

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 1, 2011



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

## On Way to Victory

Mount Vernon sophomore Samantha Porter scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against West Potomac on Nov. 29. See Sports, page 24.

## Dominion Over School Calendars

Northern Virginia school officials ready to fight for opening schools before Labor Day.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

For a quarter century, King's Dominion has exercised a strange power over school divisions across Virginia. In 1986, operatives for the Doswell amusement park successfully shepherded legislation through the General Assembly that prevented schools from opening before Labor Day. School officials can apply for waivers, but that doesn't mean they'll be given clearance. Earlier this year, the Virginia Board of Education was on the verge of rejecting an application from the Alexandria

City Public School system when it was withdrawn.

Now, with the General Assembly session ready to open in January, school officials across Northern Virginia are ready to renew the fight against the King's Dominion Law.

"It just doesn't make any sense," said Libby Garvey, a member of the Arlington School Board. "We need flexibility to increase student achievement, and we can't do that if we're in a vice."

The hospitality industry is ready to defend the King's Dominion Law, as they do almost every year in Richmond. Leading the charge

SEE EARLY OPENING, PAGE 6

## Reward Offered for Hit-and-Run Driver

Champion cyclist critically injured in parkway incident.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE

A \$10,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a hit-and-run driver who critically injured 57-year-old bicyclist Phil Hepburn last month on the George Washington Memorial Parkway in a case of apparent road rage.

At the time of the incident Oct. 9, Hepburn, a champion cyclist, was training with four other racing cyclists in their weekly Sunday morning ride they call the Gunston

Ride, cycling from Alexandria to the end of Gunston Road and back, a 55-mile run.

Hepburn, a district champion of the Mid-Atlantic Bicycle Racing Association that includes Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, first organized the training ride 18 years ago.

They were on the return leg of the run on the Parkway, approaching Collingwood Road from Mount Vernon and riding in single compact line about 23 miles per hour. "We're a disciplined group and

SEE CYCLIST, PAGE 6

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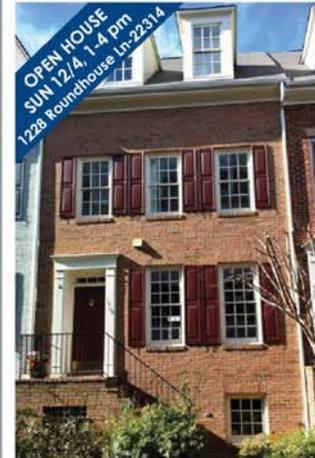
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# Allen and Family Volunteer at Rising Hope Church

## Local Muslims prepare Thanksgiving meal for 80 people.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE

**F**ormer U.S. Sen. George Allen and family visited Rising Hope Mission Church Thursday morning to help set up a Thanksgiving meal for 80 which was cooked and delivered by local Muslims.

“We want to do something for folks in our community who are going through a tough time,” said Allen who brought his wife Susan and children Brooke, 13, Forrest, 20, and Tyler, 23. It was his second visit to Rising Hope, a Methodist church located on Russell Road that aids the homeless and needy along the Route 1 corridor.

“Not everyone was homeless, but some folks were just lonely and wanted a place to be Thanksgiving, and others didn’t have the resources to get a Thanksgiving meal,” said Rising Hope’s pastor,

the Rev. Keary Kincannon. Rising Hope also gave out 386 Thanksgiving baskets, enough to feed 1,400 people.

When Kincannon said grace, he expressed thanks for the involvement of the Muslim community. “We especially thank our Islamic brothers and sisters who made this meal possible for us,” he said in his prayer.

The Muslims are the Northern Virginia members of the Islamic Circle of North America. While they are completing the building of their mosque on Woodlawn Trail, they met first at Aldersgate United Methodist and are now meeting at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Mohammad Yusuf, founder of the local chapter, said that at the new mosque’s inauguration, he is inviting the pastors from Aldersgate, St. Luke’s Episcopal and Good Shepherd, in addition



**Talking with the Rev. Keary Kincannon, former U.S. Sen. George Allen and his wife Susan helped set up the Thanksgiving meal for 80 people.**

to Kincannon.

“We’re thankful for the interfaith connection that we have,” said Kincannon. “It’s so important to emphasize what we have in common. We’re starting here and we’re going to change the world.”



**Volunteers Pat Lucas and Marie Panger did the carving.**

PHOTOS BY  
ED SIMMONS, JR.  
THE GAZETTE



**The Rev. Keary Kincannon, right, talks with local Muslims who were invited to the Thanksgiving meal. From left are Mohammad Yusuf, Kevin Creyts, Mohamed Bangura and Aftab.**



**Kay Barnes, director of Rising Hope Missions, welcomes local Muslims Mohammad Yusuf and Kevin Creyts.**



**Rising Hope custodian William Rose prepares the stuffing.**

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Inova Joins in Operation Walk USA 2011

Orthopedic surgeons at the Inova Joint Replacement Center at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital will provide free hip and/or knee replacements on Saturday, Dec. 3, to 10 patients from the Fairfax/Alexandria communities as part of Operation Walk USA 2011.

All aspects of treatment – surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care – are provided at no cost to the patients. Operation Walk USA 2011 is a collaborative effort between three orthopaedic organizations: The Hip Society, The Knee Society, and the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS), as well as 23 participating hospitals. Physician from the Anderson Orthopedics Clinic practicing at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital’s Inova Joint Replacement Center will be participating in the program, they are: Gerard Engh, M.D., Kevin Fricka, M.D., William Hamilton, M.D., Nitin Goyal, M.D. also participating are two internal medicine physicians, two anesthesiologists and multiple members of the Operating Room staff team. Device manufacturers Biomet, DePuy, Smith & Nephew, Stryker, and Zimmer donated the hip and knee implants. Nike will provide a pair of new shoes for each patient.

#### New Hope Receives Design Work

New Hope Housing was selected to participate in The BOSS Group’s Good by Design event held on Nov. 6 at The Art Institute of Washington’s Arlington campus. Good by Design is a charity design day benefiting D.C. area non-profits. The 10-hour design-a-thon paired area non-profits with creative professionals in the metro region for a day of pro bono design, marketing and interactive work.

The volunteer team helping New Hope Housing completed designs for a brochure, fact sheet and newsletter template.

The project provided a set of branded materials for outreach, spreading awareness of New Hope Housing’s mission and programs.

The BOSS Group partnered with The Art Institute of Washington to host the event. The Art Institute donated the use of their equipment, and software. Students of The Art Institute of Washington, from various programs, participated in the event to gain experience, mentorship from the professional volunteers and material for their portfolios.

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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

**Audience members play the part of First Ladies during Elaine Flynn's (middle) presentation.**

# Making History Come Alive

**Flynn shares stories about First Ladies at Sherwood Library.**

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

**E**laine Flynn is a master storyteller. During her career as a docent, tour guide and interpreter, she has regaled audiences with stories about the people who have called the White House home.

Flynn has taken her love of history and created "Fascinating Facts about our First Ladies."

She has given the presentation to groups including Quantico Marine Corp Base, EPA, IRS, AARP, Department of the Interior and the Girl Scouts of America. Flynn was even invited to Greenland, where she presented to a group at Thule Air Force.

In November, she gave her presentation to a group at Sherwood Regional Library.

Using the voice of Alice Roosevelt (Theodore Roosevelt's daughter), she takes us through the ages, telling colorful stories about some of the more interesting and colorful First Ladies.

Complete with props and costumes (which she asks audience members to don), Flynn delivers an animated and participatory lesson in history.

Alice doesn't dwell on her step-mother, Edith Roosevelt, because they didn't get along very well. Before her wedding, Edith said, "I just want you to know I'm glad to see you go — you've been nothing but trouble."

The life of Francis Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, is embellished with an audience member donning her wedding gown which she wore during a ceremony in the White House. Audience members also receive Baby Ruth candy bars, named after their daughter, Ruth Cleveland.

Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, is brought back to life with a cap, lace and

shawl. She holds a feathered pen which she used to correspond to her husband when he was abroad.

Dolly Madison, wife of James Madison, was one of the more colorful First Ladies. She is represented wearing a boa and turban.

She was known for her parlor politics and for her "Wednesday Night Squeezes," which she referred to as, "making politics one cup of tea at a time."

Flynn compares Madison and Jacqueline Kennedy, noting that they both set the style for America; both gave great parties; and they both brought America back after horrific events.

Jacqueline, represented with a pill box hat, white gloves and pearls, started the White House Historical Association, and Flynn takes us through White House with slides of some of the rooms that were re-decorated by Jacqueline.

SEE MAKING HISTORY, PAGE 9



**Elaine Flynn talks about First Ladies at Sherwood Regional Library.**



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# NEWS



**The Mount Vernon Marching Majors**

## Marching Majors Complete Their Season

Fun. Awesome. Great. Not necessarily words one would expect to refer to something titled “Macabre,” but that’s how some described the 2011 Mount Vernon Marching Majors competitive marching show. “Alice in Wonderland” and “Sleepy Hollow” inspired the concept for this year’s show, with 12-foot tall paintings of spooky trees and plenty of minor chords.

The Mount Vernon Marching Majors placed first or second in all of their competitions this season and were awarded a Superior rating by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association at this year’s

state marching competition. The Majors achieved this rating by receiving straight ones — the highest score possible — from all judges in the categories of music performance, visual performance and general effect. The Superior rating is the first step to being named a Virginia Honor Band.

In the spring, the Majors are planning a trip to Walt Disney World — where they will have the honor of marching down Main Street during a parade — and fundraising is in full swing. See the Mount Vernon Band Boosters website at [www.mvhsbandboosters.org](http://www.mvhsbandboosters.org).

## “In Remembrance, April 16, 2007” To Honor Those Who Died and Survived



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DMV collects \$25 for non-personalized plates and \$35 for personalized plates. These funds will help the Foundation in its mission to promote and advocate for the public safety and security of our universities and colleges and to provide assistance and services to victims of campus crimes and their families. Thank you for your generosity and support!



All questions can be directed to Marjorie Castro at [m.castro@vtvfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:m.castro@vtvfamilyfoundation.org) or 855-462-7432.



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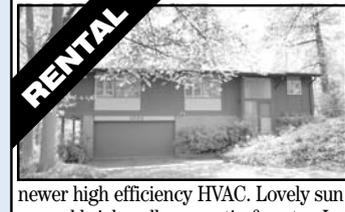
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# Northern Virginia To Fight for Early School Opening

FROM PAGE 1

will be the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association, which represents King's Dominion and other amusement parks that benefit financially from public schools starting after Labor Day. The association estimates that shortening the tourism season would forgo spending by about \$274 million and decrease wages and benefits by about \$104 million.

**"It's just downright silly to say that schools can start early if they get a lot of snow but can't if they want to help teachers."**

— Alexandria School Superintendent Morton Sherman

Hellbush, director of government affairs for the association. "But studies have shown a distinct change in tourism."

