West Potomac (84-32, Dec. 3) and C.D. Hylton (56-30, Dec. 4).

West Potomac Swim and Dive Beats Lee

The West Potomac boys and girls swim and dive teams defeated the Lee Lancers in dual meet action Dec. 10 at the Lee District Recreation Center. The West Potomac girls (1-1) beat the Lancer girls (0-2) by a score of 207-107 and the Wolverine boys (1-1) beat the Lancer boys (0-2) by a score of 171-143.

In the girls contest, senior and captain Julia Bolger finished first in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke while her sister, sophomore Maddy Bolger, was first in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle events. Other event winners included sophomore Leigh Orleans (200-yard freestyle), sophomore Maddie Stevens (200-yard individual medley), freshman Carolyn Murphy (500-yard freestyle) and junior Lydia Perkins (100-yard breaststroke). In addition to the event



Mount Vernon senior Jesse Konadu, seen earlier this season, scored 32 points in a win over Woodbridge on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

take first and third in the 200-yard medley relay, second in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and first and second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Personal best efforts were turned in by Jenne (200-yard individual medley), Perkins (200-yard individual medley), Michael Dickson (50-yard freestyle), Jessica Metter (50-yard freestyle), Laura Jacobs (50-yard freestyle), Rachel Dacey (1-meter diving), Zoe Riviere (1-meter diving), P. Murphy (100-yard butterfly), Elise Bell (100-yard butterfly), King (100-yard freestyle), Cochran (100-yard freestyle), Trevor Woods (500-yard freestyle), Katherine Rausch (100-yard backstroke), John Jasper (100-yard breaststroke), Aileen Fagan (100-yard breaststroke) and Jackie Rhodes (100-yard breaststroke).

The Wolverines next face the South County Secondary School Stallions on Friday, Dec. 17 at the George Washington Recreation Center and the Annandale Atoms on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the South Run Recreation Center.

Mount Vernon Wrestling Wins

The Mount Vernon wrestling team hosted a tri-meet on Dec. 8 against Skyline and Hylton high schools. Mount Vernon beat Skyline 46-34 and also won against Hylton by a score of 64-10. The following wrestlers won both of their matches that evening: Eric Dahlum (103 pounds), Cody Marino (130), Derrick Fleming (145), Trey McClure (152), Roberto Villatoro (160), Dusty Floyd (171) and Nate Haro (215). The team has wrestled 12 dual matches so far this season. Senior Trey McClure and sophomore Eric Dahlum are both undefeated thus far. Junior Dusty Floyd has a record of 11-1. The team will travel to Richmond on Dec. 17 for a two day tournament at Hermitage High School.

West Potomac Wrestling Victorious

The West Potomac wrestling team defeated Kettle Run 43-36 in a recent dual meet. West Potomac winners were: Cole Beeby (145 pounds, pin), William Rupp (152, major decision), Nick Africano (160, decision), Suliman Atwater (189, pin), Jordan Blair (285, pin), Ian Thompson (103, pin), Peter Starr (135, pin) and Casey Hagen (140, pin).

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A Family Volunteer Day
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Shift 1: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Shift 2: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
GMU - Fairfax Campus

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects benefiting six local nonprofits - in the convenience of one, central location.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

NEWS

Political Boundaries

FROM PAGE 4

can leadership would just remove a house seat from Fairfax County altogether, and move it either to Prince William or Loudoun.

"I am hoping that we don't lose a seat, but that could happen," said Sickles.

Even districts that have not undergone wild population shifts could be subjected to dramatic population shifts

Approximately 40 percent of Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) district changed after the 2000 political redistricting, even though her seat needed relatively few adjustments on paper.

"They moved 30,000 new people into my district and took 27,000 of my old constituents away. I had not represented any of the Springfield area before that and they took most of Annandale away from me," said Watts.

According to Watts, the Republican-controlled House of Delegates moved the more liberal part of

her district into another seat in order to make her next election more competitive for Republicans.

"They made two other districts less competitive and gave me as many new voters as they could," she said.