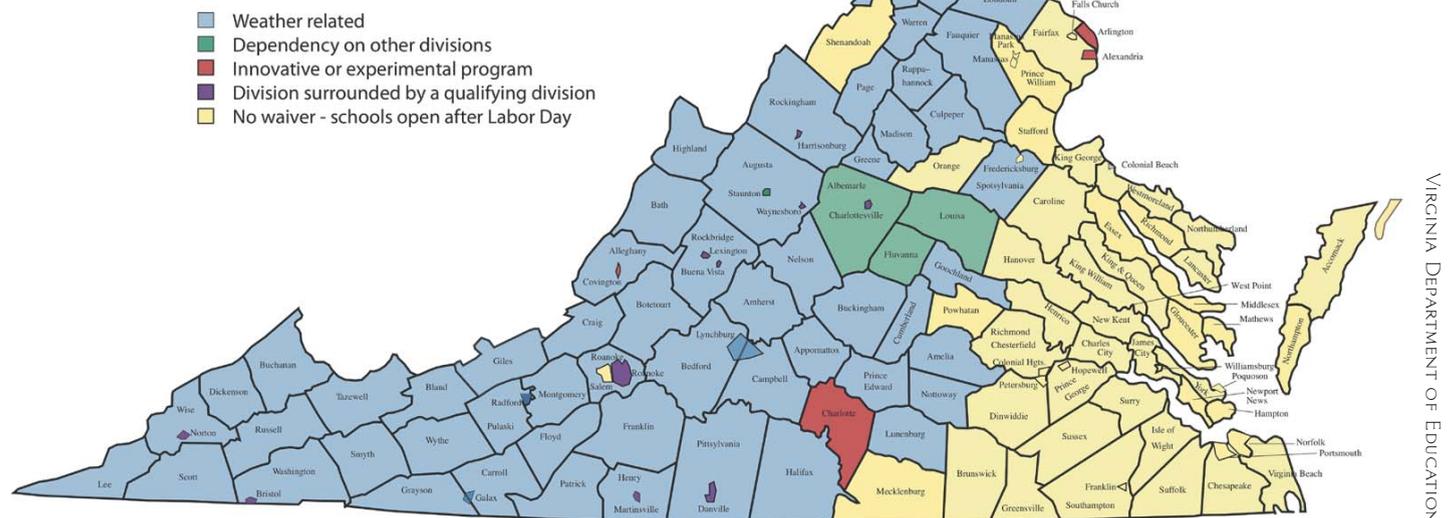
**THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY** has spent more than \$200,000 in the last 15 years contributing to Republicans and Democrats in Richmond. Top recipients in Northern Virginia include \$4,500 to Del. David Albo (R-42), \$2,050 to Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31), \$2,000 to former Del. Vince Callahan (R-34), \$2,000 to Del. Tim

Hugo (R-40) and \$1,750 to state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35). But votes don't always follow the money. Albo, for example, said he'll be voting to overturn the law this year.

"Now that we have the Standards of Learning, it's really important to give the schools time to prepare the students to take the test," said Albo. "You can't have it both ways."

Two years ago, Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) introduced a bill that would have allowed school with high rates of poverty be exempted from the Labor Day restrictions. That failed, but Ebbin is undeterred. Alexandria's experience being essentially denied a waiver has galvanized local school officials to put pressure on Alexandria City Council members, who added the item to their legislative package this year. Now Ebbin says he's going to take another crack at it, introducing a bill that would give school di-

Virginia Department of Education  
**School Divisions with Pre-Labor Day Waivers**  
2011-12



Map depicts school districts approved for pre-Labor Day opening due to weather waivers.

visions the ability to start school whenever they want, regardless of poverty statistics.

"This is not going to be an easy bill to pass," said Ebbin. "But I feel strongly about local school divisions having autonomy."

**SCHOOL OFFICIALS** say momentum is on their side this year because the Virginia School Boards Association has identified the issue as a top priority. It's an issue that's a shared frustration across Northern Virginia, especially the easternmost divisions that can't get the weather-related waivers. Alexandria's failed attempt was to get an "innovative program" instead of a weather-related waiver, which became a problem when the state education officials determined starting before Labor Day wasn't required to carry out the innovative program. Alexandria officials were outlining. Fairfax

County considered applying for a waiver but abandoned the idea after considering the prospects of trying to fight the system.

"The state is flat out wrong," said Alexandria Superintendent Morton Sherman. "It's just downright silly to say that schools can start early if they get a lot of snow but can't if they want to help teachers."

This year, the effort is supported by the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents as well as a handful of Northern Virginia jurisdictions. "The big hurdle is going to be having the business community not as concerned as it's been in the past," said Michael Molloy, director of government relations for Fairfax County Public Schools. "It's really about persuading legislators that this change is needed to help student achievement."

## Champion Cyclist Critically Injured in Parkway Incident

FROM PAGE 1

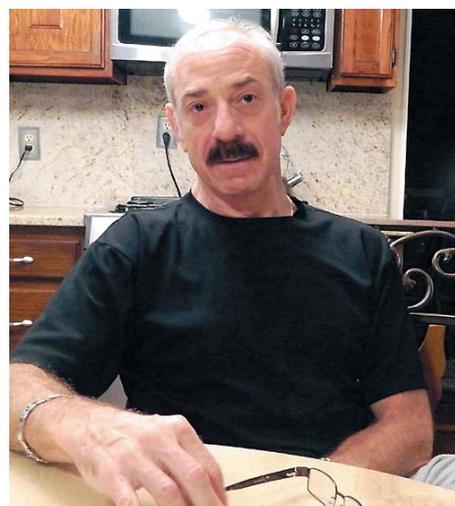
were riding very tight to the edge of the road," said Max Rogozinski, 58, who was riding at the end of the column. Chris Regan, 55, and the current National Champion, was leading the pack.

Suddenly, a dark gold or bronze 1990s four-door Cadillac Seville, which had made a u-turn and caught up with them, veered in front.

"He swerved in front of the pack and slammed his brakes. Chris was able to veer off. But because Phil was right on Chris's wheel he couldn't react fast enough," said Rogozinski.

In a split second, Hepburn turned the bike on its side, slid, and went underneath the car. The driver, described as a Caucasian man in his 60s with white hair, looked back.

"The amazing thing was this guy within seconds backed his car up. I don't know how he missed Phil. I don't know if he was trying to run over Phil or what the situation was," said Rogozinski. The driver made another u-turn and exited at Collingwood Road.



**"We just have to make sure that Phil gets better," said fellow cyclist Max Rogozinski (above).**

Hepburn was left in extreme pain, his hip severely broken, his pelvis broken and his femur broken. "He will suffer permanent disability from this event. He nearly died of blood loss," James Turner, a close friend,

wrote in an email.

"Mount Vernon Fire and Rescue and Fairfax police were there very quickly. They were superb," said Rogozinski. "There were also regular people, pedestrians, and local people that lived there that stopped and tried to help as much as they could. They stayed for quite a bit of time. There were good people who tried to help in one way or another, and maybe that's the good thing that came out of it."

"There was a young man there who tried to follow this car," added Rogozinski. The young man lost him due to high speed but did however get a partial license number. They were Virginia tags with the first three letters either "IVP" or "JVY."

An intensive search followed, including by helicopter, according to Lt. Mike Wall at the Mount Vernon Police District Station.

Why the hit-and-run driver acted in this aggressive fashion is not known.

Hepburn, who is now at home and convalescing, speculated the driver saw the "No Bicycling" sign that was put up a month previously and when he saw the cyclists

became enraged and took it upon himself to enforce the law, vigilante-style. He may have meant only to scare the cyclists, and went too far, Hepburn said.

"It's not as though we stuck a finger at him or yelled at him," said Rogozinski. "This was someone who saw us, didn't like it, and decided he was going to do something about it."

He said the group avoided the bike trail because it's crowded with walkers and joggers. Training on the trail would be dangerous to the public.

"We're perplexed why certain signs were put on the road. We don't understand why... They want you to be physically fit, they want you to avoid using your cars, but then when you have a whole bunch of bikers out on the road, they complain."

The cyclists are now focused on Hepburn's recovery.

"Phil's a strong, dedicated rider," said Rogozinski. "He's got a good heart. In the end, we have the feeling he'll come back. We just have to make sure that Phil gets better."

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**Hallowing Point River Estates** \$1,495,000  
 6029 River Drive, Mason Neck, VA 22079  
**Waterfront.** Resort Style Living! Panoramic views from this delightful home w/deepwater boating, 7ac beach, boat launch & tennis. Bordered by parkland in Fairfax Cnty. Min's to Ft. Belvoir.  
 www.6029RiverDr.com. **Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900**



**Rosemont** \$839,000  
 1202 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301  
 Wonderful Rosemont home with great space - 4 BR, 3 BA, hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen with island, large lot, oversized 2-car garage plus loads of extra parking, deck, patio, & close to two Metros. **Yvonne Croft 703-973-1540**



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- Thru Dec. 18: **Mount Vernon by Candlelight**
- Thru Dec. 18: **Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town**
- Thru Jan. 6: **Christmas at Mount Vernon**
- Dec. 1: **Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House**
- Dec. 2: **Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray**
- Dec. 2-3: **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**
- Dec. 3: **Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**
- Dec. 8-18: **"A Christmas Carol"**
- Dec. 10: **Christmas in Camp Open House**
- Dec. 10-11: **Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours**
- Dec. 18: **Holiday Favorites with The Colonial Handbell Ringers**
- Dec. 31: **First Night Alexandria**



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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## DEC. 10 TO 18

### ETAP Holiday Musical

**Extravaganza.** Santa's Special Delivery is a family-friendly show suitable for all ages, written by Scott Dees and directed by Raynor van der Merwe, featuring the ETAP company members and special guest performers Tina and Dan Delafield. At the Richard J. Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performances are Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Closing weekend: Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to \$25; visit [www.encore-tap.org](http://www.encore-tap.org) or 703-222-5511.

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

### Mount Vernon by

**Candlelight.** 5 to 8:30 p.m. recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday. "Mrs. Washington" hosts an enchanting evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. The Mount Vernon by Candlelight tour includes the first and second floors, featuring characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the home and adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults: \$20; Children 11 and under: \$14. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) or call 703-780-2000.

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 6

### Christmas at Mount

**Vernon.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. recurring daily. Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread replica of the Mansion created by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, chocolate making demonstrations, and a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for his guests' enjoyment. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Christmas at Mount Vernon admission is included in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 1

**NOVA Community Chorus.** 7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergie Rachmaninoff's The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, for mixed chorus a capella. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu) or 703-845-6097.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 2

**ArtFest 2011.** 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held throughout the weekend), live music

by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

**Christmas Marketplace.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. A collection of unique vendors under one roof, including Haute Papier, Discovery Toys, Silver Star Collection, and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Taste of Scotland.** 7 to 11 p.m. Patron Pub opens at 7 p.m.; General Admission 8 to 11 p.m. A tasting featuring a vast number of scotches to entice each guest. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, ales, and wine also served. Patron tickets \$175/person; \$275/couple; \$100 general admission. At

to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

**The Nutcracker.** Presented by BalletNova (formerly The Center Dance Company/Arlington Center for Dance). Performances are Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Because of the limited availability of the theater, BalletNova presents a series of "Petite Performances" at both Bishop Ireton High School and the BalletNova Center for Dance Studios. These shorter 45-50-minute mini-performances include a

narrative of the story, and highlights from Act II - The Kingdom of the Sweets and are especially appropriate for the 3 - 5 year old crowd. To date the schedule is: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Tickets are \$13 to \$35. Petite Performances are \$5 to \$20. Visit [www.BalletNova.org](http://www.BalletNova.org), or call 703-778-3008.

**Holiday Market.** Free admission. 16th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade work from 20 local artists and bake sale to benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. (reception); Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Scottish Walk Parade.** 11 a.m. Over 100 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, Scottie dog groups, and, Santa will march through the streets of Old Town. Brought to you by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center and the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., with support from the City of Alexandria. The Parade Grand Marshal is the Hon. Patsy Ticer. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Ornament-Decorating Workshop.** 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. On the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4399 or visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**Holiday Designer Tour of Homes.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30/advance; \$35/day of tour. Stroll through seven historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays. Featured properties: 206 Wolfe St.; 716 Wolfe St.; 408 Prince St.; 103 Prince St.; 430 S. St. Asaph St.; 228 S. Pitt St. (St. Paul's); 418 S. Washington St. (The Campagna Center). Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** Free. Festivities at 4 p.m.; Boat Parade at 6 p.m. Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront. Festivities begin at the Alexandria City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 4 p.m. with live performances and Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. At the Alexandria City Marina, One Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit [VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com); 703-746-3301.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

## DEC. 2 AND 3

**Christmas Boutique.** Heritage Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Made by the Bell" Christmas Boutique on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

### Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.

Includes a parade through Old Town, holiday festivities, a marketplace, heather and green sales, Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a scotch tasting — the Taste of Scotland. Patsy Ticer is the Grand Marshall. Sponsored by the Campagna Center, The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the Scottish Government. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

## DEC. 2-4

**ArtFest Weekend.** Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.

# Making History Come Alive with First Ladies Presentation

FROM PAGE 4

Helen Taft, married to William Howard Taft, brought cherry blossoms to the U.S. because she was so inspired when she visited Japan.

Taft was the heaviest president and once got stuck in the bathtub. The seventh inning stretch during baseball games was started when he stood up during a game and stretched — everybody followed suit. Props for Helen are a pink toile crown, shawl and fan.

Woodrow Wilson was married to Ellen Wilson for 30 years, but she died after a year in White house. He then married Edith Wilson, who was virtually in charge of the White House after Wilson had a stroke.

Eleanor Roosevelt, with fur collar and pearls, was best known as “the eyes, ears and legs of Franklin D. Roosevelt.”

Eleanor said, “A woman is like a tea bag — you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.”

Alice Roosevelt goes on to talk about Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton and Flynn once again shows her wit, when she has Alice talk about how things have changed since she was alive.

“Is it true it’s difficult to get into the White House today?” said Alice. “When father was inaugurated, people simply lined up to get in the White House.

“My, my, my — and wouldn’t he be as-



Jody Wharton and Elaine Flynn

tonished that a great-great granddaughter of slaves [Michelle Obama] is the First lady today? And former First Lady, Hillary Clinton — making a run for the presidency and now secretary of state? And two women secretary of state before her?”

Arleen Richter was in the audience and said, “Elaine loves her subject [First Ladies].

You can just feel her passion for the first ladies.”

“Elaine’s ability to engage the audience and weave interesting facts about the First Ladies is fun and fascinating,” said Jody Wharton.

Flynn lives and breathes Washington. She graduated from American University and

now lives in nearby Alexandria.

She decided years ago to become a tour guide and took to learning more about Washington, D.C. with a vengeance, becoming a docent at many historic homes.

Flynn has been a licensed D.C. guide and member of the Guild of Professional Tour Guides for 12 years. She has served as a docent at a variety of locations including: Woodlawn Plantation, Carlyle House, the Heurich Mansion, the Capitol and Gadsby’s Tavern.

As a guide she has conducted city tours and specialty tours for groups of all ages from all over the world. Her specialty tours included: Ghosts of Lafayette Square and the Gilded Age of Embassy Row.

She has spoken on Voice of America — though her talk was dubbed into Farsi, so she’s not sure what she said, but she’s confident it was fascinating.

She has appeared on Time Travel in Virginia TV Show where she was advised she would be asked about the Presidents from Virginia.

She has been called “Guide to the Stars” and has taken luminaries such as the internationally acclaimed musician John Tesh, National Basketball Association star Carlos Boozer and the crew of America’s Funniest Videos on tour.

For more information, contact Our Town Topics at 703-282-4211, elaine@ourtowntopics.com.

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# OPINION

## Shop Locally

Be sure to do some of your holiday shopping at locally owned stores.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair.

The economic situation is daunting. Even families who feel financially secure will be more frugal in this holiday season than before the recession, but still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending millions of dollars in a variety of places.

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

### EDITORIAL

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

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for

fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Wrong Way To Improve Corridor

To the Editor:

If you sincerely want to get out of a hole, stop digging! Actions to revitalize the Richmond Highway corridor are about to be dealt a very serious blow with the pending addition of 67 Fairfax County-owned trailer pads and manufactured homes on North Hill, the wooded area opposite Denny's Restaurant. The corridor is currently home to six individually owned and operated mobile home parks containing over 1000 pads/trailers with a number of vacancies. The addition of 67 county-owned trailer pads and homes to the existing 115 sites on North Hill

will institutionalize these structures on the corridor. And will cost you, the taxpayer, an estimated \$150,000 for the pad alone (\$10.5-\$12.5 million of your money is currently earmarked for this project). Not to mention, the serious damage to the potential for positive investment on the highway.

For those folks that envision an improved highway corridor and prudent use of our critical tax dollars now and in the future, the Mount Vernon district political leadership has once again failed the test.

Enough is enough: stop digging and start growing!

**Roger C. Reutershan**  
Mount Vernon

## Add to Voluntary Tax Payments

To the Editor:

I read with interest Ron Brandt's letter to the Mount Vernon Gazette, "State Needs a Second Job," where he presents his views about the Virginia budget and concludes "We're now out of options. A combination of strategic cutbacks and increased revenue is the only responsible solution to Virginia's fiscal crisis. I will gladly pay my share."

The budget process is a very complex that requires very careful deliberations before reaching decisions. Unfortunately, there are many politicians that always want to take the easy way out and raise taxes to solve budget problems. Revenue increases may be consid-

ered only when these same and other legislators can realistically assure the taxpayers that all state programs and services are essential and those essential services and programs are administered effectively, economically and efficiently.

Generally, when a budget crisis develops, it is not the revenue that causes the problem but excessive spending that politicians usually like to do. Also, cuts are not really cuts because they only decrease the spending increase anticipated but spending increases none the less. To have real spending cuts, total spending must be less than the previous year. During the biennium budget periods from 2000-2002 through 2010-2012, Virginia total operating biennium budgets have skyrocketed from \$46.805 billion to \$68,540 billion or 46.43 percent. During that time billions of taxes have been imposed on hard working Virginia taxpayers. Also, data available for that period shows that population increased by 13 percent and cumulative total inflation increased 30.03 percent. These data suggest that legislators like to spend and spend instead of giving greater weight to holding spending to population and inflation increases. Had they done that, the total operating biennium budget savings would have been a little over \$2 billion.

Although the data shows that Virginia has a spending problem, Mr. Brandt suggests in his letter to the editor that the state must increase revenue (taxes) as part of solving Virginia's fiscal crises and states "I will gladly pay my share." I believe Virginia must control spending before raising taxes on everyone. However, Virginia has a Tax Me More fund that was estab-

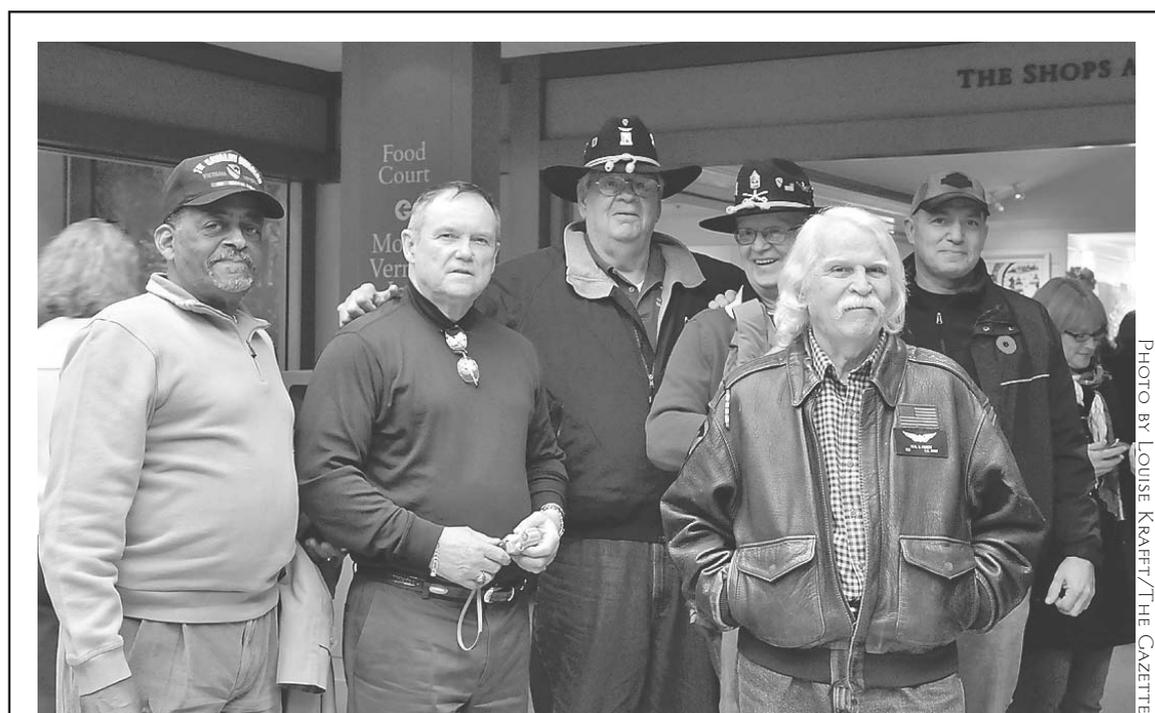


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Snapshot** Members of the First Cavalry of the United States Army who served in North Vietnam reunite in the Atrium outside the auditorium at the Mount Vernon Estate on Veteran's Day.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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A Connection Newspaper

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



**Community Covenant** The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce renewed its Army Community Covenant with Fort Belvoir at the annual Veterans Day at Fort Belvoir on Nov. 10. Signers to the Covenant were U.S. Rep. Jim Moran; Col. John J. Strycula, Fort Belvoir Commander; Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District; (back row) Michael Gailliot, Chamber President, Hilltop Golf Club; CSM Gabrielle Berhane, Fort Belvoir; Tim Sargeant, Chamber Chairman, Dominion Virginia Power; Dan Storck, FCPS School Board; Gwen Sigda, Office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb, and Jay McConville, Chamber Board of Directors, Chandler/May.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

lished for anyone who voluntarily wants to pay more taxes. The beauty of this fund is that anyone can donate more taxes without waiting for new laws to impose more taxes on everyone even those who

disagree with Mr. Brandt's opinions.

I suggest that Mr. Brandt and anyone else who shares his opinion, begin now to send voluntary contributions and suggestions for spending reductions so that those funds and suggestions can be con-

sidered by legislators in their deliberation of the budget during the 2012 General Assembly session to help solve the "budget crises."

**Frank Medico**  
Mount Vernon

**Santa Claus is coming to OLD TOWN**

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**Paul Spring Holiday Soirée**  
Thursday, December 8  
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# Beating the Holiday Blues

Area experts offer advice on keeping money woes, family conflict and loneliness from ruining the holiday season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Ask the average person what feelings come to mind as they enter the month of December and you're likely to get responses that range from joy and excitement to grief and dread.

"Overwhelmed," said a Burke mother of two whose husband is deployed overseas.

"Nervous," replied an Arlington father of four who recently lost his job.

For many, what is often billed as the most joyous time of the year can bring anxiety, loneliness and depression.

"The media portrays the holidays as this never ending blissful time," said Lisa Calusic, M.D., a psychiatrist at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and Inova Behavioral Health Services in Alexandria. "People [often say] 'I should have a loving, warm family. I should have the perfect holiday season. We should be merry 24-7.' Those expectations are going to lead to depression and feeling anxious because there is no such thing as the perfect anything much less the perfect holiday season."

Mental health experts say that holiday blues are caused most often by family conflicts, over-commercialization, grief, stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, financial limitations and an inability to be with family and friends. Local therapists offer suggestions for minimizing Yuletide stress and depression.

## Develop A Holiday Strategy

From shopping for presents to dealing with difficult relatives, it is important to think ahead about how you will deal with challenging scenarios.

"Plan strategies for how you're going to cope with situations," said Dr. Robert Hedaya, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine and founder of the National Center for Whole Psychiatry in Chevy Chase, Md. "Maybe it is limiting your time with a family or maybe it is getting away for the holiday if you don't have family."