What happened to Watts' seat is typical during a partisan redistricting process, said Michael McDonald, a George Mason University political scientist and expert on redrawing political districts.

"There is an approach where you change up the district a lot on the incumbent so they have new constituents. I expect that type of technique to be used if there is a partisan gerrymander," said McDonald.

A few legislators said they are going to refrain from making predictions or speculating what might happen with redistricting until the official census data is released.

"It really too early to tell. ... We don't have the numbers yet. And you never know, somebody could decide to retire and that changes everything," said Del. Tim Hugo (R-40)

BUSINESS NOTES

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corp. sponsors the Mary Thonen Beautification Certificate of Recognition for outstanding landscape improvements for 2010. Some 21 business and property owners received a Mary Thonen Beautification Certificate of Recognition for their extraordinary contributions to Richmond Highway beautification.

The Exxon at Lockheed Boulevard and the Montebello Condos stood out among the recipients for their creative

and varying color pattern of bushes, flowers and other landscape designs. The program is rooted in the belief that attractive landscaping improves the image of local businesses as well as the image of Richmond Highway as a whole. Presented by the SFDC Design Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors, this annual award program was created in honor of the long serving Board member Mary Thonen. The program serves as a memorial to her life, hard work and dedication she showed in

her service to the Mount Vernon and Lee communities.

Curcio Law, formerly The Law Office of Thomas J. Curcio, P.C., is now located at **700 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 401**, Alexandria, Va. Curcio Law continues to focus its practice on Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Auto/Truck Collisions and Brain Injuries. For information call 703-836-3366 or visit www.curciolaw.com.

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Tree Delivery

Arnie Porter on left and Reid Novotny on right deliver a free tree to a military family at Fort Belvoir on Saturday, Dec. 4 as part of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club's 13 tree donations to families of soldiers fighting in Afghanistan this season.



Ten volunteers came on a frosty Saturday morning to plant 125 tree seedlings at Meadowood Recreation Area on Mason Neck: Joe Chudzik, Jessie Strother, David Lyster, Dan Franssell, Chris Schreiner, Collins A, Sekyi, Nicholas Diaz-Briquets, Sergio Diaz-Briquets, Dick Kennedy, Tom Nally, and Siluia Torreseas. The goal of the tree planting project was to reforest the area along an abandoned trail that had been eliminated when a new trail was constructed. The Mason Neck Lions Club helped to organized this tree planting project in partnership with Fairfax ReLeaf, Friends of Meadowood, Bureau of Land Management, and Clean Fairfax Council, Inc.



Feast at Center

The week before Thanksgiving, a feast was served at the Gum Springs Community Center; 120 residents and staff enjoyed dinner. The dinner was sponsored by the Motion Picture Association of America, the Gum Springs Advisory Board and the Gum Springs Community Center. Aubrey Turner, Cory Smallwood, Chef Curtis Coleman prepare the dinner for serving in the center kitchen.



Talent Show

Marielle Mariano of Groveton Elementary School stands with her photograph "Hello ... Kitty" during the third annual Artist Teacher Exhibition at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College on Nov. 16. Mariano considers herself an artist that uses photography in her art.



Elvin Fermin, Matt Sigda, Luke Kraynak and Kindergarten student Gunner Dutzman are recognized for making daily contributions to the St. Louis food drive. With the four are the students of Mrs. English and Mrs. Kraynak's Kindergarten Class.

St. Louis Annual Food Drive

Every November, the St. Louis School Student Council sponsors a United Community Ministries food drive. This year the Student Council challenged the school to raise more than 3,000 pounds of food. Last year, St. Louis raised 2,000 pounds. Students from Kindergarten through 8th grade donated food for our friends at UCM. Macaroni, cereal, past, stuffing, rice, peanut butter, crackers and lots of Ramen noodles.

St. Louis is committed to community service and this year the student council decided to focus all their energy and FUNdraisers to the local community. UCM is the first recipient of the student's generosity. In January, the students will collect baby items during the annual baby drive and all will stay within the Route 1 community.