## Be Realistic

"Do everything you can not to buy into what the culture or anyone else says your life should look like during this time of year," said Dr. Jeffrey W. Pollard, Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at George Mason University. "There

is nothing wrong with having the life that you had three months ago."

## Stick to a Budget

Trying to buy happiness or holiday cheer with an abundance of gifts is setting the stage for anxiety and depression.

"One of the other things that happens is that people will put themselves in a financial bind in order to ... make sure everything is perfect or is happening the way that others want it to happen," said Pollard.

Decide how much money you can afford to spend, create a budget and stick to it.

## Keeping the Faith

Religious differences can be one of the thorniest issues to negotiate during the holidays.

The home of McLean-based psychotherapist Toni Coleman will sparkle with Hanukkah blue and Christmas red this holiday season, as it does every year. Coleman, who is Catholic, and her husband who is Jewish, have been navigating their way through the fusion of Christian and Jewish customs since they were first married nearly 25 years ago.

"When you start out getting married and you're of different faiths, there is a lot of stress if you've got families of origin with agendas who want you to celebrate their way," said Coleman who is the mother of four children. "We negotiated it extremely well."

Coleman and her family celebrate both Ha-



Potomac, Maryland-based clinical psychologist Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D. says that the best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is "less is more."

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BERG-CROSS



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Toni Coleman of McLean prepares to celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. Religious differences can create family conflict, a leading cause of stress and depressing during the holidays.

nukkah and Christmas. She encourages others who face the same challenge to keep a positive attitude about both religions, find ways to compromise and start their own traditions.

## Acknowledge Feelings; Ask for Help

Feelings of sadness and grief over the loss of a loved one or an inability to be with family and friends can intensify during the holidays. Experts say it is important to acknowledge and express these feelings and ask for help.

"Reach out to your sources of support like friends who know you well and won't make judgments," said Calusic, who lives in Arlington and has a private practice in Falls Church. "It is useful to lean on the people who know you on a day-to-day basis."

Support and companionship can be found through community or religious activities.

## More Exercise, Less Sugar and Alcohol

Don't allow the holidays to become a free-for-all when it comes to wellness.

"You want to ensure that you're functioning as well as you can mentally and physically as you go into this time of stress," said Hedaya. "If you are going into a rough time you need to have better reserves. You need to limit your use of alcohol or stimulants."

Making an effort to practice healthy habits is a tool in battling holiday blues.

"Exercise is a huge part of it. Go for walks, hit the gym, or any kind of outlet that you can find to release nervous energy and depression," said Calusic. "Everyone loves their cookies and cakes and holiday favorites. But constantly eating sugary and fattening foods definitely has an impact on mood and anxiety levels."

## Help Others

Benevolence is a mood booster.

"Is there any opportunity to do some volunteer work," said Pollard, of George Mason. "If you find yourself in a funk and you want to get out of it, help somebody, volunteer somewhere. You'll be surprised how good that can make you feel."

Coleman, the McLean therapist, has employed this strategy and encourages her cli-

ents to do the same. "If a family feels that it is going to be a difficult holiday, and they are grieving or have a loss in their life, they can fill it by trying to celebrate the real spirit of the holidays which is doing for others," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of pleasure and satisfaction in that."

## Environment Plays a Role

Mental health professionals say that some people suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a condition that results from less exposure to sunlight as days grow shorter.

"It is a mild variant of depression that falls in line with the shorter days of fall and winter," said Calusic. "It is much more common than people give it credit for."

One of the most popular remedies is phototherapy, a treatment involving exposure to intense light.

"The best thing to do is get a dawn simulator which is a small light box that you keep near your bed and set it to go off three hours before your desired waking time. It recreates the dawn experience. It is the best form of light treatment."

## Learn to Say No

"In our area people have one or two [holiday activities] every night," said Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D. a Potomac, Md.-based clinical psychologist and a professor in the Department of Psychology at Howard University. "[People] want to create merriment, but what they're creating is stress."

The best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is less is more."

Making realistic decisions about what you can and cannot do will quell anxiety.

"The key ... is to make a plan that allows you to include the most meaningful [activities] only," said Coleman. "This involves conscious decisions to forego some things and set limits on others."

Berg-Cross encourages her clients to focus on connecting with others. "Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement," she said. "The top priority [should be] that you had chance to sit down with somebody and breathe and create space for the human encounter because ultimately that is what people most often remember."

**"Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement."**

— Potomac psychologist  
Linda Berg-Cross

# LETTERS

## Honored To Participate

The following letter was sent to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Emily Vernon in response to her Raise Smiles Home for the Holidays Project.

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Vernon,

Please accept this package of cards and gift cards on behalf of the Classroom 18 First Grade students of Hollin Meadows Elementary School. I saw your letter in the Mount Vernon Gazette just before Veterans Day and was quite touched. As a teacher and spouse of a retired military member, I do a lesson for Veterans Day which includes my husband (USAF) coming in uniform to talk with the children. You can't imagine their excitement nor the questions asked. So I starting thinking, why not expand the lesson to include a service project to support our troops.

I read your letter to my students, and we decided to be active participants in your Raise Smiles Home for the Holidays Project campaign by collecting change for troops. These amazing children (and their families) brought in their change and then some, watched everyday as coins and dollars were added to our cookie jar, wrote and decorated cards with exceptional enthusiasm, and

participated in the final process of estimating the amount collected to purchase the gift cards. That's our short and simple story. We're just one classroom of first graders learning, changing and growing daily. You helped us learn how to do something nice for someone else, even though we have never met, thank you. We wish you all God speed and are honored to put smiles on the faces of your troops with our gifts.

Sincerely,

**Kathlyn C. Boykin**

Proud 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher  
Hollin Meadows Elementary School

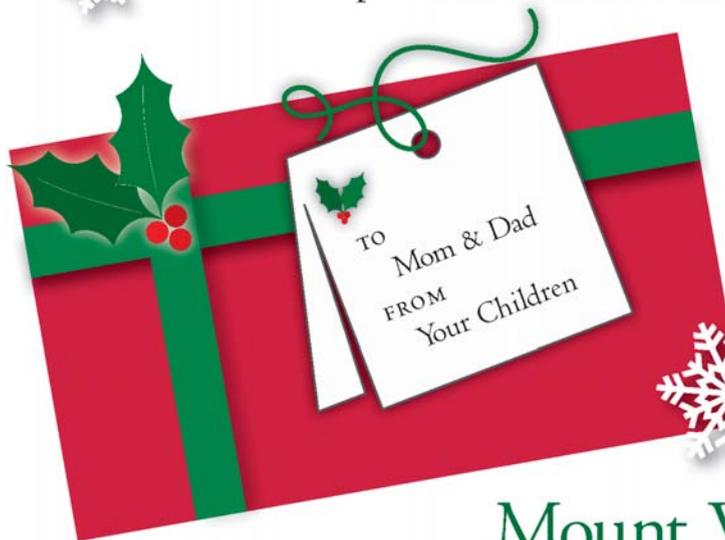


First grade students of Kathlyn Boykin at Hollin Meadows Elementary School collected money for 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Emily Vernon's Raise Smiles Home for the Holidays Project for soldiers serving in Iraq.

Looking for that perfect holiday gift?

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9387 Mount Vernon Cir  
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*Majestic Home-Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!*  
Unique opportunity-bargain price on property with true estate potential in area's leading waterfront community. Private marina access. Home offers approx 6,000 sq ft living space, brick exterior, spacious rooms, open kitchen-family room, high ceilings, library with custom built-ins, 3 finished levels, 4FPs and oversize garage. Half acre grounds, custom pool. OPEN SUN 12/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Mount Vernon Cir.

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**Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated!**

**Please stop by our office OR contact/mail to:**  
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**400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314**

Please make checks payable to: Long & Foster's Giving Tree

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3805 Riverwood Rd  
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Best value in prestigious Riverwood in years! Large home just substantially updated. Fabulous features include: 3 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen and baths., 3 fireplaces. Home was just redecorated and is in "move in" condition. Owner wants immediate sale and has priced accordingly!

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**PRICE!**  
than new! Top  
bottom renovation of  
this fabulous 5BR, 3BA

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shows like  
home! Prime  
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# PEOPLE

## Local Students to Dance In 'The Nutcracker'

Julia and Diana Turnage of Stratford Landing are about to dance in "The Nutcracker" again this year. Julia performed last year in the performance as a soldier. This year she will be dancing the part of the littlest clown. Julia's sister Diana is also performing as a soldier in the ballet. This is her fourth year dancing in the holiday performance.

The sisters performed last summer in the Danish Ballet's "A Folk Tale" at the Kennedy Center. And Julia recently participated in The Washington Ballet's "The Great Gatsby" also at the Kennedy Center.

Waynewood Elementary School student Ansley Seiffert will take the stage again for the fourth year in the ballet. This year Ansley will play a mouse. And Grace Unes, a fourth grader at Alexandria Country Day School is also appearing in Septime Weber's "The Nutcracker" as a mouse.

In addition to attending their regular classes at The Washington School of Ballet's NW location close to the National Cathedral two to three times a week, the girls have several hours of Nutcracker rehearsals every Saturday and Sunday from the auditions on the first weekend of October through November. In the last weeks before the show opens there are additional rehearsals during the week as well as tech and dress rehearsals at the theatres.

This year's "Nutcracker" marks The Washington Ballet's 50th anniversary of this Washington



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Julia (soldier) and Diana (daddy mouse) Turnage last year at the Warner theatre.**

D.C. holiday favorite. The performances will be accompanied by a live orchestra. For general information about The Nutcracker visit TWB's website at [www.washingtonballet.org](http://www.washingtonballet.org) and specifically [http://www.washingtonballet.org/\\_webapp\\_3830726/The\\_Nutcracker](http://www.washingtonballet.org/_webapp_3830726/The_Nutcracker).



PHOTO BY EMILY WILD

**Picky, Picky** Local author Elizabeth Brokamp visited St. Aidan's Day School to read her latest book "The Picky Little Witch," about a witch who doesn't want to try her mother witch's latest concoction. The children were entertained by Brokamp's explanation of how she was inspired to write the book by her own picky eaters, and had fun deciding whether certain ingredients were yucky, yummy, or "just right." Brokamp grew up in Old Town and lives in the Fort Hunt community.



**Supporting UCM** Northern Virginia Association of Realtors CEO Christine M. Todd and NVAR Treasurer Jon Wolford of Long & Foster Real Estate in Springfield contribute \$10,000 to the United Community Ministries.



**Helping PRS** Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club member Bob Valone presented a check for \$750 on Nov. 14 to Lisa Vitale, program director for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, a day center in Sacramento Plaza. This contribution will partly fund a workforce training teacher, formerly funded by the county. To help MVKC help others in the community, see [www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org](http://www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org).



**More than 400 students at West Potomac High School headed to the track on Friday, Oct. 28 to take steps against homelessness in a Help the Homeless Mini-Walk to benefit UCM.**

## UCM Reaches Help the Homeless Walkathon Goal

UCM has exceeded its goal of 3,000 walker registrations for the 2011 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon program. From July 1 through Nov. 4 this year, more than 30 schools, churches and other community organizations held Help the Homeless mini-walk events to benefit UCM. Because of the efforts of these community groups, UCM's unofficial walker total is 3,213 walkers and the agency will receive a \$50,000 walker incentive from Fannie Mae.

Help the Homeless Mini-Walks that benefited UCM were held at NOVA Alexandria Campus, Anacostia High School, Aquinas Montessori, UCM Bryant Early Learning Center, Browne Academy, Bryant Alternative High School, Carl Sandburg

Middle School, Church of the Spirit, Dahn Yoga Alexandria, Edison High School, Excel Academy, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Heritage Presbyterian Church, Hollin Hall Senior Center & Breath LLC, Islamic Saudi Academy, Mount Vernon Chapter of AAUW, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Pre-School, Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School, Mt Vernon Bluestockings Book Club, Plymouth Haven Christian School, St. Aidan's Day School, St. Louis Catholic School, St. Luke's Day School, UCM Creekside Village Community Center, UCM Sacramento Neighborhood Center, Waynewood Elementary School, West Potomac High School, WhollyFit, and Woodley Hills Elementary School.

# Holiday Designer Tour of Homes is Dec. 3

By MAYA HOROWITZ  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**troll through five homes, the Campagna Center and St. Paul's Episcopal Church on this year's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes on Saturday, Dec. 3. Homes are selected based on individuality and historic significance. "Each year we look to homes in Old Town that represent something that's either an historic home or has something unique to offer," said Katherine Murphy, co-chair of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.

The homes are decorated by local florists and designers. "Each house will be a little bit different but all of them will be dressed up for the holidays," said Shiloh Roehl, volunteer and co-chair of the Tour of Homes.

"It's a nice union of beautiful homes and talented florist and designers," said Murphy. The designers and florists volunteer their time and items to the tour. "Some of the florists have done this year after year — such as Helen Olivia and the Virginia Florist, and they're just wonderful — and others are new such as Wisteria and Growing Wild," said Roehl. "We're really excited and appreciative that they've come on board. It's a tough economy so it's extra special. They feel that it's a good cause and a local cause."

The tour costs \$30-\$35 and all the proceeds will benefit the Campagna Center. Tours are given by docents from the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"It is just a really special opportunity for people in our area to get into the holiday spirit and be able to visit some of the wonderful homes in Alexandria and hear the deep history behind the walls," said Roehl. "You walk by these homes every day and you kind of wonder what happened 200 years ago or what this area looked like. It's a unique opportunity for visitors to step inside the front door. It's extra special to have these be decorated in the spirit of the holidays."

To purchase tickets, call 703-549-0111 or visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com). You may also stop by The Campagna Center or Ramsay House Visitor's Center to purchase tickets. Advance Purchase \$30; day of Purchase \$35.

Tickets may also be purchased at the homes on the day of the tour. Transportation will be offered during the tour.

## Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Accompanying the Home Tour is the 41st Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, which will take place at 11 a.m. in the heart of Old Town beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South St. Asaph, ending at Market Square. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town Alexandria.

For more information on the tour of homes, contact Shiloh Roehl at [shilohroehl@gmail.com](mailto:shilohroehl@gmail.com) or 703-835-3190, or Jeanne Barton at [Jeanne.m.barton@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.m.barton@gmail.com) or 703-472-8392.

## Campagna Center

Visit the Campagna Center, which has been decorated by volunteers, to get a chance to see the organization that the proceeds support and learn about what they do in the community for children.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Murphy explained that St. Paul's will serve as a "hospitality way station" on the tour. St. Paul's has been chosen because it is home to a Head Start classroom. There will be some decoration outside of the church.

## 408 Prince Street

408 Prince Street is a townhouse dating back to the early 1800s. It is a marriage of what was once two structures. The front of the house was originally a Federal style that was later joined to a rear flounder structure. The home is distinguished by elements from late Federal as well as Italianate and Second Empire styles. Although the home in its "bricked" appearance dates to approximately 1885 as a two-story home, records indicate that a house at this site was originally built as a two-story frame dwelling by George Coleman, a ship's captain in approximately 1815. The present home sits on the original stone on stone foundation. The house was raised to three stories between 1896 and 1902 with the addition of a mansard roof, first- and second-story window hoods, dormer surrounds and cornice and door surround which are indicative of the Italianate and Second Empire styles. The current homeowners bought the house in 2001 and have restored the home to more accurately reflect the era in which it was built, including the replication of period mantles that were sadly removed during previous renovations. The home includes a lovely private garden with limestone patio. The home's interior boasts an expansive collection of original art and first edition books.



408 Prince Street

## 206 Wolfe Street

This 19th century Greek Revival townhouse is built on the foundations of an earlier house (1842) destroyed by fire. On Jan. 4, 1871 at 11 p.m., a fire broke out in Frederick Schwoop's bakery at 210 Wolfe Street. The fire destroyed the bakery and consumed the adjoining houses including 206 Wolfe. The owner was a seaport captain who it appears did not rebuild the house, but rather sold the property in 1873, and later another house was built. This structure has undergone several renovations, the most recent this year of a sunroom. Handsome curved arches on the living room walls are repeated in the dining room. The colorful and tasteful décor is accented by a wonderful collection of international art and artifacts, including the blue and white family porcelains in the kitchen. The beautiful garden has evolved throughout the past 12 years, which is the result of a gardening process favored by the owner who is a retired horticulturist from the U.S. Botanic Garden. The garden continues into the oyster shell lane and parking area beyond the brick walls. It is filled with pass-along plants from other gardeners. This gardener has left no spot of earth untouched by her talented green thumb.



206 Wolfe Street

## 716 Wolfe Street

Jonathan Butcher began construction of this historic residence in 1812. The home originally was used as a boardinghouse for unskilled laborers until after the Civil War. It was thought that it was then leased to an African American man who worked as a porter for the railroad. His son, the first African American teacher in the city, grew up here and as an adult purchased it for himself. The current owners bought the home in 2003 and have mixed contemporary and historic furnishings for an eclectic look that celebrates the old with the new. Their love of art, abstract and figurative, is proudly showcased throughout the home. The home boasts a gorgeous pool and garden. "It's one of those homes you walk by and you kind of don't know what goes on behind," said Roehl.



716 Wolfe Street

## 430 S. St. Asaph Street

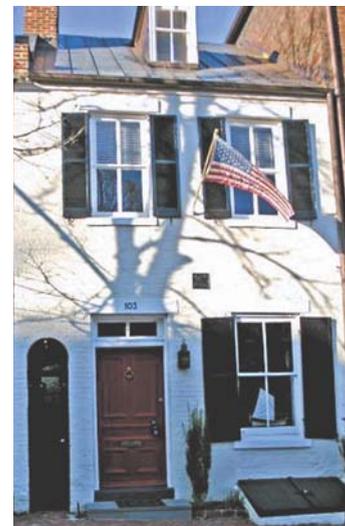
Built in 1978, the home at 430 S. Saint Asaph Street is rumored to have combined two existing houses and boasts almost 3,000 square feet of exceptional living space. The home was recently renovated by the current owner and has a contemporary flair including antique pine pickled flooring, burled olive and ash cabinetry, and suede and silk paper backed walls. A bathroom in the home has been showcased in This Old House Magazine. The home features custom Italian lighting, luxury baths, a gourmet kitchen, and original artwork by Alexandra Nechita and Thomas Arvid. An added perk of visiting this home is that it sits right at the corner where the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade begins.



430 St. Asaph Street

## 103 Prince Street

The 100 block of Prince Street, known as Captain's Row, is one of Old Town Alexandria's most picturesque and storied streets. One of the few cobblestones streets remaining in Old Town, it was originally paved by Hessian prisoners according to local folklore. Many local sea captains built Federal style homes brimming with charming architectural details on this block of Prince nearest the Potomac. Perhaps the most famous of these is Captain John Harper who by 1787 had constructed 15 buildings on the North side of the 100 block of Prince Street, probably including the Francis Harper House Row, also known as 103 Prince Street. In April of 1793, John Harper conveyed to daughter Frances Rush Harper two lots, one at Water and Prince, and the other embracing the sites of present houses at 103, 105 and 107. Alexandria tax assessor estimates 103 Prince Street was built in 1769, however, the land was under water until 1782 and was more likely to have been built between 1782 and 1793. The house itself still boasts several of its original features including original pine floors, original front door and built-ins. However, it has been renovated to preserve its historical significance while updating it to reflect modern life. Captain's Row remains part of Alexandria's storied past and is consistently noted in Old Town's many historical walking tours.



103 Prince Street

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**Virginia Norment Interiors**

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**Reunions**

**Transportation provided by Fleet Transportation.**

# Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend Events

By MAYA HOROWITZ  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Campagna Center, along with the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., the Scottish Government and the City of Alexandria, is hosting the 41st annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend Dec. 2 and 3. The two-day celebration includes a parade, a Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a Christmas Marketplace, a Heather and Greens Sale, a Children's Deck the Halls with Santa Event and the Taste of Scotland.

The Campagna Center's Christmas Walk Weekend has expanded over the years.

"The parade (and its associated events) has grown from a small local community walk to one where upwards of 30,000 people come out to enjoy the festivities," said Tammy Mann, president and CEO of the Campagna Center since August 2011.

"The Campagna Center began it to celebrate Alexandria's heritage and raise awareness and money for programs of the Campagna Center," said Katherine Murphy, co-chair of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. "It's put on by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center."

Murphy said the event has a year-round planning process with dozens of committee chairs and 100-plus Junior Friend vol-



unteers and members of the community who come out to help.

Murphy said the events support children and families and build communities. "To the extent that these events build community there's a linkage and it serves as a wonderful fund-raiser," said Murphy.

"It's a great time for the community and

## Calendar of Events

### Friday, Dec. 2

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Christmas Marketplace  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Campagna Center Open House  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Deck the Halls with Santa  
7 p.m. Taste of Scotland Patron Pub  
8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Taste of Scotland  
7 - 10:30 p.m. Christmas Marketplace (Taste of Scotland guests only)  
7 - 8 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale

### Saturday, Dec. 3

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Scottish Christmas Walk Parade  
12 p.m. - 5 p.m. The Campagna Center Open House  
1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Massed Band Concert  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Medieval Marketplace and Christmas Pudding Competition  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Holiday Designer Tour of Homes

unique holiday gifts from boutique vendors. "We have local vendors as well as those traveling from afar that will participate in this event," said Mann.

The Heather and Greens Sale, taking place both Friday and Saturday, gives patrons the chance to buy heather or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods, paperwhites and more.

Deck the Halls with Santa, occurring on Friday afternoon, is an event featuring Santa Claus, crafts and sweets geared towards children aged 2-5 years.

The Taste of Scotland, taking place on Friday night, lets guests enjoy Scottish fare and Scottish whiskey. This year, Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, will be

visitors to come out and feel a part of this city and its rich Scottish heritage, while supporting a cause that is focused on providing services that help improve the lives of children and families we serve," said Mann.

With the exception of the parade and the tour of homes, all the events will take place the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

The Christmas Marketplace, occurring from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, offers

visiting Alexandria and attending the Taste of Scotland and the Parade.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade begins at the corner of Wilkes and South Saint Asaph Streets at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The Honorable Patsy Ticer will serve as the parade Grand Marshall. Over 100 Scottish Clans, dancers, pipe and drum bands, reenactment groups, dog groups, dignitaries and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will march.



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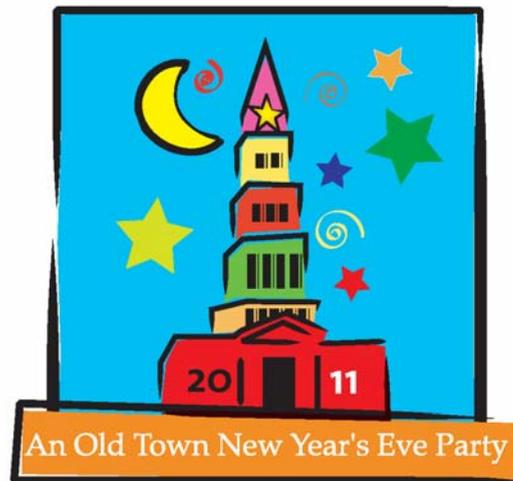
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More information and retail badge sites at [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org)

## Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') GAZETTE

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Mount Vernon Gazette turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: [gazette@connectionnews.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Mount Vernon Gazette

# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

### Mount Vernon by Candlelight.

5 to 8:30 p.m. recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday. "Mrs. Washington" hosts an enchanting evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. The Mount Vernon by Candlelight tour includes the first and second floors, featuring characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the home and adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults: \$20; Children 11 and under: \$14. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) or call 703-780-2000.