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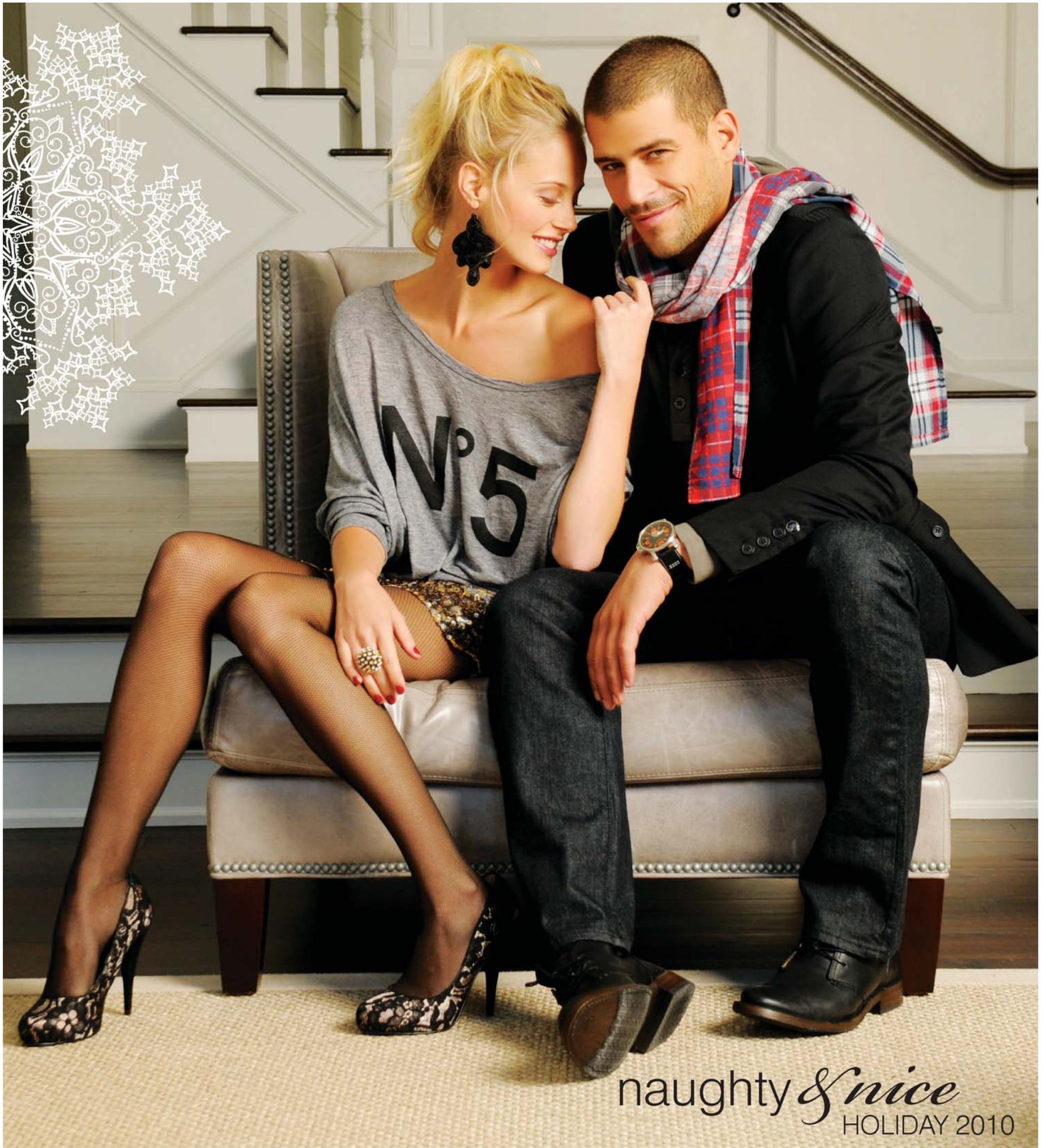


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