## NOW THROUGH JAN. 6

### Christmas at Mount Vernon.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. recurring daily. Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread replica of the Mansion created by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, chocolate making demonstrations, and a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for his guests' enjoyment. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Christmas at Mount Vernon admission is included in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

## Holiday Door Decoration Contest

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be judging holiday decorations in the Alexandria Old and Historic District the week of Dec. 12. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place winners. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in The Gazette Packet before Christmas. Judging will be based on originality; the use of all-natural materials is strongly preferred. Other factors considered are scale, color, contrast, and visibility. The decorations also have to be done by the homeowners themselves (i.e., no purchased professional arrangements). For additional details, contact Pete Farnham, with the Old Town Walled Garden Club, at [pdfarnham@aol.com](mailto:pdfarnham@aol.com)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 1

### "The Other City" Film.

7 to 9 p.m. Inova Alexandria Hospital, in cooperation with the City of Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, is hosting a free public screening of the movie in commemoration of the 23rd World Aids Day. RSVP at [www.inova.org/world-AIDS-day](http://www.inova.org/world-AIDS-day) or by calling 855-694-6682. Inova Alexandria Hospital is at 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

### Hawaiian-Themed Holiday Bash.

6 to 9 p.m. Free. Wear your favorite Hawaiian outfit and enjoy refreshments and live music by the Aloha Boys as you shop for one-of-a-kind gifts in studios and galleries. A Holiday Gift Guide will be available for visitors with unique gift ideas from Torpedo Factory artists and galleries for everyone on your list. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); 703-838-4565

### NOVA Community Chorus.

7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergie Rachmaninoff's The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, for mixed chorus a capella. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu) or 703-845-6097.

### Dundee (Scotland) School Concert.

8 p.m. Free. Dundee Schools' Music Theatre and the Lord Provost of Dundee. The performers are part of a 20-member delegation that has traveled from Dundee to participate in the 41st Annual Scottish Christmas Walk, including the Lord Provost of Dundee. At the Minnie Howard School Auditorium, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

## DEC. 1, 2, 3

### "The Nutcracker." West Potomac

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Academy and Alexandria Community Dance are teaming up to present their third joint performance of "The Nutcracker." Four shows will be performed: Thursday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At West Potomac Academy. Visit [www.Alexandriadance.com](http://www.Alexandriadance.com).

## DEC. 1 TO 11

"Plaid Tidings, A Special Holiday Edition." Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/seniors and students; \$5/children. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626 or [ZemfiraStage@gmail.com](mailto:ZemfiraStage@gmail.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 2

**Del Ray Tree Lighting.** 6 p.m. Come out and enjoy the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Avenue; sing holiday carols led by Kate Moran Band; enjoy hot cider or hot chocolate; have a photo taken with Santa. Events are at the Del Ray Farmers Market, corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and East Oxford Ave. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Avenue on Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 2 p.m., to distribute the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Ave., 5 p.m. to light them, and at 10 p.m. to extinguish and pick them up. To help, contact Pat Miller at [pmiller1806@comcast.net](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast.net).

**Heather and Greens Sale.** 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

**ArtFest 2011.** 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 20)

# The Best in Family Dining



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## Good Shepherd Catholic Church



### Mass Schedule

#### Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

#### Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon  
2:00 pm (en Español)  
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 11)

#### Weekdays

(Mass of Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 19

throughout the weekend), live music by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

**Christmas Marketplace.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. A collection of unique vendors under one roof, including Haute Papier, Discovery Toys, Silver Star Collection, and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Taste of Scotland.** 7 to 11 p.m. Patron Pub opens at 7 p.m.; General Admission 8 to 11 p.m. A tasting featuring a vast number of scotches to entice each guest. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, ales, and wine also served. Patron tickets \$175/person; \$275/couple; \$100 general admission. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

## DEC. 2 AND 3

**Friends of the Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hardcover \$3 and paperbacks \$2. At the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1703.

**Christmas Boutique.** Heritage Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Made by the Bell" Christmas Boutique on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

**Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.** Includes a parade through Old Town, holiday festivities, a marketplace, heather and green sales, Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a scotch tasting — the Taste of Scotland. Patsy Ticer is the Grand Marshall. Sponsored by the Campagna Center, The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the Scottish Government. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

## DEC. 2-4

**ArtFest Weekend.** Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

**The Nutcracker.** Presented by BalletNova (formerly The Center Dance Company/Arlington Center for Dance). Performances are Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Because of the limited availability of the theater, BalletNova presents a series of "Petite Performances" at both Bishop Ireton High School and the BalletNova Center for Dance Studios. These shorter 45-50-minute mini-performances include a narrative of the story, and highlights from Act II - The Kingdom of the Sweets and are especially appropriate for the 3 - 5 year old crowd. To date the schedule is: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Tickets are \$13 to \$35. Petite Performances are \$5 to \$20. Visit [www.BalletNova.org](http://www.BalletNova.org), or call 703-778-3008.

**Holiday Market.** Free admission. 16th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade work from 20 local artists and bake sale to benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. (reception); Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Library Open House.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy music and other activities. At the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria; call 703-765-3645.

**A Convergence Christmas.** 4 p.m. Concert of sacred Christmas music performed by the 7 Sopranos and Harpist, Mark Martin, with a dramatic reading of "The Gift of the Magi," by Convergence studio artist Rusty Lynn. Tickets are \$15. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260.

**Soldier's Christmas.** Noon to 4 p.m. Donation of \$5 suggested. Includes holiday-themed education and entertainment focused on the soldier of the American Revolution. At the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org). or 703-549-2997.

## Virginia Grand Military

**Band.** 8 p.m. Adults \$20. Loras John Schissel, music director; Major Allen Crowell, guest conductor; Scott Shelsta, trombone soloist. Performing works by Grainger, Alford, Elgar and Wagner. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria. Call 703 426-4777 or visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com).

**Alexandria Scottish Dancers.** 2 p.m. Donation of \$3 requested. A benefit for the Campagna Center with special participation for spectators. At The Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

**Oldies But Goodies.** Cocker Spaniel Dog Adoption Show. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Dogma Bakery, 2445 N. Harrison St., Arlington.

**Book Signing Event.** 2 to 4 p.m. With author S.E. Simpson who will sign copies of her book, *Ginger & the Bully*. At Grounded Coffee Shop, 6919 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Scottish Walk Parade.** 11 a.m. Over 100 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, Scottie dog groups, and, Santa will march through the streets of Old Town. Brought to you by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center and the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., with support from the City of Alexandria. The Parade Grand Marshal is the Hon. Patsy Ticer. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Ornament-Decorating Workshop.** 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. On the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4399 or visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**Holiday Designer Tour of Homes.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30/advance; \$35/day of tour. Stroll through seven historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays. Featured properties: 206 Wolfe St.; 716 Wolfe St.; 408 Prince St.; 103 Prince St.; 430 S. St. Asaph St.; 228 S. Pitt St. (St. Paul's); 418 S. Washington St. (The Campagna Center). Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Heather and Greens Sale.** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Craft and Vendor Fair.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring 30 crafters/vendors. Proceeds benefit the children of Angelus Academy. At St. Lawrence Church Parish Center, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria.

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 8 p.m. A Salute to Ernest S. Williams and Arthur Pryor with special guest conductor Major Allen C. Crowell. Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com).

**Country/Folk Singer Kate Campbell.** 7 p.m. With special guest Charles Williams. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Presented by Focus Music in Mount Vernon. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road in Alexandria. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

**Holiday Children's Book Fair.** 1 to 5 p.m. The fair features Usborne Books, publisher of educational books for children, as well as a craft activity area for kids. Shoppers will also have the opportunity to donate a book to the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, dedicated to tutoring Alexandria's kindergartners and first-graders in literacy skills. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

## DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11

**St. Aidan's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fresh-cut Fraser Fir Christmas trees and wreaths. All proceeds benefit the underserved in our community and day school education. At St. Aidan's, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4220 or [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Holiday Concert.** 2 p.m. Performance by the Alexandria Singers, featuring choral holiday music; 3 p.m. performance by Ein Lanu Z'man, a band featuring Hanukkah and other Jewish music. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-5592.

**Messiah Sing-Along.** 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8/door.



With G.F. Handel, Messiah (Part I and Hallelujah Chorus). At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.fairlingtonumc.org](http://www.fairlingtonumc.org) or call 703-671-4057.

**Tennis Workshop.** 2 to 5:30 p.m. This USTA QuickStart Workshop shows you how to teach tennis to juniors up to 18 years old, with an emphasis on kids 10 and Under tennis. Admission \$5. Learn to coach Kids Tennis. At the Mt. Vernon Athletic Club, 7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Lee Ellis, PlayTimeTennis.org. Call 203-433-2533.

**The Milk Carton Kids.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. With Over the Rhine. At The Birchmere.

**Toys for Tots Square and Round Dance.** 1 to 5 p.m. A Square and Round Dance event which raises funds and collects toy donations for the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots. All toys and proceeds from the dance remain in the Washington area. Held at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria; call 703-746-5418.

**Women's Art and Shopping Holiday Show.** 1 to 5 p.m. More than 30 female artisans will sell their work at the 14th annual Women Artists' Show, sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission. Jewelry, pottery, hand-crafted clothing, scarves, purses, crafts and much more will be available. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Programs. This is also a collection site for new, unwrapped toys and gift cards for the Battered Women's Shelter Holiday Party. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3123 or <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAlexWomen>

**Civil War Sunday.** 1 to 5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861, edition New York Tribune detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death, a Time Travelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy, diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria, and more. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St.; call 703-746-4399.

## MONDAY/DEC. 5

**Christmas Dinner.** 6:30 to 9 p.m. The Samuel Cooper Chapter #105 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOS&B) and the R.E. Lee Camp #726, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), and will hold a Christmas dinner and celebration catered by The Royal Restaurant at the American Legion Post 24 Hall at 400 Cameron Street at S. Royal St. behind Gadsby's Tavern. BYOB, and the cost to attend the dinner is \$25 per person. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314, and must be received by Dec. 2. Payment at the door is \$30/person. Visit [www.leecamp.org](http://www.leecamp.org).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Evening of J.S. Bach.** 7:30 p.m. Free. The National Chamber Players, with guest Kenneth Slowik, will perform Bach's Sonata No. 1 in C Major (BMV 1037), Concerto in C Minor for Two Harpsichords (BMV 1060) and Cantata No. 62, "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (with the Episcopal High School choirs) in Pendleton Hall at Episcopal High School, 3800 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Before the concert, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an opening reception for the gallery exhibition "Ted Aub: Selected Works." Call 703-933-4135, email [vdpp@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:vdpp@episcopalhighschool.org), or visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org/Arts/ncp\\_ehs](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org/Arts/ncp_ehs)

**Sisters in Crime.** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Alexandria Library sponsors "Sisters in Crime" for an evening with six local mystery writers: Donna Andrews, Ellen Crosby, G.M. Malliet, Katherine Neville, Alan Orloff, and Sandra Parshall. At Beatley Central

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** Free. Festivities at 4 p.m.; Boat Parade at 6 p.m. Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront. Festivities begin at the Alexandria City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 4 p.m. with live performances and Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. At the Alexandria City Marina, One Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com](http://AlexandriaVA.com); 703-746-3301.

Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

**DJ Dance Party.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

**Raul Malo.** 7:30 p.m. The Holiday Tour. Tickets are \$38.40. At The Birchmere in Alexandria.

**Children's Magic Show.** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Bring a canned good or toy that will be donated to the Salvation Army's Alexandria Citadel Corps. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-960-3400.

**Musician Raul Malo.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. At The Birchmere, 3702 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

**Holiday Open House.** 2 to 4 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with Virginia's premier "Village," Mount Vernon At Home. Meet members and volunteers who help our community residents age in their community. Open to the public, light refreshments will be served. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-303-4060.

**"Children's Holiday Magic Show"** 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by I.B.M. Ring 50 — featuring four of Washington's finest children's magicians. Free with donation of can of food or toy for local charity. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria. For details: [president@ibmring50.org](mailto:president@ibmring50.org) or call Danny Selnick, call 704-347-5540.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 8

**Musician Jack Bond.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Part of Second Thursday Music. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Decadent December.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Art Night. Browse open studios, interact with artists, enjoy refreshments. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); or call 703-838-4565.

## DEC. 9 TO 17

**"School House Rock - Live!"** Presented by Mount Vernon High School. Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 127 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5/children; \$7/students; \$10/adults. At Mount Vernon Little Theater, located at Entrance 4. The ensemble cast includes Bryan Azucena, Kodie Badolato, Logan Beveridge, Vanessa Blake, Desha Brown, Lizzy Craine, Jerry Halstead, Courtney Kramer, Jonathan Leonard, Christopher Lisle, Jessica Merkman, David Parces, Aylana Randall, Chris Rohe. and Emily Whitworth. Call Trena Weiss-Null at Mount Vernon High School at 703-619-3100.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 9

**Seasonal Poetry Presentation.** 11 a.m. By "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group. Join Peter Lattu as he leads a presentation by the "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 10

**Holiday Ice Skating Show.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Skaters of all ages will show off their skating skills. At Mount Vernon RECenter's ice arena, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Contact Carl Kirtley at 703-768-3224.

**"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration."** The Family Kwanzaa Celebration program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is ideal for children and their parents. Then, at 4:30 p.m., attend a free screening of "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

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## Business and Community Partnership News from Fairfax County Public Schools

In 2007, *Time* magazine called Fairfax County "one of the great economic success stories of our time." In 2011 that edict still rings true despite the challenging economics surrounding us. Fairfax County is faring better than most metropolitan areas. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority President and CEO Gerald Gordon, Ph.D., says Fairfax County continues to do well because of its exceptional educational offerings. "The Fairfax County school system is arguably one of the best public education systems in the United States," he said.

Fairfax County Public Schools is exceptional because business and community organizations are engaged in ways that are good for students and good for organizations.

The FCPS Office of Business and Community Partnerships recruits and supports business partners who want to work with students and the school system. More than 150 Fairfax County schools have a partnership with one or more businesses or community organizations.

**Give Me Five:**  
5 Ways to Partner with FCPS

1. Mentor a Child
2. Partner with a School
3. Partner Systemwide
4. Support an Existing Partnership
5. Help Develop or Advance an Educational Initiative

Learn more about becoming a Fairfax County Public School partner. Visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on Community

In FY 2009, the Business and Community Partnerships team helped secure more than a million dollars in donations of money and valued goods through partnerships and direct donations, not including the value of volunteer hours contributed by partners and mentors.

 **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools**  
The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools is a partnership between the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the school system. It was established to enhance academic offerings, support teacher excellence and provide resources to the school system based on priorities and needs, through an endowment program. For more details, visit [www.fairfaxchamber.org/educationfoundation](http://www.fairfaxchamber.org/educationfoundation).

### Examples of How Local Businesses and Organizations Team Up With FCPS

The **Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads** has partnered with J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church for more than 10 years and was named FCPS Partner of the Year in 2010. This partnership's focus is on literacy, particularly through the school's Interact Club, which places 200 student volunteers into the community working with underprivileged individuals. Interact Club members also tutor and mentor young students at a local computer lab. The Rotary Club is actively involved in the Culmore Support on Suspension (SOS) program, providing a supervised, safe learning environment for students from Stuart and Glasgow Middle School who are suspended from school.

Helping students gain real-world experience as actors is one way **Cox Farms** partners with Westfield High School in Chantilly. Students are recruited for actor positions in "Fields of Fear," popular fright nights performed at the annual fall festival. Cox Farms also provides seasonal internships to students who want to acquire paid job experience in other areas such as agriculture, horticulture, animal science, stage management and food service. When the Westfield theatre troupe needs set props such as plants, construction materials, and other items, they turn to Cox Farms who donates and delivers them.

**Capital Caring**, a hospice program, provides career experience to students as a West Potomac Academy business partner.

Students volunteer at Capital Caring in Alexandria through their health and medical science courses. "We are thrilled to partner with West Potomac Academy," said CEO and President of Capital Caring Malene Davis. "It is critical that we prepare the younger generation to work in health care and hospice, especially as our nation's aging population surges. This alliance will help students grow and develop on many levels, while serving our Capital Caring community. It's a true 'win win' from my perspective."

Students receive valuable hands-on experience under the guidance of staff, who discuss the philosophy and operation of a hospice program. The academy provides student volunteers unique opportunities to support the hospice through their classes in fashion design, professional television production, dance, music, computer technology, graphic design, and criminal justice. By volunteering, students also earn credits to meet graduation requirements and as well as the civics seal on their diploma.

"Our partnership not only supports gaining career experiences and volunteer hours but these opportunities allow students to give of their time and of themselves and make a difference in people's lives," said Maria Kappel, Career Experience Specialist at West Potomac Academy.



### Getting To Know Us

FCPS Mentor **Lisa Moffett**

Lisa Moffett always wanted to be a role model for a young girl. The mother of two grown sons discovered more than 15 years ago that becoming a mentor to a Fairfax County Public School student was a great way to fulfill her desire to work with young girls and provide additional support to a student.

"It's very meaningful for the young person to spend time with an adult who is taking time out of their work day to spend time with them," she said. "You develop a special friendship that is unconditional."

**Did You Know?**

150 FCPS schools, supporting 5,000 students, have active mentoring programs. Community members and FCPS serve as mentors to students throughout the school system.

The Coldwell Banker real estate agent has mentored students from Louise Archer Elementary School for the past eight years. She has also worked with students at Forest Edge Elementary and Vienna Elementary Schools.

Moffett says she often visits her students armed with art supplies because she finds working on an art project provides an opportunity for her to talk and share stories with her mentee.

"We spend time making cards for members of the military or for Mother's Day because people love to receive a handwritten note," she said.

Moffett mentored the same student for the past six years, but now the student has moved up to middle school. At their last meeting, Moffett understood that she helped make an impact on the life of this student when the young girl told Moffett that she wants to be a mentor when she grows up.

"It's definitely a humbling experience," she said. "It's a gift of laughter, smiles, hugs and friendship." Are you interested in becoming a mentor? Please visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on Community to get involved.

### Word of Thanks

Thank you to the voters of Fairfax County for passing the 2011 **School Bond Referendum!** Your support will help to fund \$252.7 million for school renovations and construction.

### Broadband CNCT Partnership

This goal of the Broadband Computers & Neighbors Coming Together (CNCT) partnership is to provide computer access and broadband connectivity to underserved families living in low-income neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Current CNCT partners include Cox Communications, Comcast, VA Star, the Fairfax Education Foundation, Fairfax County Public Schools, dedicated volunteers, business partners, the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3).

Students at Herndon and Luther Jackson Middle Schools work with volunteers to refurbish donated computers. Eligible students receive the refurbished computers and discounted broadband service. For more information, to donate or to get involved, please contact Karen Fuentes, 703-324-5176.

### Donate to FCPS

Do you have a musical instrument, vehicle, building or landscape materials, computers, prom wear or any other item of value that you would like to donate to Fairfax County Public Schools? Donations to FCPS are tax deductible. Visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and click on Quick Links to find our donations page.



[www.AppleFCU.org](http://www.AppleFCU.org)  
703-788-4800

This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



**2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

# SCHOOLS

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

## DEC. 9 TO 17

### "School House Rock - Live!"

Presented by Mount Vernon High School. Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5/children; \$7/students; \$10/

adults. At Mount Vernon Little Theater, located at Entrance 4. The ensemble cast includes Bryan Azucena, Kodie Badolato, Logan Beveridge, Vanessa Blake, Desha Brown, Lizzy Craine, Jerry Halstead, Courtney Kramer, Jonathan Leonard, Christopher Lisle, Jessica Merkman, David Parces, Aylana Randall, Chris Rohe, and Emily Whitworth. Call Trena Weiss-Null at Mount Vernon High School at 703-619-3100.

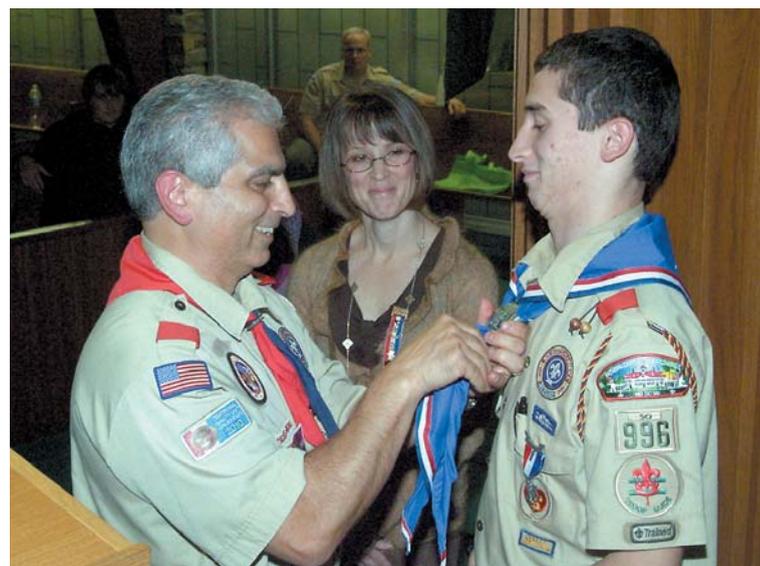
The following local student has graduated from Excelsior College.

❖ **Geno Suarez**, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a Bachelor of Science.

## MILITARY NOTES

**Civilian Amy T. Luong**, daughter of Hung T. Luong, of Alexandria, recently enlisted in the United States Navy under the Delayed Entry Program at Navy Recruiting District, Raleigh, N.C. Luong will report for active duty to undergo basic training at the Navy's Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Luong is a 2009 graduate of Southeast High School of Greensboro, N.C.

**Air National Guard Airman Justin M. Stone** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Megan Owens of Saddle Tree Drive, Alexandria. Stone is a 2006 graduate of C. D. Hylton High School, Woodbridge.



Vincent Accardi receives his Eagle Scout neckerchief from his father Vincent Accardi, the Scoutmaster, while his mother Paula watches. The event took place at Aldersgate UMC, Alexandria on Oct. 22.



Long-term scouters Herb DeWalt, Russ Henderson, and Buck Hereford are recognized by Vinnie Accardi (right), the Scoutmaster.



Scoutmaster Vinnie Accardi (left) recognizes Bill and Phyllis Darrough for their long service to Troop 996.

## Troop 996 Celebrates 50 Years

Troop 996 of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Fort Hunt celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a troop on Oct. 22. The event coincided with a scouting reunion and Eagle Scout ceremony for Vincent Accardi. About 75 to 100 people attended.

Under the direction of Chartering Organization Rep Ken Latta, the troop band provided entertainment during the gathering. The band is composed of scouts and scouters as well as members of the church brass. The scouts also play with the church brass. The older scouts were in a band competition that day.



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Alexandria, VA



The Howard Gardner School

# West Potomac Boys Hold Off Mount Vernon

**Wolverines point guard Pressley knocks down clutch free throws.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac boys basketball team held a one-point lead when Wolverines point guard Brandon Pressley went to the free-throw line with 13.5 seconds remaining in Tuesday's season opener against Mount Vernon. The Wolverines' double-digit lead had dwindled and they needed to stop the bleeding.

"What was going through my mind was, 'Hit these two free-throw shots and I can depend on my team to play defense, get a stop and we can walk out of there with a win,'" Pressley said after the game. "... I was pretty confident when I stepped to the line."

Pressley knocked down both attempts and West Potomac held on to beat Mount Vernon 65-62 on Nov. 29 at MVHS, giving the Wolverines back-to-back season-opening victories against their rivals from the Richmond Highway.

"[Pressley's] a captain for us. He's clutch," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said. "We expect him to make those shots."

Mount Vernon trailed 57-46 early in the fourth quarter but trimmed its deficit to two and had a chance to tie when Shaye Murrell went to the free-throw line with 1:04 remaining. Murrell made both attempts, but his second shot was disallowed due to a lane violation, leaving the Majors trailing 61-60.

Each team came up empty on its next possession before Pressley made a pair of free throws. Down by three in the closing seconds, a Mount Vernon player drove to the basket for a layup, leaving the Majors down by one. Mount Vernon assistant coach Sean Floyd said the player said he thought the Majors were trailing by two at the time.

West Potomac senior Tamaric Wilson made a pair of free throws with less than a second remaining to produce the final margin.

"You don't want to lose, but you're happy that the kids get a chance to get in those situations early in the season and learn from them," Floyd said. "... We were happy with how hard they played. ... We got better as the game went on. In the fourth quarter we got ourselves back in the game."

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**West Potomac senior Joseph Marinelli attempts a jump shot during the Wolverines' season opener at Mount Vernon on Nov. 29.**

West Potomac senior Bryant Fultz scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds, but fouled out in the fourth quarter. Houston said he expects big things from the 6-foot-5 forward.

"When he's under control, I expect him to play like that all the time," Houston said. "I expect him to be under control a little bit more — and he will. He's

come a long way."

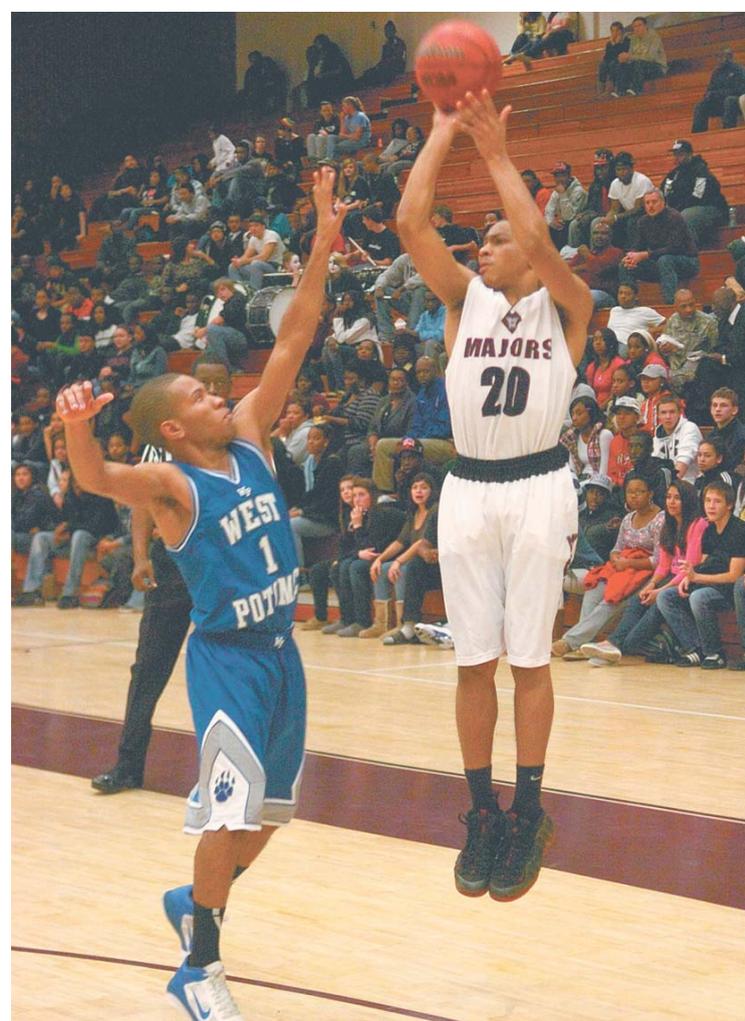
Pressley scored 17 points for the Wolverines and senior guard Randal Brobbey added 10. Wilson scored eight points and grabbed five rebounds.

Murrell led Mount Vernon with 16 points. Senior forward AJ Tracey and freshman guard Trevor Breaux each scored 10 and sophomore guards Bryce Washington and Shawny Lovitt each finished with nine.

West Potomac will host Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.



**West Potomac senior Bryant Fultz grabs a rebound during the Wolverines' 65-62 victory against Mount Vernon on Nov. 29.**



**Mount Vernon's Shaye Murrell shoots against West Potomac's Brandon Pressley on Nov. 29 at MVHS.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

## SPORTS

# Mount Vernon Girls Throttle West Potomac in Opener

**Majors coach Coffey not pleased with team's effort.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**M**ount Vernon girls basketball coach Courtney Coffey spent much of Tuesday's season opener against West Potomac screaming at the Majors to elevate their level of effort.

Late in the fourth quarter with Mount Vernon comfortably ahead, junior point guard Taylor Dunham hustled her way to a trio of steals in less than a minute, turning the first two into layups and the third into an applause from the crowd.

"I just saw everything," Dunham said, "and I was a step ahead."

Dunham's defensive display was impressive, but it wasn't enough to satisfy Coffey. The Majors pounded the Wolverines 76-45 on Nov. 29 at Mount Vernon High School, but after the game a frustrated Coffey pounded his hand with a scorebook while venting over his team's performance — primarily about how the Majors approached rebounding and loose balls.

"Horrible," Coffey responded when asked how he thought the Majors played. "It's the first game, we'll take a win anytime we can get it, that's the overall goal, but we're a way better team than what we showed tonight."

I was not happy with our effort. ... We

were screaming at them, trying to get them to work and get the steals that Taylor started to get in the fourth quarter. We should have been getting those steals all game and they would just not give us the effort. I'm happy we won the game, but I'm not pleased at all."

Mount Vernon returns every key contributor from last season's National District championship team. The Majors won a game in the Northern Region tournament before losing to eventual runner-up T.C. Williams in the quarterfinals. This year, Coffey has his sights set on battling for a region title.

On Tuesday, Mount Vernon held a 33-17 half-time advantage and led by as many as 36 in the fourth quarter. The Majors forced 38 turnovers and had four players score in double figures, but Coffey saw room for improvement.

"The things that we want to do well, we did not do them well tonight by any means — and we won the game by [31], so that kind of lets you know the potential that we have," Coffey said. "But right now we're not living up to my expectations. I have very high expectations for this team."

**"The things that we want to do well, we did not do them well tonight by any means — and we won the game by [31], so that kind of lets you know the potential that we have. But right now we're not living up to my expectations. I have very high expectations for this team."**

— Mount Vernon girls basketball coach Courtney Coffey

There were some bright spots, however. Junior guard Kelly Loftus scored a game-high 22 points, knocking down a trio of 3-pointers during a two-minute stretch in the third quarter.

Dunham, who is recovering from a left

ankle injury, came off the bench to score 10 points.

Each player had multiple steals as part of Mount Vernon's attacking defense.

Senior guard Elizabeth Owusuwaa scored 12 points. Sophomore forward Samantha



Mount Vernon junior Taylor Dunham snagged three steals in a less-than-one-minute stretch and finished with 10 points during a victory against West Potomac on Nov. 29.

Porter scored 14 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and hustled seemingly every second she was on the court.

"She gives a 150 percent," Coffey said about Porter.

**WEST POTOMAC** junior Blossom Pierre led the Wolverines with 16 points and sophomore Rasheika Gregory finished with 10. Six-foot junior Megan Panagopoulos grabbed seven rebounds.

First-year West Potomac head coach David Sawczuk said helping the Wolverines overcome their struggles in recent years won't necessarily translate to victories early in this season.

"I really want to get them to buy into improving and not worry so much about whether we're winning against a team that's as quality a team as Mount Vernon," Sawczuk said. "It's, 'Are we getting better? Is the

process getting us further along as opposed to the same old?'" Mount Vernon will travel to Chesapeake to face Western Branch at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. West Potomac will travel to face Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

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# CRIME

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Nov. 23.

## ROBBERY/ ARREST

**Police arrested a 14-year-old boy** for allegedly robbing a 13-year-old boy in the area of Fordson Road and Sherwood Hall Lane around 3:25 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18. The suspect was taken to the juvenile detention center and charged with robbery. The victim declined medical attention.

## IMPERSONATING A POLICE OFFICER/ ARREST

**On Sunday, Nov. 13 around 1:56 p.m.**, an off duty Fairfax County police officer was approached by a man in a parking lot in the 6500 block of Quander Road. The man flashed a badge and told the off duty officer to move his vehicle. When asked, the man identified himself as a Fairfax County police officer. The officer detained the man and requested assistance. A 45-year-old male of the 1100 block of Player Way in Herndon was charged with impersonating a police officer.

## ROBBERY

**Three men robbed a 58-year-old man** in the 1500 block of Belle View Blvd. around 8:19 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22. The suspects were described as black, between 19 and 24 years old and about 5 feet 9 inches tall. One suspect wore a black mask and the other two were wearing hoodies. The victim was treated at the scene for non life-threatening injuries.

## STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERY/ ARREST

**A 21-year-old male of Washington, D.C.** was arrested on Wednesday, Nov. 16 after an investigation determined he was in possession of a stolen vehicle. Officers were called to an apartment complex in the 5700 block of Olde Mill Court that same day at 11:50 p.m. for a reported stolen vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and an investigation led to the suspect's arrest. He was charged with grand larceny auto.

## LARCENIES

- 2800 block of Groveton St.** iPhone stolen from school.
- Lockheed Blvd./ Richmond Highway.** Cigarettes stolen from vehicle.
- 3100 block of Lockheed Blvd.** Wine stolen from business.
- 4300 block of Markham St.** Purse stolen from vehicle.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.
- 6500 block of Quander Road.** Cell phone stolen from school.
- 6300 block of Richmond Highway.** Electronics stolen from business.
- 7600 block of Richmond Highway.** Food and beverage stolen from business.
- 7600 block of Richmond Highway.** Money stolen from business.
- Sacramento Drive/ Village Green Court.** Lawn equipment stolen from business.
- 3200 block of Shaw Park Court.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.
- 8600 block of Walutes Circle.** Tools stolen from vehicle.
- 2900 block of Arlington Drive.** Cigarettes stolen from business.
- 6200 block of Greeley Blvd.** Scooter stolen from residence.
- 7100 block of Mint Place.** Motorbike stolen from residence.
- 7400 block of Mount Vernon Square.** Meat stolen from business.
- 6700 block of Oak Drive.** Cash and jewelry stolen from residence.
- 7700 block of Richmond Highway.** Purse stolen from vehicle.
- 7700 block of Richmond Highway.** Clothing stolen from business.
- 7700 block of Richmond Highway.** Four power drills stolen from business.
- 8100 block of Richmond Highway.** Handgun stolen from residence.
- 8500 block of Richmond Highway.** Computer stolen from business.
- 8100 block of Russell Road.** Tools stolen from vehicle.
- 7100 block of Strawn Court.** Chocolate and Pate stolen from vehicle.
- 7800 block of Stork Road.** Documents stolen from vehicle.

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Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy  
Dunning*

# The Best Mom In The World

*A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz*

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

*On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.*

*A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.*

*If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.*

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